CHAPTER 73

The Community Centres Act

1. In this Act,

(a) "community centre" means a community hall, athletic field, indoor or outdoor swimming pool, skating arena or outdoor skating rink;
(b) "Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture and Food;
(c) "regulations" means the regulations made under this Act. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 1, amended.

2.—(1) The Minister may grant aid to any municipality to assist in the establishment of a community centre, but no grant shall exceed the lesser of,

(a) $10,000 or 25 per cent of the cost of a building or that part of a building designed for a community hall or skating arena, or of the cost of an athletic field or outdoor skating rink; or
(b) $15,000 or 25 per cent of the cost of a building or that part of a building designed for an indoor swimming pool, or of the cost of an outdoor swimming pool. 1968, c. 14, s. 1 (1).

(2) Grants may be made to assist in the establishment by any municipality of more than one community centre. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 2 (2).

(3) Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Minister may make a grant not exceeding the lesser of,

(a) $20,000 or 25 per cent of the total cost of a building or that part of a building designed to include both a community hall and a skating arena; or
(b) $25,000 or 25 per cent of the total cost of a building or that part of a building designed to include both a community hall and an indoor swimming pool. 1968, c. 14, s. 1 (2).

(4) The grants are payable out of the moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 2 (4).

3. All property acquired for the purposes of this Act shall, except as hereinafter provided, be vested in the municipality. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 3.
4.—(1) The council of any municipality may by by-law provide for the establishment of one or more community centres in accordance with this Act, and may acquire by purchase or otherwise real and personal property for that purpose. 1968, c. 14, s. 2.

(2) The by-law may provide for acquiring land and establishing a community centre in an adjacent or contiguous municipality, but real property so acquired or held in an adjacent or contiguous municipality is not exempt from taxation by the municipality in which it is situate unless the council of the last-mentioned municipality by by-law declares that it is exempt.

(3) The council of a municipality in which a community centre is established by the council of another municipality may grant such total or partial exemption from taxation as the council considers proper and may enter into an agreement with the municipality establishing the community centre for granting such exemption.

(4) A municipality may issue debentures for the purposes of subsection 1 in the manner provided by The Municipal Act. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 4 (2-4).

5.—(1) In the establishment of a community centre under this Act, the council of the municipality that passes the by-law may enter into an agreement with the council or councils of any other municipality or municipalities for the joint use of the community centre by the inhabitants of the municipalities upon such terms as may be agreed respecting contributions to the cost of the community centre and the maintenance thereof.

(2) Notwithstanding section 2, where an agreement for the joint use of a community centre is entered into under subsection 1, the Minister may make to each municipality a grant not exceeding the amount that may be paid under section 2 to a municipality that passes a by-law, but the total aid granted under this subsection in respect of any one community centre shall not exceed 50 per cent of the cost thereof. 1968, c. 14, s. 3.

6.—(1) In this section, “ratepayers” means persons assessed and liable to taxation for general municipal purposes.

(2) Upon a petition being presented to the council of a township, signed by more than one-half the number of ratepayers in a former school section or by more than one-half the number of ratepayers in each of two or more former school sections or parts thereof in the township, praying that the council pass a by-law for the establishment of a community centre for such former school section or sections or parts, the council may pass a by-law for the establishment of such community centre in any former school section or in any village adjacent or contiguous thereto.
(3) The moneys required for the establishment of a community centre under this section may be raised by the issue of debentures of the township in the manner provided by The Municipal Act, but it is not necessary to procure the assent of the ratepayers for the passing of a by-law for the issue of such debentures, and all moneys required to provide for principal and interest on the debentures issued under this section or for any other purpose in connection with the establishment of a community centre for a former school section shall be raised by special rate upon all property subject to municipal taxation in the former school section or sections or parts.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection 3, where there are profits from the operations of a community centre, the board of management may apply the profits or part of the profits to the principal and interest on any debentures issued under this section.

(5) Where debentures are issued under this section, such debentures constitute a debt of the corporation of the township to the holder of the debentures, and the property liable to assessment and taxation in the former school section or sections or parts is liable to the township as a whole for any amounts paid by the township on account of the debentures or interest thereon.

(6) Where a township council has passed a by-law for establishing a community centre for a former school section, the township council by by-law, upon request of the board of school trustees, may vest the property in the board which thereupon has power to hold the property and shall perform the functions of the board of management as set forth in section 7. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 5 (1-6), amended.

(7) The clerk of the municipality shall, forthwith after the passing of the by-law imposing the special rate to pay the cost of the establishment of a community centre, deliver or transmit by registered mail to the clerk of every municipality in which is situate any land upon which a special rate has been imposed a certified copy of the by-law.

(8) The rates required by the by-law to be levied and collected in any year upon land in a municipality, other than that by whose council the by-law is passed, shall be collected by the council of such municipality in like manner as if the rates had been imposed by that council.

(9) The municipality, other than that by whose council the by-law is passed, shall pay to the last-mentioned municipality the sums that are to be levied and collected in that year under subsection 8, and such payments shall be made on demand therefor at any time after the 14th day of December in that year, and shall be made whether or not such rates have been collected from the persons liable to pay them.
(10) Such payments shall not relieve any lands specially assessed from the special rate thereon, and such lands remain liable for the special rate until it is paid.

(11) Where a township school area has been established, this section applies mutatis mutandis to the area or any part thereof. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 5 (7-12).

7.-(1) Every community centre established by a municipality under this Act shall be under the management and control of a board appointed by the council of the municipality and composed of not fewer than three persons who are qualified to be elected as members of the council and, where the board is composed of five or more persons, at least two shall be members of the council. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 6 (1); 1968, c. 14, s. 4 (1).

(2) The council may appoint one board in the manner provided in subsection 1 to manage and control any or all community centres established by the municipality.

(3) The members of the board shall be appointed annually by the council. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 6 (2, 3).

(4) Notwithstanding subsection 1, where in the establishment of a community centre under this Act,

(a) aid in respect of the erection and maintenance thereof was granted by persons, societies or other bodies or municipalities not within the municipality that passed the by-law; or

(b) contributions to the cost thereof were made under an agreement for the joint use of the community centre,

the council of the municipality that passed the by-law may appoint as members of the board persons who are not qualified to be elected as members of the council, but the persons appointed to represent a municipality contributing to the cost of the community centre under an agreement for the joint use thereof shall be persons who are qualified to be elected as members of the council of the contributing municipality. 1962-63, c. 17, s. 1; 1968, c. 14, s. 4 (2).

(5) A majority of the members of the board shall be a quorum.

(6) The board of a community centre may make such rules as it considers necessary relating to the management and control thereof and may fix such charges for the use of the community centre as it considers advisable. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 6 (4, 5).

(7) The board of a community centre has power to let from year to year, or for any time not exceeding ten years, the right to sell refreshments within the community centre on such terms and conditions as the board shall prescribe. 1968, c. 14, s. 4 (3).
8. Any municipality entering into an agreement for the joint use of a community centre, and any of the societies or other bodies by which a community centre may be used under the regulations, may make grants out of any moneys in their hands in aid of the erection and maintenance of a community centre established under this Act. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 7.

9.—(1) The Minister may make grants to a board as defined in The Schools Administration Act to provide for an athletic field, an outdoor swimming pool or an outdoor skating rink and, in the case of a board having jurisdiction only in territory without municipal organization, to provide in addition for a community hall, on the same terms as set forth in this Act, except that such fields, pools, rinks and community halls shall be managed and conducted by the board, and such property shall be vested in the board, provided always that such fields, pools, rinks and community halls shall be available for the uses prescribed by the regulations.

(2) In the establishment of a community centre of a kind referred to in subsection 1, a board, as defined in The Schools Administration Act and having jurisdiction only in territory without municipal organization, may enter into an agreement with the council or councils of any municipality or with a like board for the joint use of the community centre, upon such terms as may be agreed respecting contribution to the cost of the community centre and the maintenance thereof, and the Minister may make grants to the board in the same manner as grants may be made to a municipality under subsection 2 of section 5. 1968, c. 14, s. 5.

10.—(1) In this section, "council of a band" and "reserve" have the same meanings as in the Indian Act (Canada).

(2) The Minister may make grants to the council of a band to provide for the establishment of a community centre on its reserve on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine. 1962-63, c. 17, s. 2.

11. Where aid has been granted under this Act to assist in building a community centre out of moneys appropriated by the Legislature, the community centre shall not be sold or disposed of within twenty years from the time the aid was last granted without the approval of the Minister. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 9.

12. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

(a) prescribing the terms and conditions upon which aid may be granted under this Act;
(b) prescribing the uses to which a community centre may be put and the accommodation that may be provided therein;

(c) prescribing the powers and duties of boards of management and providing for the appointment of officers of such boards;

(d) respecting any matter necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act. R.S.O. 1960, c. 60, s. 10.