

# Commission looks into municipalities

by Alison Manzer  
The Royal Commission on Education, Public Services and Provincial - Municipal Relations is now conducting public presentations of briefs in various centres throughout Nova Scotia. The Commission is investigating the majority of municipal functions, their finances and relationships with

the provincial government. The Commission, formed shortly after the election of the Regan government, is looking into the provision of education and other public services in Nova Scotia. One phase of the research behind the future recommendations is hearing written or oral briefs presented by interested groups.

The final date for filing written submissions is past. John Cameron, commission staff co-ordinator, estimates approximately 300 briefs were sent in. The oral presentations are being received in a series of public hearings held in most population centers in the province.

The public briefs are from a

variety of interested groups and individuals. Provincial organizations such as the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union and members of the provincial government have presented somewhat extensive proposals. Students, councils, boards and ratepayers groups have entered suggestions on a more specific basis. This wide base of interest is the main reason for the large number of submissions, says Cameron.

The Commission has made a tentative interpretation of its tasks to be:

In general, our task is to review and make recommendations on the functions, organization, and finance of municipal governments and provincial - municipal relations, with special reference to education. We must therefore examine education and all other services the municipal units are presently providing in whole or part, or that they might provide to determine:

1. The desirable allocation of responsibilities for these services between the municipalities and the province.
2. The quantity and quality of these services to be offered, having regard for the burdens

of taxation required to finance them.

3. The desirable future organization of municipal and provincial government to provide these services.

4. How the provision of these services can best be made responsive to the desires of the citizens, in order to make local government as effective as possible.

5. How the services can best be financed — from municipal, provincial, and federal sources (taxes, grants, user charges, etc.)

The three commissioners, Chairman John F. Graham, from Dalhousie, Edwin Harris and Charles E. Walters, are responsible for the final decisions and the compilation of the report. Decisions will be made on the basis of staff's research and recommendations.

The staff of the commission consists of: Lawrence E. Sanford, secretary; Gerald McCarthy, Education Specialist; Miss Linkletter, Trade and Industry; and John Cameron, Co-ordinator. These people carry on the actual research and office work of the commission.

## New lib collection

On October 20, the Killam Library reinstated a service dropped when the library moved a year ago. Known as the "Current Fiction Collection", the selections will be expanded and called the "Recreational Reading Collection", under its new operation.

During the spring and

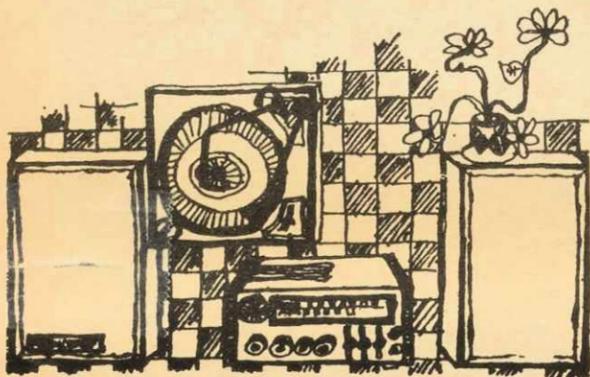
summer, it became clear that people wanted a service which would provide new books of general interest quickly and on prominent display. New novels, such as those on recent world events by Malamud and Richler, were either taking too long to become available in the library or they were being

"buried" in the main stacks. The Recreational Reading Collection was developed to alleviate these problems.

The library staff will look through such journals as the "Times Literary Supplement" and the "New York Review of Books" for noteworthy titles to add to the collection. However, anyone may make suggestions as the collection needs to be up-to-date and lively to serve its function.

The new collection can be found on the ground floor of the Library by the entrance to the Information and Public Catalogue area.

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