

Because the arenas in Quebec, Winnipeg, Edmonton and the proposed one in Hamilton are municipally owned, and because the mayors in each of these cities is supporting the proposal, it is assumed that operational costs have been responsibly examined as they relate to those municipalities. In addition, the government, in making the offer to these cities, has stipulated that they will be available only if an NHL franchise is secured. That appears to be at least a reasonable prospect, I understand, as a result of today's meeting. This recognizes the importance of having a major tenant in a building this size to assist in defraying the operating costs to the community.

It should be added, however, when honourable senators talk about amateur sport, that federal government funds are available for other cities and areas which are successful in hosting international events and events of national significance. The Olympics in Montreal, and the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, have left those cities with very high-class sports facilities. Vancouver is currently interested in hosting international games and the federal government would make available one-third of the cost of providing suitable facilities. Groups in Calgary are going after a future Winter Olympics, and they might also qualify.

There have been complaints that these funds could be better spent on community sports projects. At a meeting of recreation ministers from across Canada earlier this year the provinces made it clear that they wanted the federal government to recognize that it was the provinces that had the primary responsibility for community recreation. The federal government has recognized this request.

● (2120)

While on the subject of sports, let me say that many senators will have watched recent events at the Canada Winter Games at Brandon with a great deal of interest and pride. Thanks to the Ministry of Fitness and Amateur Sport, more Canadians are enjoying more sports than ever before.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

### BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the debate on the motion of Senator Adams for the second reading of Bill C-28, to amend the Northwest Territories Act.

**Hon. Paul Yuzyk:** Honourable senators, first of all, I wish to congratulate Senator Willie Adams on his maiden speech, which he delivered last evening as the mover of the motion for the second reading of Bill C-28.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Yuzyk:** As a member of the Northwest Territories Council for several years, he explained very lucidly the need for broader representation of the native peoples and various areas, many very remote from Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories.

From Senator Adams' experience in Rankin Inlet we have a better understanding of the problems of the government of vast expanses inhabited by small numbers of native peoples and

whites scattered in pockets, often isolated, far from each other, and with poor communication and poor transportation. The Inuit—that is, the Eskimos—Indians and Métis speak different languages, have different cultures and practise a different way of life from the whites, who have settled mainly in the larger centres. It is obvious that the task of the administration of the Northwest Territories is complex and difficult. The purpose of this bill is to provide for better representation on the Council, headed by a commissioner appointed by the Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Ottawa.

Clause 1 provides the Commissioner in Council of the Northwest Territories with the power to make ordinances:

—to increase or decrease the number of members of the Council but the number shall not be fewer than fifteen or greater than twenty-five.

This will bring the Northwest Territories into line with the Yukon, which has had this power since 1974.

Clause 2 of the bill merely validates an ordinance passed by the Commissioner in Council last October 27, in anticipation that this bill would be enacted before the term of the Council expires on March 31 of this year, which is the end of this month. The Council's amending ordinance describes 22 electoral districts, an increase of seven over the present Council of 15 members. This bill would give retroactive approval of that ordinance.

Because of the procrastination of the federal government, members of the Territorial Council came to Ottawa just prior to Christmas to prod the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development into accelerating the passage of Bill C-28. The minister finally proceeded with the second reading on February 16, asking the other house to pass the bill through the three stages that day. The New Democrat Party refused this plea of the minister and the bill went to committee. It was reported back on March 8 without amendment, was read the third time and passed by the other house without further debate.

Honourable senators, the charge being brought about by this piece of legislation was forced on the government by the Council of the Northwest Territories, which passed an ordinance on October 27 last. It was obvious to the members of the Council, as it should be to us, that this vast sparsely populated territory could not be fairly and adequately represented by only 15 members. Thus, the territory was divided into 22 electoral districts, adding seven more members to the Council and giving more representation to the native Inuit, Indians and Métis. This has been long overdue. Accepting this measure as a right step in the right direction toward self-government and eventually provincial status for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, we on this side of the chamber fully endorse this legislation. We see no need at this time for this bill to go to committee, and give approval for its speedy passage.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not say something about the future of these northern territories. The Northwest Territories form about 35 per cent of Canada's total area—greater