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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Bernhardt, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. John Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good Afternoon. Orders of the day for Tuesday, December 17, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 20-12(1): Grants To Dene Bands To Prepare For Community Transfers

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: We have stated on numerous occasions that this government is determined to transfer significantly more authority, responsibility and resources to communities. However, it is not just a matter of what and how much we transfer to a community. It is also a matter of to whom.

In the case of communities above the treeline, we can predict that in most cases the institution accepting the transfer will be the local, public, community government. However, the issue in Dene communities is far more complex. Chiefs and band councils have been the traditional self-governing structure of Dene communities at least since the signing of Treaties 8 and 11 in 1899 and 1921 respectively. They are also institutions recognized by the federal Indian Act. Despite the establishment of public municipal bodies in many Dene communities in recent years, the chief and band council have remained a vital and important institution, and they will continue to play an important role in the future.

Ministers had the opportunity to attend portions of the Dene leadership in Rae last month. On behalf of the government, Minister Stephen Kakfwi expressed to the chiefs our sincere desire to improve our relations

with the Dene Nation and each chief and to find ways we can work together co-operatively over the next four years. Mr. Kakfwi described our community transfer initiative, restated our recognition of an aboriginal right to self-government, and expressed our belief that aboriginal self-government can best be implemented in the North within the context of a public government system. He invited the chiefs to accept our offer of co-operation and to consider ways Dene bands might participate in the community transfer initiative.

As a follow-up to this offer, I am pleased to announce that a grant will be provided to each band council in the Northwest Territories...

---Applause

...to assist it to prepare itself for discussions about community transfers, including the continuing role of the chief and band council. The grants are for the remainder of this fiscal year, and the total amount of \$233,360 will be divided among the 21 bands and five sub-bands.

Many communities in the North have expressed a desire to assume more powers and responsibilities. We want to make real progress in this direction, and we are optimistic that Dene communities will find ways to take full advantage of the opportunities that more authority at the community will provide. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Ministers' Statement 21-12(1): Aboriginal Peoples' Inherent Right To Self-Government

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, efforts to determine the meaning of aboriginal self-government in the Northwest Territories will require the participation and co-operation of Dene, Metis, Inuvialuit, Inuit and non-aboriginal people, as well as the federal and territorial governments. These efforts will be essential if we are to find solutions which fulfill aboriginal peoples' right to self-government, yet are suitable and practical in our unique environment.

Past Legislative Assemblies took the position that aboriginal self-government in the North should be realized within the context of public government. By public government we simply mean a government that represents and serves all residents in the North, whether they be aboriginal or non-aboriginal. Our

government continues to hold this view. While no one can predict with certainty what this concept will become in practice, the self-government framework agreement in the Gwich'in final claim agreement indicates the direction we think aboriginal self-government negotiations could take.

Clearly, aboriginal self-government within a public government system does not just mean participation in public government institutions. However, the overall structure of government, including aboriginal and public bodies, must be a practical and fiscally responsible system protecting aboriginal rights while, at the same time, respecting the rights and needs of all its citizens.

We have stated very clearly during this session that our government is committed to transferring significant levels of authority and resources to communities to enable them to set priorities and make the very best possible use of the moneys available. We are also prepared to make every effort to incorporate aspirations for aboriginal self-government into policies and a process for implementing community self-government.

There is no point in our pursuing an approach to community self-government that ignores aboriginal self-government only to find we have to revisit the entire process in the wake of a newly entrenched constitutional right. It makes far more sense for us to assume that such a right will be entrenched in the near future and to incorporate aspirations for aboriginal self-government into the development of the community transfer strategy which we will be presenting to the Legislative Assembly in March.

Last week, this House passed a motion to establish a special committee on constitutional reform to deal with the upcoming round of national constitutional discussions. One of the most important elements of the federal proposals for amending the

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Canadian Constitution is a call for the entrenchment of an aboriginal right to self-government. Many aboriginal groups argue strongly that the amendment should state aboriginal people have an inherent right to self-government, which is to say that the right pre-dates the Constitution of Canada and is not dependent upon the constitution for its validity.

The Government of the Northwest Territories accepts this view. Aboriginal peoples of the North practised

self-government long before there was a country called Canada, and they continue to hold an aboriginal right to exercise self-government to this day. In this sense, aboriginal peoples have a natural or inherent right to self-government which must be recognized in the Constitution of Canada. However, a simple statement that aboriginal people have such a right still begs the question of exactly what that right means.

In the view of this government, an inherent right to self-government does not mean a sovereign, independent nation state. Aboriginal groups are nations within a nation, and aboriginal people are citizens of Canada. Nor do we see a right to self-government as meaning that each aboriginal group has the ability to determine unilaterally what powers it will exercise over which peoples living on which lands. We all live too close together and depend on each other too much for this approach to be practical.

It is a fairly straightforward proposition for this government and the Legislative Assembly to support the entrenching in the Canadian Constitution of an inherent aboriginal right to self-government. Our challenge will be to figure out how aboriginal self-government will be exercised here at home. I am confident that we can meet the test. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Minister's Statement 22-12(1): Television Northern Canada

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House that the new network, Television Northern Canada, will begin broadcasting across the Northwest Territories on January 13, 1992. The official inauguration of the network will take place on January 21, 1992, with a three-hour live telecast to mark the occasion.

The Governor General and the federal Minister of Communications have accepted the invitation of Television Northern Canada to officially inaugurate the network in Iqaluit. All Members of this House are being invited by Television Northern Canada to participate as well. The telecast will involve live broadcasting from Television Northern Canada centres in Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Whitehorse, where people will gather to celebrate.

Television Northern Canada will truly span the North in its coverage and audience. Every community in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Arctic Quebec and Northern Labrador will be receiving Television Northern Canada programming.

The Government of the NWT can be proud of its vision for and participation in Television Northern Canada. Acknowledging the great power of television, Culture and Communications convened a meeting in 1987 of aboriginal broadcasters and other interested parties to discuss the potential of a northern broadcasting network. From these discussions, Television Northern Canada was born.

Television Northern Canada represents the best of co-operative broadcasting. Northern aboriginal broadcasters and government organizations have co-ordinated their energies and worked together to ensure that we are not competing for limited financial resources and a limited audience but that we are supporting one another, with each partner having freedom to produce what it feels is best.

As the Television Northern Canada concept became a reality, this government has continued to play a major role in Television Northern Canada's growth through the provision of financial and staff resources and by assisting to secure ongoing funding from the federal government.

Television Northern Canada programming will be produced by aboriginal broadcasters, including the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, the Inuvialuit Communications Society, Native Communications Society, Northern Native Broadcasting Yukon, Taqramiut Nipingat of Arctic Quebec, the Okalakatiget Society of Labrador, and Wawatay of Northern Ontario. In addition, Mr. Speaker, programs will be provided by GNWT departments, Arctic College, Yukon College, Labrador Community College, the Kativik School Board of Arctic Quebec, and CBC Northern Service.

Television Northern Canada programming, being controlled by the partners, will feature issues from a northern perspective that are of daily importance to northern people. Constitutional development, land claims, environmental and social issues will be reviewed. Any one of the partners can choose to use its air time to broadcast proceedings from this Legislature, committee hearings, the Arctic Winter Games, special conferences or events. The opportunity exists for the creation of a northern version of "The Nation's Business," a program where

Members of this House have an opportunity to discuss issues with the public.

And very importantly, the use of aboriginal languages on Television Northern Canada will not only allow for greater northern understanding of issues but send clear messages about the importance of language and culture.

The potential communications value of a television network that reaches every household in the North is vast. Television Northern Canada is a remarkable opportunity for Northerners to communicate directly with Northerners. The effect of Television Northern Canada will be to shrink distances between home and school, between communities and between cultures.

The power of television is great. Now in the hands of Northerners, that power can be used for the benefit of all Northerners. This government is proud to be working alongside the aboriginal broadcasters and other northern governments to develop the full potential of northern television. I invite you to tune in to Television Northern Canada in January and to celebrate the beginning of a new era in northern communications. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Ministers' Statement 23-12(1): Report Of The Task Force On Legal Aid

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two. At the appropriate time today I will be tabling the report of the task force on legal aid. This report is the work of a task force which was appointed by the Legal Services Board in 1990 to review the delivery of legal aid in the NWT and make recommendations for future directions. The report was received by the legal services board in November, and the board has provided it to me with the request that it be made public. The report of the task force covers some of the same matters as are dealt with in the "Strength At Two Levels" report, but the task force on legal aid recommendations cover

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a broad range of service delivery and organizational issues as well as financial concerns. The report contains 65 recommendations.

The members of the task force were all persons who had experience with different aspects of the legal aid system. In the course of their work, they visited several communities and spoke to interested persons across the Territories.

I wish to thank chairperson Adrian Wright and the members of the task force on legal aid for their thoughtful report and recommendations. It is obviously premature to say which of those recommendations should be accepted, but in the coming weeks and months this government will be reviewing the report of the task force on legal aid and conferring with the Legal Services Board on its recommendations. I invite all honourable Members to let me know their views about the contents of the report.

Ministers' Statement 24-12(1): Fire Prevention Videos

Mr. Speaker, if I may, the Department of Safety and Public Services has taken another step in support of our government's efforts to reduce incidents of propane sniffing in the Northwest Territories. It is now releasing the recently completed anti-abuse video "Straight Shooting" to NWT schools. The 28-minute video was filmed in Cape Dorset by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation for the office of the Fire Marshal. It will be used in "Learn Not To Burn" presentations in NWT schools.

The actors in this video are not professional. They are young adults from the hamlet of Cape Dorset who, as first time actors, have done a remarkable job in delivering a very serious message in a way that touches all age groups.

Mr. Speaker, we must learn from our fire loss records; we must change our lifestyles so that our children are not left unsupervised when they are too young to reason or react; we must get the matches and lighters out of reach of children and teach them the dangers of playing with fires, and we must start controlling our use of alcohol so that alcohol is not a contributing factor to fires.

I would urge each Member of this Assembly to take every opportunity to speak to their constituents about fire prevention. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On MLAs' Involvement In Capital Planning Process

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the chairperson of the ordinary Members' caucus, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government Leader on a commitment she has made to allow ordinary MLAs to participate in the development of the 1992-93 capital estimates and to scrutinize future years' requests. In keeping with her commitment of more open government and greater ordinary Member involvement, the Government Leader has agreed, yesterday, to provide Members with copies of community budget submissions. In past years this information was withheld from Members, and as a result, Members were excluded from the planning process. It has been past practice that Members attempted to exert influence by introducing formal motions in the House. It has become apparent that this practice can only lead to chaos. Ordinary Members agreed that capital projects should be based on need and should not be brought down to the level of debating one region against the other, or community against community.

This information will be invaluable to the ordinary Members as we attempt to prioritize the capital needs of our communities for the coming year. Delivery of these documents will provide us with this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Involvement Of Ordinary Members In Capital Planning Process

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a statement to make regarding the involvement of ordinary Members in the capital planning process. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the statement made by the chairperson of the ordinary Members' committee, that the Government Leader has agreed to allow ordinary Members to have meaningful input into this process. I fully agree with this process that has been developed. I think it is long overdue. In light of this, Mr. Speaker, I will not

be proceeding with my Motion 36-12(1) on the order paper today.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I originally brought this motion forward on the strong recommendation of my constituents. I tabled a petition in this House last week to that effect. The need for an airport for Rae-Edzo is an essential component in building a viable economy in the North Slave region. It will help solidify transportation linkage between Rae-Edzo and the smaller communities. This is of utmost importance because Rae-Edzo is the economic and administrative centre and the cultural hub for my region.

Currently, transportation routes between the smaller communities and Rae-Edzo go through Yellowknife. It is our hope that creating direct links between our communities will lessen the dependence our region has on Yellowknife. I will stress that I remain fully committed to the construction of this airport and will be pursuing this matter with the Executive Council during our discussion on the capital planning process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

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Member's Statement On Canadian Airlines International As Corporate Partner In Expo '92

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start this afternoon by hoping that this House has a sense of humour. I would like to use my statement today to congratulate Canadian Airlines International on becoming a corporate partner in Expo '92. It is my understanding of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism's statement to this House on Friday that as part of the sponsorship agreement, Canadian Airlines would provide business class seats to GNWT employees travelling to Seville for the price of an economy class ticket.

I note, Mr. Speaker, that we are using this airline as our exclusive air carrier to travel back and forth to Seville. I am quite sure that this service had little or nothing to do with our agreeing to the corporate sponsorship package. This offer shows Canadian Airlines' deep commitment to the North and its people, and I am quite heartened by their concern for the comfort and extra leg-room for GNWT employees.

I would like to offer the suggestion that Canadian Airlines could continue their generous ways by

extending the same offer to other groups in our society who perhaps need this service more, such as elders who have to travel by air...

---Applause

...students who have to travel to attend school, and our sick people who have to travel to the hospitals.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote, for the benefit of Canadian Airlines, a famous Christmas character, Ebenezer Scrooge, who when asked if he would contribute to some well-meaning charity said, "Bah, humbug!"

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Passing Of David Ovinqayak

MR. ARVALUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, today I want to express my condolences to David Ovinqayak's family. David is from Arviat. He did not recover from heart surgery during his operation. David Ovinqayak has been active with the Inuit Cultural Institute for over 15 years and has produced books on Inuit cultures, including "Arctic Survival," which is intended for everyone in the Arctic.

Some of you may remember that he travelled by snowmobile from Arviat to Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay, Repulse Bay and back to Arviat via Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. He has walked from Churchill, Manitoba to Arviat all by himself, recording the camps where his ancestors used to live and travel. Before he died, he wrote a book about his travels and his knowledge of the land and its contents. He was making final touches with his publishers when he died on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, it is very sad to see a friend like David to go, but happy that he has contributed to make us all richer inside. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Hiring Northerners

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Employment prospects in the North are practically non-existent in the communities. It is becoming increasingly difficult to earn a living. The government has stated for some time now that they will give preference to northern contractors who put in a bid. To date, this has not yet happened. As of this minute, there is a contractor from my riding who is from the South and who does not have a single Inuk working for him. Seeing this is very depressing. Although this has been improving slowly, we have been trying to tell the government to hire northern contractors to keep the economy going in the communities. When the government hires southern contractors, they should tell the contractors to hire the people from the communities because jobs are hard to come by in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Medal Of Bravery Award To Clem Paul

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House that on December 14th, the Governor General awarded the medal of bravery to Mr. Clem Paul of Yellowknife. Mr. Paul was cited for attempting to save two men whose snowmobile had broken the thin ice of Harding Lake, north of Yellowknife, on November 11, 1990. Following some distance behind his friends, Mr. Paul immediately stopped his snowmobile, unhooked the sleigh, and using a gun case paddled furiously over 30 meters of open, frigid water to the victims. Unfortunately, just before he had arrived, one man disappeared below the surface while the other was rapidly losing consciousness. Unable to lift the second man onto the unstable sleigh, Mr. Paul tied him to the rear and made the exhausting trip back toward the shore where others in the hunting party threw a rope out to tow the sleigh onto solid ice. Mr. Paul and the victim were taken to a cabin, where they awaited a rescue helicopter.

I am sure all of us in the House will join in congratulating Mr. Paul on receiving this award, which recognizes his selfless actions in a dangerous situation. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Member's Statement On Summit Of Inuit Leaders, Iqaluit

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to address this House today as the chairman of the Nunavut caucus. First, I would like to thank the Members of the Nunavut caucus for their faith and confidence in me to continue to be the chairman of the Nunavut caucus for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the Members of this Assembly that we are proposing to hold a summit of Inuit leaders in Iqaluit during the last week of January 1992. The participants at this proposed summit are Inuit leaders working for our people at the local, regional and national level through the different organizations such as Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, Pauktuutit, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and regional council representatives. Also, Members of our own Nunavut caucus will be taking part at this summit.

We are working toward the same goal, which is the control of our own destiny in order to ensure a good life for our people. Because of the conditions in the society that surrounds us and

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the incredible changes we have to adjust to in such rapid succession, we find ourselves today, as leaders, in a critical time. It is a time when our leaders are called to make decisions that will greatly affect our present circumstances as well as our future. We need to come together, as is our tradition in such times, to talk, to evaluate where we are, where we wish to go and how we can best support each other to work in a united way, as we have always done.

These are difficult times, not just for Inuit, but for all people in our country. Canada itself is facing an uncertain future. The effects of the current economic recession are being felt here in our northern communities as well, and at all levels of government. Our hunters and trappers find themselves in a life and death struggle for the protection of their way of life.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo, your time has expired. Are you seeking unanimous consent to proceed?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Please.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. Our hunters and trappers find themselves in a life and death struggle for the protection of their way of life with the extreme elements of the animal rights movement.

But hardship is not new to my people. We have experienced new diseases that our bodies could not fight. When game was scarce, we starved. With the coming of industrial society our families were ripped apart and our children sent away to residential schools. Alcoholism, drug abuse, and other new social problems now cripple many of our communities today. In a very short time, especially in the last 30 years, the basic values of the Inuit way of life were completely turned upside down and a whole new set of rules, still foreign to us, were put in place by those who came to our lands. As a result of this imposed system, we find that those in positions of power, such as judges, lawyers, doctors, nurses, educators and bureaucrats at the top positions, are not of our people. Therefore, we find ourselves governed by others, using their methods of government.

One example of how the law in Canada dealt with native people is the fact that until 1960 no aboriginal person or native of mixed blood was allowed to testify in court in British Columbia.

In 1960, when I was a child, only 30 years ago, the law was revised to allow native people to testify on their own behalf. However, even the revision said that native people were "uncivilized, destitute of knowledge of God, they had no clear belief in religion and they knew nothing of a future state of rewards and punishments." No aboriginal person in Canada could legally vote until the year 1960.

This gross misunderstanding of our cultures is changing, but only because, I believe, Mr. Speaker, native people have shown strong conviction in their own beliefs and an amazing ability to adapt to new ways of life and survive.

We possessed, and still possess today, an incredibly rich system of knowledge that guided our thoughts and actions, as individuals and as a people, a system that enabled us not only to survive but to thrive in a part of the world that is considered the harshest inhabited by human beings. But this is our homeland which we love.

Now we are told that our homeland does not belong to us. They tell us that we must negotiate if we want to have a say in how our land is managed and

protected. The Inuit have always viewed themselves as the protectors of the land and its resources. This was a responsibility shared by all Inuit. Now we are told that in order to protect our land we must own it and obtain title to it from others. That same society promotes the rights and interests of the individual above that of the community. This is a concept that cuts cross the heart of traditional Inuit values and culture because while we have always respected the freedom of the individual, the welfare of all the people was the guiding principle. We needed to work together. That is how we have survived. We need to work together today.

In spite of terrible hardships, we have survived. We are rebuilding our communities; we are fighting to protect our languages; and we continue to practise the traditions given to us by our ancestors, which have guided my people for thousands of years.

It is time for my people to regroup and come together to plan for the survival of our homeland and our people.

It is my personal view that in order for us to achieve a consensus on a common agenda for our future, we must draw on our strengths of the past. We must set aside our individual needs and seek out solutions that are of greatest benefit to the whole community. The need to work together for a common purpose is greater now than it has ever been.

The agenda for the proposed summit includes the creation of Nunavut, a discussion on the boundary plebiscite, a review of our land claim negotiations and a discussion on various constitutional matters. Most importantly, we have to discuss ways in which we can help each other. Our people and our leaders are faced with tremendous stress today, and expectations, and we need to reach out to one another and offer our encouragement and support, as is our way.

We recognize that our people are facing many crucial decisions, and we want our voices to be united and our vision to be clear. It is important that the direction we choose is supported by our communities and follows in the footsteps of our ancestors, who have walked through this life with purpose and confidence. The principles that we identify together will be a guide for us in governing ourselves and to determine our destiny.

It gives me great pride to inform the Members of this Assembly that our leadership, including our elders,

our youth, our women, will be represented at the proposed summit. This most important Inuit summit will help us to redefine our purpose and reach agreement on our priorities.

We must carry on the tradition of Qudliq, the symbol of the continuous burning light that used to warm our homes and spirits. The fire has been burning out. It is time for us to rekindle it, to make it strong again, so that we may find our strength and our ways once more.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the present and the future hold many problems and obstacles, but this knowledge will only serve to strengthen our resolve to overcome these difficult times. The trail ahead may be rough and obscure, but we continue on, knowing that our people have pulled through very difficult times before and their passing has marked the path. Our will to survive is as strong as it ever was, and I am confident that by coming together we will ensure that our future as Inuit will be made better for our children of tomorrow.

I have great confidence that this summit will achieve what I have outlined, and I am asking each one of you for your moral support. Qujannamiik.

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---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I allowed pretty broad latitude for the definition of Members' statements because of the importance of the issue, but I hope that Members will respect the definition of Members' statements and only take advantage of the generosity at the appropriate time. Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On Brian Lewis' Role In "Dreams And Visions"

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give some special recognition to the MLA for Yellowknife Centre, Brian Lewis. It should be noted that if it was not for his urging and pushing and constant, persistent and frequent requests for status reports, the book "Dreams and Visions" probably would not have been published by the Department of Education. It would have continued to sit on the shelf gathering dust.

Members should know that the book "Dreams and Visions" is a recollection of the NWT education system from the mission schools of the 1800s until

1984. As a result of Mr. Lewis' persistence, one of the last things I did as the former Minister of Education was to publish and subsequently release the book. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that someone finally took the honourable Member's advice.

Nice letters of appreciation from those who were close to Norm McPherson, the researcher and principal writer of the manuscript, have come recently, applauding the book and the government for finally releasing it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Going Home For Christmas

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of living very close to this building where we work when the Legislature is sitting and having listened to Mr. Allooloo and the word "home" and "homeland", it made me think that probably this Legislature has never sat this close to Christmas before. So I would like to wish all Members God speed in their journeys back home, where they will join their families, because this time of the year the word "home" and "homeland" and "family", means so much to everybody.

So I would like to ask all Members, in the spirit of the season and the spirit of co-operation, to try to get the work of this Legislature done in a responsible manner and in a co-operative fashion so that we can all finish tomorrow, so that people can get home for Christmas.

MR. SPEAKER: We hope there is no Scrooge in this Assembly.

---Laughter

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O91-12(1): Forest Resource Plan For Liard Valley

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O91-12(1), asked by Mr. Antoine on December 13, 1991. I would like to confirm what the Government Leader said on Friday, December 13, 1991. There is no arrangement for the Government of British Columbia to contact the

Government of the NWT before permits are issued to log areas bordering the NWT. We will contact the Government of British Columbia on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O95-12(1): Hiring Non-Canadians For Management Positions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to Question O95-12(1) asked by Mr. Bernhardt on December 13, 1991, regarding the hiring of non-Canadians for management positions. The rules regarding the hiring of non-Canadian citizens apply to all positions in the Government of the NWT. As specified in the personnel manual, all potential employees are asked to indicate their citizenship on the application form. Personnel officers are responsible for verifying with the nearest immigration office that non-Canadians applying on GNWT competitions have landed immigrant status.

The Government of the NWT complies with federal legislation regarding landed immigrants. Those with landed immigrant status are temporary citizens and are entitled to the rights of a Canadian citizen, including the right to obtain work anywhere in the country.

Further Return To Question O106-12(1): Policy Re Hiring Non-Canadians In Management Positions

This is in response to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 13, 1991. On all competitions the affirmative action policy is applied in considering the applications. Non-Canadians with landed immigrant status applying on Government of the NWT competitions are treated as any other Canadian citizen. The rules are clearly outlined in the personnel manual. There is no need to develop any additional policies or guidelines regarding the hiring of non-Canadians for management positions.

The affirmative action policy provides hiring preference for qualified members of designated groups. Therefore, as long as there are qualified applicants on a competition who are eligible for preference under the affirmative action policy, they will get the job. Only in circumstances where there are no applicants who are qualified and who are eligible under the policy will other applicants, including non-Canadians, be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O108-12(1): Finalization Of Federal-Territorial Agreement Re Arviat Airport

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Arngna'naaq on December 13, 1991. On December 13, 1991, the Member for Kivallivik reported a difficulty the hamlet of Arviat had experienced in ordering replacement lighting for the non-directional air navigation beacon at the Arviat airport. The Member suggested that the difficulty was a result of the transfer agreement for the Arctic B and C airports program between the federal and territorial governments which was completed this last February 1991.

The agreement transferred to the territorial Department of Transportation the ownership and the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the airport lands, the runways, the airport buildings and the ground visual aids of the Arviat airport.

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The transfer agreement did not include responsibility for the electronic air navigation aids. Air navigation systems are national in scope, and remain the exclusive responsibility of the federal government.

My officials at the Department of Transportation have investigated the Member's report, and I believe the lights the Member referred to in his question were the obstruction lights on top of Arviat airport's non-directional beacon tower. On October 15, 1991, the observer /communicator on duty at the Arviat airport reported the failure of lights to Transport Canada officials in Rankin Inlet. Transport Canada issued a Notice To Airmen, NOTAM, concerning the non-directional beacon tower's obstruction lights. By November 15th, a month later, Transport Canada had not repaired the faulty lights.

The hamlet of Arviat wished to replace the lights themselves. The Department of Transportation would not authorize the hamlet's expenditure of moneys on what is properly a federal responsibility. More importantly, while the department commends the hamlet's commitment to air safety, it did not wish hamlet employees to climb the 182-foot high beacon tower to replace the lamps.

On November 15th, the Department of Transportation reminded Transport Canada that the tower lights on the non-directional beacon were still not working. On November 28th, Transport Canada sent two tower maintenance technicians to Arviat who safely replaced the obstruction warning lights on the tower. The delay in repairing the beacon lights in Arviat was not the result of the Arctic airports transfer agreement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister of Health. Will the Minister of Health be able to advise this House how many health boards, whether regional boards or boards of management, there are in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health,

Return To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, lots. I could get the listing. I do not have that at my fingertips, but I could get the listing. There are at least five regional boards that I am aware of, and as far as the numbers they vary as to their particular size, but I will get that for the Member as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether he took it as notice, but it appears that he has not. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Minister of Health would be able to tell me, out of these boards, how many chairmen are appointed at pleasure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Further Return To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought they were all appointed at pleasure, but I cannot be absolutely certain. I will have to review that. I do know that there may be some.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I guess I am concerned with respect to some of these health boards having the chairmen appointed by the Minister of Health and their appointments being at pleasure. Realistically, a chairman could be there for 20 years if the process allowed. However, I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he would consider applying an expiry date on the terms of the chairmen of health boards who are appointed at pleasure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Further Return To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that suggestion under advisement and see how we can comply with that. I think "at pleasure" would be for the particular life of the Minister, and I do not think that would be too long, given the nature of the House, four years at the maximum, and after that -- it is a good question and it is one that will be addressed by us as we review the nature of agencies and boards under the two departments that I am heading up, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the question taken as notice, Mr. Minister? Okay, the question is not taken as notice. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, in as much as he attempted to answer my question, I would just hope that he would give me a specific answer, whether he would say yes or no. Will the Minister of Health consider looking at placing an expiry date on the terms of the chairmen of these boards where it is stated that they are at pleasure, as opposed to a specific date? Will he consider placing an expiry date to their pleasure terms, if I may state?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Further Return To Question O134-12(1): Number Of NWT Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the first question that the Member addressed, will I consider it, yes I will consider looking at the expiration dates on terms of chairpeople.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, day-care centres in the Northwest Territories have been operating under an interim policy and regulations for several years now. Will the Minister make a commitment to this House to review that interim policy

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with the goal of instituting a permanent policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January I am going to be meeting in Toronto with the federal Minister of Social Services, who I understand is also the Minister responsible for Health, and we will be discussing items such as that. I am sure that item will come up.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, in spite of the visit with the federal Minister, I am wondering if this Minister could advise us of the time frame in which we might expect to see some regulations of a permanent nature in the NWT. Do we have an expected date for arriving at that policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could give a definite date to the honourable

Member as to when we would conclude such a matter, but I am unable to do that at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the Minister will have to discuss this with the federal government, I still think that what I am looking for is a commitment to undertake a review of this policy, and I do not think that is incumbent on any discussions with the federal Minister. I would think that this would be something where we could, at home -- whether the federal government is involved or not -- review the policy and the regulations and come up with our own permanent policy. So my question is again, will the Minister consider reviewing these policies with an eye to making a permanent policy within the life of this Legislature? Can we get some sort of a commitment?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O135-12(1): Permanent Day-Care Policy

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will endeavour to make that one of my priorities, and with the help of the honourable Members, address that issue before the end of the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O136-12(1): Possibility Of Pulling Out Of Expo '92 Commitments

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Pollard who is now with us today. I thought maybe he was hiding. Yesterday Mr. Pollard indicated in a return to a question from Mr. Dent that he was going to attempt to supply this House with the revised budget and breakdown of expenditures with respect to Expo '92, and that he would provide a report outlining the expected benefits resulting from the participation at Expo in 1992, and he would also provide an outline of expenses and revenues in the GNWT's participation in Expo in 1986. Would the Minister consider putting a hold on further commitments on Expo '92 in Seville until such time as this House has been provided with the appropriate documentation to determine what the net impact to Northerners is of this expenditure?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Return To Question O136-12(1): Possibility Of Pulling Out Of Expo '92 Commitments

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, as I stated the other day, this government has no intentions of pulling out of the exposition in Seville. If I were to say I was prepared to put the thing on hold right now, then I think a lot of our people out there who are corporate sponsors and partners in this particular venture, the people who we have offered jobs to, the people we have signed contracts with, the people we have agreed to buy carvings from and handicrafts, the people we entered into negotiations on fish and musk-ox with, would all see that this project was in jeopardy. I am not prepared to say that at this particular time or in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I will supply the information to all Members of the House that Mr. Dent requested yesterday under a written question. But we have no intentions of pulling out of the exposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O136-12(1): Possibility Of Pulling Out Of Expo '92 Commitments

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the total budget for Expo is four million dollars. Is the Minister prepared to put his department and his reputation on the line, that that department will meet those commitments, or if there are significant overruns in Expo, that he will be accountable for it?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Further Return To Question O136-12(1): Possibility Of Pulling Out Of Expo '92 Commitments

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, I am accountable for anything that that department does.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudlat.

Question O137-12(1): Plans For Encouraging Economic Development In Baffin

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic

Development and Tourism. Economic development is on the rise in the Baffin. Tourism in Cape Dorset has fully progressed. A lot of the businesses that were involved in outfitting were running very well but they are not any more. However, outside of Cape Dorset this activity is on a downslide again. Do they still have plans to encourage economic development activity within the Baffin area, to encourage outfitters and tourism?

Question O138-12(1): Funding For Outfitting Courses

We have some students from our regions taking economic development-related courses. I understand they are taking outfitting courses. I understand they

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will be finished in March. I understand the funding for those programs will be cut off. I want further information on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudlat, in future if you could just ask one question at a time. We will treat that as two questions and you can give two answers to it.

Return To Question O137-12(1): Plans For Encouraging Economic Development In Baffin

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of there being some concern on Baffin Island in this regard. As I have said to the House before, what I would like to do is to meet individually with MLAs and perhaps regionally with MLAs and get some idea from them of how we can address their own particular problems. In this instance that is what is going to be required; finding out what people in the particular area feel is the answer to their problems.

As far as funding cuts for those programs, I am not aware of it, but I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O139-12(1): People Who Die Without Wills

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Social Services. When a grandmother dies and leaves behind grandchildren, the descendants who are then living receive inheritances.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O139-12(1): People Who Die Without Wills

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it falls under my responsibility. The Member, I believe, is referring to the situation of people who die without having written a will specifying what happens with their property following their death. In that event the matter is handled by the office of the public trustee which reports to me as Minister of Justice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. If you have any specific questions, perhaps you could deal with the Minister at your own leisure, Mr. Pudlat. Oral questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Question O140-12(1): Rental Rate Structure Applied By NWT Housing Corporation

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Would the Minister please explain why 25 per cent of a person's salary is used for rental charges within the corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O140-12(1): Rental Rate Structure Applied By NWT Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-five per cent of gross salary is applied to rental units.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Bernhardt.

Supplementary To Question O140-12(1): Rental Rate Structure Applied By NWT Housing Corporation

MR. BERNHARDT: Can I ask why the figure of 25 per cent is used and how did it come about? Who set the rate of 25 per cent of one person's salary?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and I will supply the Member with a complete briefing.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O141-12(1): Defining "Principally Engaged" Re Hunters' And Trappers' Claims For Workers' Compensation

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the definition "principally engaged," the Minister indicated that the priorities and planning committee was consulted, the Department of Personnel, Department of Social Services, the Department of Renewable Resources, Department of Finance, Department of Justice and the Workers' Compensation Board were all consulted with regard to looking at the definition of principally engaged. I would like to ask the Minister if there are records of each department's opinion on what principally engaged means.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O141-12(1): Defining "Principally Engaged" Re Hunters' And Trappers' Claims For Workers' Compensation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the honourable Member is referring to some comments made to him in recent correspondence with me on the subject of hunters and trappers and claims before the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would not want to get technical with the honourable Member in this House, but the correspondence does refer to decisions that were made by the previous government in 1990. I am not sure if the rules permit me to provide information about an issue that was dealt with by a previous government.

However, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to provide the Member personally with as much background as I can on that particular issue and how it was handled by the previous government. Having said that, I would also want to assure this House that the issue needs attention and I plan to review it as a priority from here on in, and I do not think we need to confine ourselves to previous solutions when we are looking at this problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O141-12(1): Defining "Principally Engaged" Re Hunters' And Trappers' Claims For Workers' Compensation

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the definition of "principally engaged" was not arrived at by the Workers' Compensation Board at all is what the Minister is indicating. I would also like to ask, of all the departments that were consulted I do not know if any of those people are aboriginal people, so I would like to ask the Minister if he will consider consulting aboriginal organizations as well to define "principally engaged."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

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Further Return To Question O141-12(1): Defining "Principally Engaged" Re Hunters' And Trappers' Claims For Workers' Compensation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think probably my first obligation as far as consulting representatives of aboriginal people, and indeed everyone, would be to consult with honourable Members who, I am sure, are very good representatives of the concerns of aboriginal people and aboriginal hunters and trappers. I intend to consult with Members and especially the honourable Member who is obviously very interested in and informed on this issue. I am not adverse to also consulting other organizations, but I would say that I believe that the Members of this Assembly are probably quite capable spokesmen for the interests of aboriginal people and hunters with respect to the WCB. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O141-12(1): Defining "Principally Engaged" Re Hunters' And Trappers' Claims For Workers' Compensation

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Minister read his own letter but later on in his letter he did say that the coverage for hunters and trappers from the Workers' Compensation Board would be removed and would be replaced by a memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement that was approved on June 28 of last year. I would like to ask whether or not we do have that memorandum of agreement in place now, and exactly what does that mean.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will have to take that question on notice, Mr. Speaker, and get back to the Member as soon as I can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

MR. KOE: Mahsi. Mr. Speaker, in December the Minister, deputy ministers, and yourself, agreed to take cuts in their base salaries effective January 1, 1992. While I admire these honourable actions, Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader did not say for what term these cuts were. Can you advise me, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it is starting January 1 and there is no end of term on that, but the beginning of the cuts will start on January 1.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

MR. KOE: Will these cuts be reflected in deputy ministers' terms of employment or contracts?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, it will be reflected in their pay for sure. Some deputy ministers do not have contracts, they are on salary, so however we make the deductions it will be off their salary.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

MR. KOE: Will these reductions also be indexed?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize because I would have to find out what that means before I can answer the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Last supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

MR. KOE: I just meant if COLA, cost of living allowance, clauses, as was mentioned yesterday, would come into effect, will they be applied, and normally they are, and if they are, will the reductions reflect this?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O142-12(1): Term Of Voluntary Salary Cuts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the salaries will be reduced at the amount that has been stated, beginning January 1st. There is no automatic increase in the cabinet Ministers' allowances, as there are in the MLAs' allowances.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Question O143-12(1): Franchise Agreements Between Power Corporation And Communities

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Can the Minister update the House on the status of the franchise agreements between the NWT Power Corporation and the communities across the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O143-12(1): Franchise Agreements Between Power Corporation And Communities

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you exactly how many have been signed, but let me tell, you certainly there is a great deal of misunderstanding on what those franchise agreements are. Certainly the work that has been done by other associations has made the relationship with the Power Corporation and the communities much more complex and confusing. Basically as far as I can report, they are going nowhere. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O143-12(1): Franchise Agreements Between Power Corporation And Communities

MR. TODD: Can the Minister explain, because I am confused

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as well, how signing a 10-year franchise agreement with the Power Corporation will benefit the communities? Does this franchise agreement not effectively eliminate the communities or the regions looking at alternate sources of power, hydro power, et cetera?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

Further Return To Question O143-12(1): Franchise Agreements Between Power Corporation And Communities

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the reason for a franchise agreement is to ensure there is an agreement that the Power Corporation will be serving those communities on a longer-term basis so that the Power Corporation can decide on their long-term expenditure patterns for capital installations. As for looking for alternate power, it does not preclude a community from looking at alternative power, such as hydro or wind generation or whatever.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O144-12(1): Removal Of Hunters And Trappers From Workers' Compensation Coverage

MR. NERYSOO: I wish to ask the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, whether he could make available to Members of this House the memorandum of agreement regarding the removal of hunters and trappers from coverage from the Workers' Compensation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I already took a question on this as notice and I will therefore ask the Member's indulgence if I could also take this related question on notice and get back as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Mr. Gargan.

Question O145-12(1): Criteria For Filling A Position

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I heard Mr. Kakfwi's response on the affirmative action policy. Under this policy it does give preference to an aboriginal person if the qualifications are fairly even. In the event that it is only aboriginal people who do apply for a position, what is the criteria for a position to be filled?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Personnel.

Return To Question O145-12(1): Criteria For Filling A Position

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the nature is whoever does the best in the interview and has the edge in terms of experience and academic background. The most competent person in the interview is usually given the job.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O145-12(1): Criteria For Filling A Position

MR. GARGAN: The qualifications are based on who you know then, not what you know.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Personnel.

Further Return To Question O145-12(1): Criteria For Filling A Position

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: No, only if you are being interviewed by politicians.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O146-12(1): Savings Realized Through Restraint Measures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, recognizing the number of restraint measures he has placed in the government in different departments, recognizing there will be a savings realized from these measures, how much of an anticipated realized savings does he expect to have accrued by the end of March?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, Minister of Finance.

Return To Question O146-12(1): Savings Realized Through Restraint Measures

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I know some specifics. We heard some \$80,000 or so would be saved by the bill that the Member introduced into the

House yesterday. It will be in the region of \$100,000 with regard to Ministers' salaries and deputy ministers' salaries. But as far as an overall amount for the Government of the NWT, I cannot tell you that simply because it is not a total block, it is not a total cut. There are things getting through the system at ministerial and Government Leader discretion and I am not aware of all those things. So this is not an arbitrary percentage. This is a restraint measure that is slowing the government down without trying to hurt too many people out there. So I cannot give you an definitive number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O146-12(1): Savings Realized Through Restraint Measures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, realizing that probably as a result of the various reports that the government does, will the Minister be able to advise us as soon as possible as to the anticipated amount of realized savings that he may have as a Minister of Finance by these restraint measures he is placing forth on the different departments?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Finance.

Further Return To Question O146-12(1): Savings Realized Through Restraint Measures

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, our supp reserves have run out, so I guess what we are trying to do is trying to get some savings right now in the government that would offset supps that we know are going to come forward. But I would commit to the Member to report to this House the savings that we have garnered from these restraint measures. I guess my earliest opportunity would be in the February session and I would say I would give the House an update at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe.

Question O147-12(1): Hiring Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that when hiring deputy ministers we have various ways of doing that.

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One is by appointment under the Public Service Act, another one is by ministerial pleasure and the third method is by contract. My question is for the Minister

of Economic Development and Tourism. Can the Minister advise whether his deputy minister was previously appointed under contract?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Return To Question O147-12(1): Hiring Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism was a contract employee and became an indeterminate employee shortly before the last election. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O147-12(1): Hiring Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. KOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. So you are advising that there was a change in terms of employment from a contract to an indeterminate position?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O147-12(1): Hiring Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O147-12(1): Hiring Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism

MR. KOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. This is very interesting. Who authorized this appointment?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: I would hazard a guess, Mr. Speaker...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

Point Of Order

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I believe there are rules that cover questions that apply to a

previous administration and I would just ask for guidance from the Chair on that issue, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: I think the point of order is well taken and I will quote Beauchesne's, the section "oral questions", 409(6): "A question must be within the administrative competence of the government. The Minister to whom the question is directed is responsible to the House for his or her present ministry and not for any decisions taken in a previous portfolio." Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O148-12(1): Status Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism Position

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader if she could indicate to this House if there has been a change in the status of the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism and at what time did that status change.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O148-12(1): Status Of Deputy Minister Of Economic Development And Tourism Position

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I could not tell you the day, but the change took place just prior to the election.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to emphasize that that particular knowledge or fact is not within the present responsibility of the present Government Leader, as per my ruling on the point of order. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O149-12(1): Sale Of GNWT Housing To Employees

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Personnel. The Minister of Personnel now has a policy in place that reduces housing allowance benefits to employees that live in subsidized government units in excess of one year. Recognizing that there are many employees that probably are in these units over one year, and some communities do not have any surplus private units for employees to go into, will the Minister of Personnel consider the sale of government units across the NWT, particularly where they may have a surplus of these units. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O149-12(1): Sale Of GNWT Housing To Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, yes I would take that into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O149-12(1): Sale Of GNWT Housing To Employees

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Personnel be able to advise this House as to what time frame he anticipates some of the surplus units, if they are deemed surplus, going on the market for sale? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O149-12(1): Sale Of GNWT Housing To Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that by the next session of the Legislature I should be in a position to give the Members that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O150-12(1): Increased Spending Authority At Regional Level

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Government Leader. Given the need to delegate and streamline greater decision making at the regional level, which I assume also means at the departmental level, and given that during the territorial leadership selection process when Ms. Cournoyea was a candidate seeking our support for the position of Government Leader, my colleague for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike, asked her to restructure the government organization so that regional superintendents and directors would have more spending authority at the regional level, my question to the

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Government Leader is, would the Government Leader give consideration to increasing the current levels of spending to the regional administration at the regional level? If the answer is yes, when? Is that two questions?

MR. SPEAKER: I think the first question is "if" and we can deal with the second question. It is still

hypothetical. The first question, Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O150-12(1): Increased Spending Authority At Regional Level

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes we would consider giving more levels of spending authority to the regional level, but it will not happen before the 90-day freeze at least.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O151-12(1): Open Competition For Deputy Minister Positions

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader who, I believe, has the statutory authority under the Public Service Act to make recommendations to the Commissioner regarding deputy ministers. Will the Government Leader advise this House whether she intends to establish a working policy wherein vacancies in deputy ministers positions will be open to competition?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O151-12(1): Open Competition For Deputy Minister Positions

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I cannot make that commitment because I have made statements to this House that we are trying to streamline this government, and I do not believe that at this time it would be appropriate for us to go out to competition to hire more deputy ministers when the general direction we have been given is to streamline the government and have less deputy ministers and fewer assistant deputy ministers, and fewer directors. I think we have enough now to take on those responsibilities until such time as we find out where we are going in the consolidation. However, if it comes to a time and opportunity where we do not have people to slip in for shorter periods of time, or spell off until we get a more clear consolidation going, yes I certainly would suggest we go to competition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O151-12(1): Open Competition For Deputy Minister Positions

MR. KOE: Mr. Speaker, in statements prior to this today, the Government Leader talked about open

government and access. Does the Government Leader not believe that open government implies open access to senior appointments within the public service?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O151-12(1): Open Competition For Deputy Minister Positions

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I think that I have given a full disclosure on what the intentions of this government are regarding consolidation, and I do not believe that it is wise or fair to have people recruited for positions that may not be there for any length of time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O151-12(1): Open Competition For Deputy Minister Positions

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Government Leader willing to review any changes in employment status of the deputy minister of Economic Development and in the spirit of open government, advise this House the reasons why this term was extended behind closed doors?

MR. SPEAKER: The Government Leader is aware of my ruling. You may answer the question.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will check into it and try to provide some background on that issue.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister of Personnel. Yesterday I indicated a concern in respect to employees violating the oath of office and secrecy. The Minister of Personnel basically indicated that it was the union that released this information. Does the Minister feel it is okay, approved and all right for civil servants to release confidential information to the union and not do anything about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Personnel.

Return To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the reason as I recall, in the heat of the summer -- there were a lot of reasons given -- the reasons the staff of government shared certain information with the unions was because they felt afraid for their jobs and their personal well-being, and they turned to the unions for some protection and advice. The unions decided to use the information given to them in a way that no one agreed with, perhaps. But that is the way things happened. In my view, the behaviour and the action of the staff seemed to be reasonable, given the circumstances that they found themselves in.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, so the Minister feels there is no need for an oath of office and secrecy to be signed by civil servants?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Personnel.

Further Return To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a need for employers and employees to have some sort of oath, given that it is a public government, that there are certain duties that employees are agreeing to live up to. But I think the main word I am trying to use here is: What is the reasonable expectation of these people? If people drop a piece of information in the garbage can, is that an unreasonable act? Are they sharing with the people who go through papers at the garbage dump? There has to be some measure of reason given to govern the behaviour of people. In the case that this Member is dwelling on, I believe that the actions of these people were reasonable.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to dwell on a point. I would really appreciate if the Minister of Personnel could give me a specific answer. These so-called professionals that individuals go to, go to them in confidence because they are supposed to be professionals. I would like to know, the document they sign when they take on

employment with the GNWT, in respect to an oath of office and secrecy, and it is not upheld, is the Minister indicating that it is okay to not adhere to their oath of office and secrecy that they signed?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel.

Further Return To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that at all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your last supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister of Personnel is not suggesting that at all, will he consider reviewing the issue of the fact that so-called professionals were not adhering to and did not uphold the oath of office and secrecy in releasing confidential information to the public?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Personnel.

Further Return To Question O152-12(1): Violation Of The Oath Of Office And Secrecy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I have said earlier in the House that we are talking about something that happened in the life of the last government. The Member wants to dwell on something that she has a personal motive in pursuing. I said, as far as this government is concerned, and the last one for that matter, the matter is closed; it is finished. We had a look at it. The conduct of those people was not, in my view, unreasonable, and there is nothing to suggest that we should revisit it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Question O153-12(1): Savings From 90-Day Restraint

MR. TODD: My question is to the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister consider providing the standing committee on finance with a full financial briefing on the savings from the 90-day restraint measure prior to the opening of the House on February 12th?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O153-12(1): Savings From 90-Day Restraint

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W13-12(1): Workers' Compensation Board "Principally Engaged" Policy

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

1) Would the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board provide me and other Members with correspondence defining "principally engaged" by the following departments: Priorities and Planning, Department of Personnel, Department of Social Services, Department of Renewable Resources, Department of Finance, Department of Justice and the Workers' Compensation Board?

2) Would the Minister also provide me with the correspondence to local hunters and trappers associations and band councils that were consulted regarding the definition of "principally engaged?"

3) Would the Minister also provide me with a copy of the memorandum of agreement approved by the Executive Council on June 28, 1990?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question W14-12(1): Death Of Clem Sassie

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister responsible for Justice in each and every community in the NWT. On December 8, 1991, Clem Sassie died in Fort Liard after being treated for a superficial stab wound and mild hypothermia at the local health centre. Would the Minister of Justice investigate this death and advise:

1) As to the results of the coroner's investigation which must be conducted under the Coroners Act;

2) As to whether the Minister is prepared to recommend that an inquest be held by the chief coroner or a judge into the circumstances surrounding Mr. Sassie's death pursuant to section 24(1) of the Coroners Act;

3) If the Minister is not prepared to order an inquest, why not? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, return to Question W3-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, concerning funding of native women's organizations; return to Question W6-12(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk to the Minister of Social Services, concerning age requirement for old age pensioners; return to Question W7-12(1), asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Government Services, concerning the Department of Government Services' tendering policies.

W3-12(1): Funding To Native Women's Organizations

Hon. John Ningark's return to Question W3-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on December 11, 1991: Since 1979-80 the Native Women's Association has received funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories. Funding is provided to the association as a core grant to be used for operation and administration services. In 1979-80 the Native Women's Association received \$30,000 in core grant funding and, since then, the annual contribution to the organization has increased to \$175,000 in 1991-92.

Funding for community activities, programs, and/or services

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undertaken by the Native Women's Association is the responsibility of the organization itself.

W6-12(1): Age Requirement For Old Age Pensions

Hon. Tony Whitford's return to Question W6-12(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk on December 11, 1991: The age at which all Canadian citizens receive the old age security pension has been established at 65 years by the federal government. Statistics across Canada indicate that the percentage of seniors over the age of 65 years is increasing, as seniors are living longer.

It is unlikely that the federal government will lower the old age security eligibility below age 65. The only exception that presently exists relates to a spouse, spouse of a pensioner, a widow or widower.

A spouse between age 60 to 64 is eligible to receive a spousal allowance if the pensioner over 65 has limited income and is eligible to receive the guaranteed income portion of his/her pension. A widow or widower will receive a widowed spouse allowance at age 60 if his/her income is below the allowable limit.

W7-12(1): Department Of Government Services Tendering Policies

Hon. John Ningark's return to Question W7-12(1), asked by Mr. Dent on December 13, 1991: The concerns raised by the two northern businesses whose letters the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake attached to his written question have been carefully reviewed and answered. In neither instance is there any question as to tendering policies not being followed. In both instances the supplier has been advised of the reasons for the actions taken. Copies of the replies sent will be provided to Mr. Dent as requested.

No one can dispute that government, like any other buyer, has the right to determine what equipment is required or what the conditions of the purchase will be. When a bid is received, government must be able to determine exactly what is being offered, that the item being offered is as specified, and when it will be delivered. Agreeing to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for equipment that has not been certified would be a very grave error indeed.

For every tender invitation there will be a winner and losers. Most of the time those who lose accept it as a fact of business. From time to time complaints are filed. Each and every one of these complaints is investigated very seriously. It is very important that the way government does business be seen to be fair and legally correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will recess for a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the Assembly back into session. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Koe's Reply

MR. KOE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. (Translation ends) I will be trying out my Gwich'in language throughout my presentation, so be prepared.

---Applause

Tribute To Mr. Tom Butters

Mr. Speaker, this being my first reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address, I would like to pay tribute to the former Member for Inuvik, Mr. Tom Butters.

---Applause

In 1970, when Mr. Butters was first elected, the constituency was called Western Arctic and was a lot larger than today. In 1970, Mr. Butters was one of only 10 elected Members, and we still had appointed Members to the then Council. The constituency was changed and called Inuvik in 1975 when the Assembly was first fully elected.

In his 21 years of service to the people of Inuvik and the Northwest Territories, Mr. Butters served on almost all of the standing committees and held 15 different ministerial portfolios. Mr. Butters served on the Executive Council from 1978 until he retired in 1991, with the exception of one year, in 1988. During that year he was not on cabinet he was instrumental in starting the ordinary Members' committee which became *ajauqtit* and now the ordinary Members' caucus.

He was a tireless worker and was a real ambassador for the Northwest Territories. He gave of his time and energies to serve not only the people of Inuvik, but of the whole Northwest Territories. I wish him and his wife, Peg, well and hope he finally enjoys his retirement. Well done, Tom.

---Applause

When I first put my name forward as a candidate for the election to become a Member of the Legislative Assembly and replace Tom Butters, I had many ideas and dreams. Since October 16, 1991, when I was elected, and in the intervening time, I have learned and experienced a lot. I have also had the opportunity to talk to a lot of people in Inuvik and many of the government officials and some of the current Ministers. These discussions and knowledge which I picked up have given me an opportunity to relook and rethink my plans and strategies.

However, many of the basic themes which I advocated still exist. I was elected by the people of Inuvik to represent them, and I intend to do that to the best of my abilities.

(Translation) I would like to say a little more on this. For the people of Inuvik who have elected me, that is why I am here today. I would like to represent them better. (Translation ends)

I stated that I will work toward revitalizing Inuvik as a business service centre, concentrating on tourism and other business services. I also stated that Inuvik must develop a vision and by revitalizing and enhancing Inuvik's entrepreneurial spirit, Inuvik can attract new businesses and government investment.

Inuvik has many people interested in its future and willing to volunteer or help develop the community into a place which not only has a strong economy but is a community with an improving lifestyle. An improved economy will assist in improving the quality of life, but everyone must ensure that all social and counselling support systems are also available.

Mr. Speaker, I have prepared a plan entitled "Inuvik Revitalization Plan" which I would like to present to this Assembly. I would like to make a qualification on this presentation in that these are Fred Koe's ideas and are something which I am working towards implementing with the support of everyone in this Assembly, in the government, in Inuvik, and in the surrounding communities.

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Inuvik Revitalization Plan

Economic Overview

Until 1985, the Beaufort/Mackenzie Delta area enjoyed relatively steady economic activity from the hydrocarbon industries. The downturn since 1985 of hydrocarbon exploration dramatically affected the communities in the area, especially Inuvik, which had placed a great deal of hope on this industry to make the town a prosperous one. Inuvik is currently looking at new economic sectors to provide a stable economic base. Tourism, in particular, is a growing industry in the area. The delivery of services to Inuvik residents and nearby communities is also a solid component of the economy.

The hydrocarbon industry does have significant impacts on the amount of money individuals have and on the viability of Inuvik's service industries. The negative outcome of a decreased wage economy has been the rise in social assistance. In some communities social assistance has tripled in less than two years. Although high wages from the oil and gas

companies created significant social and cultural problems, the alternative impact of increased social assistance on an individual's self-esteem is worse.

Social/Cultural Overview

The community of Inuvik consists basically of three ethnic groups: Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and non-native. All three groups share a strong interest in the socio-economic development of the community. There is also an independent spirit based on entrepreneurial skills and community control that is common among the groups.

There are differences among the groups because of land claim negotiations and the various economic activities. However, with the settlement of the Inuvialuit and now Gwich'in land claims and the recent downturn of the hydrocarbon industries, the differences have drifted into the background, creating a new openness among the residents of Inuvik. The clarity of the rights and benefits of land claim agreements has also developed a greater trust between the non-native and native residents.

Political Overview

(Translation) There are three native groups in the Inuvik Region: Inuvialuit; Gwich'in; and Sahtu Dene-Metis. Each of these groups have on their current political agenda the restructuring of government. Irrespective of each group's position on self-government, the common element of the three groups is greater autonomy from the centralized government in Yellowknife. This is also the aspiration of Inuvik's residents -- not only for political control, but it will also strengthen the economy by local government spending. (Translation ends)

Revitalization Plan, Four Projects

The Government of the Northwest Territories' recent report, "Strength at Two Levels", outlines a basic method in which communities can achieve a greater degree of control over government programs and services. The intention of allowing the community to determine how the resources can be applied will give the community the opportunity to plan and develop projects to maximize employment and small business potentials.

Inuvik must continue to strengthen the relationships between ethnic groups and associated organizations. Dialogue between the organizations representing the aboriginal groups, the Gwich'in Band Council,

Inuvialuit Community Corporation, and the town council, must be developed to plan and develop four projects which require the organizations' combined resources -- political, human and financial.

It is hoped that these three community organizations will work together on these projects. What is needed now is a strong commitment of support from the central government and a willingness to assist in the planning and development stages. It is also important to immediately allow Inuvik to consider the reallocation, consolidating and the prioritizing of projects in Inuvik before decisions are made for Inuvik by the central government.

I have started discussions with these organizations in Inuvik to begin the revitalization of Inuvik's infrastructure and socio-economic development. There is a general spirit of co-operation between the groups and a desire to implement projects to achieve common goals rather than political positions.

Early in the new year, informal meetings will be held between the three organizations. It is hoped that a steering committee can be formed to arrange for consultation workshops and meetings with other community organizations to ensure feedback from a wide range of community interests such as the churches, chamber of commerce, youth groups, friendship centre, native women's group. The consultation process will develop a sense of ownership of these projects.

In the long term, working together on common goals will facilitate discussions to address political agendas such as the Inuvialuit regional government proposal, Gwich'in self-government framework agreement and the Government of the Northwest Territories community self-government initiatives. Common goals should be translated into specific projects to act as catalysts in the overall comprehensive development of the community. There are four projects which can be used to provide focus to sector development in Inuvik:

The Aurora Campus of Arctic College can provide relevant programs to meet the education and training needs in Inuvik and within the region through extension delivery. The Gwich'in training plan and the Beatty report describe an integrated system of employment development and income support which will provide the vehicle to direct existing funds in a more productive manner. Specific courses will also build the capacity of Inuvik residents to take control of the other projects identified.

A visitors/cultural centre will provide focus to tourism development and be a catalyst for the implementation of a common tourism work plan to take advantage of this new market.

A new recreation facility for sports and cultural events will strengthen bonds between the various groups and provide a needed social focus for our youth.

A business development centre for the production of arts and crafts and the sale of local products will provide basic support for local businesses to serve tourists, government and the communities. The project shall also provide a badly needed profile to the renewable resource sector development.

Mr. Speaker, it should be stated that each of these four projects is part of the government's current budget estimates. What the residents of Inuvik need is the support of this government to plan, re-profile funds and have a direct participation in the development of these projects.

I would like to go into a little more detail on some of these projects and some of the related initiatives. The short-term benefits of the projects are obvious: employment, skills development and economic enhancement. The major purpose

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of these projects, however, shall be for the long-term benefits in the development of various economic sectors and to strengthen the unique nature of Inuvik by bringing people together. The Commissioner's Opening Address speaks to a renewed effort to build a more effective government which, in partnership with the communities, will build a stronger northern society. These projects, with government support, will implement the goals clearly stated and supported by Inuvik residents.

I will now describe some of the four projects and some of the related initiatives which shall flow from the four projects and enhance economic sectors in a comprehensive manner as well as strengthen the cultural and social fabric of Inuvik.

Education And Training

Although Arctic College has delivered training initiatives in the region for many years, it is apparent that greater effort must be given to literacy and life-skills training in order for individuals to gain the basic skills to take technical trades and professional training. The overall long-term goals are to invest in

literacy, life skills and upgrading to advance the individual's capacity to acquire trades and professional skills, and to build long-term capabilities in the community to govern their affairs and generate increased local employment.

The Gwich'in, specifically, have detailed this goal in a training plan and have over the past year started the process of co-ordinating government efforts to meet this goal through a regional management training board. It may also be worthwhile to examine the Native Women's Association life-skills training courses and develop a life skills coaches program for the Northwest Territories.

Arctic College also suffers financially because of the loss of programs. In addition to Arctic College and other training delivery agencies' literacy, life-skills and upgrading components, long-term education and training needs of the Inuvik Region can be met through the provision of professional training courses. One of these is the teacher education program. A program similar to the Dogrib teacher education program is needed in the Inuvik area. Each of the aboriginal organizations have a common need for the program. It is in the interest of government to build a home-grown teaching staff which can deliver relevant cultural instruction.

With the Inuvik Hospital nearby, it makes sense to develop local staff by providing a certified or diploma nursing training program. This will produce long-term cost savings to government and more effective preventative health programs to the smaller communities nearby by training local residents and saving money on the recruitment of southern nurses.

Another one is the community administration training. The combined efforts of MACA, Arctic College and the communities are needed to develop a local administration staff to take on the responsibilities of community and aboriginal self-government initiatives. A spin-off effect of this type of training is that it will also meet the administration needs of land claims implementation.

On entrepreneurial training, because of land claims and the potential growth of tourism and service industries, there is a need to develop entrepreneurial skills to ensure that small businesses have management capabilities to develop their businesses.

On tourism training, with a visitors/cultural centre and the eventual implementation of a common tourism work plan, there will be a need for competent tourist

services. Hospitality, guiding and outfitting courses will produce a work force that can greet tourists in the manner which continues to encourage the growth of this industry.

Tourism

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that tourism was another major growth industry. Regional tourism strategies have been outlined several times in the past, but strategies have failed to focus on the tourist's practical needs. The construction of a visitors/cultural centre could involve the following potential occupants:

The Department of Culture and Communications with a museum, Inuvik Native Band and Metis Local, Parks Canada, Inuvik Visitors Association, Delta/Beaufort Visitors Association, and you can also house a regional library there. Other users of the space could be federal Fisheries, Department of Education, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Science Institute of the NWT. All can use the building for displays or information disbursement.

Generally, the theme of the building must include the distinctiveness of the cultural groups of Inuvik and information for tourists. There should also be adequate outdoor space for displays, activities and parking. The construction of this building in a central location will provide for office needs of various related tourism or cultural departments or organizations and provide a focus to tourism development in the area.

The organizations that occupy the centre can continue to assess tourists' needs to determine what potential businesses can be created or supported to enhance the marketing and servicing of tourists when they arrive. Two other projects under way that will also assist in the development of the tourism industry are:

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference is scheduled for next summer. It will be an international event with large cultural dimensions, and it is important for government to invest in this initiative in order to capitalize on marketing opportunities. It has been government strategy in the past to market at large southern expositions, but this conference will provide a unique opportunity to draw tourists to a northern cultural event and build a reputation in the area as a major tourist attraction. Government should promote this event in a similar manner as they have with

Vancouver and Seville Expos. Financial support to the town's and the Inuvialuit's efforts must be provided to ensure increased marketing of this event.

Campbell Lake Park

Another development under way is the Campbell Lake park. The Gwich'in final agreement has facilitated the establishment of this park. The development of this park will provide an eco-tourism focus to the Delta/Beaufort as well as increase facilities for recreational vehicles and camping. Increased capital and program resources will speed up the development and establishment of this long overdue park.

Small Business Development Initiatives

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now focus on some small business development initiatives. Several attempts in the past to build facilities for the enhancement of renewable resources have failed, mainly because of grand schemes and over-extended supply for limited demand. The crafts and renewable resource product producers can concentrate on a local market, and with expanded tourism and southern markets, the producers can expand their small businesses and cottage crafts industries.

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The turnover of the old liquor store as a centre for the development of small business can be the catalyst to expanding businesses in various sectors. It is also important to note that a lot of small businesses fail because of the lack of ongoing business and management support mechanisms.

The centre for small business will focus on the provision of the following: a discount warehouse for hunters, trappers and crafts supplies; provide for office support for small businesses, as well as to the general public; provide for the marketing of crafts and other products; be a centre for the allocation of orders as a result of successful marketing; and hopefully sell renewable resource products.

The centre may need continued government support, but there are various organization which exist to provide support to businesses. Some of these are the chamber of commerce, community futures program, Inuvik business development program, the government's Economic Development personnel and the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit CAEDS business development operations which can support the

ongoing operations and maintenance costs of small businesses.

As some businesses develop and expand into viable operations, support services such as reception, secretarial and financial services can also operate with greater profit motives. Increasingly, the centre for small businesses will become a co-operative association of small businesses.

Capital Projects

Mr. Speaker, another consideration related to small businesses is the ability of Inuvik's small construction businesses and their ability to take on large government and oil and gas industries capital projects. Capital projects should be planned in such a way as to maximize the involvement of the local industry and local people. For example, instead of construction of capital projects in one year, perhaps it should be spread over several, or a single contract can be broken into several so that local businesses can successfully compete and bid on these projects. Another approach is to investigate how the community and/or businesses can take on ownership of buildings.

This does not require a great deal of planning and allows for community control and ownership for the project, creating totally local benefits. The Dempster Highway maintenance and reconstruction is a good project in which government should consider the breaking up of the maintenance and construction contracts for the highway into several smaller contracts. This will enable local businessmen to successfully bid, provide for training and allow for the retention of benefits within the region.

Recreation

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to focus on some of the recreation initiatives. Inuvik needs recreation facilities for a number of social and cultural reasons. The community must undertake a comprehensive fund-raising campaign to match available government funds. The community should also examine and plan how other community capital requirements may be integrated with such a facility and ensure the economic viability of this project. Many things can take place in a large complex, such as large conferences and trade shows, community hall type facilities such as dances and bingos and large regional and local sporting events.

The concept of an Inuvik recreational facility has been on the drawing board for many years. There has never been a question of need; the only one has been one of finances. Because of the economic downturn, the town council has lost a lot of tax-based income to support a large project of this nature.

A concentrated effort by community organizations and residents must be undertaken to raise finances to undertake this projects. However, there should also be some effort by central government to examine other potential operational capital efficiencies to a recreational facility. Extension of government's allocated funds available to Inuvik for this facility must be given so efforts can be made locally to organize and develop this project.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my presentation, and I thank the Members for listening to me. I hope that over the next four years we can work together for the benefit of all our constituents and, in my case, especially for the residents of Inuvik, who have felt quite left out over the past few years. I alone cannot achieve these goals and plans, so I need everyone's help and guidance. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Koe. Replies to opening address. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell's Reply

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express different concerns of issues that affect my constituents. However, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to thank my constituency for their support in re-electing me as their MLA. I would also like to take the time to thank my family for the support that they have given me.

Thebacha Concerns

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of concerns that are of importance to my constituency, and there are a number of goals I would like to work towards achieving. It is my hope that the goals I am attempting to achieve are indeed achievable, and I will be candid in advising the particular Ministers regarding the types of goals I will be working towards over the next four years.

Paving Of Highway

To the Minister of Transportation, I will be working towards pavement on our highway from Sandy Lake

to Bell Rock. The government should make every effort to complete the stretch of pavement that they started some six years ago. I want the Minister of Transportation to know that this particular area of highway has a solid base and, therefore, would not cost as much as other estimates when they were doing pavement in other areas of the Territories.

Education

To the same Minister, although under another responsibility as the Minister of Education, it is my hope that the completion of the academic building that they have started working on in their planning work for the college in Fort Smith will be completed in the next four years. Mr. Speaker, I know that there has been some concern with regard to the whole college concept in the Territories, but I still feel that fundamentally we are progressing. I believe we have to give opportunity to our northern students to be able to take up the education in their homeland prior to being told that they have to go south for further education.

Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister of Education to know so that he is aware that in Fort Smith we have a 32-year old elementary school. Structurally it is a very sound building. However, I know that there are certain components in the building that have fulfilled their purpose. I know the heating

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system could probably use a more updated heating system. So I certainly hope that he takes a serious look at renovating the Joseph Burr Tyrrell Elementary School. I believe it is critical and important for students that are attending that school to be able to be learning under a healthy and good atmosphere.

CL-215 Base In Fort Smith

To the Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope that he supports the construction of a CL-215 base in Fort Smith. A CL-215 base is basically a base that will look after water bombers. Every year for the past number of years, the water bombers that are based in Fort Smith return south. They come back in the summertime and are based out of the community to fight fires that we may expect around our area and in the western Arctic. But unfortunately, as I stated, they go south every fall. I used to wonder what they go south for. But now I know it is because we do not have a hangar or a proper base to be able to accommodate them in the

North. They also go south to get repaired. After all their hours of flying, they need to get checked and repaired. If we had a base that could look at providing that service up north, the funding -- I am sure Members will agree with me the amount of funding we spend will stay in the North instead of flowing south and would no doubt be phenomenal. Therefore, I hope the Minister of Renewable Resources will support the proposed base. I do not believe the CL-215 base has to be taken out of your capital funding to be built. I certainly would like to see, and I fully support the concept, a base built on a lease-back purchase to this government. It allows the opportunity for business to co-ordinate and pursue a venture that is accommodating the concept of attempting to keep as many economic opportunities and many economic dollars in the North. I certainly hope that the Minister of Renewable Resources will consider my request.

Bison Ranch

In speaking to the chief of the band, I have agreed with his suggestion that the bison ranch be given to the band and the Metis only; half of the ownership to the band and half to the Metis. If this arrangement cannot be made, then the department should seriously consider taking it back. They should at least take it back until the HTA can get their act together. The current president of the HTA in Fort Smith has not had a meeting for at least two or three years. He is probably operating illegally. I know for sure that they would be in violation of the Societies Act. I certainly do not support that. I feel that the president should at least hold an HTA meeting.

Another issue is how the government continues to fund such organizations when they do not operate properly. I hope the Minister of Renewable Resources will seriously look at this particular HTA and make sure that they are operating properly before future funding is granted.

Housing

Mr. Speaker, another important issue that relates to my constituency is the issue of housing. This is government housing. Since the government is not reconsidering to reinstate the buy-back policy, and since the government is requesting that after one year any employee living in a government unit must make every effort to get their own unit, one way the government is doing this is by decreasing the housing allowance. I urge the government to sell government units as soon as possible, or else consider halting the

reduction of housing allowances. I ask the Minister of Personnel to seriously look at the number of units deemed surplus in Fort Smith and find a proper method to be able to dispose of these units. However, I want to caution him to not place every unit on the market at once because he will flood the market which will cause terrible effects on the housing market in our community.

Health

To the Minister of Health, I sincerely hope that you take my advice under consideration of placing the chairmen of the health boards for a specific time frame because of the fact that in our community there have been many problems with respect to the health centre. I sometimes feel that it is the fault of the chairman in addition to the fault of the board. But I sometimes feel that when chairmen are appointed at pleasure, it gives them a chance to be able to deem that they can do whatever they want, because they are appointed at pleasure and I think that is unfair. So I hope he takes my advice under serious consideration.

Mr. Speaker, those are the areas of my constituency, but I do have other areas that I do want to speak about and I feel is important. I know when we were going forward for our cabinet seats, we had 10 minutes to be able to address many of the issues on the floor. At the time I did not feel 10 minutes was enough, but I went with the majority of Members.

Past Social Services Scandal

So I would like to speak on an area that I feel I have to get out of my mind and out of my system. I have to speak on the issue of what I call in this House the past "Social Services scandal". Over the past week I have been harping on the government and advised them of three social workers that did what you would call politically, an end run.

As a Minister I know that is one of the things that you have to watch out for. When you are a Minister and you want to do something, particularly the new Ministers, I certainly hope this does not deter you from making decisions and I hope you can address concerns that this House directs you to, but at the same time when you direct concerns, do not forget that you direct the bureaucrats to fulfill those concerns. Sometimes the bureaucrats simply do not like that.

There are many directions that I gave for change and naturally, particularly, so-called professional bureaucrats did not agree with it. People often wonder how I knew who dealt with these documents, how do I know how they got these documents and how do I know how they were released. Well today I am willing to tell the House.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to stress to this House how disgusted I was to know that confidential files of a personal nature were released for public consumption. Highly confidential information, where people go in despair to a social worker, were released for public consumption. And if this is allowed and nothing is done, I believe that even as a Member, I will formulate a private Members' bill to avoid things like this from happening again. Because I would not like this to happen to anyone else, regardless of whether they be a Minister or a client of Social Services.

It scares me to think of who or what could be the next target if we do not address this issue. Could it be personal

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information that is released to the public or could it be medical files? So I want you to know that I am very concerned and to keep it from going on, that I will formulate a privacy act if the government does not consider one.

One of my purposes in politics, Mr. Speaker, is to try and correct injustices that are done to people and I certainly plan to continue working in that manner.

Now I did not tell the House as to how I got the information. In the middle of July I received a call from my dear sister -- thank goodness for families -- who works with Keith Dowling who is a regional vice-president in Fort Smith. He indicated that the union, particularly Dianne Strilaeff here in Yellowknife, received a lot of clients' files from Ann Enge. Dianne Strilaeff advised Ann to bring this information to Keith Dowling because he was the regional vice-president of the union in Fort Smith. But Keith did not want anything to do with this. At least he was level-headed enough to recognize that this was scandalous.

That was one of the ways that I found out. But I wondered, knowing that Ann Enge was the acting regional superintendent for Social Services in Fort Smith, I wondered how she got this information; how would she get clients' files? Then I was told by a

worker in the Fort Smith area office, and it certainly was not Priscilla Hamann or Marj Sakundiak, how she got the information. She went into the area office and retrieved all the information with the assistance of her niece, Priscilla Hamann, and the other social worker in the office, Marj Sakundiak. Why would she take such information and send it to the public for public consumption?

Last spring, Mr. Speaker, I knew there were concerns in the Yellowknife area office and as a result I got an audit done and everyone knows today what happened. The former superintendent had many charges against her. Out of that office they also fired one social worker, Eileen Gruben, because she acted unprofessionally. So for fear of getting fired like her friend Eileen Gruben, Ann Enge felt that she would make sure that her Minister and her deputy minister and her senior staff would go down with her if she went down. But she did not get fired, she just got reprimanded.

It is so unprofessional and so unfortunate that she had to act in such an unprofessional and unethical manner. This is why I felt that I should bring it to the government's attention and I seriously, honestly feel that to avoid it for anyone else, that they should take into consideration to do something like this, because if they do not do anything about it, it will happen again and maybe it could be one of you Ministers that could get set up. So that is what happened, Mr. Speaker, and I am happy it is out now. I feel a lot better now. Now I will be more happy to deal with the government. I will not be as bitter and I will be more co-operative.

People wondered why I could not comment to the media. Because when I was a Minister I was advised, and I was given the wrong advice, now that I can see things, when you sit back and look at things, I got the wrong advice from the former Government Leader. He basically said not to say anything. So taking his advice and respecting him, I did not say anything. But now I will not stay quiet for anyone. The media even suggested that why I brought forth my budget last spring was because I had something to hide. Lord only knows, Mr. Speaker, I had nothing to hide in my budget. I brought forth my budget because I knew it, not because I had anything to hide. That is one thing I want the Ministers to know, not next year or the year after, I expect you guys to know your budgets and if you do not, I will question you.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that I had lack of guidance from the past Government Leader and I want to make

a public statement in regard to how I have lost a lot of respect for the former Government Leader because of the fact that he was not what you call a leader. I want to commend our current Government Leader for giving the advice and guidance, and particularly to her new cabinet Ministers for attempting to make every effort to work as a team. You are doing a good job Nellie and I commend you, and I would like you to keep it up, because you will get a team out of the method that you are using.

---Applause

Appreciation Of Past Staff

Mr. Speaker, in my closing remarks I want to indicate that I want to thank Bernie Doyle, the deputy minister of Social Services, for his dedication, his loyalty and his service that he gave to the department. I know that he went through a difficult time this past summer. I want him to know that even though he went through a difficult time, he pulled through it and certainly has my utmost respect and I would like to indicate this to Mr. Doyle. He is a very hard worker, a dedicated worker, and I certainly know that I am sure that I speak in confidence and that the Minister, even the current Minister of Social Services will probably agree with me, that he is an honest man; he is a hard worker and I am sure that he will be able to address the issues of social issues that we face in the North.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I want to thank my past staff in being able to provide to me the work that they were able to do, particularly Glen McLean, my past executive assistant and an extreme thanks to Dawna O'Brien who was a very dedicated and efficient secretary and I am sure that Mr. Morin will agree with me.

Appointments To Boards

Mr. Speaker, I did want to speak on a couple of minor issues, and particularly to appointments. I really feel that it is necessary before making new appointments to any boards and agencies, even though the agencies, boards and commissions have indicated this, that I would like the Ministers to take our advice seriously and that they do not do any other appointments, particularly when they are going to appoint members from our constituency, to certain boards until they get some input from the MLA,

because there are many people and particularly the Arctic College Board of Governors.

I take for example, Don Jaque, whose appointment is coming up. I will tell you now politically I do not support him one bit and I probably never will. He does not tell the community anything going on in Arctic College; the community does not know anything; although he probably does tell the mayor because that is his brother-in-law. But he does not tell the band and I am sure that he does not tell the Metis and you know, when you put these people on those boards to represent your community, you would hope that there be some mechanism for communication so they could tell you what is going on with these different boards.

I would like to close my reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address and thank the Members for bearing with me. I told them that I would take at least an hour, but I do not think that I did, because I know that we want to get business of the House done.

I would like to close and commend once again our Government Leader for the decision that she made in respect

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to assisting band councils. I know that once she makes a commitment, she lives up to her word and I cannot thank her enough for the assistance that she has given to band councils, and I thank her very much for all the assistance that she has given me in the last Assembly. I want her to know that, as I said earlier, you are showing good leadership, Nellie. Keep up your team work and I know that you will do well. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I wonder, for new Members, the way I am going to deal with replies to the Commissioner's Opening Address, I am going to follow the precedence set by Mr. Nerysoo and previous Speakers and allow a lot of latitude. I feel that a reply to the Commissioner is a very personal vehicle for MLAs to not only explain the concerns of their constituencies, but themselves, to bring their own personal thoughts to bear an opportunity to right past wrongs, to correct the record and to bring a very personal approach to our consensus system. So unless the rules are being very blatantly tried, I will be, I think, very lenient in allowing a lot of latitude for Members in giving their

replies to the Commissioner. Thank you. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Nerysoo.

Mr. Nerysoo's Reply

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to deviate, I guess, too much from some of the accolades that have been given to the government, but the fact is that I probably will. First of all as everyone knows I have not been here for a week, but I do not apologize for not being here. The fact is that I was asked by the Gwich'in Nation to represent them and negotiate a transboundary agreement which we successfully concluded with the Nacho Nyak Dun in Mayo with regard to transboundary relationships and transboundary land use. I am sure proud to say that I actually headed up the negotiations to conclude that arrangement.

Beatty Report

Now Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity to hear what many have had to say about the issues related to the Beatty report, nor have I participated in the discussions that are related to that particular report. But I do want to say to the government, that while the intentions of the Beatty committee were probably necessary in trying to streamline government and try to reduce overall cost to our government by making recommendations of streamlining, I still think that it is important for our government and the Members in this House to realize that streamlining is not always necessarily the best way of delivering better programs, and that streamlining itself can be as much a reduction in the quality of service and programs that are to be offered to the people.

I think that you would be more cautious about the approach that has been taken of jumping into every recommendation without a bit of caution. Not to suggest that what the government has indicated and is pursuing in terms of overall cost reductions to our government is not a laudable goal and a laudable direction to take, but I do caution you in terms of accepting every recommendation on its face value, because the fact is that you could be causing more problems in the communities than you really, really want to.

Oil And Gas Industry In The Mackenzie/Beaufort

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of issues that I want to deal with. I know that our Government Leader is well aware of the economic

problems as is the case in the Northwest Territories, but more so in the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort regions where we have had a significant downturn in our economy as a result of the oil and gas industry completely removing itself. I guess I should say that I am happy that some initiative has been taken by Shell Oil and a couple of the companies that are returning. But, nonetheless, I still want to say that I do not want to put all my eggs in that basket again, because the fact is that we are never certain that there is going to be total success in the oil and gas industry unless there is commitment by the federal government to insert a tremendous amount of financial resources as they have done in the eastern offshore and into Saskatchewan and Alberta under the Western Accord. I think that only if those circumstances exist, will we find any confidence in the oil and gas industry to return to the level that they did in the mid-70s. I do not think that until that commitment is made by our federal government that we will see an initiative of a substantial nature that occurred at that time.

Development Of Porcupine Caribou Calving Area

I also want to say that I have heard a lot about this idea of the Porcupine Caribou calving area and the attempts on the part of the Inupiaq, encouraging the development of 10-02 lands which is the calving area for the Porcupine Caribou herd. I know that while the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is involved in promoting that, I have to take the view of opposing the developments in that particular area. If anything, I would be out trying to encourage the development of the Mackenzie Delta oil and gas fields.

I would not be encouraging the development of an area as sensitive as the Porcupine Caribou calving area because I think the resources are available for us to develop. It is now a matter of us trying to find a way to encourage the oil and gas industry to come back into the Delta to access the resources that are available. In that context, I have a different position and I wanted to make that public so that it is clear.

It is also quite similar to the Inuvialuit Game Council which has taken the position of opposing the development of the Porcupine Caribou calving area. I think what is interesting is that despite the position that has been taken by the Inupiaq to develop the calving area -- 10-02 lands as we call them in the Delta and the Gwich'in -- is that they are opposed to offshore development in the Beaufort in their area for the very reason that we are opposed to the development in the calving area. That is, they are concerned about protecting their ability to harvest sea

mammals and fish, and to protect that habitat the same way that we are concerned about the caribou herd and the protection of the habitat calving area in the northern part of Alaska and northern Yukon. I just want to make that information available to you because it seems that we are at cross purposes. I think that even though we have similar goals, the fact is that we are taking different positions because of the areas in which we live. I have to say that clearly and I do not want to in any way give the impression that I am totally opposed to the idea of some developments, but I am opposed to the ones that could possibly do damage to the calving areas.

As I indicated, I would be more acceptable and more supportive of the idea of developing oil and gas resources here in the Northwest Territories where we can access employment opportunities and business opportunities. I would be more open to this.

Extension Of Mackenzie Highway

I want to say that in a number of issues we have raised here regarding transportation, there is an attempt on our part, and even in the Delta, to pursue the idea of the Mackenzie Highway. I support the idea of the construction of the Mackenzie Highway, but I want to say that the people of

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Aklavik still do want to have some commitment on the part of our government to conclude the construction of the highway from the Dempster to Aklavik. This is the position that they have taken. I just want to say that there was a petition that was tabled in this House during the last Assembly. It was signed by a number of people in Fort McPherson who supported the construction of that project in support of the residents of Aklavik. I just hope that if we could consider the ideas that have been raised by Mr. Koe who suggested a possible break-up of various portions of construction projects that maybe we could look at the idea of breaking up the idea of the Dempster lateral, as we might call it, not referring to the pipeline or anything like that. We might consider, at least initially, the construction of a road to the gravel source in Aklavik at Willow River.

I know our Government Leader knows of the location, but the argument has been raised that it has potential for not only access to year-round gravel source, but it has potential for long-term tourist attraction. Allowing the availability to the mountains is something that

should be considered in terms of that economic project.

I want to, on a more complimentary note to our government and the former Minister of Economic Development who unfortunately was not successful in his re-election bid, compliment him on his effort in trying to conclude with the development corporation the canvass project. We are at a stage now that we can say it is almost completed and ready for opening.

I want to say to the Government Leader who served as Minister of Health that even though we had our differences about the delivery of the service, I want to pass along to her and to the present Minister, our appreciation for the efforts with regard to the health centre that has been completed in Fort McPherson.

Services To Arctic Red River

I know we want to compliment our government for their efforts in renting space in the buildings that have been constructed in the various communities. Arctic Red River, Mr. Speaker, is still seeking some commitment of improved services by our government. I hope I can work with our Government Leader and the various Ministers to improve the manner in which we deliver services to that particular community. Even though it is a community of some 150 to 200 people, there is still the need to improve the quality of services that are available normally to most residents of the Northwest Territories. They are not necessarily asking for significant more dollars as opposed to trying to find ways to deliver this service right in the community and amalgamating the number of responsibilities even in some of the positions they would like you to consider. They think it is necessary to consider the cost to government and cost to the community. They do not have a problem with the idea and the concerns that this government has.

Aboriginal Self-Government

Mr. Speaker, I want to get on to an area in which, in many ways, I have a difference of opinion with a great deal of Members in this House. This particular matter deals with the issue of self-government for aboriginal people. I want to say to you, to Members of this House and to the people of the Northwest Territories, I do not disagree that there is a need for some central government in the Northwest Territories. What causes me the greatest concern is this notion that this is the government that is going to be in existence four or five years from now. The fact is that even according to our own NWT Act, we have gone beyond

what is to be the restriction of powers in this government. Section 17 says, "nothing in section 16 which deals with all the powers shall be construed as giving the Commissioner-in-Council greater powers with respect to any class of subjects described therein than are given to the Legislatures of the provinces under sections 92 and 95 of the Constitution Act, 1867 with respect to similar subjects therein described."

I have raised this on a number of occasions in this House as to how we could continue in light of this particular section, and in light of section 91 which is generally the federal powers. Section 91 deals with Indians and Indian lands. Section 91 is nowhere referred to in this particular part of our act, yet we are in fact making decisions and passing laws that apply directly to aboriginal people that our own legislation says we do not have jurisdiction in, and many people think that I am a little crazy for getting up here and disagreeing sometimes that we should try to settle this issue, but the fact is that if our own constitution, and I mean the NWT Act, says that we cannot do certain things then I question whether or not we really have jurisdiction in those areas.

I do not want to say that I oppose the idea of this government or this Assembly if the fact is that we are being treated as a department, as one says, responsible on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs delivering the programs, but the fact is that I see this government as being more than just a department. I see this Assembly as being more than just a department. I think that we have been given what you might say are, constitutionally, certain powers that we have a responsibility to enact upon. I think that if we go beyond that then my feeling is that we are going beyond the actual jurisdiction that we have. That is not to suggest that the federal government cannot provide us with additional administrative responsibility, but I think we should be cautious about how far we think or what kinds of powers we think we have and reassess our own legal status with regard to aboriginal people. Our own history shows that land claims and self-government discussions do not go on between this government and aboriginal people, they go on between the aboriginal people and the federal government.

I want to make people aware that the fact is that First Nations, and maybe more so the Council for Yukon Indians, have set an example of the matters that are going to be dealt with in future self-government arrangements. I have had an opportunity to negotiate, again on behalf of the Gwich'in Nation, on

matters dealing with self-government. Every one of these issues, interestingly, is the subject of negotiation under that agreement. Under the first nation agreement, self-government agreement, institutions or structures will be defined by the first nations themselves through the constitution, which will not be subject to approval by other levels of government. First Nations will have law-making power on settlement lands, including zoning, land development, environmental protection, as well as licensing, regulating businesses, trades and professional peoples. First Nations will have select powers over their citizens on and off settlement lands in areas such as health, native language programs and education. Laws of the Yukon Government will continue to apply until the first nation passes its own laws to replace them.

The fact is that this is the basis on which, in my opinion, many first nations, including the Gwich'in Nation, will negotiate its relationship with the federal government. The First Nations, even in this particular case, have agreed not to exercise law-making powers during a five-year transition period, but after that transition period is over they will have the ultimate authority to pass their own laws. I want to say to you that their own financing arrangement is a multi-year funding agreement with the federal government, not with the Government of the Yukon -- their funding agreement is direct, same as our formula financing arrangement, with the

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Government of Canada. Their agreements, I must inform you, are five-year agreements, not three-year agreements.

I will be tabling the draft document, which is basically the foundation of their future agreements, and I know will be the foundation for aboriginal First Nations in the Northwest Territories because the Gwich'in will be, in fact, pursuing an agreement very similar to this particular agreement, and I do not want people to get the impression that even though we are pursuing an improved relationship with this government that the Gwich'in are going to retract from the negotiations direct, including all these aspects that have been included, including their jurisdiction with the federal government. I wanted you to be aware of that, and you will note from the document how substantive that relationship is with the federal government. I did not want you people here to get the impression that this idea that we are pursuing of self-government is insignificant or, for that matter, of no relevance to the

status of this government, because the fact is that they will have significance that is almost similar in many respects to the same kind of jurisdiction that our own Assembly has, but it may apply either, depending on negotiations, to the aboriginal people or, in conjunction with this government, to the citizens that reside in the particular area.

I just wanted you to be aware of that so there is no confusion about, first of all, where I stand and, secondly, where the Gwich'in Nation will be going in terms of this particular matter. These are the issues in the self-government agreement, and they will be a matter that will probably set out, along with the Yukon First Nations agreement being the guide, the relationship between aboriginal first nations in the Northwest Territories and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Just so that you will be aware. That is all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis's Reply

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since I was first elected in 1987 I have always used every opportunity to represent the people that elected me, and I will do so briefly today, bearing in mind that we would like to get finished sometime tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the people of Yellowknife Centre for sending me back to public life, where I have spent most of my time in the Territories; in fact, the vast bulk of my life has been devoted to public service, and I would like to thank them for returning me to continue the work that I began in 1987. I would like to particularly thank my wife and family, who worked very, very hard.

I would also like to point out that in this instance the electorate had a tremendous variety of choices, and I feel honoured that among the choices they had, they decided to give me another crack at this kind of work.

City Of Yellowknife Revenue

The two issues that I wanted to raise today, Mr. Speaker, relate in a sense to public service and the problems that people have in coping with the modern world, and I will be very brief. I would like to point out that because of the tremendous demands made on government, the City of Yellowknife now finds itself in a position where it is no longer able to provide the

kinds of transfers that enables the City to survive without trying to find some extra ways of raising revenue within the city. I have learned within the last two months that, for example, the churches within the city, who were previously told that as long as they notified the proper values, and so on, that this amount would be written off. For example, if the Anglican Church was rated at \$12,000 for property taxes, that would be written off. I am told that all those non-profit agencies within the city can expect next year to have only 25 per cent of that amount written off. This would place a very powerful burden on such institutions as the Salvation Army, Mr. Speaker. They have a 35 year mortgage on the pink palace that is halfway down the hill here, that provides a very valued service within this community. If you have to pay off a mortgage of about \$90,000 a year and you are now told that in addition to that kind of burden you can no longer expect to have the relief on your property taxes that you got in the past, then that means that that institution has very severe financial problems that it is going to have to cope with over the next few years, and no amount of belt-tightening is going to allow that institution to survive unless we realistically look at the impact that these various cuts are going to have on community services.

Property Tax For Disabled

The second issue I would like to raise, Mr. Speaker, relates to the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act which we passed a year ago, with the good intention of allowing people who have disabilities to have some form of relief from paying property taxes, simply because they were disabled people who did not work, and so on.

When we look at that particular act, what we did was to include all kinds of other categories, not only the permanently disabled, but those people who have been injured in the workplace or have been off work for a month, or whatever. We wanted to be fair and look at all the possibilities. But what has happened, Mr. Speaker, is in the case of the City of Yellowknife, instead of just simply saying that this is a reasonable piece of legislation, it allows us to give relief to these people that really should get relief, but we cannot afford it -- if we look at all the people that potentially will be disabled to some degree and we decide to relieve those people of paying taxes, we really cannot afford to run this City. We are afraid of the burden that this would place on us.

So I am urging the government to look at that piece of legislation, to narrow it a little, so that those people

who really need to get tax relief get it and the City cannot use the argument that the large numbers who are only partially disabled, or disabled for a small period of time, would cause them real difficulty.

Those were the two main issues I wanted to raise today, Mr. Speaker. I noted that on our calendar provided by Scotiabank, there are all kinds of wonderful little comments at the top of them. For example, "No problem can stand the assault of sustained thinking." If I had about four or five hours, I could go through many of these things and relate them to performance of the government and some of the things that they should be thinking of as they take on their responsibilities and get to learn them and to sustain them for the next four years.

I am committed to our new Government Leader to make sure that she survives the four years. We made that choice; we will make sure it works as best as we can. I wish everybody all the best. I would like to thank everybody for listening to me for the shortest address I have made to this House.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Replies to Opening Address. There will be no further replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

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ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 4-12(1): Report of the Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the terms of reference, the standing committee on finance has met several times during this session. We are pleased to provide the House with a summary of our discussions. The committee agreed to allow the chairperson and deputy chairperson to review the staffing needs of the committee over the next four years and provide recommendations on whom the committee should hire.

Preliminary discussions were held on the priorities and directions of the committee. The committee has agreed to hold a workshop in the new year to set definitive priorities and objectives and to identify areas of concern that the committee will focus on over the

next four years. After we have had this workshop, we will report at the appropriate time.

The committee was informed that a request had been forwarded to the Government Leader asking that ordinary Members be consulted in the capital planning process. The committee fully supports the wishes of ordinary Members to have meaningful input into the formulation of the capital budget and recommends that the Executive Council consult with all ordinary Members during the capital planning process to ensure that the needs of all regions are fairly represented.

The committee also met with the Minister of Finance and his staff on several occasions to discuss a variety of matters. The Minister provided the committee with informative briefings on the fiscal framework of the GNWT and the "Strength at Two Levels" report. New Members were provided with a briefing on the budget process and it is hoped that a further briefing on the formula financing agreement will be provided in the near future.

The committee and the Minister of Finance also discussed the timing of the 1992-93 budget in some detail. The traditional time for the standing committee's review of the budget documents is November and December. This timetable has already been pre-empted because it is an election year and there were changes in government. Given the difficult economic times we face, the Minister requested this review be delayed even further to allow sufficient time to develop a new budget.

The committee recognizes the problems facing the Minister and the new Executive Council in developing and introducing a new budget. The committee wished to balance the Executive Council's need for time to do a proper job in the development of the budget and the need to ensure that the budget be brought before the committee and the House in time for full and comprehensive review.

The committee has tentatively agreed to review the 1992-93 capital budget at the end of January and the 1992-93 operations and maintenance budget in early June, subject to approval of the House.

The committee reviewed the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92 and the Borrowing Authorization Act during its meetings. The committee was particularly concerned about the lack of time it had to review these bills. They were received by the committee only two days prior to its meetings. In

future the committee will expect these bills to be received in ample time to conduct a full and comprehensive review. It is hoped that the new legislative process will ensure that this occurs.

Mr. Speaker, the committee appreciates the patience that our colleagues have displayed in the recent weeks, in particular myself. All but two of our Members are new to this House and we are only beginning to understand the full extent of our responsibilities. We look forward to meeting the challenges of our responsibilities to ensure the sound financial management of this government.

Motion To Adopt Committee Report 4-12(1): Report Of The Standing Committee On Finance, Carried

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Brian Lewis, that the report of the standing committee on finance be received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 30-12(1), Funding to Divisional Boards of Education, an extract from the report to the Legislative Assembly of the NWT on other matters for the year ended March 31, 1990.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 31-12(1), an article in the Yukon News, Wednesday, December 11, 1991, entitled "14 First Nations accept final agreement." I also wish to table Tabled Document 32-12(1), Joint Draft November 27, 1991, Self-Government Agreement between the First Nation, the Government of Canada and the Yukon Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to table Tabled Document 33-12(1), a unanimous motion passed at the 21st Dene National Assembly with regard to the principle that alcohol and drug workers should practise sobriety.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 34-12(1), Annual Report 1990-91, Status of Women Council of the NWT, for the year ending March 31, 1991.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, pursuant to section 32, subsection (3) of the Financial Administration Act, Tabled Document 35-12(1), a list of funds transferred exceeding \$250,000 for the period February 14, 1991 to December 10, 1991. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 36-12(1), Terms of Reference, Review of

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Petroleum Delivery Contract Awards.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motions.

Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Mr. Zoe, I understood that you have withdrawn your motion.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Ministers' Statement 2-12(1), Living Within Our Means; Ministers' Statement 5-12(1), Community Transfer Initiative; Tabled Document 3-12(1), Strength at Two Levels; Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92; Bill 2, Borrowing Authorization Act; Bill 3, Adoption of the French Version of the Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act; Bill 4, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The committee will come to order. Yesterday, we left off at page 9. There was a motion on the floor. We will take a five minute break since the mover of the motion is not present.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92

Culture And Communications, Capital

The committee will come back to order. We are dealing with Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92. We are on page 9. There was a motion on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Reduce Museums/Heritage By \$25,000, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I need a quorum before voting proceeds. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bell? The committee will come to order. For the record, I will read the motion: I move that the 1991-92 supplementary estimates for the program Culture and Communications under the subject capital and activity museums/heritage, be reduced by \$25,000 to \$15,600. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Museums/Heritage, Total Capital, Agreed

Page 9, Culture and Communications. Capital. Museums/heritage, not previously authorized, \$40,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Culture And Communications, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, \$40,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I would request the committee's permission to bring in Mr. Voytilla, my witness, and permission for myself to move to the witness table, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witness.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman on the right is Mr. Lew Voytilla who is the secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Personnel

Classification, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 10, personnel. Operations and maintenance. Classification, not previously authorized, \$30,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staffing, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Staffing, \$378,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Employee Benefits, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 11, employee benefits, not previously authorized, \$105,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, \$513,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel, Capital

Labour Relations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 13, Personnel, capital.

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Labour relations, special warrants, \$97,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, \$97,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Justice

Legal Aid, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 14, Justice, operations and maintenance. Legal aid, not previously authorized, \$373,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could elaborate on the \$300,000 increase in legal aid

fees. I would like a little more explanation as to why they are requesting \$300,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, this area is driven by demand. The more cases and the more charges, the more people ask for services. At the moment, we are trapped in an agreement with the federal government that caps the federal contribution. This is a cost-shared program. The agreement has been capped at 1989-90 fiscal year levels. This basically reflects the territorial share of the cost of legal aid beyond the cap, Mr. Chairman. It is directly a result of volume. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Legal aid, not previously authorized, \$373,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Registries and Court Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$810,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Justice, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, \$1,183,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety And Public Services

Public Utility Board, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 15, Safety and Public Services, operations and maintenance. Public Utility Board, special warrant for \$52,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$291,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Safety, not previously authorized, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety And Public Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, special warrants for \$52,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, not previously authorized, \$324,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Government Services

Systems And Computer Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 16, Government Services, operations and maintenance, systems and computer services, not previously authorized, \$53,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Supply services, not previously authorized, \$180,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Government Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$233,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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---Agreed

Public Works

Accommodation Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 17, Public Works, operations and maintenance. Accommodation services, not previously authorized, \$186,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, in this department, with regard to the Madonna House, was this not budgeted for in the previous budget in our main estimates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Not at the time that the budget came forward, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Accommodation services, \$186,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Buildings and works, not previously authorized, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Utilities, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 18, utilities, not previously authorized, \$678,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Public Works, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, \$844,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Public Works, Capital

Accommodation Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Public Works, capital, accommodation services, special warrants, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Buildings and works, not previously authorized, \$130,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Public Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$150,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$130,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 20. Transportation, O and M, directorate, special warrants, \$55,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$193,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Highway Transport Board, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Highway transport board, not previously authorized, \$145,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$55,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$338,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Highway Operations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 21. Transportation, capital, highway operations, special warrants, \$530,000. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$149,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Transportation planning, special warrants, \$1,926,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$2,456,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$149,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Renewable Resources

Conservation Education And Resource Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 22. Renewable Resources, O and M, conservation education and resource development, not previously authorized, \$780,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Field operations, \$38,000. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, if I could go back to the outpost camp program and the community harvester's assistance program. It is a one-time funding. Have they already expended this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: If this money is approved, when do they anticipate they will go ahead with this program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Almost immediately, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I assume that the government has a plan as to how they are going to distribute this funding. Is that available?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I do not have that with me at the time, Mr. Chairman, but I would be prepared to make that available to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I think the Minister for Renewable Resources would like to respond.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a little information here that I will read out for the Member's benefit. The issue is to provide one-time funding to enhance the outpost camp program and the community harvester's assistance program. The substantiation is government support to harvesters, and the harvesting economy has been based on recognition that harvesting is an essential social and economic activity in the NWT. By enabling people to continue harvesting, traditional values and practices are reinforced. The government has not yet completed its study on the hunter income support program. The additional \$600,000 demonstrates this government's commitment to the economic and social importance of harvesting in the NWT.

The department proposes to allocate the funding among harvesters through the outpost camp program. The current guidelines for these programs are a bit restrictive. For example, the funds cannot be used at this time to buy snowmobiles or outboard motors or replacement parts. The department intends to revise the guidelines for this program to provide more flexibility to community organizations in determining what activities will be supported and what expenses will be eligible.

Field Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Field operations, not previously authorized, \$38,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Fire Management, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Forest fire management, special warrants, \$4,200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Renewable Resources, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$4,200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$818,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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Municipal And Community Affairs

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 23. Municipal and Community Affairs, O and M, directorate, not previously authorized, \$70,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal Operations And Assessment, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Municipal operations and assessment, not previously authorized, \$172,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport And Recreation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Sport and recreation, special warrants, \$250,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$250,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$242,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 24, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, community works and capital planning, special warrants, \$658,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$46,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$658,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$46,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Health

Supplementary Health Programs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 25. Health, O and M, supplementary health programs, not previously authorized, \$420,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, not previously authorized, \$4,501,600. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I understand that this portion of our money is offset by the federal government. If I am correct, this is the area where we are having problems with the federal government. They are not paying their bills; we are in dispute with them. That is the main reason, I believe, we are in a deficit at this moment. Could I ask the Minister of Finance, how soon are they going to try to resolve this whole dispute? How long do you anticipate it is going to take our government? It has been going on for quite a while, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to get an indication from the government as to when they anticipate getting this issue resolved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: The Member is correct; it is an area where we are having difficulties with the federal government, Mr. Chairman. There has been a communication from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Siddon, to the Government Leader. That was discussed at a strategy meeting last Friday in which the Government Leader, the Minister of Health and myself participated, along with staff, and there will be correspondence going back shortly to Mr. Siddon in that regard, so the issue is coming to a head, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I just want, Mr. Chairman, to reinforce what Mr. Zoe said. While on paper, for the benefit of all Members, it indicates an offset estimate of \$2,448,000, in fact some of that money could end up being a contingent liability and adding to the already \$40 million situation, should the decision come down on the wrong side of the ledger. Am I correct, Mr. Pollard?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Todd is correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$4,501,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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--Agreed

Medical Care Plan, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Medical care plan, not previously authorized, \$2,468,000. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: For the record, Mr. Chairman, could I ask if this partial offset recovery from the federal government is also under dispute?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is not in dispute at this point, although the federal government has been asking questions about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there uniform billings and rates by physicians across the Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, it is based on a fee schedule that is approved by regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Are there studies under way, or have there been any studies done, to determine the effectiveness of these fee schedules?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I think this issue was raised in the document, "Strength At Two Levels," and I also think that at the present time the Department of Health is, in fact, looking at this whole issue. It is under consideration by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Medical care plan, not previously authorized, \$2,468,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Health, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$7,389,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Health, capital, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, not previously authorized, \$20,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Health, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, not previously authorized, \$20,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Social Services

Family And Children's Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Social Services, O and M, family and children's services, not previously authorized, \$40,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Corrections Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Corrections services, not previously authorized, \$98,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community And Family Support Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Community and family support services, not previously authorized, \$299,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Social Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, not previously authorized, \$437,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Just a question on foster care, which I assume falls under family and children's services. Have there been changes in the type of care for foster children in communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I have no idea, Mr. Chairman. I would have to defer to the Minister of Social Services, if he is ready.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Could I have the question again, please, Mr. Koe?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Have there been any changes in the policies on how you care for foster care children in the communities? Is there a move from government-owned facilities to home care, or the reverse, or what?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I believe the practice is to use homes wherever possible in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: I would like to caution the Minister, then; I think he should look at the situation in Inuvik. I think there has been a reverse trend in that community.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Member for advising me of this matter. I will endeavour to look into the principle that we apply there. Thank you.

Social Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, not previously authorized, \$437,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Energy, Mines And Petroleum Resources

Energy, Mines And Petroleum Resources, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, O and M, special warrants, \$637,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$637,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism

Economic Development Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, O and M, Economic Development Agreement, special warrants, \$2,895,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$637,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$2,895,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$637,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, capital, tourism and parks, special warrants, \$390,000. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, "cost increases sue to design modifications" on the centre, I believe it is in Iqaluit -- why are they making design changes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: There were two design changes. Early on in the project it was decided to make the project into more of a multi-use facility, Mr. Chairman, and also I think the majority of the amount would be attributed to the water and sewer system that this government had to put in because the Town of Iqaluit, for some reason or other, chose not to and yet insisted that it be put in. So those were the two main changes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, this project was partially offset by a five year lapse. Could we get figures? How much of this money is new and how much was lapse money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: There was \$380,000 in prior years, 1990-91, Mr. Chairman, and I specify that that was a lapse of funds and there was a carry over in the 1991-92 supp No. 1 of some \$253,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department. Special warrants. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, what was the overall total then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: The total was \$380,000, Mr. Chairman, \$253,000 from 1991-92, and \$127,000 is the portion in supp no. 2, and that is from 1989-90. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 31, Economic Development and Tourism, capital. Tourism and Parks, special warrants, \$390,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total department, special warrants, \$390,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Education

Advanced Education, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 32, Education. O and M, advanced education, not previously authorized, \$1,313,400. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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Schools, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 33, continuing in education, O and M, schools, special warrants, \$798,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$4,427,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic College, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Page 35, continuing in education, O and M, Arctic College, not previously authorized, \$7000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Education, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$798,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Not previously authorized, \$5,733,400. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Does this conclude the details? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I would like to inform you, Mr. Chairman that when the bill comes before us I would like to make an amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are we ready to go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 1, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 2, supplementary appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 3, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Clause 4, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Clause 5, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Clause 6, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 3, vote 1, schedule. Mr. Minister.

Motion To Amend Bill 1, Vote 1, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would move the following motion, Mr. Chairman: that the schedule to Bill 1 be amended a) by increasing the amounts set out opposite vote 1, item 2 by \$233,000 to \$974,000; b) by increasing the total operation and maintenance by \$233,000 to \$25,175,000; and c) by increasing the total supplementary appropriation by \$233,000 to \$29,179,600, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour, please raise your hands. Down. Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Schedule, vote 1, total O and M now reads \$25,175,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now vote 2, capital. On the capital, total capital is \$4,004,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total supplementary appropriation now is \$29,179,600. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now this bill is ready for third reading as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 2: Borrowing Authorization Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Now we go to Bill 2 in the green book. Borrowing Authorization Act. Mr. Minister, opening remarks.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I would request the committee's permission to change witnesses if I may, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witness.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman with me now is Mr. Eric Nielsen, who is the deputy minister of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister, could you introduce the bill, please?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 2, is a Borrowing Authorization Act. The purpose of this bill is to provide authority to the Commissioner or to the Minister or the Comptroller General acting for the Commissioner, to borrow money up to a limit of \$65 million to ensure that the Consolidated Revenue Fund can meet lawfully authorized disbursements, and to repeal the temporary Borrowing Authorization Act, S.N.W.T. 1990, c.15, and the Borrowing Authorization Act S.N.W.T. 1991, c.36. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any remarks? The honourable Member for Keewatin Central.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few brief comments to make on behalf of the committee with regard to the Borrowing Authorization Act.

The committee has concerns about the manner in which this bill was presented to the committee. The committee received a letter from the Minister of Finance on December 4, 1991, stating his intention of bringing this bill to the committee for consideration prior to this session. The committee reviewed this letter during its meeting on December 5th. Although we were concerned with the very short notice, the committee had several concerns about the intention of this legislation as set out in the letter. In essence, it would have given the government authority to borrow up to the limit the federal government has set for us pursuant to the Northwest Territories Act. This limit increases annually; \$310 million for the current year; \$350 million for 1992-93; \$375 million for 1993-94; and \$400 million for 1994-95. The government has already borrowed \$200 million towards this limit.

The committee has strong objections to granting this authority without further legislative review, so the Minister agreed to withdraw this provision of the bill.

The committee received the bill itself on December 10th. The committee was pleased to see that the Minister sent the bill that would allow the government to borrow a specific amount -- some \$65 million. The Minister informed the committee that this is the amount needed to cover the expected working capital shortfall that the government will have this year. The committee is concerned about this shortfall; however,

we recognize that this is a fiscal situation that the current cabinet and finance Minister inherited and must now deal with.

It is the committee's opinion that borrowing money to pay our way is a frightening trend and is far from ideal. If we continue on this course, we will be in much the same position as governments in the South in the very near future.

Bills requesting further increases to the government's borrowing authority will not be received with much enthusiasm by the committee in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any other remarks? The honourable Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked at the committee level, and I would like to ask here, recognizing that this bill is repealing the Temporary Borrowing Authorization Act, S.N.W.T. 1990, c.15, and the Borrowing Authorization Act, S.N.W.T. 1991, c.36 which basically gave the authority to the Minister of Finance to be able to borrow up to \$10 million. It is my understanding that that authority to borrow \$10 million was to allow for loans to the municipalities in the Northwest Territories. It is further my understanding that these loans were not needed by the municipalities of the Northwest Territories. The Minister of Finance has publicly indicated that the GNWT basically needs \$50 million, and now he is repealing the previous \$10 million and coming in requesting \$65 million. Can he clarify his government's position? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are two acts at the present time. One is the Temporary Borrowing Authorization Act which is \$25 million. It allows us to borrow for purposes of the general fund. The one concerning the loans to municipalities in the amount of \$10 million, only six million dollars or a little over six million dollars that was requested from tax based municipalities, Mr. Chairman. That was somewhat difficult to place, and I know it is going to sound silly saying it is a small amount of money, but when you are borrowing in those areas, it was a small amount of money and did not live up to the full amount which we thought was going to be \$10 million. So it was not used. Instead, that \$6.3 million was taken from the

surplus at that time, Mr. Chairman, and loaned to municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any questions? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is still not answered. Why is the Minister of Finance requesting the amount of \$65 million now?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: To be sure that in the event of some hard times, that we have enough money or the ability to go out and get enough money to cover the day-to-day business of the Government of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chairman. I would point out that even though the government has, at the present time, some \$35 million of borrowing power, to my knowledge, we are not borrowing under that power because we do not need to. So even though we are saying there is a limit of \$65 million under this bill, we certainly do not intend to go out and borrow that money unless we have to. But we would like to know if that money is available to us in the event that it is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would move that we extend the hours so that we can complete the matter at hand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Your motion is in order. It is non-debatable. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am somewhat concerned with respect to the amount the Minister of Finance is asking to borrow. What I am trying to find out is what the total anticipated amount he feels he may need up to the end of the fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Between \$50 to \$55 million, Mr. Chairman, and I would like some contingency as well, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 2. Clause by clause.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 1, borrowing. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 2, limit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 3, powers to fulfill obligations and rights. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 4, delegation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 5, repeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 2 is ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 3. Mr. Patterson.

Bill 3: The Adoption Of The French Version Of Statutes And Statutory Instruments Act

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could move to extend hours to conclude this item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The Member is moving a motion to extend hours to complete Bill 3. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 3. Mr. Patterson.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce the bill to amend the Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act. Mr. Chairman, this bill is designed to reduce the amount of work needed to complete the French version of regulations required under the Official Languages Act which requires that they be printed and published in English and in French by March 31, 1992.

Mr. Chairman, normally a revision readopts all the laws at a specified date. The current revision of regulations will be as of December 31, 1990. However, since that date many regulations have been repealed or repealed and replaced and many more are expected to be repealed or repealed and replaced between now and March 31, 1992. This amendment would permit their exclusion from the revision regulations 1990, thereby considerably reducing the volume of work.

Finally, the reference to the court of appeal rules is no longer required. The court met in Calgary recently and the rules are now signed by all but three judges who are out of the NWT or Alberta. Arrangements have been made to obtain their signatures next week. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 3. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of presenting the report of the standing committee on legislation regarding Bill 3. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee met on December 3, 1991 and considered the proposed bill at that time. The committee was grateful to the Government House Leader, the Hon. John Pollard, and his legislative counsel, for meeting with the standing committee to present the bill and respond to Member's concerns. The standing committee found Bill 3 to be technically sound and noted that it will, in fact, allow the government to meet its obligations for the translation of statutory instruments.

I should note that there were some general comments in the standing committee meeting that dealt with relevant issues pertaining to aboriginal languages. I expect that those comments may be raised during committee of the whole today.

In concluding this afternoon's report, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to advise that the standing committee on legislation agreed that Bill 3 was ready for consideration in committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): To the bill. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to ask for clarification of section 1(2). Does this basically mean that all regulations that are formulated will be both in English and in French by March 31, 1992?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the Official Languages Act does require that regulations be made in English and French and published by March 31, 1992. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give me an idea as to how many regulations not currently published both in English and in French?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Approximately 350, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: By placing this bill, Mr. Chairman, is he anticipating that these 350 regulations be translated in English and in French. How does he anticipate getting this done by the end of March 1992?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: With great difficulty, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Then what is the purpose of placing forth this bill when he knows he cannot meet the needs that the bill is designed for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the bill deals with that problem by exempting certain regulations from the requirement that they be published under the revised consolidated regulations, so it will diminish the work load by exempting certain regulations from that requirement and it will, in effect, reduce the amount of work required, especially the Supreme Court rules, Mr. Chairman. They are voluminous; they constitute one-seventh of all the regulations already in force in the Territories and eliminating them from the consolidation will substantially reduce that task. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the bill, general comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: What regulations does he anticipate will be exempt from this process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Basically, Mr. Chairman, regulations repealed or repealed and replaced since December 31, 1990, along with the Supreme Court rules will be exempt from this act. They will no longer be required if this act is approved to be included in the revised regulations, 1990, thereby considerably reducing the volume of work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I am concerned that I did not get a reply to my question. I asked what regulations will be exempt with respect to this act. If there are over 300 that are supposed to be translated into

English and French that are not done, this act basically indicates that they have to be translated by the end of March, as the Minister stated, I want to know what regulations are going to be exempt from it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the revision which is required to be published in English and French by March 31 covers the regulations as of December 31, 1990. What I am proposing to exempt from this body of regulations is all regulations that have been repealed or replaced since that time, plus the many more which we will expect to be repealed or replaced between now and March 31. They would be excluded from the revised regulations that have to be published by the end of March if these amendments are approved and it would give the department a lot less work to meet that deadline. I hope that explains it clearly enough, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know, you know, I have a problem with all the time in respect to legislation just being passed for the convenience of it being passed. I asked the Minister as to what regulations will be required to be translated into English and French by the end of March. He indicated to me that there are over 300 and that he will have a difficult time making sure that these regulations are translated, but yet as a Legislative Assembly we are asked to put forth this bill and we are asked to vote on it and we know that we cannot meet the requirements of the bill, and I have a problem with that.

So therefore, I want to know, from the Minister what actual regulations have been repealed or replaced?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the committee that I did not say that we could not meet the deadline. I said that it would be difficult, but I did not say

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that we could not meet the deadline. Well I said, "Yes, it would be very difficult." Our hard working staff who are doing translations of regulations and laws are pressed to do the job. Translators in this field are hard to come by.

However, Mr. Chairman, we will be able to do the work if the committee will assist by exempting the flurry of regulations that will be made between now and the end of March and have been made since the end of December 1990. I would be happy to supply the honourable Member with a list of the regulations which have been repealed and replaced since that time. It is quite a sizable list, it covers activities in a number of areas of this government's operations, Mr. Chairman, and I do not have the regulations with me here now, but I would be happy to provide the honourable Member with the list at the first opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Bill 3, general comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, because of the fact that we do not know what actual regulations have been repealed or replaced and because of the fact that we are asked to vote on a bill that is requesting these regulations be translated into English and French, because of the fact that I have a difficult problem with that, I am asking to pass law that we know that we are going to have a difficult time adhering to, and I do not know what areas that it is not going to be applied to, and I have a problem with that.

Motion To Defer Bill 3

So, with that I want to indicate that to the Members and I would like to move, until I get that information from the Minister, that this bill be deferred to the sitting tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister. No, one moment, the motion is on the floor. Motion is on the floor, the motion is in order. To the motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, could I ask for a copy of my motion to be translated, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): No. This is reverse. Could I have a copy of the motion so we can translate it? I am not writing motions for Members in committee. Let us take a five-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the House back to order. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since our break I have taken the time to look at the

regulation and I guess I want to make a point here on my questioning to the Minister in wanting a copy of this list of the regulations. I have received that list, but at the same time he indicated he had over 300 and that would place him in a very difficult position to translate from English to French. For the life of me I cannot understand why he would want to translate from English to French redundant regulations, and that is basically what this bill is asking for. He could have clarified that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I should not have allowed you that particular time because I have not yet ruled whether or not your motion is in order, but understandable. The motion is in order. To the motion. The motion is not debatable. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, since I have the information I will withdraw my motion.

Motion To Defer Bill 3, Withdrawn

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is withdrawn. Bill 3, general comments. Can we go clause by clause. General comments, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Just a couple of comments, Mr. Chairman, before we go into clause by clause. I was the one that raised the issue in committee about official languages and my concern at the time with not having the information was that some time during the year there was an agreement with the federal government on transferring a certain amount of money for language development under the territorial Official Languages Act. My question at the time was, we have a certain amount of money, what was that money being used for and how much. My concern at the time was all of it being channelled into French translation and the work under this bill, and how much of it was being put into aboriginal languages.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Alloofoo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that a question or just a statement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): General comments to Bill 3, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: It was general comments, a statement and a couple of questions, I think.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Alloofoo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far, the agreement that was made between the federal government and the territorial government said that the federal government would give a certain amount of dollars over a period of time for French services. The federal government agreed that they would fund the French program 100 per cent.

In terms of giving moneys to the territorial government for aboriginal languages, the funding was used for existing projects such as the provision of interpretation and translation services at the language bureau and training health and legal interpreters. The increase in funding has been directed toward programs which responded to recommendations made by an evaluation report on aboriginal languages tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 1991. The program included assistance to the Dene standardization project and review of the standard Inuktitut orthographies. Also, there was terminology development. The assistance was given out to broadcast media such as the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation for the production of "Takuginai" and "Ammituqmiut". Also, to the Inuvialuit Communications Society and the Native Communications Society of the Western Arctic.

Assistance was given to centres for teaching and learning. This included curriculum development implementation and the production and publication of material. This is all directed towards aboriginal peoples.

Assistance was given out to Inuit specialist teachers council and the Aboriginal Educators Association as well as the development and delivery of Inuktitut, Dogrib and North Slavey literacy programs. Also for the development of aboriginal computer fonts. My department had to develop computer fonts that dealt with the symbols of the writing system of the aboriginal people as well as to design forms.

There was training for legal and medical interpreters. There was a provision of a two-year diploma program to train aboriginal language speakers as interpreters and translators to be certified. There was development of a language program in day-care and pre-school. Additional funding in the amount

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of \$400,000 was directed toward community-based projects where a community wants to do their own development in the area of language. They were able to request funds from the program.

Also, this program was able to make contributions from the cultural affairs program that was directed towards projects like the revitalization and maintenance of language at the community level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: With all those projects, is there enough money for a Gwich'in tutor for one of the MLAs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): General comments on Bill 3. Clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Bill 3 is ready for third reading. We will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 2-12(1), Ministers' Statement 5-12(1), Tabled Document 3-12(1), Bills 1, 2, and 3, and wishes to report that Bills 2 and 3 are ready for third reading. Bill 1 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe is your seconder of the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 2, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested consent to give third reading to Bill 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Minister; you have consent.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Members of the House. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 1991-92, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Pollard, you asked for consent for Bill 2 and I think that you just gave Bill 1.

Third Reading Of Bill 2: Borrowing Authorization Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: You are indeed correct, Mr. Speaker. I made an error. It is indeed Bill 2, and I would have to read some other statement here. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 2, Borrowing Authorization Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The bill is now in order. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 2 has had third reading. Reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would seek the indulgence of the House again by asking for consent to deal with Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested consent to give third reading to Bill 1. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister; you have consent.

Third Reading Of Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the Members of the House. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for

Amittuq, that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Bill 1 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, could I respectfully seek consent to deal with Bill 3 on third reading today?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested consent to give third reading to Bill 3. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister; you have consent.

Third Reading Of Bill 3: The Adoption Of The French Version Of Statutes And Statutory Instruments Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I would therefore then move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed to the motion? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 3 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

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MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Privilege

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not usually rise on points of privileges, and many people here know how technical, or how I have gained knowledge of the rules, but Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege in many instances is a very serious matter. I want to raise a point of privilege about a remark that was made, maybe privately, but in jest and maybe in jest, but nonetheless, I think, has a bearing on my capacity as

a Member. It was a remark that was uttered by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre to the honourable Member for Keewatin Central. Maybe I was not supposed to hear it, but the remarks were, "All the North American Indians are on a rampage." Mr. Speaker, that remark, in my opinion, causes me great concern. I am an Indian myself, and I think that I have to call into question whether or not I could rise in this House and deal with issues relating to my concerns with the knowledge that anyone could have that view. Maybe it is a misunderstanding and maybe I need clarification, but I think it is important that my misunderstandings and my ability to operate in this House without the knowledge that the underlying tones of such a remark would be made. I am basically trying to deal with it under 32(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. According to Rule 31(3) which states the Speaker may allow such debate as he thinks appropriate in order to satisfy himself -- Mr. Lewis, did you hear the point of privilege? Mr. Lewis, to the point of privilege.

MR. LEWIS: If I may speak to the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You may, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I was in the process of responding to a request from a local newspaper to give my predictions for 1992 and although I take my work seriously, from time to time I do try to produce something which is of a light-hearted nature. I will explain exactly what the comment was that Mr. Nerysoo overheard while I was writing my predictions for 1992.

I did not use those words, Mr. Speaker, and in fact the reporter from the News North has the sheet of paper I put my predictions down on. What I said was, my prediction was, that in 1992 the restaurant which we call Aurorales will see a controversy at which native North American Indians will be involved, plus the Greenpeace group. That was my prediction. And what I said was that perhaps there would be a rampage through that restaurant as native North Americans will protest the fact that we are, in fact, trying to dignify this Seville exposition in a way that native North Americans would not approve of. It was that which Mr. Nerysoo had overheard. And if he had heard the whole thing, he would have approved my statement, because I know his feelings on that issue.

So if I created any kind of offence, I apologize, but what I was doing was echoing my colleague's

sentiments about Seville and Expo, as I have heard them given to me in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, if that were the case then certainly I have no continuing argument. I will not debate the issue. It is a matter that has been explained to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate you, Mr. Nerysoo. There is then no case of privilege before us. The matter is concluded.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I wonder if I could seek the indulgence of the House to go back to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 11, tabling of documents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: There seem to be nays, Mr. Patterson. Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 20, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the special committee on constitutional reform immediately after adjournment. Meetings tomorrow morning: at 8:30 a.m., of the ordinary Members' caucus.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, December 18, 1991.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions

8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motions
13. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions: Motions 40-12(1) and 41-12(1)
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Ministers' Statements 2-12(1) and 5-12(1); Tabled Document 3-12(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills: Bill 4
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT