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REPORT ON NORTHERN AREA STUDIES

Lakehead University

Prepared by

The President's Committee
on
Northern Area Studies

for

The Grants Committee

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

November 1968

ORGANIZATION

A multi-discipline committee composed of faculty members concerned with the north was established by the President in 1965 to foster northern research and development at Lakehead University. The committee, established as a permanent body, with an appointed Director to provide continuity was considered to best serve the prevailing needs. Its aims were to channel the interests of faculty members in the direction of northern research, to stimulate the interest of students and others in northern research, to promote courses in northern studies and to assist in procuring funds for northern research. The Director was to assess the northern research resources at the University, liaise with government departments and universities working in Canada's north and exchange information with such bodies.

In 1968 the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests base at Black Sturgeon Lake in the boreal forest was acquired. The facilities are to be used as a subarctic research station. A research and teaching program at the station is now being developed by the Northern Area Studies Committee.

This fall under the auspices of the Arctic Institute of North America, Dr. M.C. Grooswald, of the Institute of Geography of the Academy of Science, U.S.S.R., visited Lakehead University. His discussions on northern research and developments in the U.S.S.R. added a further stimulus to the Committees activities. In the past summer, the Director travelled from L'anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland to Whitehorse in the Yukon, attending the Second National Northern Research Conference at the latter community as well as the Alaskan Science Conference.

The committee is at present constituted as follows:

W.G. Tamblyn, B.A.Sc., M.Com., L.L.D.
President, Lakehead University

D.R. Lindsay, B.A., M.S.
Professor of Biology

J.A. Talbot, M.A., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Geology

H.North, B.Sc., D.C.Ae.
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

W.T. Melnyk, M.A., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology and
Chairman of the Department of Psychology

J.S. Mothersill, B.Sc., S.Sc. Geo., Eng., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Geology

I.G. Davies, M.A.
Lecturer in Geography

T. Northcott, M.Sc.
Lecturer in Biology

A. Bartholomew, B.Sc., M.Sc.
Lecturer in Forestry

K.C.A. Dawson, C.D., M.A.
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and
Director of Northern Area Studies Committee

EXPENDITURES

The support and encouragement provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has facilitated the procurement of funds from other sources. Individual grants totaling more than \$50,000 have been received by faculty members undertaking northern research projects. These are accountable by the respective researcher and are not therefore detailed in this report. In addition, funds amounting to \$30,000 per year for a period of three years have been provided by the Department of University Affairs to operate the research station.

The initial timing of the receipt of funds from the Grants Committee

of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development precluded utilization of the grant in the summer of the year in which it was applied for, and this situation has prevailed in subsequent years. It is considered a satisfactory arrangement for it permits advance planning and early spring fielding of research parties.

To date all funds received from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have been allocated to the Albany River ecological project. A balance of funds remains this year, as field work in the past summer was curtailed. As originally envisaged, a four man party consisting of two zoology students, one botany student and one archaeology student was to be put in the field. Four students, of a type deemed suitable for a field party working in an inhospitable, isolated situation for an extended period of time were not located and the field party was reduced to two.

STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND EXPENDITURE

as at November 30, 1968

GRANT 1966-67	\$3,000.00
Albany River Project Expenditures Summary 1967	<u>2,518.95</u>
	481.05
GRANT 1967-68	<u>4,000.00</u>
	4,481.05
Albany River Project Expenditures Summary 1968	<u>2,678.08</u>
	1,802.97
GRANT 1968-69	<u>3,500.00</u>
Funds allocated to Albany Project	<u><u>\$5,302.97</u></u>

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Interest in northern research has expanded rapidly in the past year and with available funds the number of projects has more than doubled. Current research projects are as follows:

1. Phytogeographic and zoographic reconnaissance of the arctic watershed, Patricia District, Ontario: this project directed by T. Northcott, of the Department of Biology, employed two undergraduate students full time during the summer. It has been supported by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Ontario Department of University Affairs with logistic support Provided by the Department of Lands and Forests.
2. Archaeological excavation of a stratified Woodland Period prehistoric village, Wabinoash Bay, Lake Nipigon, Ontario: this project directed by K.C.A. Dawson, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, engaged three students, two of whom are now undertaking post graduate studies. It has been supported by the National Museum of Canada with logistic support from the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.
3. A study of wild rice growth patterns in Northern Ontario: this research is being undertaken by Dr. S. Zingel, of the School of Forestry, under the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.
- 4.5.6.7. Archaeological investigation of the fur trade period at the site of the North West Company Post on the Kaministiquia River, Thunder Bay District, Ontario; the first Hudson's Bay Company, 1673, post at Moose River, James Bay, Ontario; the Hudson's Bay Company post at

English Bay, Lake Nipigon, Ontario and an archaeological survey of the first road through northwestern Ontario in The Quetico Park area.

These latter four projects are under the direction of K.C.A. Dawson, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Eight undergraduate students have been engaged in the work which is being supported by the Ontario Department of Tourism and Information.

8. A comparative study of social adaptation of Dutch, Greek and Slovak immigrants to a northern community in Ontario: this study is being conducted by P.D. Chimbos, of the Department of Sociology, under a Canada Council Grant.
9. An analysis of service centers and consumer behavior in northern communities of Ontario: this study is under the direction of I.G. Davies, of the Department of Geography. Students have been engaged in the basic collection of data. It is being supported by the Ontario Department of Economics and Development.
10. A study of teenage drinking behavior in northern Ontario, a ten community study: this project is being undertaken by Dr. A.A.D. Asimi, of the Department of Sociology, under support from the Ontario Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation.

Other research projects recently completed or in the process of completion are as follows: an ecological study of vascular plants on the north shore of Lake Superior by Professor D.R. Lindsay, of the Department of Biology; a socio-economic survey of the town of Kenora, District of Thunder Bay, by Dr. K.J. Charles, of the Department of Economics; an assessment of the agricul-

tural potential of Northwestern Ontario, a pilot study of the Kaministiquia Valley by I.G. Davies, of the Department of Geography; a documentary study of Thunder Bay, 1821-1892, by Dr. E. Arthur, of the Department of History; and a study of long bars and troughs Batchawana shore, Lake Superior, by Dr. J.S. Mothersill, of the Department of Geology. In addition, Dr. J. Talbot, of the Department of Geology, worked with the Geological Survey of Canada on reconnaissance mapping of granites near Baker Lake, Northwest Territories.

The following articles dealing with northern research have recently appeared in Lakehead University Review:

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| Arthur, M.E. | "The Landing and the Plot", Vol. 1, No. 1. |
| Davies, I.A. | "Agriculture in the Northern Forest - The Case of Northwestern Ontario", Vol. No. 2. |
| Lindsay, D.R. | "Migration and Persistence of Certain Arctic-Alpine Plants in the Lake Superior Region, Ontario", Vol. 1, No. 2. |
| Mothersill, J.S. | "Grain Size Analysis of Longshore - Bars and Troughs, Batchawana Bay, Lake Superior, Ontario", Vol. 1, No. 2. |

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development funds were used to support the phytogeographic and zoogeographic reconnaissance of the arctic water shed in Ontario. The project is being undertaken to provide basic quantitative data from this central region of Canada's boreal forest. To provide temporal depth to the study, the area is also being examined for evidence of prehistoric habitations from which bones and seeds may be recovered. This is under the supervision of K.C.A. Dawson. This year the Albany River was covered from Fort Hope to Washi Lake. Two senior undergraduates, Jim Dunsten and Garth Pentney undertook the actual field collection. The data collected in only two seasons does not warrant a statement but it is of interest to note

that the archaeological aspect of the project have recovered Middle Woodland ceramics.

Students who were available for shorter periods were used in biological and prehistoric field reconnaissance at the recently acquired Black Sturgeon Lake research station. Here some of the basic problems of setting-up the telemetry system designed to monitor the movement of animals which is to be embodied in the Albany River survey are being worked out. Funds for this aspect of the work were provided by the National Research Council.

Other projects, particularly those related to socio-economic studies and problems of living in the north, have employed undergraduate students and expectations are that a number of students will continue their interest in the north at the post graduate level. These projects are also contributing directly to the planning for development of the north. It is this multi-discipline approach that the committee believes to be essential for northern studies, and a first step toward interdisciplinary research.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

In an attempt to achieve an integrated understanding of indigenous peoples in the north, a number of research projects have been developed and are expected to be commenced in the coming year: one in association with the Youth and Recreation Branch of the Ontario Department of Education is to study attitudes towards education on northern reserves; one is a study of Indians in town under support from the Human Rights Commission of Ontario; one would attempt to determine the common factors in those persons of Indian ancestry who become members of the middle class in Canada and another would attempt to standardize for the Indian population non-verbal tests for use in reserves

schools. These projects are being developed by members of the Departments of Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology.

The undergraduate student body in recognition of the University's position in the subarctic boreal forest and the human phenomena of living in the north have established their own northern studies committee and out of this has come a request for an insitute devoted to the study and education of Indians in the north. While this is only in the embryonic stage, it does hold promise.

The Department of History and Geography under Treasury Department, Regional Development Branch funding anticipates expansion of their research with respect to service centers and communications in the north and the Department of Geology in association with Inland Waterways expects to commence a detailed study of the Lake Superior shore line east of the Lakehead.

The Committee is also working with the Mid-Canada Development Corridor Foundation which is planning a series of seminars embracing business, academic and government personnel concerned with the mid-north. The first of these is to be held at Lakehead University next summer.

With the increasing number of research projects being undertaken at the University and the growing awareness in Canada, of the norths potential, the Committee looks forward to a growing realization of its aim.