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***Fort Simpson Community Tourism Plan
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FORT SIMPSON COMMUNITY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Community Tourism Plan

In June 1984, the Big River Travel Association entered into a funding agreement with the North West Territories Department of Economic Development and Tourism to undertake a Tourism Development and Marketing Plan for the western section of Big River Country. The tourism study was initiated in recognition of the potential economic and social contributions that the tourism industry could provide to local communities as well as the growth potential generated with the opening of the Liard Highway to Fort Simpson, B. C.

The community tourism plans and regional strategy are intended to guide public and private sector interests in the development of attractions, facilities, services, policies and an organizational structure supportive of increased tourism activity contributing to the local Fort Simpson economy and beneficial to the surrounding region. It is to reflect community feelings regarding the type of industry and under what conditions it should be developed.

Because tourism is at a relatively youthful stage in its development in this part of the Territories, the plan provides a logical framework for industry development in the community where operating and capital costs are of a critical concern. A systematic approach to community tourism development is required in order to obtain the maximum short and long-term efficiencies from the available resources, infrastructure and markets. Through a systematic approach, the various levels of government and the private sector can evaluate or judge a range of opportunities for their contributions to the goals of the

community and region. Clearly, the summary of findings and development plans outlined in this report are intended to reduce uncertainty within both the public and private sectors as to future developments - markets by establishing an overall community-wide approach with guidelines and principles for tourism growth.

The plan is to reflect community, government and industry sector goals and concerns, be sufficiently broad in scope and flexible in approach to accommodate unforeseen development, and be responsive to a wide variety of short and long term specialty markets and resource development opportunities. It is recognized that major technological advances, changes in government policy, changes in the energy situation, etc. could alter the direction and implementation of the plan. Therefore, the goals and objectives of the plan should be reviewed at regular intervals for changing needs in the area, as well as other market, resource and development factors occurring in other parts of Big River Country and the surrounding area.

It is anticipated that through promoting the orderly and economic growth of Fort Simpson from a tourism perspective through the community planning process, it will be possible to identify existing and future market opportunities, and to safeguard and enhance environmental quality, heritage, visitor satisfaction, and social and economic benefits for the community. It is anticipated that tourism will begin to exercise a greater influence on the course and direction of economic development in Fort Simpson and on regional tourism planning in Big River Country. Thus, the purpose of a community tourism plan is to: **develop practical tourism development strategies that will assist local operators, investors, planners and the municipal and Band Councils to stimulate and manage the tourism economy of Fort Simpson over a five to twenty year period.**

1.2 How to Use the Plan

The Fort Simpson Tourism Plan is one of 7 community plans, a corridor plan, and a technical report entitled Big River Country: Markets and Opportunities for Investment. The community plan provides a detailed outline of community resources and attitudes concerning the type and growth of the industry as a result of an ongoing consultation process. The community plan highlights key resource opportunities, markets and development opportunities and programme recommendations including priority and phasing. For additional reference to special markets, summary of regional resource opportunities, and the summary of development opportunities reference should be made to the technical report.

The plan provides the direction for future development to proceed but recognizes that other opportunities may exist which could contribute to the community and region's economic well-being. The scope of this plan is to establish a general framework within which future development may be directed by indicating where the main types of development should take place. Although the plan is intended to guide the Village and Band Councils and other agencies in the exercise of their powers and responsibilities relating to tourism development, it is recommended that consultation occur with local and territorial authorities prior to undertaking significant investment in a specific opportunity.

PART 2: MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Fort Simpson is the largest community in the western part of Big River Country providing certain essential services and a limited number of attractions of interest to destination and pass-through tourists. It is uniquely located near the cross roads to Norman Wells and the junction of the Mackenzie and Liard Highways. As a result of the community's geographic position, existing infrastructure, historical development and community-wide interest in improving and expanding the transit commercial services, Fort Simpson has the potential to become the most important service centre for the western section of the Liard-Mackenzie Highway corridors.

The following sections outline major factors which may directly or indirectly impact upon the Fort Simpson tourism industry. Many of these factors are inter-related and have a significant impact upon the attitudes of potential investors and operators both in the community and other non-residents who may wish to invest in this area.

2.1 Factors Affecting the Future of Tourism Development in Fort Simpson

Both local and non-local political, socio-cultural, land use-ownership and economic factors affect the development and continuing growth of tourism at the community level in Fort Simpson. Major factors which could potentially impact the tourism industry either in the long or short term, in and around this community are discussed in the following sections.

*Government Economic Development Priorities

Policy and resource support for the development of community-based tourism activities have been formalized at both the Federal and Territorial Government levels. As a consequence, it is timely for communities/regions with tourism development aspirations to access planning, infrastructure, human development and marketing support resources. Based on current and anticipated program commitments (i.e. the Canada/NWT Economic Development Agreement, the G.N.W.T. Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism, and DRIE), it is anticipated that a high level of government support will continue to the N.W.T. tourism sector at least until 1986/87 when many of these programs will expire.

*Regional Economic Development Priorities

The official opening of the Liard Highway in 1984 and the continued growth of the Dig River Travel Association have perpetuated a strong regional interest in tourism development. These 1984 initiatives together with the planned Papal visit to Fort Simpson, the Nahanni National Park Management Planning process, upgrading of the Mackenzie Highway north to Wrigley and a number of celebrations and special community events have reinforced the growth of and the emphasis being placed on the tourism industry in the region.

A second economic development priority in the region is the development of an economic base built on renewable resources. In this respect, various private and public sector groups wish to encourage the development of small and large scale tourist businesses. Fort Simpson is within easy access of several outstanding natural resources such as Nahanni National Park, with rivers flowing out of the Mackenzie Mountains, outstanding canoeing rivers, big game hunting areas and hiking and trail riding areas. Being located on the Mackenzie River is a further

advantage to be considered by prospective operators. As the "Fort of the Forks", use of this image could reinforce the status of the community as the most important cross road when marketing access to these back country resources.

Non-renewable resource development has had an important economic impact on the community although this is gradually being reduced. The recent completion of the Inter-Provincial Pipeline from Norman Wells to Zamma Lake in Alberta, for example, has had an important impact on the local hotel, restaurant, and related services industries. It is suggested that further developments in the hydrocarbon industry in the Mackenzie-Beaufort regions will have few direct long term consequences in Fort Simpson except possibly in promoting completion of the highway to Wrigley and Norman Wells and assisting the hospitality industries from truck traffic. Road and bridge construction for this highway will have a direct economic impact on the hospitality services in the community during the construction years. Over the long term these major construction projects have potential to become important interpretive stories regarding the economic development of the Mackenzie valley.

*Local Economic Development Priorities

Fort Simpson, like most communities, is dependent to a large extent on government funding either directly or indirectly. Further, dependence upon government revenues is not likely to change in the near future, although the community will continue to develop as a regional business and government services centre for the western section of the Big River region. As this occurs, additional private sector businesses will be initiated although financially supported by government funding.

Continued development of local timber resources to supply local construction needs is expected to occur providing local economic

opportunities. The continuation, of tradition, of native trapping, fishing, and hunting lifestyles is also a high priority, with the Band, and the planning-development of other economic sectors must not cause conflict and competition for the use of the natural resources. In certain instances, information and development concepts have been provided by the Band Economic Development Officer regarding tourism opportunities that could be established in conjunction with these traditional activities that would increase local benefits and provide opportunities for the southern visitor to venture into this northern world of adventure.

With the opening of the Liard Highway in 1984, and potentially increased visitation to the region, Fort Simpson will likely become a more important service centre for highway travellers. Continuation of the Mackenzie Highway to Grigley and further north to Norman Wells will expand this role. It is felt that development of the tourism industry is possibly the single most important way the community can increase the importance of the private sector and generate increased employment in the community. Therefore, a co-ordinated effort will be required within the community to maximize the economic benefits to the hospitality industry from both the commercial and tourist traffic.

*Political Development

Fort Simpson attained village status in 1973 and is one of seven incorporated municipalities in the N.W.T. today. The Community Council is well established, with some councillors serving a dual role as councillors for the Dene Band.

Approval of applications for outfitting camps and other tourist oriented services is heavily dependent upon approval from the Band Council. Current discussions at the federal level regarding land claims further complicate obtaining approvals for new

developments. Restrictions regarding future tourist Activities in certain lakes have been given to certain land owners which is causing some problems in utilizing the resources of the area. The lack of clear guidelines concerning development on the lakes and rivers surrounding Fort Simpson by S1avey and non-S1avey residents may be a serious problem in attracting investment and expertise to operate these facilities.

*Infrastructure Development and Organizations

Fort Simpson has an established local infrastructure that is able to meet certain requirements of the tourism industry. This infrastructure was enhanced in 1984-85 with the completion of a local sports/recreation complex. This facility will increase the community's ability to host inter-community/regional sports events and recreation functions such as hockey and baseball tournaments, regional Dene/Metis cultural events, etc. Consideration is also being given to the replacement of the existing curling club and combining it with a gymnasium. This action would provide the community with facilities adequate to hold regional tournaments.

The most influential organizations affecting tourism development are the Village and Band Councils in co-operation with the Territorial Department of Economic Development and Tourism. To date these agencies have been primarily an approval body in contrast to planning and directing future initiatives. In accepting the plan, these agencies will have the resources to more effectively guide orderly and economic tourism growth.

The Del. Cho Regional Council although extending beyond the community has a strong impact on the economic growth and direction of Band Councils. This Council in the future should take an active interest in promoting and assisting in the implementation of the plan.

The Fort Simpson Chamber of Commerce became active in 1983 and is contributing to tourism development through the promotion of local Canada Day celebrations and providing direction to the Village Council. The organization of the Papal visit in 1984 drew international attention to the community and encouraged many local residents to take an active involvement in the planning for this event. Local organizers gained valuable experience in staging major special events which will greatly benefit the local tourism industry in future years although the structure of this specific organization has been dissolved.

Service clubs such as the Lions are very important in terms of providing guidance and resources to implement public and private sector initiatives. Further, it is very important in small communities that service clubs take on a financial obligation in operating public service facilities and organizing special events. The organizational support of service clubs is considered very important in gaining grants and other financial assistance from the Territorial Government.

2.2 Tourism Potential in Fort Simpson

The following sections provide both a detailed listing and summary of the resources of the land, people and the community as well as of organizational/human resources available for the development of tourism. To gain an appreciation of these resources, the following community overview is provided.

Fort Simpson is a community of some 980 people of which approximately 61% are of Dene/Inuit ancestry. The local economy is based on a mixture of government employment, employment in the transportation, tourism, and lumber industries, traditional pursuits of hunting, trapping and fishing, and government transfer payments such as social assistance and pensions.

The community is the oldest continuously occupied trading post on the Mackenzie River, with the original "Fort of the Forks" built in 1804. St. David Anglican Mission was established in 1858 and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Mission in 1894. The community has over the past 181 years developed a colourful and exciting history.

Prior to the construction of the Mackenzie Highway to Fort Simpson, the community was an important centre for river transportation on the Mackenzie, first for York boats and subsequently for river steamers. Although river barges are frequently seen today travelling up and down the river, few actually stop at Fort Simpson, thus resulting in little economic impact. The importance of river traffic will undoubtedly diminish once a year round road is established to Wrigley and Norman Wells. The role that river transportation has had in the social and economic development of the community remains largely untold.

Prior to road transportation being available from the south to Fort Providence, Fort Simpson was an important agricultural centre for the region. An experimental farm existed from 1940 to 1970 to demonstrate the agricultural potential of the area, and Fort Simpson had the title of "Garden of the Mackenzie". This experimental station received many guests to review the productive capability of these lands and was often described in Canadian newspapers and journals. No interpretation of its past as an agriculture centre has been undertaken.

Fort Simpson is now an Area Administrative Centre for the Territorial Government and is a centre for regional commercial services such as air travel, banking and technical subtrades. Scheduled air service is available from Yellowknife via two major carriers.

The community is located on an island at the confluence of the Liard and Mackenzie Rivers. Following a record flood in 1963, subsequent development has occurred on higher ground, leaving a flood plain along the shore. Highway access is via a six-minute ferry service in the summer and a winter road on the ice in winter.

2.2.1 Resources of the Land and People

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate in detail the resources of the land and people in the community and surrounding area. The inventory of land resources includes interesting landforms and geological sites, water bodies including wild rivers and associated outstanding natural scenery, wildlife areas and fishing areas.

Resources of the people provides a basic inventory of those sites located within and in close proximity to the community which have a particular cultural or historical significance to both N.W.T. residents and non-residents.

The following summary highlights the resource base and provides a general evaluation of their significance.

*LANDFORMS

The topography immediately surrounding the community is relatively flat, being partially located on an island along the south shore of the Mackenzie. The abrupt bluffs stretching along the river with their lacustrine sediments overlying till provide the relatively few dramatic breaks in the landscape and a panoramic view from the townsite of the two rivers. The countryside surrounding the community is heavily wooded, with poplar, spruce and pine being the most prominent species and

combined with a primarily even topography allows only a restricted view of the landscape.

To the north-east of the townsite is the Rabbitskin River area, a generally flat marshy landscape with little summer tourist potential. The landscape is similar to the Martin's River area to the south, and it is not until you reach the Nahanni Range, approximately 90 km to the west, that you find dramatic mountain landscapes. Nahanni Mountain is the highest mountain in the north part of the range at 4095 feet, rising suddenly over 2600 feet above the surrounding landscape. This range potentially may be used for hiking and mountaineering, with these activities marketed by a lodge in the area. The Elbutt Hills are located north-west of the townsite and although the area has been identified as a potential IDP site, the tourist potential is low. A silver mine (Cadillac) is located 150 km west of Fort Simpson but at the present time is inactive with access restricted to the public.

*Lakes and Rivers

The Mackenzie River is the single most dramatic natural feature associated with the community. Approximately 1.4 km wide at this point, it provides a scenic background for interpreting the history of the area or hiking along the bluffs between the campground and townsite. The river is considered suitable for recreation boating although high winds can make travel both difficult and dangerous.

The Liard River with its shoal and silt laden water is not considered desirable for recreation power boating. Canoes however travel between Nahanni Butte to Fort Simpson on a regular basis completing longer trips from Nahanni National Park and the upper reaches of the river in British Columbia.

To the west of Fort Simpson, the North Nahanni River flows into the Mackenzie near Camsell Bend. The river passes through a very scenic mountain area with the Camsell Range along the east side. A jet boat is best used on this river; navigation on its upper reaches is often difficult due to log jams and shoal water.

The most outstanding lakes in the Fort Simpson area are Little Doctor and Cli Lake located along the leading edge of the Nahanni Range. These lakes have developable shorelands, outstanding mountain scenery (Nahanni Range) and a wide range of fishing opportunities. The lakes are only accessible by air or by trail riding in the summer, and in winter, by air and snowmobile. Other lakes in the region that have fishing potential include Sibbeston, Tsetso, and Antoine. These lakes would be considered suitable for fly-in day trips by visitors to Fort Simpson or those staying at a guest lodge in the region.

*WILDLIFE AND FISHING AREAS

Local residents report that sport fishing along the north bank of the Mackenzie near Fort Simpson is a good fishing area in close proximity to the community. Sports fishing on the Mackenzie could be marketed to campers passing through the area as well as to groups spending one or more nights at Fort Simpson. As previously noted, Little Doctor and Cli Lakes are very attractive with good fishing; however, access for sports fishing is primarily restricted to air travel. Fly-in fishing is also available to McEwan and Reed Lakes.

The Fort Simpson area is important to local residents for big game hunting and trapping but has not attracted outside hunters to the region.

West of the Camsell Range, South Nahanni Outfitters Ltd. operate a big game hunting service. This service provides hunting

opportunities along the Yukon-N.W.T. border south of MacLellan Pass with no direct benefits generated for communities such as Fort Simpson. The primary game specie is Dall sheep.

Excellent moose hunting is reported in the Camsell Bend area; however the demand for moose hunting by non-residents is very limited at this time.

No unusual opportunities are available for viewing wildlife.

*RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE

Being the oldest settlement on the Mackenzie River, Fort Simpson's historical resources have primarily been related to the fur trade and white settlement. A review of the interpretive potential however indicates that the community has a much more varied and interesting history than that currently being marketed to the public.

Rocky Mountain Fort at Camsell Bend was operated from 1800 to 1804 and the site of the original fort in Simpson is still in existance. A number of architectually important buildings are located in the community (e.g. Hudson's Bay and mission buildings and residences) although do not bear any interpretive signage. The community has many interest features that at the present time are lost to visitors.

An important resource of the Dene community is their hand crafts. Unique hand crafted products are locally produced and sold through gift shops. Dene games and dancing are also popular although they are only performed at local activities and generally are not promoted to the public as a principal activity.

Items of interest to tourists include the early European exploration in the area, pre-European culture, Hudson's Bay

Company activities generally, as well as development in Fort Simpson, relocation of the townsite, river navigation, missionary work in the area, Slavey legends, pipeline activity and most recently the proposed Papal visit to the community. To date the interpretive potential of the community has not been developed although the community has recently received international recognition as a result of the 1984 Papal visit to Canada.

An area requiring further research and documentation is the history of the local Dene community. Interest in the background history of communities is a high priority of tourists to this region.

2.2.2 Tourist Attractions, Facilities and Services

Table 3 displays community based resources which are available to support and encourage the local tourism industry. The following summary highlights local infrastructure, attractions and services which are particular to tourism.

*Accommodation and Food/Beverage Services

The village of Fort Simpson has two facilities offering fixed-roof accommodation. The Fort Simpson Hotel, the larger of the two, can accommodate up to 70 persons in 35 rooms. The hotel includes a restaurant, dining room and licensed lounge and services the limited number of tour bus groups as well as other large backcountry groups using Fort Simpson as an arrival and departure point into Nahanni National Park and the Mackenzie Mountains. The hotel, to be comparable with the services provided at Grande Prairie, Alberta and Fort Nelson, B.C., will need to undertake renovations to the rooms and restaurant areas as well as a general upgrading in the appearance of the buildings and grounds. The owner has indicated that up to 5 additional

tour buses per week could be accommodated during the summer season.

The Haroda Motel which was opened in 1984 accommodates up to 32 persons in 8 rooms and includes kitchenettes. This is a modern facility which appeals to families or small groups but is too small for motor coach tours. A small gift shop with Slavey crafts is located in the motel lobby for use by their patrons.

A small Territorial campground (30 units) is located at the east end of the townsite and adjacent to the Papal site. An open recreation area and ball field beside the campground is being constructed (1985) to make the area more attractive to visitors. A walking trail along the waterfront from the campground would further improve the attractiveness of this campground.

In addition to the Fort Simpson Hotel, the New Four Seasons Restaurant and Sub-Arctic Inn provide additional meal and beverage services. These facilities are primarily used by local residents and other business/government personnel and are presently unable to seat tour bus groups at one time.

In terms of entertainment, a theatre is located on the main street but has not been operated for several years. The community lacks many other types of structured indoor private/public recreation facilities and activities although this may be partially resolved by the completion of the community arena.

#Retail and Arts/Crafts Services

The Bay has a large general merchandising store where most tourists needs can be fulfilled with the possible exception of backcountry travel foods. A second independent grocery store (T. & J. Grocery Ltd.) is also located in Fort Simpson.

Slavey arts and crafts are sold at the Fort Simpson Craft Shop through the Hats Encl u Society, a local sewing guild. Handicrafts include beadwork, quilwork, moose and caribou antler-tufting, silk embroidery, decorated birch baskets and drums. Some products are brought from other communities for sale in Fort Simpson. The outlet is located in a small store and includes tourist information regarding the community and surrounding area. Signage and visibility of the facility is considered poor in terms of attracting the attention of visitors when first arriving in the community. Further, there is minimal parking area for patrons at this information-crafts shop.

MacKenzie Valley Photography is located in the east end of the community commercial subdivision site. The firm provides a retail sales outlet for unique naturalist photography taken in the region. The handicrafts of the Slavey community and MacKenzie Valley Photography works extend the marketing image far beyond the Territorial boundary and may be used in the future to further market the culture and natural beauty of this area and specifically the community of Fort Simpson.

*Transportation and Other Public Services

Fort Simpson is accessible by air, water, and by road year-round except for fall freeze/spring break-up when it is not possible to cross the Liard River by ferry. Scheduled air service from Yellowknife is provided by Northwest Territorial Airways Ltd. (5 days/week) and Pacific Western Airlines (1 day/week, however, this service will be discontinued in the fall of 1985). Northwest Territorial also flies to Fort Nelson. Air Providence provides scheduled service to Fort Providence. Charter air services are available from several operators. A local cab company provides ground transportation in Fort Simpson, and there is no scheduled bus service. Vehicle rentals are available from two commercial operators. At present there is no bus service to

connect with scheduled north-south service at Fort Providence or Fort Nelson.

As previously noted, Fort Simpson is connected by a gravel road to Fort Nelson and Fort Providence. During the spring thaw, road conditions may be difficult between Fort Simpson and Fort Liard and during the summer, extensive dust from truck and car traffic can create poor to hazardous driving conditions. Access to Wrigley by road is only open during the spring months.

Other public services include a 10-man R.C.M.P. detachment, a 12-bed hospital and Thomas Simpson School, which has an adjacent hostel, Lapointe Hall, to accommodate school children from other regional communities. Recreational facilities include the arena which was completed during the winter of 1984-85, a community hall, curling rink (ready to be removed), baseball diamonds, dock and boat launch on the Mackenzie River and a seasonal swimming pool. Electric power from a diesel generator is supplied by the Northern Canada Power Commission. Domestic water is pumped from the Mackenzie River, treated and is available through an underground piped system to most homes.

*Visitor Infrastructure

As previously noted, Fort Simpson has a campground within the community and a local tourism information centre (summer only). The local Territorial Park campground is operated by the Village Council with a grant from the C.M.H.T. Located in a heavily wooded area at the eastern edge of the community, it includes 30 camping sites, a kitchen shelter, drinking water, pit toilets and a large recreation area.

*Local Attractions and Points of Interest

Being the oldest trading post on the Mackenzie, Fort Simpson or "Fort of the Forks" has historical significance in exploration and development of the fur trade in the region. A monument has been erected to commemorate the visit of Alexander Mackenzie who paddled the river in 1797. A second monument overlooking the river describes the history of the community. Both monuments should be better situated.

A more recent attraction is the altar constructed for the planned visit of Pope John Paul II to Fort Simpson in September 1984. The structures constructed for this visit remain and will likely be maintained indefinitely to commemorate the event.

The confluence of the Liard and Mackenzie and the dramatic bluffs bordering the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers provide one of if not the most important sights for travellers arriving in Fort Simpson. The parkland located along the waterfront is an excellent area from which to photograph the confluence of the river, Papal memorial and view the tugs, barges etc., travelling between Hay River and the high Arctic.

Local events which annually attract regional visitors to Fort Simpson are identified in the following. Major factors affecting their success or failure include weather conditions, organization, publicity and quality of entrees and prize money. The major events which attract regional visitors to Fort Simpson are as follows:

- The Beaver Tail Jamboree: held mid-March and includes northern games, winter sports, drum dancing and a feast.

- Slavey events on the August long weekend, including the Gerry Antoine Canoe Races, childrens' and northern games.

Other local events include dog races organized by the Mackenzie Liard Dog Mushers, Canada Day celebrations assisted by the Chamber of Commerce, and other special events organized by groups such as the Lion's Club. Major ball tournaments are held in the summer on an ad hoc basis. During the winter the community hosts "old timer" hockey tournaments which is a growing activity in most communities as well as a regional bonspiel (not held in 1985). These activities comprise an important part of the local tourist industry and if properly promoted and organized can bring many non-residents to Fort Simpson. Concern has been voiced by certain businesses however that the economic impact of these events could be significantly increased. Closer liaison between the organizing groups, the business community, Village and Band Councils would appear to be required to maximize the benefits (recreation and economic).

*Tourism Related Services

Several types of tourism services which primarily cater to summer visitors exist in Fort Simpson. Riverboat tours of the Mackenzie River are operated by Mackenzie River Cruises on an ad hoc basis. Cruises depart from either Fort Simpson or Inuvik and include eight days of sightseeing and fishing along a 1,200 km stretch of the river. Some concern has been expressed by the Big River Travel Association regarding the scheduling and reliability of the service. Cruises are not presently available for hourly, half day or daily trips on the Mackenzie which could transport visitors to the old town site, confluence of the Liard and Mackenzie, Jean Marie River and provide opportunities for sport fishing trips.

Increasingly Fort Simpson is becoming the base camp for canoe and raft tour operators serving Nahanni National Park. Black Feather/Trail Head Wilderness Adventures of Ottawa offer fly-in canoe trips on the South Nahanni River. North-West Expeditions Ltd. of Vancouver are also now basing their South Nahanni rafting tours in Fort Simpson. Such developments can have significant impact on many community services ranging from charter air services to the sale of handcrafts. An indirect but important benefit is the promotion the community receives through advertizing activities of these companies.

Air charter operators also provide fly-in services for smaller tour groups which wish to undertake daily or extended fishing, canoeing, hiking or sightseeing activities. Another service is offered by Homestead Ranch, who are planning to operate horseback trail rides into such areas as Oli and Little Doctor Lakes and the Techlo and Ram Rivers. Certain difficulties have been experienced by the operator including obtaining a license to operate in the area gaining access along Oli Lake into the Ram Plateau region.

Recently the N.W.T. government has received applications for outfitting licenses from Fort Simpson residents. At this time the emphasis is on summer based activities (i.e. hunting and fishing) although in the long term some potential may exist for activities such as winter trap line tours.

2.2.3 Organizational Skill/Human Resources

Fort Simpson has both business and administrative skill resources and structures as well as a fairly well trained hospitality industry labour pool primarily developed through the hotel and restaurant businesses. The most obvious limitation with respect to human and organizational skills lies in the fact that the existing tourism oriented businesses do not constitute a large

part of the community's economic base. There appears to be mixed attitudes toward the tourism industry and some reticence to be involved in it. A related disadvantage of this problem, and affecting most small communities is the lack of qualified and interested people who have the skill and financial resources to organize and implement the many actions required of a community plan. A problem identified by several Fort Simpson community leaders is that they have little time to take any additional committee or project responsibilities.

2.3 Community Feelings about Tourism

Over the course of community work undertaken in Fort Simpson, a number of local service groups, government agencies, businesses and individuals were interviewed regarding their opinion on tourism. The following points briefly summarize resident opinion about the tourism industry as a whole and about tourism as an economic activity of the community.

- Residents feel that tourism has positively benefitted the community but that further leadership and direction are required before many people will become directly involved.
- People at the Native Friendship Centre feel there is a need for more native managed or owned businesses, and that native women should become more involved.
- Concern was expressed over the possibility of tourists settling in the community and creating their own businesses generating competition for local or removing altogether economic opportunities.
- Some residents have expressed a need for a greater variety and increased quality of restaurants and stores and longer operating hours.

A lack of "things to do and see" in town for tourists was seen as a problem that must be overcome.

- The Kat's Enlu Society (Ft. Simpson Craft Shop) recognizes the need to improve management skills.

The G.M.W.T. (E. D. LT.) wishes to discontinue its financial responsibilities in the operation of the craft Shop by considering privatization of the operation.

- There is a concern felt by non-natives, interested in developing a business or obtaining a tourist operator licence, regarding the G.M.W.T. requirement that Band support is needed prior to government approval.
- Concern was expressed that the existing local events should be better organized with attempts made to improve their quality in order to attract more non-residents and encourage them to stay longer in the community. Events such as the Gerry Antoine Canoe Race could be expanded to gain regional significance.
- The short term residency of many professionals in the community is viewed as negatively affecting the activities of several service organizations and having a negative impact on the development of major community and tourism services.
- The rivers in the area are often dangerous and in combination with the long travelling distances from base camps create severe financial (capital and operating) problems for outfitting operators.
- Residents suggest that tourism could be focused on local historical resources.

The Lion's Club is generally favourable towards tourism projects in Fort Simpson and would be willing to consider assisting in new community projects.

The air charter companies favourably view increased tourism development and promotion of the community and area.

Rowdiness in the campground was identified as a problem and visitors are reluctant to leave camping equipment at the site while touring the area.

The continuation or restriction of motorized access into Nahanni National Park was seen as a major issue affecting the visitor capacity of the park.

Residents feel that there is a lack of people with industry training and understanding that are capable of co-ordinating the many projects required to initiate a community-wide response.

Business people have expressed a concern over the high cost of upgrading facilities and services and the short tourist season.

2.4 Regional Travel

As the largest centre in the western part of DRTA, and with its improved transportation system to Norman Wells (ongoing) and Fort Nelson, Fort Simpson is attracting increasing numbers of N.W.T. residents, as well as becoming increasingly important as a government and commercial centre. The opening of the Liard Highway has provided a further opportunity for south-bound tourist traffic along the highway to experience the culture and sights of the Northwest Territories.

In examining the question of future regional and non-regional traffic along the corridor, it must be acknowledged that there are few unique road access attractions. The road is gravel topped (dusty and soft in areas) and long distances exist between communities/attractions. Services are only just being developed and in general are of an inferior quality to that found in northern Alberta or British Columbia. However, based upon the desire of many people to visit the Northwest Territories, and the availability of wilderness resources, transportation and other recreation services and amenities found in Fort Simpson, the community has the potential to attract increasing numbers of non-resident and resident visitors during the summer as well as certain residents in the winter. Due to the lack of data on visitor travel and hotel records for example, it is difficult to estimate the number of regional and non-regional tourists visiting the community. Excluding business traffic, a very approximate number of visitor days to the community has been estimated at 13-15,000 of which 41% are visiting friends and relatives.

Business travel is expected to grow over the next five years, due to the the increasing importance of Fort Simpson as a government centre, and the commercial business generated with the recent completion of the highway link to Fort Nelson. Construction of the highway to Wrigley and later to Norman Wells will further increase commercial and truck traffic to these northern communities with direct and indirect benefits to the hospitality industry in Fort Simpson.

Over a five to ten year planning horizon, several market segments have been identified that would be most interested in and should be encouraged to visit Fort Simpson and the immediate area. However, because of the isolated location of the community, the number of visitors to the community will be affected to a large extent on the capacity of fixed-roof accommodation and camping sites available in or near the community. The availability of

tourist accommodation information at the N.W.T. tourist centre on the Alaska Highway would appear to be important in attracting that market with discretionary travel time. The primary markets for consideration include:

- Wilderness campers, rafters and canoists entering Nahanni National Park, and travelling on other mountain rivers (including the Mackenzie). Outfitters (e.g. White Water Adventurers) are increasingly using the services of Fort Simpson for their guests at the beginning and end of their trip into the Mackenzie Mountains. These markets typically require air charter services, one to two nights accommodation, food services, opportunities to purchase souvenirs, as well as any "last minute" gear for their trip.
- Motor coach tour groups whose participants are generally interested in Slavey arts and crafts, European history of the community, general exploration and missionary activity, landscape appreciation/photography (sightseeing).
- Non-resident family automobile/recreation vehicle traffic into Fort Simpson to participate in all of the activities of interest to motor coach tour groups as well as a range of specialty activities. This market group will have greater time to participate in chartered river boat trips, fly-in trips (1 day or longer) to sports fishing lakes such as Trout or Little Doctor Lake and/or fly-in to special attractions for day visits to Virginia Falls. The locations of sports fishing opportunities in close proximity to Fort Simpson should be emphasized as this will be the first time for many individuals to "fish in the Northwest Territories."
- The fourth group consists of regional residents who are participating in a local sports or cultural events. As long as these events are promoted and continue to be of interest, it can be expected that people from Hay River, Yellowknife,

etc. will enjoy these "weekend get-away" activities in Fort Simpson.

A small number of visitors annually pass down the Mackenzie River on their way to Inuvik. These individuals/groups have little impact upon the community, purchasing only minor quantities of food and gear.

PART 3: FORT SIMPSON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1 Introduction.

This section of the plan contains direction adopted by the Fort Simpson Village and Band Councils to guide and manage a pattern of economic development based on the tourism industry that is anticipated over the next twenty years. The plan deals with more than the physical aspects of development such as waterfront parks, accommodation and food services; but also with the education, training and financial needs of residents who will become employed in the tourism industry. The Plan sets out the official position of the community within their jurisdiction to direct and influence the pattern of development within Fort Simpson and the surrounding area. The Plan further reflects the short and long direction for the industry in the western section of Big River Country, and in so doing will place Fort Simpson in a much better position to obtain the required recognition, resources and economic support.

3.2 Tourism Approach for Fort Simpson

It has concluded in this plan that there are four major goals to pursue in developing tourism in Fort Simpson. These goals are directed at:

1. Increasing the number and expenditure per trip of residents and non-residents visiting Fort Simpson and area;
2. Improving the quality and range of tourist related services for both automobile and air traffic visitors;
3. Improving the quality and range of events and attractions (cultural and natural) that will appeal to both the pass-through and destination travellers.
4. Improving the regional/international market image/awareness of Fort Simpson as a regional tourism service centre.

As previously noted, the major problems giving rise to the poor performance of the industry in the Fort Simpson area relate to the previously stated goals. The central problems appear to be the lack of developed and promoted attractions and services along the highway system to motivate greater travel volumes. Further, the Liard-Mackenzie Highway system and Fort Simpson are not part of an established tourism oriented highway system with established destinations such as are found along the Alaska Highway. Therefore the lack of established unique destination attractions, general industry underdevelopment, complemented by the need for strong tourism marketing and local aspirations, were seen as major factors in guiding the orderly growth of the tourism industry. Continued co-operation between Slavey and non-Slavey groups and individuals will be very important in all aspects of the planning, development and operation of the industry.

In order to be successful within the context of the Liard-Mackenzie Highway Corridor, the plan must provide a general framework within which the short and long term objectives of the community and Big River Travel Association may be realized. Essential issues for Fort Simpson include:

the location, type and ownership of tourist services and in what order of priority;

in what areas public funding for industry support and development is best directed;

the location, type and ownership of tourist events and attractions and in what order of priority; and

- development and co-ordination of the marketing plan.

The completion of the highway to Fort Nelson and the soon-to-be opened Mackenzie Highway to Wrigley and Norman Wells suggest in the short term, the orderly development of motor coach and automobile traveller services and attractions. It is further realized that due to the limited number of unique high quality cultural and natural resources, decisions are required respecting the development and/or preservation of these resources that will meet the long term objectives of both the community and Travel Associations. Many of these decisions are beyond the control of the community and involve complex land ownership issues currently being negotiated by the Native people, Federal and Territorial Governments. In the long term Fort Simpson may become an important gateway in accessing hunting and fishing outfitting camps and lodges located in the Mackenzie Mountains. Both the growth and development of target markets over the short and long term will provide a range of opportunities for tourism investment although this investment in commercial services will to a large extent be spring to fall oriented.

3.3 Development Opportunities and Other Tourism Programs

The following is an outline of tourism development opportunities and programs which may be pursued by the public and private sectors at Fort Simpson and surrounding area. These

opportunities suggest the type of opportunities that best reflect existing and projected markets. Based upon discussions with the Fort Simpson Village and Band Councils, priorities have been developed and are identified. Each opportunity and program is categorized under the four types of developments:

1. Attraction/Tour/Event;
2. Hospitality;
3. Infrastructure; and
4. Industry Organization

It should be recognized that as a relatively isolated community from the major Canadian and U.S. tourist markets and travel patterns, the success of the industry is very much dependent on the development of complementary highway oriented attractions and services along the Liard-Mackenzie and Alaska Highways. It is anticipated that for several years the volume of tourist traffic along the Liard-Mackenzie routes will depend upon how successful B.R.T.A. is in capturing this traffic.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Simpson Tourist Development Committee

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

A sub-committee of the Fort Simpson Village Council would be recognized and made responsible for implementation of the Tourism Plan recommendations and monitoring ongoing developments. Potential development opportunities and problems within the community would be referred to this sub-committee.

The sub-committee would be comprised of council members and residents involved or concerned with the tourism industry (e.g. outfitters, members of F.R.T.A., etc.)

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Village Council to appoint Committee.
2. Discussion with A.E.D.O. and council to ensure that the Committee members understand the steps necessary to implement the Plan and to make/recommend adjustments to the Plan as necessary.

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Infrastructure; Attraction/Tour/Event

PROGRAM NAME: Mainstreet Community Beautification Program

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer and Fall tourism seasons with an emphasis on summer.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is aimed at improving the appearance of public lands in the community and to encourage similar actions by the private sectors.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Boulevard and sidewalk maintenance/upgrading.
2. Development of improved community signage (e.g. commercial, public, tourist information).
3. Program to be co-ordinated in conjunction with the waterfront park development (Sheet No. 3).

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Simpson Waterfront Park - Mackenzie Interpretive Centre

SEASON OF USE: Year Round (with emphasis on summer season)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program of waterfront development is directed primarily at people visiting Fort Simpson as part of a motorcoach tour, or travelling by automobile and staying one to three days in Fort Simpson.

The program is aimed at establishing within the community a high profile interpretive attraction of interest to regional/international visitors regarding the cultural, historical and natural resources associated with the community and surrounding region.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. A linear waterfront park between the H.H.T. campground and approximately the boat launch area.
2. Interpretive Centre including: tourist information; curios; historical, cultural, religious, natural and industrial interpretive display. Departure centre for both short and extended tours in the community and to the surrounding area/attractions.
3. Development of historic walking tours throughout the community including the preparation of a self-guided tour book.

PROGRAM NAME: Historical Building Restoration Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is designed to identify and restore certain key buildings of significance in the community that reflect the heritage of the Hudson's Bay Company, religious groups, and residences of individuals of historic note to the region. Visitors would in certain instances be able to tour throughout the buildings while in other instances the buildings/sites would be identified and described on wall plaques-interpretive signs for use on walking tours.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Identification, evaluation and restoration of historic buildings/sites of interest (purchase of lands/buildings may be required in at least one instance).
2. Restoration of the Albert Faille cabin and other log buildings of significance located in close proximity to the waterfront park.
3. Development of interpretive signage and location of cairns and plaques in suitable areas to serve the tourists.

PROGRAM NAME: Sports/Community Centre Program

SEASON OF USE: Year Round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program would see the development of a multi-purpose recreation centre in the community, whether this consists of an expansion of the existing community arena or a new structure. Recently completed studies by the community suggest that the facility include a range of sports facilities such as a curling facility, basketball facility, as well as convention/meeting rooms. Through construction of this facility, it is anticipated that the community would be able to host regional and Territorial sporting events, service club meetings, weekend films and larger regional meeting/conventions.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Conduct a study to determine the requirements to make the following financially feasible:
 - a) construction of a three-sheet curling club with artificial ice.
 - b) an auditorium with spectator bleachers, suitable for basketball, conferences, community films, etc.
2. Act upon recommendations of the feasibility study.

PROGRAM NAME: Short/Extended Tour Development

SEASON OF USE: Spring - Fall (with emphasis on Summer)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program of short and extended boat and horseback riding tours is aimed at visitors planning an extended vacation in the area. The half day or one day tours of the Mackenzie or North Nahanni Rivers from the proposed Camsell Bend ferry crossing would be aimed at the pass-through and motor coach tour groups. Extended tours include wilderness trips down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, river rafting, backpacking, trips into the Rae Plateau/Virginia Falls/Nahanni Lutte area.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Develop a series of short and extended package and open tours with departures from Fort Simpson and surrounding points (Developing this opportunity would include purchase of equipment and related administrative office requirements).
2. Field check tours for timing, operational costs, and unique landscapes, legends and cultural features of interest and high adventure.
3. Promote tour offerings, as identified in Sheet No. 11, and other wholesalers offering travel adventure experiences.

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: ~~Attraction/Tour/Event~~

SHEET NO: 7

PROGRAM NAME: Summer/Winter Season Event

SEASON OF USE: Summer/Winter

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program will see the upgrading of existing local events held during the summer and winter to attract regional markets over 3-day periods. A major winter event will be designed around such activities as dog racing events, cross-country skiing, snowmobile racing and other traditional competitive events held throughout the Territories. Other winter activities organized to draw regional visitors to the community include curling bonspiels, basketball/wrestling tournaments and government service club conventions/meetings.

During the summer months this program will be designed to encourage regional residents to visit the community (and possibly increase the length of non-residents' visits) for 2 and 3 day events based upon a combination of competitive summer sports activities with strong spectator interest.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Identify a co-ordinator to assist the various interest groups plan, organize, promote and implement the summer and winter recreation and tourism events program.
2. Assess existing summer and winter events to determine weaknesses/strengths and develop a prospectus for improving/expanding the event to have greater appeal for regional non-residents/visitors, and increasing economic impact.

3. Implement events with a clearly defined role/responsibility for Village and Band Councils, Chamber of Commerce, service clubs, etc.
4. Promote events as indicated on Sheet No. 11.

PROGRAM NAME: Community Tourism Awareness

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Fort Simpson should be part of a regional E.R.T.A. program (Liard-Mackenzie Highway) to promote implementation of the Liard-Mackenzie Plan. It should inform residents of what tourism is all about, what is happening in the region and what to expect in Fort Simpson. An awareness campaign regarding implementation of the program over an extended period of time is required to encourage the attitude/acceptance of "Treat your Tourist Royally" and to acknowledge the benefits and costs of the program.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Discussions and audio-visual presentations to service clubs (e.g. Lion's Club), Chamber of Commerce, D'Ache Regional Council, schools, etc., regarding various aspects of the tourism industry.
2. Co-ordination of responses by the community and monitoring by the Tourism Sub-committee.

PROGRAM NAME: Slavey Cultural Experience Program

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer and Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To develop a range of tourist programs/activities based upon interpretation of native traditions. The program is aimed at ensuring certain traditional skills are retained and provide an opportunity for residents to make a living from these programs.

The products from this program would include tours with departures from Fort Simpson and exhibits/demonstrations held in the community on an ongoing basis as well as during special events.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Conduct a variety of tours (by boat, and on foot) during which elders could talk about and demonstrate traditional Slavey skills and tell stories to visitors through a young interpreter. NOTE: A winter dogsled-trapping program may be considered at such time if it is felt that this is a viable market.
2. Give demonstrations at the proposed interpretive centre regarding the arts, crafts, games and customs of the Slavey.
3. Provide archaeological artifacts and related cultural items to be used in the Slavey display area in the proposed interpretive centre.
4. Operate an arts and crafts retail outlet in conjunction with the proposed interpretive centre.

PROGRAM NAME: Hospitality Training Centre

SEASON OF USE: Seasonal

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is aimed at a) expanding and b) improving the skill levels of individuals living in the North West Territories as a result of the development of a training school located in Fort Simpson. The program would be designed to provide training programs specifically required by staff in gaining seasonal and permanent employment in D.R.T.A. and throughout the Territories.

It is anticipated that the program would be developed in conjunction with the hospitality training courses provided by Thabaca College, Fort Smith and other man-power training programs. Where appropriate, graduating students would be given accreditation which will improve quality control for the employer and incentive for the trainee.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. A market assessment regarding the types and numbers of service areas required to successfully implement the strategy.
2. Based upon employer/employee training requirements, develop and market a training program.
3. Investigate the feasibility of using the complex as the training area (class rooms) and use of other vacant apartments as residences.
4. Based upon the results of Nos. 1, 2 and 3, implement program.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Simpson Promotion

SEASON OF USE: Year Round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This promotion program encompasses several approaches considered important in promoting the community of Fort Simpson and its surrounding attractions. It is important that potential visitors to the community learn more about the tourist opportunities as soon as they arrive in the community.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

1. Ensure that all tours, outfitting and related services and programs are advertised in Travel Arctic's Explorers' Guide, and related magazines such as the Northwest Territorial Airways Inflight Magazine.
2. Produce a community/region brochure advertising the tourist services, facilities, events and attractions available in Fort Simpson. Distribute information through an agency such as the Chamber of Commerce to appropriate tour wholesalers.
3. Display advertisements of special outfitter services in transient centres, hotels/motels and H.M.T., Yukon, Alberta and D.C. visitor information centres and distribute them to wholesalers.
4. Develop street signage regarding the Nahanni Information Centre located in Parks Canada's offices in Fort Simpson; ensure promotional film on Nahanni, Mackenzie Mountains and related back country adventure opportunities are available for use in the proposed Fort Simpson Interpretive Centre.

5. Promote adventure travel tours to appropriate international wholesalers.
6. Develop a Fort Simpson commercial sign at the junction of Highway 1 and 7 regarding service and attractions at Fort Simpson.

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE

Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource ^a)
1. Cairn commemorating the establishment of Fort Simpson	Hike Car	1 A	Spring-Fall	- Good site although not linked with other facilities/services. - Former townsite not evident
2. Cairn commemorating the explorer Alexander Mackenzie who paddled river in 1797	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Poorly located and maintained at town entrance.
3. St. David Anglican Mission established 1858	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage
4. Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Mission	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage.
5. Albert Fallie's Cabin	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Requires restoration and interpretive signage.
6. Traditional log cabins	Hike Car	1 A	Spring-Fa	- Requires restoration and interpretive signage.

TABLE 1 (CONT'D)

RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE

Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time from Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
7. Judson Bay Company Buildings/Fort	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Require interpretive signage - Not highly visible (ruins some instances)
8. Agricultural Experimental Farm - 1948 - 1979	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage - Operated from 1948 to 1979
9. Former site of Fort Simpson	Boat Hike	1/2 hour	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage
10. Fishing Camp (spring)	Boat	2 1/2 hours	Spring-Fall	- Used in spring; located 32 miles downstream from Fort Simpson
11. 'ape' Site	Hike Car	N/A	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage and linkage with other attractions
12. Fort Simpson Airport	Car	1/4 hour	Spring-Fall	- Requires interpretive signage (const. in 1942/43 by U.S. Army)

TABLE 2

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

Map Ref	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time from Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource	Other Comments
	<p>Wahanni National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wild river -Virginia Falls -Picturesque mtns/gorges -Gold prospecting -hot springs/landforms 	Air Jet Boat/ Canoe Hiking	1 hr air time	May-September	International scale destination
	<p>MacKenzie River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forks (Liard/Mackenzie) - Lacustrine bluffs - Moose hunting/fishing 	Boat Hiking	N/A	June-August	Requires Interpretive signage/riverfront park/route to Arctic.
	<p>Liard River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forks (Liard/Mackenzie) - Lacustrine bluffs 	Boat	1 1/4 hour hike from townsite	June-August	Difficult boating/ Requires interpretive signage.
	<p>McEwan/Reed Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fly-in sports fishing 	Boat	1/2 hour air	June-August	Outfitting licence application received from Baptiste Carson.

TABLE 2 (CONT)
RESOURCES OF THE LAND

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time from Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource	Other Comments
	Clif Lake - Scenic lake/Bahanni Range - Trail access to Ram Plateau - Recreational fishing/camping	Air/ Horseback	3/4 hour air	June-August	Restricted use area (N.P.T.)
	Little Doctor Lake - Scenic lake/Bahanni Range - Recreational fishing - Hiking/climbing	Air	3/4 hour air	June-August	Excellent site for lodge-access pt. to Ram Plateau.
	Sibbeston Lake/Tsetso Lake - Recreational fishing	Air	3/4 hour air	June-August	
	Bahanni Range - Scenic mtn. range - Bahanni Butte (4579')	Air/Hiking	3/4 hour air	June-August	Hiking/Climbing area
	Antoine Lake - concentrations of bird populations - Mackenzie River near Fort Simpson campground	Air Hike	1 1/2	June-August	
	Ebbutt Hills - International biological program proposed reserve	Air/ Snowmobile		June-August	Biologically interesting area although having low tourist potential.

TABLE 2 (CONT)

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time from Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource	Other Comments
	North Mahanni River - Jet boat/rafting river - Scenic Camselet mtn. Range - Sport fishing	Boat		June-September	Access from Mackenzie (Ft. Simpson) and upper river (Tungsten)
	Kam River Plateau - Wildlife Area (crizzie) - Scenic valleys	Horseback		June-September	Land use permit application from Bernie Leader of Homestead Ranch
	ibern Plateau	Air/ Snowmobi	1 hr	Spring-Fa 1	Local hunting/trapping area
	Cathlac Silver Mine	Air	1 hour air	Not open to public	mine currently inactive

TABLE #

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CHARACTERISTICS (Description, access, condition, operating season, use, costs, quality, etc.)	OTHER COMMENTS
<u>TOURIST FACILITIES & SERVICES</u>		
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All-weather road to Yellowknife, B.C. and Alberta ● Carriers servicing the Fort Simpson Airport include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PWA (1 day/week until September 1985) - Northwest Territorial Airways Ltd. (5 times per week) - Air Province Ltd. ● Charter Air Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simpson Air Ltd., - Helvaine Air Ltd., - Totem Air Ltd., ● Liard River Ferry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - operates May-October at no charge 	<p>Road to Fort Nelson sometimes soft and difficult to travel; Highways 1 & 7 potentially dangerous due to dense dust. Loss of PWA service in September will reduce promotion of Community. Excellent service available to back country areas. No regular bus service to Fort Simpson. Modern facility but too small to accommodate tour bus traffic.</p>
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jaroda Motel: 8 unit motel with kitchenettes that sleeps up to 22. Small gift shop located in motel. ● Fort Simpson Hotel provides 35 rooms, dining and licensed lounge. 	<p>Requires renovation to bring facility up to a standard anticipated by motor coach traffic. It is only hotel current-</p>

TABLE 3 (CON'T)
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CHARACTERISTICS (Description, access, condition, operating season, use, costs, quality, etc.)	OTHER COMMENTS
Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Simpson Hotel provides meals in the restaurant and dining room. 	<p>ly able to serve bus traffic</p>
Automobile Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service stations provide gas, oil and limited automobile services for travelling public 	<p>Generally low capitalization of facilities. Tourist traffic desire longer hours of service. Small building operated during the summer. The building could be better located to service the public.</p>
Visitor Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Information Building 	<p>Attractive, informative; requires improved signage.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Canada Administration Headquarters (Mahanni National Park) and Interpretive Facilities 	

TABLE 3 (CONT'D)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CHARACTERISTICS (Description, access, condition, operating season, use, costs, quality, etc.)	OTHER COMMENTS
Other Tourism Supporting Infrastructure (Commercial / Institutional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chamber of Commerce - Formed in 1983 to assist local business market community 	Plan to prepare a brochure outlining community soles and services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Margaret's Hospital - 12 beds 	Provides emergency service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce 	Provides banking service to travelling public.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vehicle Rentals: Leo's Contracting and Tilden Rent-A-Car 	Reservations required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. David Anglican Mission, est. 1858 	No tourism interpretive information available regarding church.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, est. 1894 	No tourism interpretive information available regarding church.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● R.C.M.P. Headquarters 	Emergency service/canoe registration.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extensive Government Offices 	Local information on resources.

TABLE 3 (CONT)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CHARACTERISTICS (Description, access, condition, operating season, use, costs, quality, etc.)	OTHER COMMENTS
•	Mudson's Bay and T. C. J. Grocery Ltd.	Backcountry supplies available.
•	Curling club with natural ice surface	There are preliminary plans to build a new multi-purpose facility
•	Arena: facility completed in 1985	Community will be able to host regional hockey tournaments.
•	Community lia	Used extensively for local dances but not for tourism activities
•	Flat's Enclu Society - handicraft sales	High quality handicrafts
•	ty boat launch	Public boat launch, dock and landing area.
•	Fort Simpson Library	Limited hours open to public.
•	Baseball diamonds (used for local and regional tournaments)	Used for local and regional tournaments.

TABLE 3 (CON'T)
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RESOURCE	CHARACTERISTICS (Description, access, condition, operating season, use, costs, quality, etc.)	OTHER COMMENTS
	• Tennis courts	Nets, fencing and surface require repair/rep 1 addmen t.