

Exhibit P-110

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESKIMO AFFAIRS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 29th, 1954, IN
ROOM 304, LANGEVIN BLOCK, OTTAWA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT -

Mr. R.G. Robertson,
Deputy Minister,
Dept. of Northern Affairs &
National Resources.

- Chairman

Commissioner L.H. Nicholson,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Rev. G. Laviolette, O.M.I.,
Representing -
Most Rev. J. Trocellier, O.M.I., D.D.,
Vicar Apostolic of Mackenzie.

The Right Rev. D.B. Marsh, D.D.,
Bishop of the Arctic.

Mr. R.H. Chesshire,
General Manager,
Fur Trade Department,
Hudson's Bay Company.

Dr. P.E. Moore,
Director, Indian Health Services,
Dept. of National Health & Welfare.

Mr. B.G. Sivertz,
Chief, Arctic Division,
Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Minutes and Agenda
also sent to -

The Director
Mr. Adams
Mr. Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE -

The Rev. G. Renaud, O.M.I.,
Superintendent of Indian and
Eskimo Welfare Commission.

Mr. W.W. Mair,
Chief, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Dr. J.S. Willis,
Indian Health Services,
Dept. of National Health & Welfare.

Mr. G.W. Rowley,
Co-ordinator,
Advisory Committee on Northern Development,
Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. S. Trachtenberg,
Economic Division,
Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. P.A.C. Nichols,
Manager, Arctic Division,
Hudson's Bay Company.

Mr. J.V. Jacobson,
 Superintendent of Education,
 Education & Vocational Training Services,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. W.G. Devitt,
 Superintendent of Schools,
 Fort Smith, N.W.T.,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. H. Pfeiffer,
 Handicraft Instructor,
 Parc Savard Hospital, Quebec City,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. A. Stevenson,
 Arctic Division,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. M.L. Manning,
 Arctic Division,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. W.T. Larmour,
 Arctic Division,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

Mr. J.A. Houston,
 Arctic Division,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

SECRETARY TO THE COMMITTEE -

Mr. J. Cantley,
 Arctic Division,
 Northern Administration & Lands Branch,
 Dept. of Northern Affairs & National Resources.

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1. MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, HELD IN
 OTTAWA MAY 10, 1954

(a) The Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Committee, held in Ottawa May 10, 1954, were accepted as read and unanimously approved.

(b) No new business arising from the Minutes was introduced.

2. REPORTS ON ORGANIZATION AND WORK

Mr. B.G. Sivertz outlined the organization of the Arctic Division and dealt with the more recent developments in the Arctic and the steps being taken to meet them. Six Northern Service Officers had been appointed and are to be placed at centres where particular needs

have arisen. Those being tentatively considered are Churchill, Fort Chimo, Frobisher Bay and Great Whale River, but consideration is also being given to the requirements that the construction of the DEW Line will create.

It might be necessary to place an extra man at Churchill temporarily to assist the Eskimos employed there in adapting themselves to their new environment, and also to make an extended survey of conditions among the more isolated groups in the Keewatin District on which rather disturbing reports are received from time to time.

At Fort Chimo, the Division was taking over the buildings formerly occupied by the Department of Transport and intended to use them as the headquarters for a Northern Service Officer, as a temporary rehabilitation centre for Eskimos returning from hospital, and for other related purposes. Two Eskimos were also receiving training in the operation of the power plant there and it was also proposed, when a suitable technical officer could be appointed, to give training in the operation of other mechanical equipment, so that some of the Eskimos at least could be better fitted to take employment with the mining companies operating in that area. In co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, surveys had been made during the past summer with a view to ascertaining what could be done to introduce the raising of domestic animals and to raise field and garden crops. The preliminary reports on these surveys were not discouraging and it is intended to continue these investigations and to conduct some experiments along these lines next year.

In view of the greatly increased activities at Frobisher Bay, it has been decided to make this a centre for education and vocational training in the Eastern Arctic, where Eskimos could be educated and trained to take up employment more skilful in character than they are able to do now. It is expected that a start will be made on the building project next summer, but that the project will have to extend over a few years before all requirements are met.

The construction of the mid-Canada line in northern Quebec and the interest being taken in iron ore deposits on the Belcher Islands would probably create new problems in these areas. It had therefore been decided to have a representative of the department placed at Great Whale River to supervise the employment of natives and to assist them in adapting themselves to the changes that these developments will bring about.

It was not intended that any of these Northern Service Officers would, for the present at least, take over any of the functions presently being performed for the department by the R.C.M. Police, but rather that they would assist in co-ordinating all activities in the areas to which they are attached and deal particularly with the new problems arising from changing conditions.

The Chairman intimated that investigations were still being made as to the practicability of using radio in educational work, and that the technical aspects not only of this project but of broadcasting generally throughout the Northwest Territories were being considered with the CBC, but no definite conclusions had been arrived at yet. A pilot project might be tried but before that could be done, the curriculum to be followed would have to be worked out more fully. Mr. Jacobson stated that his section was continuing to give consideration to such a curriculum.

3. EDUCATION

The Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Education had been circulated to the members and were approved.

Mr. Jacobson dealt briefly with some of the main aspects of the educational program in the Northwest Territories, and also reported on his observations of the Alaskan school system made during his visit there earlier in the year.

There was some discussion regarding the operation of the school hostels at Coppermine and Chesterfield Inlet and it was decided that no change would be made in the present arrangements with the missions, at least until the experiments had been tried for a year, or until it could be ascertained what effects the DEW Line and other developments were to have on the Eskimos.

4. FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Reference was made to the arrangement made last year to pay the Eskimos in the Mackenzie Delta their family allowances in cash instead of in kind, and it was suggested that similar arrangements should be made at least at a few selected places elsewhere.

Although there had been some minor criticisms of the uses to which Eskimos in the Aklavik area had been putting their family allowances, no serious difficulties had arisen. Opinion was about equally divided as to the advisability of extending this arrangement at the present time: those against contending that Eskimos generally had not reached the stage where they could be expected to make intelligent use of the funds allotted to them, and those for, that the Eskimos would never acquire a sense of responsibility unless they were made to do so. Certain technical difficulties in making payments by cheques were also discussed. It was recognized also that with the development of defence projects and other activities in the Arctic, which may result in a considerable number of Eskimos being employed, cash would in all probability be much more extensively used than it has been in the past.

No agreement was reached, but the Chairman suggested that the matter might be looked into further by all those interested and discussed with the Family Allowances Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

5. SALARIES AND WAGES

(a) In the past there has been no uniformity of wages paid to Eskimo employees by the various organizations in northern settlements. The duties performed and the hours of work vary to a considerable extent, so that no rigid scale could be made applicable. It was decided, however, that the various organizations should be asked to inform the Arctic Division of the wages being paid by their various establishments so that this information may be available in considering the various aspects of employment.

In the absence of any labour legislation in the Northwest Territories, the Federal Department of Labour and the appropriate departments in the neighbouring provinces had been consulted regarding the scales that should apply to Eskimos and others employed by contractors on the DEW and mid-Canada lines and by mining and other companies with whom Eskimos would be working on a full-time basis. Generally speaking, it was felt that a minimum wage should be set on each project, and that

where Eskimos were doing skilled or semi-skilled work comparable to that done by imported labour, they should be paid at the same rates.

(b) The few Eskimos who are employed outside the Territories are being paid on the same scale as other employees in the areas in which they are working.

6. HEALTH

(a) Dr. Moore outlined the history of Indian Health Services since its inception in 1945, and the difficulties that had been experienced in bringing medical facilities to the widespread Indian and Eskimo communities.

Administratively, the present arrangements, so far as Eskimos are concerned, are that the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital in Edmonton serves the Western Arctic, and the Manitoba office serves the Keewatin and the Central Arctic, utilizing St. Boniface Hospital and three sanatoria in Manitoba, the largest being at Clearwater Lake. The Eastern Arctic is divided into two areas, one including the east coast of Hudson and James Bays, which is served by Moose Factory Indian Hospital, and the other including all the Eskimos in northern Quebec and the Arctic islands north of Hudson Strait, which are served at present by Parc Savard Hospital in Quebec, Sacred Heart Hospital at Caughnawaga, and Mountain Sanatorium in Hamilton. Consideration is now being given to the possibility of concentrating most of the Eastern Arctic Eskimos at Mountain Sanatorium.

In addition to these outside centres, there are mission hospitals at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet and Pangnirtung, and nursing stations at various places throughout the Arctic. Members of the R.C.M. Police are also being given training in first-aid and the care of the sick before being passed to northern detachments. Temporary nurses are also flown in to areas when emergencies arise. The detection and treatment of tuberculosis has been the greatest concern of Indian Health Services during the past nine years. At the present time, there are about 450 Eskimos under treatment at southern sanatoria and 150 in mission hospitals in the Northwest Territories. Extensive surveys are still being carried out and will be further intensified next year, but it is felt that the number of cases requiring treatment has now reached its peak and will decline gradually over the next few years. For this reason and because of the difficulties of effectively treating tuberculosis at small centres where specialized services cannot be made available, it was agreed that no change should be made in the present arrangements for utilizing the increasing facilities that are now becoming available in southern sanatoria. Experience has shown that the mortality rate among tubercular patients in southern sanatoria where specialized treatment can be given is less than half that in the average general hospital. It was agreed, however, that everything possible should be done to improve communications between patients in hospitals and their relatives at home, and to provide means of educating and preparing patients to rehabilitate themselves after their discharge from hospital. Plans are also under way to establish rehabilitation and vocational training centres in the Arctic at Aklavik, Frobisher Bay and Fort Chimo for discharged patients returning to the Arctic.

(b) Dr. Moore reported that progress was being made with the planning of northern health services. Decisions had been reached regarding the establishment of hospitals at Whitehorse, Mayo and Aklavik, but the plans for other places in the Arctic were in the formative stage.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(a) Mr. Chesshire reported that although there had been some improvement in white fox prices lately, the fur market generally was not strong. The white fox catch in the Eastern Arctic had passed its peak last year, and in the Western Arctic would probably reach its peak during the coming winter. The prices that would be obtained for the relatively large quantities now on hand were unpredictable, but the quantities that would be taken over the next year or two would undoubtedly decline considerably.

The need for diversifying the Eskimo income either through the introduction of small industries or by assisting the natives to take up employment was recognized and it was agreed that investigations along these lines should be continued.

(b) The Eskimos who had been transferred to Banks, Cornwallis and Ellesmere Islands have continued to make a very satisfactory living. They have been able to obtain all the food they need and have also had quite substantial earnings from their trapping activities.

(c) Attention was drawn to the difficulties that have been encountered in dealing with the scattered groups of Caribou Eskimos in the Keewatin District. It is intended to have one or possibly two Northern Service Officers allocated to this area to make detailed surveys of conditions and to recommend what further steps can be taken to more effectively meet the emergencies which seem to arise periodically. It was agreed that the RCM Police "Otter", now based at Churchill, will be most useful for patrolling this area and in assessing the resources available to these people before they run into actual difficulties.

(d) It has been arranged with the RCM Police and the Hudson's Bay Company to make experiments with the "Gibson Girl" Transmitter as a means of transmitting distress signals from isolated Eskimo groups to the nearest settlement. The transmitter will be tuned to the Hudson's Bay Company frequency.

8. SURNAMES

It was agreed that it would be desirable to encourage the Eskimos to adopt surnames, preferably using names that are Eskimo in origin where that is desirable. It was also recommended that attempts should be made to standardize the orthography of the Eskimo language as quickly as possible.

9. ADOPTION

It was felt that native customs should be followed in this and other personal relationships until such time as the Eskimos could be brought to the stage when they could understand such ordinances and were ready to be governed by them.

10. WELFARE

The suggestion was made that centres should be set up where aged Eskimos and others incapable of providing for themselves could be cared for. Coupled with this, was a proposal that a community centre for Eskimos could be set up at a place near a hospital, such as Hamilton, where Eskimos, because of inability or lack of inclination to return to the native life, could be trained after discharge from hospital to take up other employment either in the Arctic or elsewhere. Fuller consideration of these proposals was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

11. GENERAL

(a) The Chairman reported that, after consideration, it had been decided that there would be little or no advantage in moving Coppermine from its present site. A new site had been found for Aklavik and arrangements were being made to proceed with the move. The new site will provide ample space for the settlement and for an airstrip.

(b) Mr. Mair outlined the surveys being undertaken by Canadian Wildlife Service. These include a general survey of the resources of Banks Island, with emphasis on white fox cycles; research into wolf populations and their effect on caribou in the Mackenzie District; a study of muskox and their habitat; research into the effects of disease on caribou populations; explanation of the possibility of transplanting caribou to northern Quebec and Southampton Island, and of the studies to be taken to protect and supervise animals transferred; biological surveys in southwest Baffin Island and Foxe Basin and the Wolstenholme area of northern Quebec, with particular reference to geese, myrs and other migratory birds.

Other studies being undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries include the movements of walrus and seals in various localities in the Eastern Arctic. The tagging of walrus started last summer and two of the 30 tags placed have since been recovered.

(c) It was decided that the wolf control measures now being undertaken in the Northwest Territories would meet the present need and that the payment of bounties need not be further considered at this time.

This concluded the Agenda, but before the meeting closed it was suggested that meetings of the Committee might now be reduced to one a year instead of two. It was therefore agreed that a May meeting would be the most convenient for all concerned and that the next meeting will be held on the 30th of May, 1955, and yearly thereafter. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Administration to the members for their co-operation and the meeting adjourned.