

AGENDA

Special Meeting, Northwest  
Territories Council, Thursday,  
December 22, 1949.

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Confirmation of Minutes -  | 483         |
| (i) Special Meeting, December 1, 1949                                 |             |
| (ii) Special Meeting, December 7, 1949                                |             |
| (iii) Special Meeting, December 9, 1949                               |             |
| (iv) Special Meeting, December 19, 1949                               |             |
| 2. Local Trustee Board, Yellowknife -                                 | 10710       |
| (i) Minutes dated November 23, 1949                                   |             |
| 3. Local Trustee Board, Hay River -                                   |             |
| (i) Minutes dated November 15 and<br>November 29, 1949                | 19739-A     |
| (ii) By-law No. 8   |             |
| 4. Permissible marriage age, N.W.T. (Eskimo girls) -                  | 28-A        |
| 5. A. Y. Jackson - paintings, N.W.T. -                                | 5562        |
| 6. Deferred Projects - Wildlife Service in<br>Northwest Territories - |             |
| (i) Scientific Station, Baffin Island                                 | (WLU-300-34 |
| (ii) Biologist at Fort Simpson  | (20806      |
| (iii) Biologist at Yellowknife  | MB 50-50)   |
|   | 20842 )     |
|   | (MB 50-50   |
|   | (20843      |
| 7. Proposed Hospital - Hay River                                      | 20201       |
|   | 8909        |
| 8. Measles and Chicken Pox Epidemic - Aklavik area                    | 6746        |
| 9. Arsenic Fumes - Yellowknife Mining Operations -                    | 20434       |
| 10. Old Age Allowances for Eskimos -                                  | 19108       |
| 11. Care of Vera Violet Beattie - Hay River -                         | 20871       |
| 12. Proposed Amendment to Dental Profession<br>Ordinance -            | 18400       |

Minutes of Special Meeting of the  
Northwest Territories Council held  
in Senate Committee Room No. 368  
on Thursday, December 22, 1949.

A reproduction from the  
N.W.T. Archives  
Ref. G-1979-042:17-1

PRESENT:

Dr. H. L. Keenleyside (Chairman)	- Commissioner
Mr. R. A. Gibson	- Deputy Commissioner
Cdr. L. C. Audette	- Member of Council
A/C H. B. Godwin	- " " "
Major D. M. MacKay	- " " "

IN ATTENDANCE:

Col. H. C. Craig	- Financial Adviser, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Mr. W. Nason	- Solicitor, Department of Mines and Resources.
Mr. G.E.B. Sinclair	- Lands Division, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Dr. G. F. Davidson	- Deputy Minister of Welfare, Department of National Health and Welfare.
Mr. F. Fraser	- Yukon and Mackenzie River Division, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Mr. C. K. LeCapelain	- Chief, Yukon and Mackenzie River Division, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Dr. H. F. Lewis	- Chief, Dominion Wildlife Service, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Mr. J. P. Kelsall	- Dominion Wildlife Service, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Dr. V.E.F. Solman	- Dominion Wildlife Service, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Dr. P. E. Moore	- Director, Indian Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare.
Mr. K. J. Christie	- Lands Division, Lands and Development Services Branch.
Dr. F. S. Parney	- Assistant Director, Directorate of Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare.
Mr. C. S. Parsons	- Chief, Bureau of Mines, Department of Mines and Resources.
Mr. R. J. Traill	- Chief, Mineral Dressing and Metallurgy Division, Department of Mines and Resources.
Dr. K. Kay	- Chief, Industrial Health Laboratory, Department of National Health and Welfare.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

483

- (i) Special Meeting, December 1, 1949
- (ii) Special Meeting, December 7, 1949
- (iii) Special Meeting, December 9, 1949
- (iv) Special Meeting, December 19, 1949

Approved.

2. Local Trustee Board, Yellowknife -

10710

- (i) Minutes dated November 23, 1949

Approved.

3. Local Trustee Board, Hay River -

- (i) Minutes dated November 15 and  
November 29, 1949

19739-A

The Local Trustee Board seems to be in some doubt as regards their powers of granting franchises and a letter has been sent to the Chairman advising him of the powers contained in the Local Administrative District Ordinance. The minutes were approved.

- (ii) By-law No. 8

Section 5 of By-law No. 8 reads as follows:

No offal, waste or garbage shall be disposed of in any way within the limits of the Administrative District of Hay River, and all such offal, waste or garbage awaiting disposal shall be kept in metal containers with well-fitting lids.

Exception was taken to the wording of this section since residents of Hay River could not dispose of rubbish on their properties by burning or otherwise. This matter is to be discussed with the Local Trustee Board with a view to changing the wording of the section.

4. Permissible marriage age, N.W.T. (Eskimo girls) -

28-A

An amendment to Section 22 of the Marriage Ordinance which would facilitate the marriage of pregnant Eskimo girls under 15 years of age has been receiving consideration in view of representations from the missions that it was impossible in most cases to secure the certificate from a doctor. After study and consultation with the Department of National Health and Welfare a draft amendment was prepared to overcome the difficulty.

Before discussing this item, Dr. Davidson said that a recent newspaper report concerning the payment of Family Allowances had been misleading. It had suggested that Family Allowances should be paid to children in the north whether or not the parents were married. Allowances are paid for children in the north whether or not their parents are married and regardless of where they live. It is not a question of legitimacy but a question of dependency and maintenance.

Dr. Davidson and officials of his Department made a review of the provisions in the law of the various provinces on permissible marriage age and he thought Council was taking the right approach to this in trying to set a social minimum below which marriages should be prohibited but also taking a reasonable and realistic approach in trying to provide ways and means where, in exceptional circumstances, marriage might be permitted.

Dr. Davidson had received a copy of a draft of a proposed amendment of Section 22 of the Marriage Ordinance. The provision as it now stands deals, in effect, almost exclusively with the case of girls. While it refers to either of the contracting parties being under fifteen, the special circumstances do not refer to boys. This would mean that the marriage of a boy under fifteen would be banned in all circumstances except where he was marrying a girl also under fifteen years of age who was pregnant.

As the draft amendment stands the provisions of paragraph (a) for medical certification and the provisions of paragraph (b) for affidavits are alternatives. Dr. Davidson suggested that Council should insist on a medical certificate being furnished if at all possible and that the ordinance should be so worded.

In paragraph (b) as it stands, reference is made to a person in lawful custody of the woman. By lawful custody is meant something other than actual custody. A situation might arise where the person having lawful custody would be the man responsible for the girl's pregnancy or the girl might not be in anyone's custody. Dr. Davidson thought it advisable to make certain that the wording adopted does not permit of the proposed bridegroom making the affidavit. There might also be the case of an orphan girl who had been passed around from family to family and for whom, in the strict sense of the phrase in the ordinance, no one would have lawful custody.

Ref. 6-1979-042:17-1

Mr. Nason stated that the Department of Justice has suggested that paragraphs (b) and (c) be combined. Instead of actually mentioning an affidavit the wording "evidence satisfactory to the clergyman or Commissioner" might be used. In order to make (c) unnecessary, Dr. Davidson suggested that consideration be given to an arrangement whereby a clergyman or Marriage Commissioner might take affidavits solely for this purpose.

Dr. Keenleyside said Dr. Davidson's remarks had been most helpful and would enable Council to carry out the revision of the ordinance in a way that would be beneficial to everyone concerned.

Dr. Davidson thanked Dr. Keenleyside and Mr. Gibson for bringing this matter to the attention of his Department and said if any further assistance is required they would be pleased to furnish it. At a future date he hoped to be in a position to come to Council and discuss with its members on a practical basis a proposal to establish a regional office of the Department of National Health and Welfare to administer Family Allowances as well as Old Age Pensions and other measures for which that Department is responsible.

5. A. Y. Jackson - paintings, N.W.T. -

5562

Dr. Keenleyside said that nearly a year ago the suggestion was made to Council that it might be advantageous from the standpoint of developing an interest in the north and in Canada generally, if Mr. Jackson were persuaded to devote some time to sketching in the Territories with a view to having canvasses prepared. Mr. Jackson has now returned and within the last two weeks Mr. Wright and he as well as a number of other people have had the opportunity of seeing the sketches he brought back with him. Mr. H. O. McCurry, Director of the National Gallery of Canada, thinks that these sketches are the best Mr. Jackson has ever produced in his long career. Dr. Keenleyside suggested that a number of the sketches and canvasses might be purchased for display in a Board Room for the Northwest Territories Council which, he hoped, would be available as soon as the change in departmental structure, now pending, takes place. He would also like to see some of Mr. Jackson's canvasses in the Minister's office and in his own. Mr. Bennett, President and Managing Director of the Eldorado Mining and Refining Ltd., who persuaded Mr. Jackson to go to Great Bear Lake, is prepared to purchase some of the canvasses and several of the sketches for that corporation.

Mr. Jackson has pointed out that in view of the fact that he had been subsidized on his trip north, he would like to make an arrangement so that if any of his pictures were purchased by the Administration the charge would be only half what they would normally be sold for in the market. Dr. Keenleyside hoped that in the spring when Mr. Jackson had finished his winter's work, the National Gallery would put on an exhibition of his work.

Mr. Gibson remarked since the Administration is trying to promote culture in the schools in the Northwest Territories, an example of outstanding portrayal of their own country by someone who has achieved a world-wide reputation might inspire some of the young people to emulate the good example of the master. Some of the canvasses might be sent to the schools of the Territories on a rotation basis but kept under the control of Council. Silk screens might also be made of the paintings by the National Gallery.

Council approved the expenditure from the Liquor Fund of \$3,000 for the purchase of canvasses and sketches from Mr. A. Y. Jackson.

6. Deferred Projects - Wildlife Service in Northwest Territories -

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Scientific Station, Baffin Island | (WLU-300-34<br>(20806 |
| (ii) Biologist at Fort Simpson        | MB 50-50)<br>20842 )  |
| (iii) Biologist at Yellowknife        | (MB 50-50<br>(20843   |

At the last meeting of Council Dr. Lewis dealt with the reasons for undertaking these three projects and the costs involved. Limited time

prevented full discussion of the proposals and it was decided to resume discussions of these recommendations at the present meeting.

Mr. Gibson remarked that at the last meeting it seemed to be the opinion of those who heard Dr. Lewis's explanation that he had shown the immediate need of a research station at Frobisher Bay. It also appeared that a biologist was needed at Fort Simpson and another at Yellowknife but the urgency of supplying buildings at these two points was not so apparent. The cost of adapting suitable buildings at Frobisher Bay would have to be gone into with the R.C.A.F.

A/C Godwin explained that as of September 1950 the R.C.A.F., would take over from the U.S.A.F., at which time they would make a building or buildings available to the Administration. Prior to that time, if the Council wished it, the R.C.A.F., would willingly confer with the U.S.A.F., in this connection.

Council agreed that a research station, as outlined by Dr. Lewis, be established at Frobisher Bay as soon as possible. Biologists should be appointed at Fort Simpson and Yellowknife but no action should be taken at present to erect station buildings there.

7. Proposed Hospital - Hay River

20201  
8909

At the Special Meeting of Council on September 22 last, Dr. Moore mentioned that his Department was considering the need of a small hospital at Hay River. Lately the need for medical services at Hay River has been emphasized by an outbreak of venereal disease.

Dr. Moore said his Department has been studying the situation at Hay River and he thought the need for a hospital at that point is clearly established. There promises to be a population fluctuating between 1,000 and 1,600 at this point. Reports indicate there is urgent need for a medical officer and hospital facilities.

The Anglican Church authorities have operated a small nursing station at Hay River where they have taken in a few patients from time to time. They announced their policy to the Parliamentary Committee by saying that while in the past they had established and operated hospitals that could be classed as mission hospitals, they felt that hospitalization was an obligation of government. It was their view that this type of hospital should be government-owned and operated. They are willing to strongly endorse any government hospital scheme for the area. The Department of National Health and Welfare estimates the cost of a 15 to 20-bed hospital at approximately \$200,000. A doctor would have to be stationed at this point who would receive government support and a residence provided for him as well as a residence for the hospital staff. The government hospital and government doctor would not provide free hospitalization and free medical services to any other than those who are the direct responsibility of the Department of National Health and Welfare - indigents and Indians under Indian Health Services. The community must be aware of that and be prepared to pay themselves or through a hospitalization scheme. Who is to build, vote the money required, and operate the hospital once it comes into being? His Department would be prepared to vote an amount proportionate to the Indian population served by the hospital and he suggested that the Northwest Territories Administration pay the balance. His Department would be prepared to take over the operation of the hospital, working in conjunction with any officials the Administration might wish, to form a local hospital board.

The Department of National Health and Welfare recommended that the hospital be built, that the capital cost be provided by the Northwest Territories Administration and the Department of National Health and Welfare on a basis pro rata to their responsibilities and they would operate the hospital and employ the medical officer. The maintenance cost, if his Department operated the hospital, would be paid with money received from those patients who could pay. Dr. Moore remarked that there is a feeling of reluctance among doctors to treat people free who can afford to pay and that there should be a firm understanding that payments for services received would be made to the Receiver General of Canada.

Mr. Fraser suggested that the hospital be built in two storeys, the upstairs to be used for staff quarters and be so designed that it could take care of the increased number of patients possible in the next couple of years. Dr. Moore said this suggestion would be considered.

Dr. Moore's suggestions were approved in principle subject to further negotiations and discussion of details.

8. Measles and Chicken Pox Epidemic - Aklavik area

6746

A radiogram was received from District Administrator Bouchard reporting an epidemic of measles and chicken pox in the Aklavik area. The medical officer at that point recommended that the Minister declare a quarantine under the Public Health Ordinance. It was suggested that the Ordinance be amended to permit the Commissioner to act for the Minister in declaring a quarantine area. Dr. Moore said it would be advisable to stop as many Eskimos as possible from going to Aklavik but those who did reach this point should be kept there. After discussion it was agreed that paragraph (d) of Section two of the Public Health Ordinance, being Chapter four of the Ordinances of 1902 be repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"(d) the expression "Minister" means the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories"

This amendment was given first and second readings and adopted.

9. Arsenic Fumes - Yellowknife Mining Operations -

20434

As the discharge of arsenic fumes from the ore roasters into the atmosphere of the Yellowknife area has a bearing on the health of the people, Dr. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health, had suggested an investigation to obtain full information before the situation develops too far.

Mr. Christie stated that, accompanied by Dr. Kay and Mr. Traill, he went to Yellowknife and discussed this problem with the management of the Con and Giant Mines. Installations for the removal of arsenic cost a lot of money and the mine managers are reluctant to put these in until the new method which is being tried by the Con mine is proved either successful or unsuccessful. At this mine they recover about 98% of the arsenic in a wet state but disposal of this is a problem as it may reach lakes and streams.

The Giant mine discharges about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of arsenic a day from its smoke-stack. Dr. Kay took snow samples in the vicinity which show that there is definitely a lot of arsenic around the countryside. The Administration feels that this arsenic problem is the responsibility of the mine operators who should be so advised and instructed to cease the pollution quickly by the best means possible.

Dr. Parney explained that the position of his Department is purely advisory. They are convinced that there is not only a health hazard present but that it will increase with the increasing amount of either smoke or sludge poured out in the country. Dr. Kay would give details as to the nature of the hazard.

Dr. Kay outlined the results of his investigations and said his Division had found evidence of pollution of snow and pollution of certain water bodies. They found significance in the fact that, last February, a human case of arsenic poisoning came to medical attention and subsequently another human case occurred from drinking snow water. Eight cows died from arsenic poisoning at the head of Cam Lake and it is reported that the dogs in the townsite itself have suffered all the well-known signs of arsenic poisoning. From the facts assembled, Dr. Kay's Division has concluded that a dangerous situation exists in the area.

Mr. Parsons said there is no doubt that a serious condition is developing which will get worse, not better. If he were a mine operator he would put in a proper recovery system. How to store the arsenic is quite a problem and it would be preferable to store it dry.

Mr. Gibson thought enough investigation had been done in connection

with this problem to show that a dangerous hazard has been certified. It has been indicated that this hazard will have to be dealt with by the mining companies improving their methods of handling the arsenic content of their ore. In justice to the Con Mine it might be said that they have pioneered in an effort to obtain a scheme that would help not only their own plant but others as well. Although the Giant Mine officials have a similar problem, they have waited to see what would happen at the Con. The other companies are waiting to see if it would pay them to go ahead and develop their properties. When it is a case of weighing possible injury to human life against the possible profits of mining enterprises, Council must protect human life. He thought the companies should be advised of the investigations which have been made and of the discussion which has just taken place. They should be told Council is of the opinion that this situation must be rectified promptly and they should be asked what measures are being taken to meet the situation. Council agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Christie was requested to prepare letters accordingly.

10. Old Age Allowances for Eskimos -

19108

Mr. Wright explained that following the procedure of Indian Affairs Branch, a year or so ago the Administration began to make an allowance of \$8 a month to Eskimos over 70 years of age. No means test was necessary. There were about 90 eligible for this allowance but less than 50 are drawing it. This arose from the fact that in remote areas they probably have not heard about it yet.

It is understood that authorization has recently been granted to increase the Old Age Allowance for Indians from \$8 per month to \$30 per month but whereas the \$8 was given regardless of any relief assistance issued, the \$30 now authorized includes necessary relief. This \$30 per month is also subject to a means test. An Indian enjoying an outside income amounting to \$240 per year or less may receive the full allowance. An Indian eligible by age but earning more than \$240 a year is subject to a scaled reduction in his Old Age Allowance. It has been recommended that Eskimos should be given the benefit of similar Old Age Allowance legislation. Where game is plentiful the \$30 per month might be too much for the Eskimos' own good and it is suggested that if the \$30 per month Old Age Allowance is to be extended to Eskimos, the means test should be based on the availability of native food resources as well as upon cash income.

It has also been recommended by a number of responsible officials in the field that the qualifying age for the present allowance of \$8 per month should be reduced to 65 years owing to the premature ageing of Eskimos due to the rigours of their life. Statistics show that the number of people over age 70 per 1,000 in the Canadian population as a whole is 46.2 - amongst Indians, 31.5, and amongst Eskimos, 6.0.

Major MacKay explained that it had been felt by his Branch that the Indians should receive from the Government of Canada at least what the Government of Canada is giving to the Provinces for their white pensioners which is 75% of \$40. A start was made by giving aged Indians an allowance of \$8 a month. Whoever figured this out was of the opinion that \$8 a month plus relief, medical services, etc., would be equivalent to what the Indians' white counterparts received. A careful study of this matter disclosed that this is not the case. Relief for the purchase of food for Indians in Canada amounts to between \$8 and \$12 per month. In addition they receive fuel, clothing, medical services, repairs to their homes, and they do not pay taxes - but even with all these things considered, Indian Affairs Branch concluded that in the aggregate the Indian of 70 years of age or over was only receiving in the neighbourhood of \$20 a month. This year, Major MacKay asked the Deputy Minister if it would be possible to take the matter up with the Minister. There has been considerable agitation across Canada for inclusion of Indians in the pension scheme. Approval was received from the Minister to provide for the payment of \$30 a month to the Indians of Canada of 70 years of age and over. Major MacKay did not think the matter should be discussed at the present time because the 1950-51 estimates have not been approved and it is difficult to tell what attitude the Treasury Board will adopt in connection with this matter. It involves an expenditure of about \$1,500,000 for Indians but is one which he thought would be justified.

It was decided that the matter in regard to Eskimos would be brought up at a later meeting.

11. Care of Vera Violet Beattie - Hay River -

20871

It was explained that the father of this 12-year-old girl was tried recently for incest and acquitted by a jury. The situation locally is very bad for the child and the people who have been looking after her do not wish to continue this responsibility. The child's mother and the mother's present husband although having four children of their own, are willing to have this child with them but do not quite know how they can manage financially. A home with her mother in a new location would seem to be the best move for the child's welfare and, after discussion, Council agreed that an allowance of \$20 a month be paid to the mother for the next four years for the maintenance of the child and that her fare to Kamloops, B.C., be paid by the Administration.

12. Proposed Amendment to Dental Profession Ordinance -

18400

Under the Medical Profession Ordinance the required fees are waived in the case of a doctor employed by the Government. There is no similar provision in the Dental Profession Ordinance which has raised a question in that Indian Health Services have employed a dentist who will be assigned to duty in the Mackenzie District. It has been suggested that the Dental Profession Ordinance be amended so that a permit to practise can be issued free of charge when a dentist is employed by the Government. Council approved in principle of this amendment.

Council then adjourned.

*Dr. K. E. G. G. G.*  
.....  
Commissioner.

*J. G. Wright*  
.....  
Secretary.

CHAPTER 34

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE  
RESPECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

(Assented to December 22, 1949)

The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories by  
and with the advice and consent of the Council of  
the said Territories enacts as follows:

1. Paragraph (d) of Section two of the  
Public Health Ordinance, being Chapter four of the  
Ordinances of 1902 is repealed and the following  
substituted therefor:

"(d) the expression "Minister" means the  
Commissioner of the Northwest  
Territories."