



Box 254  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

March 26, 1976

Mr. Murray Sigler,  
Chairman,  
N.W.T. Drug & Alcohol Abuse,  
Coordinating Council  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Sigler:

Re: KOE GO CHO SOCIETY REHAB CENTRE

We have received word by phone from Federal Dept. of National Health & Welfare; Welfare Grants Directorate, that they have no monies to fund our Rehab Component.

This letter is to request that your council consider approval of funds in the amount of \$19,474.97, retro-active to Nov. 15/75 to cover actual costs of salaries to people who have been employed, trained and working on the program since then. Statement of expenditure attached.

We further submit to your council the budget requirements to operate the Rehab Centre from April 1/76 to March 31/77.

Sincerely,

*Edward Villeneuve*

Edward Villeneuve  
Secretary-Treasurer



COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PROBLEM GRANT

1. Community: Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
2. Agency: Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre  
Koe Go Cho Society  
c/o Mary Louise Norwegian (President)  
Box 254  
FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.
3. Amount: (a) Retroactive budget \$19,474.97.  
(b) Budget for Fiscal Year 1976-77: \$152,564.00.
4. Time Span: (a) Retroactive: Nov. 15/75 - Mar. 31/76;  
(b) Fiscal Year: Apr. 1/76 - Mar. 31/77.
5. Objectives:
  - (a) to establish a treatment centre for people with alcohol problems for all residents of the Mackenzie Valley;
  - (b) to attain a level of self sufficiency by seeking accreditation from N.W.T. Health Services as a treatment facility. Expect to be partially charging for service in second year of operation.
  - (c) To operate a 30 day program for twenty clients.
6. Funds received to date:
  - (a) Alcohol Rehabilitation Study:(NWTADCC) \$10,705.00
  - (b) Alcohol Field Worker. (NWTADCC): 42,680.00  
L.I.P. 32,320.00  
N.A.A.P. 74,324.00
  - (c) Dechinta: approved \$14,400.00 for food stuffs contingent upon N.M.U.D. funds.
  - (d) Rehabilitation Centre: L.I.P. 16,875.00
8. Funding sources: Co-ordinating Council  
N.M.U.D.  
N.A.A.P.
9. Notes:
  - (a) Rehabilitation Centre had originally applied for funds to Welfare Grant (Dept. of National Health & Welfare); due to federal budget cuts and project not conforming to demonstration grant criteria, proposal withdrawn.
  - (b) Letters covering to this effect will be forthcoming.
  - (c) Co-ordinating Council has approved \$75,000.00 from 1975-76 fiscal year from Territorial funds for Koe Go Cho. Of this \$42,680.00 has been spent on Alcohol Field Worker program. This leaves a balance of \$32,320.00 remaining.



10. Recommendations:

(a) Co-ordinating Council approve funds for retroactive budget for amount: \$19,474.94.

(b) Co-ordinating Council approve expenditure of Territorial funds and N.A.A.P. funds for \$142,564.00 and instruct Alcohol and Drug Program to hire researcher to evaluate project.

(c) Disbursements:

( i ) Retroactive budget - funds be disbursed in two amounts. Upon receipt of complete report on staff training program, staff list and complete financial statement - second amount. The amount to be subtracted from the Territorial balance of \$32,320.00.

(ii) Fiscal year 1976-77:

-be funded from remainder of the \$32,320.00 approved = \$12,845.03

-N.W.T.A.D.C.C. funds= 75,000.00

-N.A.A.P. funds = 54,718.97

\$142,564.00

funds subject to quarterly reports, financial statements.

-\$10,000.00 for travel was cut from budget by Alcohol and Drug Program.



KOE GO CHO SOCIETY

-budget proposal for Rehabilitation Centre.

1. Retroactive budget for time period November 15/75 through to March 31/76.

Covers salaries, benefits and administrative costs for:

- 1 - Director
- 2 - Counsellors
- 1 - Secretary
- 1 - Nightwatchman
- 1 - Laundress
- 2 - Kitchen aides

November 15/75 - December 31/75

Staff salaries	\$ 3,670.38
Receiver General	1,640.29

January 31/76

Staff costs	2,733.26
Receiver General	953.72
Periodicals - 'Grassroots'	100.00

February/76

Staff costs	2,907.50
Receiver General	1,036.49
Other costs: Administration	
Supplies	
Typewriter/rental	991.47

March/76

Staff costs	3,697.26
Receiver General	1,298.17
Other costs: Administration	
(Journal-Ledgers)	
Travel advance for duty travel	446.43

TOTAL: \$ 19,474.97

2. Budget for fiscal year 1976-77.  
(April 1 - March 31)

Staff

1 - Director	15,000.00
3 - Counsellors	33,000.00
1- Secretary/Matron	10,000.00
1 - Nightwatchman	8,216.00
1 - Laundress	7,176.00
2 - Kitchen aides	17,992.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 91,384.00

Benefits	9,000.00
Housing	
(\$125/month)	5,472.00
Travel	10,000.00
Food	15,000.00
Bedding/janitorial	
supplies	8,500.00
Freight	5,000.00
Administration costs	8,208.00

61,180.00

61,180.00

TOTAL: 1976-77

\$ 152,564.00



## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

### Historical View:

Prior to a liquor outlet being opened in Fort Simpson in the summer of 1969, the person, family and community attempted to live in the traditional lifestyle of the Dene people. Other factors: fur trade, churches, residential school systems, and the desire to attain comforts of the industrial northamerican culture added to the disintegration of the traditional mode of life. This lifestyle had a common structure based in a clan concept with the people living close to and off of the land. This clan concept, basically an extended family with a head-man, (largest grouping of perhaps 40 individuals) was a result of geography of the land and the animals of the boreal forest, and which the nature of the boreal forest permits to exist.

Hunting game animals that roamed individually or in small groups over a large area made it necessary that people live in small independent groupings. To survive off the hunt, the Dene adapted to a type of discipline that required a high degree of independence in their psyche -the land and the animals dictated that man had to hunt alone or in small groups. Because of this a high degree of self reliance was fostered in each family.

The fur trade moved people into a community context and economic mode foreign to their way of life as independent hunters, depending on the animals no longer for food and the basic staples of life, but for barter through which the material well being of the industrial society was expected to be acquired. These expectations were never fully fulfilled because of the economic controls within the barter system, controls placed there by the fur trading agencies. The inability to meet these expectations and the continued desire to meet them locked the Dene further into a system foreign to their psyche and backgrounds.

The continued experiences of the types of contacts with foreign cultures such as the control agents placed on the barter system by the traders in their dealings with the Dene resulting in the inability of the Dene to acquire desired tools from the traders for practical use by the Dene in making their own life easier caused the women to view their husbands as being inadequate to meet their new expectations of life, these expectations having been changed from the traditional expectations by the people contact with a foreign culture.

Given the value and the view of marriage as an economic partnership, the view of one partner being inadequate by the other partner produces much stress and most often results in the partnership being dissolved. Results of this are obvious: broken homes, abandoned children, and the moral fibre of the community being the family as well, the whole community suffers.

The abuse of alcohol in this context must be viewed as a symptom indicative of a way of escaping from the sufferings and pain generated in the break-up of the family unit.

The residential school system was incorporated with the intention of removing the children from the authority of the parents and placing them in a setting where they would be sedintary as opposed to nomadic, and taught farming and trade skills. It was assumed that with these skills the nomadic nature of the people would be curtailed within three generations and that the people would farm the land and work in the trades. By the time the third generation of children had been raised in the residence the physical parents often no longer had the pyschological or emotional skills to raise and discipline children within either culture. With those skills lacking and the added problem of the economic conditions of life, many third generation residential peoples attempted to avoid their responsibilities to their children by willingly giving them up to the residences. This further added to the dissolution of the moral fibres of



the family, of the community.

It is relevant to note here how the experiences of the first generation children were affected by the moving back and forth between home and residence over a period of several years. These children, functioning in the area of cultural cues on a subconscious level for the most part, moved from home to school and back again and each time experiences without understanding why the semitraumatic shock of learning not only a new way of life, but discipline administered in a mode foreign to original background. These semitraumatic experiences of both the children and the parents resulted in the children never acquiring the communication skills to be understood by either culture. Parents were often ashamed by the inability of their children to function in their own culture. The self image of the children was of deprecation, and this individual is not in turn emotionally equipped to create a stable home.

The many hours of discussion and searching for an answer to the kinds of difficulties facing the people, as outlined above resulted in 1972 in a number of people in Fort Simpson attempting to resolve the problems in the following ways.

In December 1972, a survey of the community of Fort Simpson revealed eleven people employed on a permanent basis in the community, from a population of approximately 700 treaty and Metis people, including children.

Some of the unemployed in an attempt to create self employment, worked towards the resurrection of the Dene Coop. Very few people became involved. The reason the coop lost credibility in the first place was the cause of few willing to take a second chance with it. In their first attempt to build a coop, the people worked and produced a good crop of potatoes which one of the organizers sold to residential schools in the delta without consulting the people. After being promised at least potatoes for their efforts, the people saw nothing and were unwilling to take a chance with coop development again.

In January 1973, we surveyed the community again and discovered a number of skills existed in the community:

- 3 families had worked for the RC Mission herding cattle for the hospital needs of beef and milk. The heads of all families were unemployed and on S.A.
- 5 men with the necessary knowledge and experience as river boat pilots. No certificate as pilots. MOT regulations forces these men out of work.
- 6 men with some experience in operating heavy equipment. liquor problems, unemployed.
- 2 journeymen carpenters, alcoholic? unemployed.
- 1 woman two years training as social worker - unemployed.
- 1 woman topographic and construction draftsman. unemployed.
- 1 man two years pre law. Told by the local CMC Councillor of the day that he could only refer him to stack shelves at the local Super A store twice weekly.
- 1 man 2 yrs. philo. U. of O.
  - 2 yrs. Soc. Sci. U. of A. unemployed with a year of applications to the territorial government for employment.

This situation has changed for the better now in 1976, however, the main problems are not resolved, and the negative effects of alcohol are still being strongly felt in the community.



Following this survey an attempt to animate these people was made by a few from the group of unemployed employables. We discussed with many people in the community as well as with those of the above who were in shape to discuss. We found that there are skills in the community to operate:

- equipment to maintain roads.
- accounting skills.
- house construction skills.
- drafting for construction.
- social worker skills.
- market gardening skills.
- beef herding for local consumption (supplemental food)
- logging.
- sawmill operations.
- store clerks.
- arts and crafts.
- clothing factory for fur garments.

We felt that by pooling our resources, we could create a situation of economic benefit to the community.

In the interim -August 1973- the N.W.T. Government agreed to allow parents to operate the student residence. The Koe Go Cho Society was formed. At first we restricted operations to a residence. In a year and a half, the board of directors reversed the trend of parents shucking the responsibility for their children.

During the first year of operating the student residence, the board identified the need of solutions to problems arising due to a lack of unmet needs in the areas of recreation, so the Society is seeking for a recreation program to be coordinated from a friendship centre; adult education, alcohol prevention, education and rehabilitation, special child care, an information centre, research group, old folks home and a youth drop in centre. In these regards and since 1973 the Society has been learning the necessary skills, verbal jargon etc., to acquire the necessary funds to operate programs to meet identified needs as outlined above.

The overall objective of these programs is to create a social situation in which the individual whose life has been disrupted, as indicated above, can relate to people in whom he has trust, with whom there is credibility, so that that individual might acquire the necessary skills to become self motivated and to be able to look at his or her future from a healthy and with a hopeful perspective.

At the same time that we in the Koe Go Cho Society were formulating these ideas, the people in the Dene Coop, working with the D.I.A.N.D., entered into partnership with a man with expertise in the field of road construction and maintenance. The partnership, Dene-Mat, is formed in which the Dene Coop is the major shareholder. The contract of partnership is for five years in which time it is the responsibility of the Coop's partner, Matichuck, to train local people in the skills of business management in this field of endeavour, and as fully qualified equipment operators. In its first year of operating Dene-Mat spent over \$80,000 on training. Yet, alcohol abuse was the cause of most of this cost in that machines used for training were damaged as a result of drinking.



Continued turn over of local people is another problem of the company. The major cause: alcohol abuse. This is a major complaint of companies not only in the north, but especially in the north, and one of the reasons why companies such as Keen's did not hire local native people, with the exception of one or two on occasion, claiming that they are unreliable because of alcohol abuse. Those of us involved in Koe Go Cho and the Dene Coop felt that this was an excuse and that proper management of people with consideration for cultural difference would generate more regularity in work habits of local people. This was one of the major motivating reasons to set up Dene-Mat. This then was a locally initiated approach to resolve many financial problems creating stress in homes attempting to meet expectations set in motion by contact with the industrial society. The approach was only partially successful and although many local people were employed on a sporadic basis as their abuse of alcohol permitted, nothing definite or of a consolidated nature has resulted. Life style and the periphery activities accompanying the lives of people caught in the circles of alcohol abuse was accentuated if anything by the extra monies available through Dene-Mat. A growing awareness from these and related experiences has resulted in a recognition that before we can come to grips with the disintegration of the people in the north in general and this area in particular, especially the local native population, the obvious symptoms of this disintegration: alcohol abuse or misuse, has to be curtailed.

#### DATE - COMMUNITY BASE LINE

##### LIQUOR STORE SALES - FORT SIMPSON

April 1969 March 1970	- \$166,129
April 1970 March 1971	- \$221,642
April 1971 March 1972	- \$295,889
April 1972 March 1973	- \$415,401
April 1973 March 1974	- \$551,771

##### POPULATION 1974 FORT SIMPSON REGION

Fort Simpson	1,370
Jean Marie River	55
Fort Wrigley	175
Fort Liard	280
Nahanni Butte	65
Trout Lake	55

Adult population: 1000. One quarter of the population are non drinkers. Total drinking population approximately 750 adults.

##### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

1969	31,768
1970	33,435
1971	44,505
1972	90,066
1973	97,271
1974	124,666

Relatively stable recipient population, as transient population do not receive S.A. for the first month. The raise in S.A. paid out is interpreted to mean the deteriorating productivity of local people in the daily attempt to make their own living.



DATA: - COMMUNITY BASE LINE

R.C.M.P. CRIME STATISTICS

Arrests of people while drunk and kept in the cells overnight.

1971	493	489 native 4 white
1972	645	631 native 14 white
1973	910	859 native 51 white
1974	625	612 native (first 8 months) 13 white

This situation appears to be ameliorated from a statistical point of view in the past year due to new policy on the part of the R.C.M.P. as a result of pressure from a new and stronger Chief and Band Council.

DEATHS OF PEOPLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR AS A DIRECT RESULT OF SOMEONE ELSE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

This data may appear to be insignificant to one living in a city, but in a community of 1300 and now 1976, 1200, the impact is felt throughout the community.

Year	Dead	Year	Dead
1955	1	1969	1
1958	1	1970 liquor store	5 opened.
1961	1	1971	1
1963	1	1972	1
1964	1	1973	4
1967	1	1974	6
1968	1		

RECAPITULATION:

The problem as viewed above is from the context of the economic and social history of the people of the area resulting in specific identified problem areas as presented in point form below:

1. broken homes, 2. abandoned children, 3. truancy,
4. skill deficiency, technical, psychological (e.g. work habits) educational etc.
5. delinquency,
6. crime statistics: according to J. Morrow of the Supreme Court of the N.W.T., over 90% of the crimes in the N.W.T. are directly related to alcohol abuse.
7. money management, 8. Modes and view towards recreation,
9. lack of healthy recreational activities,
10. Violent crimes in the N.W.T., of which over 90% are directly related to alcohol abuse, is ten times higher than the national average.
11. Four and five year old children have been seen wondering the streets at three and four in the morning while under the influence of alcohol, their parents also having been drinking. Source: Dept. of Social Development, Fort Simpson, N.W.T., and the lady who reported the situation on one occasion to the Dept. of Social Dev., M. Watsyk.
12. Young people from 11 to 18 years of age use alcohol frequently.



RECAPITULATION:

13. Cultural: the mind expressions, and directional thinking, self identification and self image in the community.
14. Gap in services: there is not a centre in the north to meet the requirements for rehabilitation for Dene people, nor is there one with the approach and understanding of problem which this centre will take.
15. The present problems will be accentuated when the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline is put through. This centre will begin now to prepare people to cope with the added stress they will encounter, generated by the stepped up activities of a pipeline.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

With total image of the community needs in mind, the Society sees the development of a community resource centre servicing the educational, cultural and social needs of the native population as necessary to their development and growth into a place of maturity, respect and dignity in the north.

With this more encompassing view of the development necessary among their people, the Koe Go Cho Society looks constantly towards the development of strong integral families. This overview has been uppermost in the minds of the executive of the society in the past years, and with this overview still in mind, the society looks towards a more complete service to its people so as to:

Use the strength of the traditional family to build families of integrity to meet present demands;

Build strong families to meet present demands by working towards creating a more healthy social milieu in which to raise children by providing youth recreational services, alcohol rehabilitational services, special child care, information centre, adult education, research, ambulatory senior citizens services including the context from which the elders can teach the young people in the student residence their values and the reasons for the traditional approaches to life.

With the foregoing in mind then, the executive of the Koe Go Cho Society, in consultation with the members of the band councils and their Chiefs from Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Fort Wrigley, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, and the members of the society, are seeking funding to operate the following programs:

Student Residence: funds received from Gov't of the NWT.

Dechinta: Prevention, funds from Non Med. Use of Drugs.

Field Component, alcohol program: funds received from:

N.W.T. Drug & Alcohol A. C.C.

L.I.P. and N.A.A.P.

Rehab. Component: alcohol program: Welfare Grants Director.

Special Child Care: Territorial Social Development. no fund yet.

Research : D.I.A.N.D. no fund yet.

Information: D.I.A.N.D. no fund yet.

Ambulatory Senior Citizens Home: D.I.A.N.D. no fund yet.

Youth Drop In Centre: operating voluntarily.

Friendship Centre: operating voluntarily.

By housing these programs in one building, the society will create a visible symbol of native capability and achievement.



Within the complex, with daily opportunity for mutual contact among staff, senior citizens, those participating in programs and resident students; program interaction and co-operation, the society is confident that this more complete approach to human development will be of benefit to not only the native people, but to the community at large.

With the community at large in mind, the society realizes that all people have needs to be met, but wish to develop these programs as it is native people in the majority who require these services.

Lapoint Hall in Fort Simpson provides an ideal setting from which these services can be administered. A large savings in capital and building costs will be realized. Renovations will be few. The layout presently lends itself to keeping each program semi-autonomous where preferable, but with common recreational and service areas available. The catering, house-keeping and administrative staff would service all residents which would reduce operation and maintenance costs considerably and also reinforce the unity of the complex.

# PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND EVALUATION

## FIELD COMPONENT

Staff Training  
Field work  
Preparation of  
client for Centre  
Orientation to Centre  
Awareness  
Education at the  
community level  
Referral to Centre:

## REHAB.CENTRE

Intake  
Counselling  
Treatment  
-history  
-economic  
-social  
-personal  
-cultural  
-mindflow

## Evaluate:

-by client  
-by counsellor  
-together  
-community base  
line information  
-personal base  
line information  
including  
-mindflow of the  
community and  
individuals.

## Followup

continue treatment  
on a more casual  
basis in the com-  
munity.

## Evaluate:

- same as after  
treatment in  
the centre.
- to indicate  
changing factors  
of activity and  
participation at  
the community level  
by clients as a re-  
sult of new knowledge  
and commitment.

## DECHINTA

Preventative.

Please refer to  
the proposal we  
sent you earlier  
covering the work  
and objectives of  
this aspect of the  
program.

Not directly re-  
lated to the o-  
ther two compon-  
ents.

Following are the forms we will be using to cover the intake and evaluation of the clients.