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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, 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, 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 Wednesday, December 18, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 25-12(1): Cree Books

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to announce that this year the language bureau published two books for learning Cree: "The Cree Language Program Teacher" and "Student Manuals." These books are written for adults learning Cree as a second language. The dialect which the books use is Northern Plains Cree, spoken in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

These books have been distributed to the centres for teaching and learning, the Fort Smith Band, Dene Nation and many other organizations, including Cree groups in the Prairie Provinces. The books are available free of charge to the public.

(Translation) With these books we can support the Cree language. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Grant Re Community Transfer Agreement Discussions

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Government Leader announced that the government

would be providing a grant of \$233,000 to Dene bands to assist them in preparing for the discussions concerning community transfer agreements. I would like to express my full support for the provision of this particular funding. This money will give band councils an opportunity to thoroughly review and discuss the proposed community transfer agreement initiative. The inclusion of band councils in any discussion of a proposal of this kind is essential. As I have stated in this House I have some serious concerns about the whole Beatty report, and in particular, the community transfer agreement initiative that it proposes. I have stated that we need more time to review this report before jumping into it.

I hope to consult with the band councils in my region and in other regions over the next few months on what impact this initiative will have on community and band government, regional government, and the larger constitutional issue of aboriginal self-government in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Grants For Dene Bands

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have now had the opportunity to review the statement made by the Government Leader yesterday regarding grants for Dene bands. I have also had the opportunity to speak with the chiefs from my region, as well as the national chief of the Dene Nation. The general reaction to this initiative is one of cautious support. I would also lend my support to this initiative. It represents the gesture of goodwill on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories and can be a starting point for us to build a better relationship. I believe it shows that the cabinet has taken very seriously the remarks of the chiefs during our meeting in Fort Rae, and I thank them for that.

I am cautious, Mr. Speaker, because I feel that the whole issue is one of a larger constitutional significance dealing with the jurisdiction of the federal government. I would like to make it quite clear that the federal government is not living up to its obligations to my people under the treaties that we signed with them. It is my hope that we have a full discussion of these issues in the committee of the whole during the winter session, with invited representatives of chiefs, as well as the Dene Nation. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bernhardt.

Member's Statement On Attitude Of Civil Servants

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the Legislative Assembly a concern that has bothered me for some time. During my campaign visit to Cambridge Bay I was visiting people door-to-door. On the Saturday afternoon I was stopped on the road by a high-ranking civil servant of this government. He stopped his vehicle and asked me how my campaign was going. I replied, "Better than I expected." He replied, "You mean to say these lunatics are letting you into their homes?"

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is not the prevailing attitude of our senior civil servants, about the people they are paid to serve. I have more incidents of this nature, but I am not about to let these things go because this guy is a senior high-ranking paid official. In my opinion he did not have the right to call the people that I am about to represent, "lunatics." If we are called lunatics, he should have looked in his truck beside him -- you know what I mean.

---Laughter

But before I could reply, he took off.

I must apologize to the House that recently I was a drunk, but I quit hiding in self-pity and I had the courage to change and now look where I am.

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---Applause

Just six months ago I was a drunk in the streets here but then I said to the Lord that I needed strength somehow, and by golly I never thought I would come this far.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt. Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Our Lady Of Fort Providence Church

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to set the record straight on matters concerning Our Lady of Fort Providence, the Catholic Church in my home community. As most Members are aware, our Lady of Fort Providence has sat empty since it was closed in the fall of 1989, and has suffered further decay from weathering.

Mr. Speaker, Members may not be aware of the historic significance of this church in my community. Our Lady of Fort Providence was built by the people of Fort Providence in 1923. For a week's work our parents received wages of about five dollars and gifts of food or clothing from the missionaries. Since the church cannot be reopened until it is proclaimed safe by the Fire Marshal and the building inspector, I have lobbied extremely hard to force this government to provide at least enough money to stabilize the building so it could be used during the Christmas holidays.

During the final weeks of November the government and the Hamlet of Fort Providence signed a contribution agreement which should have allowed for the church to be reopened in time for Christmas. Due to the fiscal restraint however, the government subsequently decided against proceeding with this project.

I have talked with the contractors in Fort Providence and I have been informed there is not enough time to stabilize this church in time for Christmas. I therefore decided not to pursue this issue any further. Instead, I have consulted with the chairman of the finance committee, the Government Leader and the Minister of Culture and Communications, and have expressed my desire to work with them to ensure that the proper restoration plan is put in place.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a brief explanation to the news report that was broadcast this morning. It was announced this morning that Members of this House voted against my motion to divert moneys from the museum for possible use in stabilizing the church in Fort Providence. I would just like to inform the public, Mr. Speaker, that I had planned to withdraw this motion for the reasons I have just stated, but I was unfortunately absent from the chamber when it came time to vote on the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House were aware of my intention to withdraw this motion and had no choice but to vote it down. I think the public should be made aware that the Members of this House were not voting against the Fort Providence church, but were instead voting according to my wishes. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Christmas Period

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to express to the Members who will soon be leaving for the Christmas holidays, best wishes from all of my constituents to their's and to their families and friends. We will not see them until some time in February, but I want to take this opportunity to say to them all that it has been a pleasure and it will continue to be that. I would also like to say special greetings to all of the staff of this government who have made, so far, the work of this House and myself much easier. I wish to express to my dedicated staff seasons greetings and thank you.

I also wanted to remind Members as they head on home to participate in whatever type of Christmas they choose, in whatever they wish to celebrate, not to forget those people that are less fortunate. Out there people are lonely, they are sick, very young, homeless, very old, those that are incarcerated, those that are in hospitals, and all that; not to forget them as well at this time of the year. At least remember them in your thoughts and prayers, I know I will, and wherever possible visit with them, to assist in some small way those that are in need. Merry Christmas.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On "Living Kindness"

HON. JOHN NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the holidays are approaching, we received a book called "Living Kindness" from Jeannie Marie-Jewell. She gave that book to us written by Madeleine Bird and Agnes Sutherland. I would like to say in this House that I am very thankful and also I am pretty sure the people in Nunavut are also thankful about this book. Even though I did not read all of it, I managed to read some of it, and it is very meaningful. To this date any books or magazines that I have read, I find it the best so far. I encourage the other MLAs and the residents of the Northwest Territories to be aware of this book about their lives. This was dedicated to her grandson or grand-daughter, and through this book I am sure she means us well. I wish to take this opportunity to thank honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell on behalf of this House. Can you say thank you to them from us?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Member's statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Member's Statement Of Thanks To Constituents And Staff

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I wish to use this time to thank my constituents for re-electing me again and wish them a Merry Christmas. I would also like to thank the Members here for electing me again to cabinet. I would also like to thank the Nunavut caucus. It seems that in the last couple of weeks we have been meeting a lot, very late at night. They have been very co-operative.

I would also like to thank the staff of the previous departments I had in the last four years, namely the Department of Renewable Resources and the people that helped me to deal with renewable resource issues, as well as the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development staff and Culture and Communications.

I would also like to thank my personal staff that I had within the last four years, especially Anne Todd, my former secretary; Ernie Comerford, my former executive assistant; and also Heather Myers and Marty Brown. I would also like to extend my thanks to my present personal staff, Vivian Squires and John Stephenson who are helping me.

I am very proud to have come this far to represent my people and I will try my best to fulfill the expectations they have of me

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and the Legislative Assembly, as a Minister. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O109-12(1): Re-Advertising Of Job Competitions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this is a response to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 13th, regarding re-advertisement of job competitions. In 1991-92 eight competitions were cancelled and re-advertised. Of the eight, five competitions were cancelled as the only qualified candidates declined job offers, one competition was cancelled due to an irregularity in the screening process and two competitions were cancelled after a decision was made to reclassify the jobs.

Of the two cancelled for classification reasons, the first resulted from an inability to find a qualified applicant in the North. The description was rewritten

to allow qualified Northerners to apply. The second was due to the discovery after the competition was advertised that the job description being used was badly out of date and did not describe what was actually being done. There were no situations identified where reclassification was done to suit a particular applicant.

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

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

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Bernhardt on December 17th. The capital, as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance costs for public housing in the NWT, is cost shared on a 75 per cent CMHC, 25 per cent NWT Housing Corporation basis. In receiving this funding from CMHC, the NWT was expected to follow the principles of the federal public housing rent scale. The federal public housing rent scale stipulates that the rent levied for public housing units should range between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of gross household income. These figures represent the national recognized affordable indicator for what a household should pay to rent a suitable, adequate and affordable home.

If the NWT Housing Corporation designs a rent scale for the assessed rent below 25 per cent of gross household income, CMHC would reduce its contribution to the NWT Housing Corporation to recover any operating losses. I will give the Member a copy, as well.

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

Return To Question O62-12(1): Custom Adoptions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, and it deals with native custom adoptions. Custom adoptions are taking place across the Northwest Territories every day. A native custom adoption occurs whenever the child is given to the adopting parents by the natural parents or grandparents. Sometimes the adopting parents want to submit the custom adoption to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, which requires the completion of documents for the court. Social

workers in the communities and officials in headquarters assist people in the regions by helping to complete these documents.

There is no delay in custom adoption due to the family law review currently under way. My department officials in headquarters advise that they are processing adoptions as they come to the office from the regions. However, once reviewed here, they go to Justice for review and submission to the courts. If there are problems with the documents, staff in Yellowknife headquarters work with the community worker to fix them. Sometimes a worker is very busy in a community with child welfare, social assistance, probation and young offender cases, and cannot process a native custom adoption as quickly as people would like. People do not have to use the social worker and many do not. Many people go to their court worker or legal aid clinic if there is one in their community. I am advised that both these organizations assist and so the delay may be with them. However, all workers and staff in my department have been directed that they are to help people with custom adoption documents and this still takes place in the same way it has for many years.

The family law review will be making recommendations on whether or not to pass laws on custom adoption. The only delay this creates is with respect to reforming the present system. The review process has not resulted in delays by my department or staff processing custom adoptions.

In summary, I can advise the Member that the department is processing adoptions and will continue to help people whenever they are asked.

I have another return if I may, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact I have two more.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O90-12(1): Assistance To Victims Of Violence And Abuse

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I have a return to a question asked by the honourable Member for Inuvik, regarding priorities for assisting abused victims. The Society of Friends Against Family Violence in Inuvik, is working towards the establishment of a shelter for battered women and children for the Inuvik area.

The society has received \$2500 from the victim's assistance program, through the Department of Justice, to develop a proposal for this purpose. To

date, the complete proposal has not been submitted to the Department of Social Services for review. Discussions with the society indicate that a proposal will be submitted requesting funds for the operational costs of a shelter. The department has not been asked to identify a building.

Further, the society has been informed that all funds within the family violence prevention program have been committed for the fiscal year. Should new funds be identified in the new fiscal period, Inuvik would be considered for funding.

Return To Question O84-12(1): Social Assistance Payments Going to Southern Canada

My last return, Mr. Speaker, is to a question asked by the honourable Member for North Slave, and it deals with social assistance payments to persons in southern Canada. Payments are made out of the social assistance program to persons living outside of the Northwest Territories, but they include:

1) Comfort allowance and basic need support to Northwest Territories residents who are living in institutions in the provinces.

2) Assistance to transients who come to the Northwest Territories and who are assessed to be in need. Our policy allows limited assistance for up to three days and transportation costs out, that is south, for these transient individuals who are found to be in need.

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3) The last category is the basic needs assistance for NWT residents who leave the Territories and do not qualify for provincial assistance. Our policy allows those who qualify under such circumstances to receive assistance for up to six months. As an example, a student leaves the NWT for training and qualifies for assistance as an NWT resident.

In 1990-91 the 156 cases assisted out of the Territories included the dependants of recipients. The actual number of individuals was more like 80. The amount expended out of the Territories for any of those three categories was \$27,834. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O33-12(1): Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudlat on December 11, 1991, regarding the Lake Harbour airstrip. On Wednesday, December 11, the Member for Baffin South asked me a question about the improvements to the Lake Harbour airport. In his question, the Member said that the airstrip was short and on uneven ground. He further stated that the airport facility was dangerous.

As the Member knows, the community of Lake Harbour is surrounded by steep mountains and from north to south the 518 metres airstrip, or 1700 feet, slopes down on a 2.23 per cent grade. These conditions do not make the Lake Harbour airstrip a danger to safe air service. Transport Canada, the federal regulatory body, has licensed the airport for day and night visual flight rules operations. If the regulatory authority had doubts about the air safety of the facility, it would have cancelled the licence and closed the airport. For that matter, if I, as the Minister of Transportation, thought the airport was a danger to the people using it, I would not want it to continue in operation.

I understand that the people of Lake Harbour have wanted improvements to their airport for several years. I hope that the Member understands that because Lake Harbour is in mountainous country, the earth work necessary to level the runway and to make it even would be extremely expensive. As the slight slope is not a hazard to air safety, the Department of Transportation has no immediate plans to level it. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few, if I may.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, just them all.

Return To Question O2-12(1): Status Of Family Law Review Committee

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 9, 1991, on the status of the family law review committee. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Marie-Jewell asked about the status of the family law review committee work. To give a brief background, the family law review began in 1989 based on a proposal from a combination of community groups. A working group was appointed with representation from the

major aboriginal organizations, the legal profession, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Departments of Social Services and Justice.

A legal consultant was retained on contract to do research and to write the report on the advice and direction of the members of the working group. When the contractor did not finish the work as expected, the working group met last March and decided to complete it by having individual working group members assume responsibility for writing portions of the report. It was hoped that their work would be finished by now, but this has not proved possible.

The chairperson, who was an employee with the Department of Justice, is now working with the Department of Social Services. She has continued as chairperson and will see the project through to the reporting stage.

It has been the policy of the government to avoid interference with the work of the committee, but to encourage and facilitate its progress. The task they have undertaken is enormous and we are confident that a valuable report will be received.

I understand that the bulk of the work is near completion. When the chairperson receives all the reports she will edit the work and compile it in a recommendation format. It will then have to be distributed to all the working group members. When their comments have been received some revision of the report may be necessary. After that it will be presented to the Minister of Social Services and myself. This will take place over the next few weeks and will be complete before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, today I will be providing further information on the contracts involved in this project in a response to the written question which was asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 9th.

Further Return To Question O32-12(1): Site Of 1994 Arctic Winter Games

This is in response to a question Mr. Gargan asked on December 11th. I undertook to provide the Member with more detail for selecting the host community for the Arctic Winter Games and particular details of the hosting of the 1994 Arctic Winter Games by Slave Lake in northern Alberta.

As I mentioned in my initial reply to the Member's question, the selection of host sites for the Arctic Winter Games is the responsibility of the Arctic Winter

Games Corporation. The corporation is legally registered under the laws of Canada and the United States and has been given the authority by the Government of the NWT, Government of Yukon and the State of Alaska, to direct and guide the development of the games.

The Arctic Winter Games are hosted on cycle, with each participating jurisdiction invited to host the games once in the cycle. The long standing cycle involved the three original participating jurisdictions: Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska.

Northern Alberta became a participating member of the Arctic Winter Games in 1986 and in this fact I was in error the other day in stating Alberta first participated in 1990. With their continued participation, Alberta then became eligible to host a future Arctic Winter Games.

In 1988 the Arctic Winter Games Corporation convened a meeting of Ministers responsible for the Arctic Winter Games and Alaskan senators in Dawson City, Yukon to discuss the future of the games. The political direction given included asking northern Alberta to move to full team size and a request that they host the event in 1996. The 1996 games were offered to northern Alberta to host as it came at the end of the cycle of the three original jurisdictions; NWT 1990, Yukon 1992 and Alaska 1994.

Subsequently northern Alberta agreed to host the Arctic Winter Games in 1994 when Alaska notified the Arctic Winter Games Corporation it would not be able

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to host the 1994 games and requested a change in the cycle to be able to host in 1996.

The actual process to select a host community from a particular jurisdiction is quite formal. Some members may recall the friendly bidding competition between Yellowknife and Hay River for the 1990 Arctic Winter Games.

Three years in advance of a set of games the corporation, working with the government of the host jurisdiction, solicits applications from communities interested in hosting the games. The applications are examined by the board members and if necessary community visits are arranged to review facilities and discuss, with the interested communities, their bids. Approximately two and one-half years before a set of

games, the corporation makes the decision as to which community has won the bid and a public announcement is made.

Early in 1991 the Alberta government, on behalf of the Arctic Winter Games Corporation, asked all municipal jurisdictions north of the 55th parallel, the agreed area from which Alberta would draw athletes, if they were interested in hosting the 1994 games. Interest was received from Peace River, Fort McMurray and Slave Lake. Detailed bid packages were submitted to the corporation in August 1991. The corporation board members visited each community in early September and made a decision to award the games to Slave Lake on September 23, 1991. A contract has been signed with the community and the Alberta government has committed one million dollars over three years to assist with the event.

Although all bids received were of high quality, the community of Slave Lake was by far the most impressive in their understanding of the intent and philosophy of the event, the organization and the financing involved and their desire to host the best games yet. Organization is well under way with preparations for the 1994 games. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: A very complete answer to an oral question, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: We are trying to make sure Mr. Gargan is going to be coming to those games, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question O78-12(1): Increase In Water Rates, Inuvik

This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Koe on December 12th. To respond to the Member's question in brief, the answer is no, no other communities are affected by the proposed rate increase.

Unlike most municipal water/sewage services in the NWT, the Inuvik utilidor system is operated by the NWT Power Corporation on behalf of the GNWT, the federal government and the town. So under the present operating arrangement the Minister of MACA approves water/sewer rates for Inuvik.

Just prior to leaving office, my predecessor, the Hon. Tom Butters, approved a rate increase for private users from 20 cents to 22 cents per litre. This generally equates to an increase from \$50 to \$55 for private residences. This rate is significantly less than

the current economic rate of 52 cents per litre. The object is to bring the rates paid by private residential users in Inuvik into line with the subsidized rates charged in hamlets and the subsidized rates charged in the tax based municipalities of Iqaluit and Norman Wells.

While the proposed rate increase was discussed at a recent meeting of the Inuvik Town Council, the NWT Power Corporation has not yet officially notified residents. Corporation officials have advised the department that the rate increase will come into effect April 1, 1992, and will be advising their consumers accordingly.

Return To Question O46-12(1): Simultaneous Translation In The Courts

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a reply to Mr. Arvaluk's question asked on December 11th. Mr. Arvaluk asked about the use of simultaneous translation in court proceedings.

In court proceedings, where the court does not understand or speak the language of the accused, it is the accused's right to have the assistance of an interpreter. If the accused is the only one in the courtroom who requires an interpreter, she or he is usually provided with simultaneous interpretation, often by an interpreter whispering to him or her. The Official Languages Act was amended in 1990 to allow for simultaneous interpretation for the audience as well, so now portable interpreting equipment is used in many court sittings so the public and other parties can listen to the proceedings in their own language.

As for the interpretation of testimony of witnesses and of any information aimed at jurors, this must be done using consecutive interpretation since the interpreter must have control of the flow of information. The interpreter must be able to stop the speaker to ask for clarification of legal terms, ask for repetition of things that are not heard properly, and must have time to completely and accurately interpret. In simultaneous translation some details may be missed and the order of words may come out of proper sequence since the word order is so different between aboriginal languages and English. All of these considerations make simultaneous interpretation unsuitable for testimony and information aimed at the jury where accuracy and very careful interpretation is critical. It is my understanding that consecutive interpretation is almost always used in courts in Canada for these same reasons.

It is the decision of the judge whether or not interpretation will be provided, and the type of interpretation which will be provided, but they are aware of the issues and I think are in agreement with the emphasis on accuracy rather than on speeding up the trial where accuracy could be sacrificed. Simultaneous interpretation of testimony has only been tried in a few places in the South where there are interpreters who have a long history of experience in legal interpreting and in very specific areas of the law. The Department of Justice has this year funded the first specialized legal interpreter position. Perhaps in the future, when there are interpreters who specialize in law for a long period of time, simultaneous interpretation of testimony will be tried in the Northwest Territories. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloodoo.

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Further Return To Question O129-12(1): Hiring Qualified Teachers

HON. TITUS ALLOODOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on December 16, 1991, regarding the hiring of qualified teachers. All teachers hired for the Northwest Territories must be eligible for a Northwest Territories teaching certificate. The minimum required is the successful completion of two years of teacher training delivered in the Northwest Territories through Arctic College.

All advertisements for teaching positions must meet Department of Personnel standards as well as specific divisional board requirements. It is common practice for boards to require training in specific language methodology known as whole language. This requirement is often referred to as a requirement for a holistic teacher. A recent advertisement for a teacher for the Elizabeth Ward School in Fort Providence required "a holistic teacher able to teach in all subject areas." The advertisement also stated that the applicant was expected to be part of the school team and had to be eligible for a Northwest Territories teaching certificate.

Further Return To Question O99-12(1): Clearing Roads To Trappers' Cabins

I have to a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 13, 1991, regarding clearing of access road, Wood Buffalo National Park.

The Department of Transportation maintains the highway through Wood Buffalo National Park on behalf of the federal government and is reimbursed for the cost of the work. In previous years access roads to trappers' cabins located in Wood Buffalo National Park have also been ploughed when authorized by Parks Canada. Recently, in an attempt to reduce expenditures, Parks Canada has cut back on the amount of ploughing it has requested.

While Parks Canada has reduced the amount of ploughing that it is prepared to approve, the trapper access roads in the park have been ploughed on at least three occasions this year and are considered to be in reasonable condition. The Department of Transportation will maintain contact with Parks Canada and will seek their approval of additional ploughing when conditions require it.

Return To Question O131-12(1): Money Owed To Hay River Reserve Band By Curry Construction

I have one more return, Mr. Speaker, to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on December 16, 1991, with regard to Curry Construction contract for Mackenzie Highway reconstruction. In July 1990 the Department of Transportation awarded a contract to Curry Construction Ltd for the Mackenzie Highway reconstruction from kilometre 84 to kilometre 101. The contract value was \$3.8 million. The scheduled completion date was October 25, 1990.

Curry did not complete the work according to schedule and by the winter of 1990 only 60 per cent of the work was done. Construction resumed slowly in the spring of 1991. The contractor did not meet his revised schedule and it was clear the work was at risk in 1991. On July 12, 1991, the department declared Curry Construction Ltd in default under the contract and directed the bonding company to complete the contract. The bonding company has recently finished the work.

In addition to the problem of late completion, Curry Construction Ltd was also having financial difficulties and was not paying its bills. The bonding company now has the responsibility for the unpaid bills under the contract labour and material bonds and the performance bonds. The company is in the process of verifying claims and will be preparing a payment schedule. Both the department and the bonding company are aware of the outstanding account with Tu Gho Cha for clearing work carried out by the Hay River Dene Band under a subcontract to Curry in 1990. The department of Transportation is working

with the bonding company, Alberta Surety Ltd, to see that creditors who have done work under the contract and who have legitimate claims are paid for their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O154-12(1): Friends Against Family Violence Society Proposal

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. First of all, I would like to thank him for responding to the question on the Friends Against Family Violence Society, but I do not think the Minister's research was done properly because I have with me, Mr. Speaker, a copy of a proposal that was done in August by this society, and I also have a list of the people who this proposal was sent to. On that list is the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Services, the acting superintendent of social services in Inuvik, the Justice Department, Housing Corporation, and we also have a response, Mr. Speaker, from the then Minister of Health, Nellie Cournoyea, thanking the society for their proposal. Mr. Speaker, my question is, when will the department respond to the society in terms of the request that they made.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O154-12(1): Friends Against Family Violence Society Proposal

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard what the Minister has said about my return to the question. I will endeavour to look into the matter further and get back to the Member just as soon as I can on this.

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

MR. KOE: Yes, it surprises me though that in his response he is pretty adamant that a complete proposal has not been submitted to the department, and I will table this later, Mr. Speaker, but I have the complete proposal. Again, the Friends Against Family Violence in Inuvik do wish a response.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure what the question was, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O154-12(1): Friends Against Family Violence Society Proposal

MR. KOE: When will the Minister respond to this proposal?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O154-12(1): Friends Against Family Violence Society Proposal

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

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Question O155-12(1): Moneys Wasted Because Of Petroleum, Oil And Lubricants Program Tendering Process

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that Mr. Anderson's report on the tendering of POL, petroleum, oil and lubricants program contracts has been forwarded to the Government Leader and just as the 11th Assembly's finance committee suspected, the tendering process was badly flawed. In fact, Mr. Anderson's conclusion was that, given a difference process and a modified criteria, the government might have entered into a contract of a lesser magnitude than those that were awarded. My question is to the Minister of Government Services, Hon. John Ningark. Is he able to advise the House how much money has been wasted because these contracts were awarded using a flawed tendering process?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Government Services.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: My department is as concerned as the honourable Member. Only yesterday we had a briefing with Mr. Anderson. There is a review going on within the department. The amount of money spent was not given to me, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the question as notice.

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

Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand upon receiving the Anderson report on the tendering of POL contracts, the government has decided to ask Mr. Anderson to do a follow-up report,

which will include recommendations for improvement of work processes. I believe that should have been included in the original terms of references. My question is to the acting Government Leader. Will he ensure the House that Mr. Anderson's second report will be distributed to all Members so that it can be discussed openly in our constituencies prior to the February 12th sitting of the Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Acting Government Leader, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Anderson's original terms of reference included the review of five communities, with the potential to expand the review if necessary. Which five communities were targeted?

MR. SPEAKER: Acting Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would have to provide that to the Member later.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not take it as notice. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

MR. GARGAN: What criteria was used to identify the five communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Acting Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O156-12(1): Follow-Up Anderson Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would have to get back to the Member on that as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe.

Question O157-12(1): Government's Support Of Inherent Right Of Aboriginal Self-Government

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights. Yesterday the Minister made a statement about inherent right to self-government. Frankly I was a little confused about what this government supports or does not support. To clarify their position, I would like to ask the Minister: Does the GNWT support the recognition of an inherent right of aboriginal self-government in a the Constitution of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O157-12(1): Government's Support Of Inherent Right Of Aboriginal Self-Government

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. The reason the statement was made the way it was yesterday is because we want to get beyond just the rhetoric and statement of principle and show that there is an actual process that we are contemplating to try to have these rights exercised with or without the constitutional entrenchment of that right in the Canadian Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O157-12(1): Government's Support Of Inherent Right Of Aboriginal Self-Government

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated yes to my question. Has the government developed a position paper on what inherent right entails?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

Further Return To Question O157-12(1): Government's Support Of Inherent Right Of Aboriginal Self-Government

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, no we have not. But it would be one of the items that we will be working on. I think the Western Constitutional Commission may have something to say about that as well. Ultimately the constitutional discussions that are taking place across the country may address that for us. I think ourselves we will probably go on the assumption that the right to self-government, whether it is stated to be inherent or not, will happen and as a government any constitutional and political government that we promote at the territorial and community level. We should keep that in mind so we

do not have to start over again, in the event that these changes take place in the Canadian Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

Question O158-12(1): Return To Question On Post-Secondary Student Living Allowances

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the

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Minister of Education. On December 13th I asked him about the post-secondary student living allowance program that is provided by the GNWT and the difference between the DIAND program. I would like to know when he is going to make a response to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education.

Return To Question O158-12(1): Return To Question On Post-Secondary Student Living Allowances

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O158-12(1): Return To Question On Post-Secondary Student Living Allowances

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have already finished with returns to oral questions. Will his response be in written form? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education.

Further Return To Question O158-12(1): Return To Question On Post-Secondary Student Living Allowances

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: If I am allowed to go back to returns to oral questions later on this afternoon, I will make the return as soon as I have the information.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bernhardt.

Question O159-12(1): Re-Evaluation Of Petroleum, Oil And Lubricants Program Contracts

MR. BERNHARDT: I have a question for the Minister responsible for petroleum products. I understand there is now a freeze on all new 1992-93 contract

awards for petroleum delivery. Will the Minister also support a complete re-evaluation and renegotiation of contract awards announced on July 15, 1991?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Government Services.

Return To Question O159-12(1): Re-Evaluation Of Petroleum, Oil And Lubricants Program Contracts

HON. JOHN NINGARK: There are still 23 contracts to be awarded for 1992-93 and this will go ahead once the Anderson report has been put through the process. In mid-January the follow-up report will be presented to the cabinet, then I will be in the position to respond to the Member positively.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. A few days ago the Minister indicated a new tripartite consultative process in respect to the Mining Safety Act. What is going to be the cost of this new process?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure I would call it a tripartite process; I think it is primarily industry and labour who will be involved in the proposed mine safety bill committee with a neutral chairperson. The government does not propose to be directly involved in the committee itself.

Mr. Speaker, I am still consulting with industry and labour to get the best people who could continue this important work. I will be meeting tomorrow with representatives of the major unions concerned and I know they have some advice for me on the size of the proposed committee, which could affect the cost. I do not have an estimate of the cost to date, but I have instructed my department to make efforts to pay for that work within their existing resources.

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

Supplementary To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Minister is able to give us an estimated cost that this process might be and how much funding would he anticipate that his department would have to fund from within.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Safety and Public Services.

Further Return To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am a bit vague on this at this point is because I have not yet ascertained whether industry and labour might be willing to contribute to this important process by contributing the cost of their representatives participating on this committee. If that happens, then the cost to government will be confined to supporting a chairperson who is knowledgeable in mining.

I also believe that if we do it properly, consultation with industry and labour will be done by the Chamber of Mines and the Alliance of Mine Workers, recently formed. So it will not be necessary to have, at least initially, an expensive public hearing type of process.

To answer the Member's question, I would estimate that we will need to retain the services of an expert in mining for a period of up to a year, but I am not sure we will have significant other costs. Those costs I am not prepared to guess at the moment, but consultants in the field can probably cost, if they are expert and credible, at least \$500 a day.

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

Supplementary To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated when he was going to take forth this consultive process in respect to the Mining Safety Act, that he would consider looking at an independent chairman who is knowledgeable of mining. Who does he anticipate to appoint as the chairperson?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the process leading up to this

announcement where I had consulted with industry and labour, I had asked them to think about names. I still have not met with them to get their

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response. So at the moment there is no definite word on who would take that position. I am open to suggestions.

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

Supplementary To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, since he indicated that he expects this committee to begin its work in January, I would like to know if he has considered any individual for the chairmanship, recognizing he said he is still looking for someone. I would like to know if there has been an individual that he is considering.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services.

Further Return To Question O160-12(1): Consultative Process On Mining Safety Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, one name has been put forward to me, but I am also awaiting other suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Social Services with regard to custom adoption. The Minister indicated that custom adoption is happening every day in the NWT. Am I correct in assuming that automatically this government recognizes custom adoption if it takes place?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not think that is the direct answer I can give. As I spoke to Members as they were questioning me about this, the custom adoption principle -- I think

custom adoption is recognized by the territorial government, as a government. It is recognized by a lot of people. But I think what I addressed was the paper trail that is required after custom adoption occurs. I do not think there is any concern with the fact custom adoption happens. There are concerns that deal with the legalities of any kind of adoption. There is a registration of individuals that is required. I am certainly familiar with custom adoptions, and I was addressing in the return what I had thought the question had been and it dealt with whether or not there was enough time by the people to help process the paperwork. My answer is that the social workers or the court workers that deal with that do as much as they can while they can. It is not an easy thing to do, it is relatively complicated, and I was addressing that portion of it, not the principle of custom adoption, which is, I think, accepted.

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

Supplementary To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is that presently I know of several cases where custom adoptions did take place but were never accepted by the Department of Social Services. It is on the basis of the Department of Social Services that the courts accept whether or not a custom adoption will be recognized. Am I correct in assuming that although it is principally recognized, that the department screens whether a custom adoption would be recognized or whether it should go through the court system?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, naturally the Department of Social Services is concerned with any adoption that takes place in order to ensure the safety of the children and the safety, in fact, of the adopting parents to see that this is a suitable home for any adopted baby or child. It is not as simple as it used to be when, in the old days, one parent would trust another member of the family to look after the children. We live in a more complicated society today under different conditions than in the old days, and I think the department is, and will continue to be, concerned with any adoption. We are not interfering, the department is not interfering with the adoption

process, but ensuring that all things are done with the safety of the child and the welfare of the child in mind. I think we must maintain that. If it is called screening, then that is what it is called, but it is a method that I approve of.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Second supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: If that is the response the Minister would like to give, then I would think that although custom adoption did take place, and it is happening every day as I will quote the Minister, it is not necessarily recognized, but it will be determined by the department as to whether or not that will be custom adoption, even though it did take place.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the question was. Can I ask the Member to repeat it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, perhaps you can explain the question.

Supplementary To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, what I am suggesting is that custom adoption is happening right now and it is recognized in principle by this government. However, the difficulty is that custom adoption could have taken place and through the process itself the adopting parents could very well be disqualified. If for some reason the department determines that they are not suitable parents then custom adoption does not take place, period. Is that what I am hearing the Minister saying, although custom adoption did take place, if the adopting parents do not qualify for some reason under Social Services criteria, then the custom adoption does not take place?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I am not sure whether or not custom adoption does apply in those situations as the Member is describing, but I do not think that it is automatic simply because a parent decides to give the child to some other persons, that it is automatically custom adoption and will be adopted by the department or this government. I think that we a

have a legal responsibility and a moral responsibility to ensure that some consideration

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is given to the child. I cannot recall in my short time as the Minister any incidents where we have refused a custom adoption, but I think there is a legal process that does take place regardless of whether this is a custom adoption or not. I think there has to be that in order to properly document where children are eventually housed. There are some legalities that must take place, and that is not to say that we do not recognize custom adoption. I believe that we do have a responsibility to ensure that the home is a safe home and that it is a good home for children under the criteria that we use.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Your last supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: I would think the role of the Department of Social Services is in the event that a child is being neglected, then they step in, but any girl or woman that wants to have her child adopted by a relative, a sister, brother or grandparents, realizes that the adopting parents are going to give the best care to these children. I do not know what the difficulty is. I would think the department would accept that the adoption took place and assist the individual through the legal process in order to have the child recognized by the new adopting parents. Other than that, does the department also screen to see how much the adopting parents are making, whether they are suitable parents, or whether they are too old to be adopting children? What would the criteria be for not recognizing custom adoption?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O161-12(1): GNWT Recognition Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I am not sure, and I cannot be specific, as to the circumstances that may prevail that would prevent a custom adoption from taking place, but I think it is imperative that the department continue to monitor custom adoptions. I think that there are situations where, for the public good, something must be said of the adopting circumstances. As far as assisting, I think the workers do assist wherever they are asked to help

through the necessary legal portions of it. But as far as stopping a custom adoption under extreme conditions I think that a worker would be well advised to continue that. But under normal circumstances they do not interfere.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O162-12(1): Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. I was dismayed yesterday to see the response the government provided to the question posed by my honourable colleague for Deh Cho regarding the composition of the Workers' Compensation Board. There are five members of the Workers' Compensation Board all from Yellowknife. Would the Minister advise the House whether this government favours the continuation of a Yellowknife-only Workers' Compensation Board?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Return To Question O162-12(1): Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would not dare say yes to that question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O162-12(1): Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Clearly the Workers' Compensation Board is one of the most highly centralized Yellowknife-based agencies in the NWT. The composition of this board provides indisputable evidence of such. Is the Minister willing to undertake the preparation of a decentralization plan for the administration of and the delivery of services by the Workers' Compensation Board?

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Further Return To Question O162-12(1): Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet well enough briefed on the issues surrounding the Workers' Compensation Board to make a commitment like that today. I would ask the honourable Member to give me the opportunity, which I have not yet really had, partly because of my own schedule and the schedule of the chairman and other key people involved with the Workers' Compensation Board, to sit down and get myself briefed. Mr. Speaker, in doing that briefing I would want to find out where most claims and most business affecting the Workers' Compensation Board originates. I am told that because of medical facilities and because of the proximity of mines and other industrial activities in this region, that that is some justification for the present location of the board. However, I do not want to indicate that I have made up my mind on the question. I would like the chance to review it; to sit down with present members of the WCB and to look very carefully at that important issue before I say here today whether I am going to commit to a decentralization plan or not. I would like the Member to give me a little more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd, your second supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O162-12(1):
Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I am very familiar with the Workers' Compensation Board; I sat on it for eight years and the staff were more interested in going to Calgary than they were in going to Rankin Inlet. I am sure the Minister recalls that last week this House endorsed a recommendation to the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions to freeze all board appointments until after March 31. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board ensure that no further appointments are made, including the reappointment of the chairman of the board, until the issue of regional representation on the board can be adequately addressed?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Further Return To Question O162-12(1):
Composition Of Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I will make that commitment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

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Question O163-12(1): Term Of Deputy Minister Of Public Works

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. On November 25 the government's press secretary announced that Mr. Bob Doherty has entered into a contract with the Department of Public Works as a deputy minister. Can the Minister advise us as to the term of this contract?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Public Works.

Return To Question O163-12(1): Term Of Deputy Minister Of Public Works

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will.

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

Supplementary To Question O163-12(1): Term Of Deputy Minister Of Public Works

MR. KOE: I understand that Mr. Doherty had earlier left the employment of this government and had left the NWT to pursue some private sector interests in southern Canada. Can the Minister advise us as to the status of his current contract in relation to those private sector interests?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Public Works.

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to get as much information as I can for the Member. I probably will not give it to you publicly in this House. I will have to talk to the Government Leader. I believe it is her responsibility. So I will take it as notice for now.

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

Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on some of the questions that my honourable colleague has been addressing to the Minister of Social Services with respect to custom adoption. In listening to the response, and maybe I am not listening properly, but I would like to ask the

Minister of Social Services, does he understand fully, actually what custom adoption is?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only offer an opinion on the question. Yes.

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

Supplementary To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Would he explain to this House, for the benefit of Members in this House, exactly what custom adoption is?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, when I was a young child I was given over to my grandparents to be looked after. They looked after me for many years. I understand that in the old days a parent not wishing to, or not able to look after a child of their own, their biological child, could, under custom within that group of people, give that responsibility over to someone else of their choosing; someone within the family. As I said with myself, my grandparents looked after me. It did not have to go through any legal process because there was no legal process at the time. I understand that it usually was done in consultation with the family and it was the choice of the family to accept. It was the choice of an individual to pass that child on, for a number of reasons; either for some tradition, necessity most often. Most often it was a desirable situation. It was good for the child and I think everybody had the child's safety and well-being in mind.

I do not believe things have changed too much today. The law has required individuals to do certain things to meet certain criteria now to meet the changing times. I do not think the principle of custom adoption has been eroded. I think it has been enhanced with certain Supreme Court judgments of some time ago. I think Sissons and Morrow would be some references that I may use.

I think that our society has complicated things a bit and I think that is what I was trying to deal with when the honourable Member asked me a question earlier on. I do not think the principle of custom adoption -- it is certainly not my intention to change that. I only want to emphasize that I think times have changed and customs, although they may be desired, must tolerate in some instances the changing times and requirements. That is briefly my understanding of it.

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

Supplementary To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the Minister still upholds that respect to native traditions of the native people of the NWT wanting to practise custom adoption.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, yes I do. I uphold and support native people taking these matters into their own hands, but from a department point of view, we still must be involved in some minute way to ensure the safety and well-being of children. Again, to assure the Members that are concerned that the principle of custom adoption is being upheld, it is just the matter of dealing with the legalities, the formalities that are required by our society today. I think the principle of it is being upheld by the department, the principle of it is being upheld by myself.

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

Supplementary To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that the Minister has a concern with

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respect to the departmental concerns and recognizing now that he states that he still does respect and uphold the tradition of native people in the NWT to allow custom adoptions to be done accordingly, will the Minister give a commitment to this House to ensure that he and his department makes every effort

to respect that tradition for custom adoption whenever it is requested to take place?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O164-12(1): Minister's Understanding Of Custom Adoption

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O165-12(1): Deputy Minister Of Public Works

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. Several Members in the current Executive, before they became Executive Members, were real advocates of hiring Northerners for senior positions. Can the Minister advise this House why it was necessary to seek a southern contractor who had already decided to leave the North to fill the position of deputy minister in the Department of Public Works?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel.

Return To Question O165-12(1): Deputy Minister Of Public Works

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, it is the prerogative largely of the Government Leader to deal with the deputy ministers and to take the lead in filling these positions. I do not like to talk about individuals by name in the Legislature. I think there is a proper way to deal with issues like this, without personalizing it. I wish the Member would respect that as well.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

Question O166-12(1): Appointment Of Senior Civil Servants

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Personnel. Could he indicate to this House, under the Public Service Act, who appoints senior civil servants?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel.

Return To Question O166-12(1): Appointment Of Senior Civil Servants

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as I recall it is the Government Leader that does that on behalf of the Executive Council for deputy ministers. Other positions are filled through regular job advertisements.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe.

Question O167-12(1): Policy For Hiring Senior Staff

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Personnel. It is very difficult not to personalize issues when dealing with deputy ministers. It has been brought to my attention that there are very few of them. Can the Minister let this House know whether or not it is the policy of the government to hire senior staff through open competitions?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Personnel.

Return To Question O167-12(1): Policy For Hiring Senior Staff

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in most cases the senior management positions are advertised and in some cases they are direct appointments, depending on if there are specific people targeted to fill these positions, where the relevant department would make strong recommendations to make direct appointments. In the case of deputy ministers there is a practice of identifying through cabinet and the Government Leader's office, suitable candidates, and approach them in that manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O168-12(1): Improvement In Health Services

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. I want to know if the delivery of health programs and services has improved since that responsibility has been transferred over to the Government of the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Return To Question O168-12(1): Improvement In Health Services

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a difficult question to answer because I do not have references to what it used to be, but if I could

express an opinion from my own personal observations over the years as a northern resident, it has tremendously improved.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O168-12(1):
Improvement In Health Services

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I disagree with you because I think in the smaller communities, the health situation has deteriorated drastically. I think you should really take a serious look at that. What are you going to do, since you say you have a difficult time answering this, and if you have no references as to how it used to be, how can you find out how it used to be and how it is today?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Further Return To Question O168-12(1):
Improvement In Health Services

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to be meeting with groups as we go along. If there is any particular concern that can be addressed specifically, I think that would be a good way for me to proceed because to say that health services across the whole of the NWT is not good, would not be accurate. Since the transfer from Ottawa, we are more accountable and we have better services in the communities and in the North in general.

There may be specific areas that are not quite up to par and there may be specific instances that may need addressing as we go along. I do not know whether we can work on that. I would certainly like to meet with Members as time allows and issues present themselves to discuss some discrepancies with health services in a community and match them against what we are trying to deliver in those areas. I would entertain that, but that is about all I can say at the moment.

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MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Antoine, your second supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O168-12(1):
Improvement In Health Services

MR. ANTOINE: If it has improved so tremendously, why do the people of Nahanni Butte have to pay their own way to go to the hospital in Fort Nelson in BC to

get medical attention instead of going to the regional centre in Fort Simpson?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the answer to that and perhaps I can take that question as notice and try to ascertain why this situation is allowed to continue or has continued. If the Member will bear with me, I will endeavour to find out what kind of situation prevails in Nahanni Butte and how this can be improved.

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

Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. On Monday, Mr. Speaker, I raised a question with regard to the cash flow problem that the municipality of Rae-Edzo is encountering right now. My question to the Minister is, and he assured me earlier on during the week that they are making every effort to try to solve this particular problem, if it is a priority, what measures or what assistance have they provided to the municipality as of today?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the ground water outflow problem has cost the hamlet about \$46,000, I understand. It comes from two consumers which are the responsibility of Government of the Northwest Territories departments or agencies. I can tell the honourable Member that my department feels that the sources of that ground water, namely those two institutional buildings, should take responsibility for those costs. My department, and my deputy minister, is working actively with his peers responsible in those areas for recovering those costs to assist the hamlet. As of today, I have no cheque to offer the Member or the hamlet, but I can assure him that I am aware that the hamlet is facing cash flow problems and I have conveyed the urgency to my deputy. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my supplementary, could I seek unanimous consent to extend question period?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period is extended. Proceed, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem for the municipality. It is a financial problem and the department has the responsibility. We know where the problem is and it is from the two sources that he indicated earlier. The problem to date is that they are having cash flow problems, there is no money in the bank to pay their accounts payable and they are about three months behind in payments. The contractors and the people that they rent space from have not been paid for the last three months, and so forth. The problem has a ripple effect throughout the whole community, and the municipality has gone to MACA to see if they can assist them financially. My question to the Minister is, are they going to do that before the end of this month?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Further Return To Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I should correct myself. I said \$46,000, it is \$46,000 a month that this problem is costing. As I understand it, the accumulated cost now, due to that problem and other problems, is in the order of \$160,000. Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I have told the Member. It is a priority to find a solution. We are not going to stand by and see the hamlet bankrupted by this problem, and one way or another I can assure the honourable Member that I am committed to finding a solution, and certainly before the end of this month is a reasonable deadline which I can accept. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, this problem is so serious that they are barely making payroll, so I would ask the

Minister to consider -- I know I indicated the end of the month but preferably before Christmas if possible because all the contractors and all the people that are affected have not been paid for the last three months. Would the Minister take that into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O169-12(1): Rae-Edzo Cash Flow Difficulties

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, certainly, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O170-12(1): Review Original Health Transfer Agreement

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Given the current fiscal situation with respect to health where we have a significant, close to 40 million dollars, dispute with the federal government, would the Minister be prepared to review the original agreement which was negotiated between the feds and the territorial government and advise this House if this agreement was a good deal or a bad deal?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health.

Return To Question O170-12(1): Review Original Health Transfer Agreement

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I will have to track down and see what the original agreement was, but I understand that there have been several agreements dealing with the subject of health. Specifically to the question, I will undertake that, yes.

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

Question O171-12(1): Tax Exemption Request, Salt River Reserve

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I recognize that he is not in the House today because of other commitments that need to be attended to. Therefore, I would like to direct my question to the Acting Government Leader and hope that he would bring this to the attention of the Minister of Finance. My question, Mr. Speaker, is that in Fort Smith I have

a constituent that has been asking the Department of Finance for some time, for an exemption to the tax on fuel to be served on the Salt River Reserve. They have yet to have a reply. Would the acting Government Leader request the Minister of Finance to give a reply to that request?

MR. SPEAKER: Acting Government Leader.

Return To Question O171-12(1): Tax Exemption Request, Salt River Reserve

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I will do that.

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

Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. In respect to the reply to the oral question he made today, he indicated that the Department of Transportation ploughs these access roads that are used by trappers when they are authorized by Parks Canada. Is not the highway portion of the road through Wood Buffalo National Park continually maintained by the GNWT for Parks Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

Return To Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am told that the responsibility of clearing roads is the responsibility of the federal government, Parks Canada. We use our equipment to clear the roads and we get the funds from the federal government. I am not sure if the roads are continually cleared. I do not know if that is the regular program of Parks Canada.

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

Supplementary To Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can let the Minister know that is one of the main functions of his department in Fort Smith, to clear the roads through Wood Buffalo National Park, particularly Highway No. 5.

Supplementary, in his reply he indicated that these access roads to trappers' cabins have been ploughed

on at least three occasions this year and are considered to be in reasonable condition. I know that it has snowed more than three times and sometimes it has drifted a lot more than three times. What does he determine to be "in reasonable condition?"

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

Further Return To Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what that means but I will endeavour to ask Parks Canada to see if we can get resources to plough the roads.

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

Supplementary To Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to indicate to the Minister that it is not Parks Canada that we have to ask for the resources to clear the roads, it is part of the responsibility of the Department of Transportation that they clear these roads with an agreement with Parks Canada on a charge-back agreement. That is the arrangement made. I would like to know if the Minister would be able to give me assurance, coming into the winter for these trappers, that their access roads can get ploughed without myself having to call his department whenever they are needed?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

Further Return To Question O172-12(1): Highway Maintenance In Fort Smith Area

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take the Members' advice and see if we can keep the roads ploughed enough for the trappers to go through.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O173-12(1): Lake Harbour Airport

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. I realize he provided me with an answer but I would like to add to my earlier question concerning the safety of the airstrip. However this has been a concern even prior to my becoming an MLA. I wonder if I will receive a more positive response in the future? Has

there been anything put into the capital plans to provide for upgrading of the airstrip in Lake Harbour?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

Return To Question O173-12(1): Lake Harbour Airport

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government, during our negotiations in transferring airports to the territorial government, agreed to provide a specified amount of moneys and responsibilities. There are certain communities without airstrips and they have to be prioritized, due to the limited funding we have received for airport maintenance.

In response to Lake Harbour, the federal government's Department of Transportation has issued a licence to regulate and operate the airstrip. To date we have not finalized the arrangements as to exactly when the upgrading of the airstrip will be done in Lake Harbour.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk): Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question O174-12(1): Estate Settlement Held Up For Five Years

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice, probably in relation with the Minister of Economic Development who is not here at this time. I have a family in my constituency in which a person died about five years ago and the estate is tied up with the

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public trustee for that length of time. Is it common practice for the public trustee to tie up an estate for this length of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have grown smaller.

---Laughter

And wiser.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The decision is not debatable. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O174-12(1): Estate Settlement Held Up For Five Years

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer to the Member's question is no, it is not at all usual to have such a length of time on an estate in the office for which I am responsible for. Right now there are about 576 files being handled by that office. About 40 per cent of those are from Inuit estates and steps are being taken through computerization to improve the turnaround time. So I can only assume this is an exceptional situation he describes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O175-12(1): Financial Difficulties Of Inuit Cultural Institute

MR. TODD: My question is to the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications. It is my understanding that the Inuit Cultural Institute is having some financial difficulties and that the institute has provided the Minister with a full explanation of their current fiscal situation. Given that the contribution agreement between the Inuit Cultural Institute and the GNWT has never been fully realized by either party, and that this lack of resolve is jeopardizing much needed cultural and educational programs, will the Minister take steps to resolve this issue quickly?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Culture and Communications.

Return To Question O175-12(1): Financial Difficulties Of Inuit Cultural Institute

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W15-12(1): Department Of Public Works Contracts

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Public Works review the following matter and inform this House as to whether contracts are being made available to competitive northern businesses for the production or reproduction of blueprints or such similar documents as may be required for housing projects, community infrastructure or facilities where such work is, or can be done in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo, with your second written question.

Question W16-12(1): Construction Of Winter Road, Aklavik To Fort McPherson

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Transportation consider providing the necessary resources which could see the construction of a winter road between Aklavik and Fort McPherson?

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W2-12(1), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Renewable Resources, concerning the Department of Renewable Resources community funding; return to Question W5-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, concerning funding to the Native Women's Association; return to Question W9-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Personnel, concerning affirmative action hiring record of the Workers' Compensation Board.

W2-12(1): Renewable Resources Funding To Communities

Hon. John Ningark's return to Question W2-12(1), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 11, 1991: I have provided Mrs. Marie-Jewell with a breakdown of how much funding was provided in 1991-92 to each community through several grant and contribution programs administered by the Department of Renewable Resources. The programs included the local wildlife committee, (administration), community harvester assistance program, outpost camp and organized community hunts.

I have also provided the Member with a copy of the Renewable Resources Grant and Contribution Policy. It contains more detail on the types of grants an organization may apply for and the funding formula for each grant.

The total amount of funding received by an organization depends on the number of programs it applies for and the departmental budget for a program.

W5-12(1): Funding To Native Women's Association

Hon. John Ningark's return to Question W5-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on December 11, 1991: The Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories received \$175,000 in core grant funding for the 1991-92 fiscal year. This funding provides the association with support to maintain the offices and conduct the business of the association. The Government of the Northwest Territories does not provide funding to administer programs or services at the community level.

In considering the current financial situation faced by the association, cabinet approved on December 17, 1991, additional support of \$27,276 per annum in the form of a subsidized lease. This decision and action will assist the association to consolidate its classroom and office operations. This action ensures that the association has a base of operations during the next three months. The association's request for additional funding will be addressed by cabinet in early January, 1991.

W9-12(1): Affirmative Action Hiring Record of Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Stephen Kakwi's return to Question W9-12(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on December 16, 1991: The Workers' Compensation Board has six aboriginal employees as of September, 1991. They represent 14 per cent of the employees working for the board.

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No aboriginal employees hold management positions with the board at this time.

No historical data is available regarding the number of aboriginal people working with the Workers' Compensation Board since December, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Patterson's Reply

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard my honourable colleague call for a five minute break, Mr. Speaker. I hope he is anxious to hear my reply.

TFN Claim

Mr. Speaker, I do wish to take this opportunity today to congratulate the hard-working board and executive

and negotiators of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut on their accomplishment this past weekend in initialling the final agreement on the Inuit land claim in Nunavut. This had involved a tremendous amount of work over the years. I can remember, since I had just arrived in the North, when James Arvaluk was president of ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, when the first Nunavut proposal was presented to the government of Trudeau. That was almost 20 years ago now. There had been a tremendous amount of work and effort and personal sacrifice, sometimes at personal cost to people who worked on that claim. I am delighted that another major step has been taken.

I was privileged to be present at the final negotiations and also I happened to be privileged to be present at the final negotiations for the agreement in principle.

Mr. Speaker, the praises are not often given to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs or his staff, especially publicly. But I do want to note the obvious personal commitment on the part of the Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Tom Siddon, and his key staff, Mr. Rick Van Loon, Mr. Barry Dewar and Ian Potter and others who have been working on the claim. It is very obvious that they have a great deal of good will towards the Inuit. Mr. Siddon expressed that when he went to Igloolik for the signing of the agreement in principle and built and slept in an igloo in minus 20 degree temperatures. So I would like to acknowledge that commitment and that success.

I would also like to observe that there were hard negotiations on complex matters of interest and the payment schedule, resulting in significant commitments on the part of the federal government on interest which will produce total cumulative payments of over one billion dollars over the course of the implementation of the claim. That also attests to the skill and persistence of the Inuit negotiators. I think they secured quite a favourable arrangement on interest and the payment schedule as a result of their hard work.

I also want to echo the comments made by the chairman of the Nunavut caucus that it is notable, and we have had the privilege of being in this House before, it is notable that the new Members from Nunavut are all very keenly interested in and concerned about this land claim, making it work, providing constructive criticism to make sure that it is a success, to make changes if necessary, and they are also intensely interested in political development in Nunavut.

I am pleased that as a result of this keen interest and commitment to the land claim and political development, that I believe we have developed a new and stronger working relationship with the TFN, with their executive, a better relationship than has occurred in the past. I think that augurs well for the difficult and challenging steps we have ahead of us.

Land claims and political development are so closely related in this claim that it is vital that representatives of the public government in this House, and the TFN who represent the Inuit, work very closely together. In this regard, I think the January leadership meeting that has been organized at the initiative of the Nunavut caucus will be taking place at a very critical moment in time. It is going to be a very important meeting and I think a very good opportunity for us to ensure a close working relationship with the elected representatives of our people in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I noted, as I mentioned earlier, that there were people who were very quick to dump on this claim. I think one thing I have observed about the North is that we can always count on at least some people to come forward in a negative way when there is good news. I want to say that, of course, the opinions of Mr. Ovide Mercredi and Mr. Bill Erasmus are important, but I would also ask that they show some respect for the fact that this claim was negotiated by very capable and hard-working Inuit. Others have not hesitated to be critical of this claim. I am not sure if they would welcome other people telling them what is good for them, and so I would ask those who may have opinions about this claim that it is a matter for the Inuit. It will be accepted or rejected by the Inuit, they will make this very important decision on the claim they negotiated and I think we can have trust in their good sense to do what is best for their people. I would also note that, unlike the Dene/Metis comprehensive claim, whose leaders rejected the claim and withdrew it, this one will be put to the people for ratification.

I also want to say about the boundary, Mr. Speaker, boundaries are never easy to settle. In order to come up with an agreement on a boundary in dispute, give and take is required on both sides. I want to note that the land claims boundary had been settled, we thought, back in 1985 between the Dene and Inuit. When Mr. Kakfwi was the leader of the Dene Nation, Mr. Bob Overvold was the chief negotiator, elders from Inuit and Dene communities concerned met amongst themselves and an agreement was reached. The leaders of the day on both sides had the courage to make a decision and each give a little, which is

necessary to achieve agreement. That agreement became questioned by persons who were not involved in the hard work leading up to its achievement. Since then Mr. Parker, who I think had the respect of all parties for his fairness and objectivity and knowledge of the area, did further work in his usual conscientious fashion, which resulted in further concessions

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being made to the Dene.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we will never be able to satisfy Mr. Erasmus unless Baffin Island became part of the Dene land claim, but I think we should take a look at the areas in dispute when we criticize this land claims boundary. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that people do not live in the area of the boundary year-round. We are talking about areas that are primarily used for hunting, trapping and traditional activities. As I understand it, it has been agreed that there will be respect on both sides for traditional hunting and trapping activities. I think that is what should be important to Mr. Erasmus and his members. I would think that being able to continue to use the land for traditional purposes should be more important to hunters who share this area than who owns what.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to judge a claim in terms of whether it is good or bad, or whether it is adequate. People are always going to say that there could have been more, but I believe that with a land claim, if we look at the history of the Inuvialuit, the James Bay Cree and Inuit, I think we can learn that a lot of the success of a claim depends on what is made of it, what is done with the land, the money and the management tools that are given to people as a result of a claim. I think we will only be able to judge the success of this claim long after it has been implemented. Only then will we be able to say that it was a good claim, it was adequate, Inuit have strengthened themselves and profited from the opportunities the claim gave them. I think that if we continue to have the emphasis that has been placed by our M.P., by the TFN negotiations and by MLAs in this Assembly on education to ensure that our people are skilled, are competent and are making the decisions, that we are working closely together with the Nunavut caucus and the TFN to make this thing work, that we will best be able to capitalize on the opportunity that it presents.

Constituency Matters

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn briefly to some constituency matters. I do want to say to my constituents with this first real opportunity I have had how grateful I am for the chance to work for them and with them for the fourth term. I would also like to congratulate Charlie Ruttan and the new council that were elected in Iqaluit in a lively election campaign in October, and I would also like to extend thanks to Mr. Morin and Mr. Ningark and Ms. Cournoyea, along with, of course, Mr. Allooook and MLAs Kenoayoak Pudlat, Becky Mike and Ludy Pudluk who came to the Baffin Regional Council shortly before this session began. Every time I look at Don Morin these days, who is suffering from some back injuries, I feel a little bit guilty about that trip to Iqaluit because I had something to do with those injuries, Mr. Speaker. While I was taking Mr. Morin in the short time that was available to us before we went to the BRC to visit some homeless families who were living, and are living, on the beach in some very primitive conditions, I mistook a snowbank for a road somehow, the vehicle became stuck and it was while Mr. Morin was helping push that vehicle out of the snow bank that he developed his condition. I can only say I hope he will still be willing to come back to Iqaluit. I hope his back condition improves and I am grateful that he took the trouble to see for himself those three families in particular who have small children who are living in little better than construction crates in Arctic temperatures and winds on the beach in my constituency.

Housing

Mr. Speaker, this problem is only partly a result of housing shortages in Iqaluit. The real source of this problem is rental arrears. It is a problem for Mr. Morin because the corporation has firm policies about not assisting people with housing who have delinquent arrears. All of these constituents of mine are working at carving or in a local hotel, so in fact they are not all eligible for social assistance. They are willing to contribute toward these arrears but they cannot afford to pay the total arrears at once. Mayor Ruttan and his council are committed to getting these people off the beach and so am I. It looks like it is going to take some ingenuity to solve this problem and I will be working with Mr. Whitford and his department and the town to see if there is some way in which we can get these people out of these very trying conditions as soon as possible.

Social Problems

I want to also say that I am pleased Mr. Whitford has agreed to come to my constituency in the new year. There are many issues there in need of his attention. I am happy that he will have the opportunity to visit Tuvvik and hopefully meet with the board to see this very important program which exists in a community which is unfortunately beset by alcohol and drug problems. Tuvvik runs a drop-in centre for youth and homeless people in the evenings. It established the first program for batterers in the NWT, it provides important counselling for people with alcohol and drug and other problems and does enjoy a lot of local support. Right now employee morale is suffering. There has not only been no increase but in fact reductions in wages. The program has been beset by continual funding crises and threats, the most recent of which has been just last week and I do hope that by a personal visit and meeting with the people active in this program that the future can be sorted out so they can get on with their important work. I do hope that the controversy over the so-called abstinence clause can be dealt with when Mr. Whitford visits.

I would also like him to take a look at the homeless shelter in Iqaluit. I think we are very privileged that we do have such a facility. It is operating with the generous support from the Town of Iqaluit, from private citizens and with help also from the Housing Corporation and the Department of Social Services. The present formula for supporting this shelter needs to be clarified and perhaps reviewed. The shelter has had to close twice this fall due to funding problems and uncertainties. The Town of Iqaluit has stepped in and assisted them to revive, but they are in need of some attention. I do want to assure the Minister that the shelter is definitely of critical importance for an average of eight or 10 or 12 people each night. They are real homeless people. If we were not giving them the stability and certainty of a place to sleep each night, then they would likely be in expensive institutions like hospitals or even jails or a burden on families that are already in overcrowded and socially-tense conditions.

I would also like to review with Mr. Whitford when he comes to my constituency, the work which has been done over many years now, at least five years, toward an alcohol and drug treatment centre for the Eastern Arctic, just as Hay River and Yellowknife have developed plans to treat residents of their regions in treatment facilities in the North. So Baffin Region residents would like to see treatment occurring for people with alcohol and drug problems in the North, in a centre that can operate in Inuktitut, that can more

easily provide cultural relevance, involve families and provide follow-up support. It would also allow jobs and training of Northerners. I think it is no longer acceptable to send people to alien environments in Toronto or Alberta or even Yellowknife for treatment. It is very expensive and I am not sure it is as effective as it might be, notwithstanding the best efforts of people working in those facilities.

I would also like to talk to the Minister of Social Services in Iqaluit about some ideas I have for reviving a very successful

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and effective camp for Baffin young offenders which had operated on the land at Mingutuq some 80 miles from Iqaluit. I believe that wherever possible we should try to find alternatives to institutions for young offenders. Institutions, although they may be necessary in some cases, are very costly and inevitably, despite best efforts of staff, I think they are depersonalizing. Young people on the land live a healthy active life and have an opportunity to gain pride and self-respect, learning hunting and survival skills on the land. I also believe that such a program can be even more cost-effective than running 24-hour institutions.

Those are just some of the issues of concern to my constituents, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I have given Mr. Whitford a weeks worth of work instead of a couple of days worth of work. But I do look forward to working with him on solutions to some of these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I held a public meeting before the session as is my wont and I got some very good advice from elders in my constituency at that meeting about problems and challenges relating to the justice system. I do not want to elaborate in details today, but I would like to note that Inuit in Iqaluit have ideas about making the justice system more relevant to Inuit and young people. They want to participate, they want to become involved, they want to take more responsibility for dealing with problems, especially those that involve youth and I think that this concern and advice is welcome to me as I assume this new portfolio. I am looking forward to working with those elders and other elders in the NWT to see if we can take better advantage of the wisdom and strength and experience that they can offer to the government and the system for administration of justice in looking after some of our problems.

I want to say that I am very happy to have been given such interesting and important responsibilities as I have been given by the Government Leader following being chosen for cabinet by Members of this House. I will not forget how I got here on this side. I will look forward to working closely with all MLAs. I know it is not going to be easy for any of us in times of restraint, but I will do my best and I do believe that most Members do understand that it is getting increasingly difficult to say yes to every request; that we are going to have to set priorities and goals over four years in order to meet the demands and needs of our constituents.

Job Of Government Leader

I also just want to say, since my tenure as Government Leader was described very graphically by an honourable Member this time yesterday, that I am very happy to no longer be the Government Leader. I feel good about my term. It was a privilege to have had that job and I think a few things were accomplished. But I certainly felt that it was time for a change and for a new style and I want to indicate again my support for the Government Leader. I perhaps understand better than most what a difficult task she has. I am sure Mr. Nerysoo understands as well.

If any honourable Members thought that it was an easy job being Government Leader, I think they should know that it was not, based on the comments made by one of my former colleagues yesterday, the Member for Thebacha. All I want to say about that, Mr. Speaker, is that I do, believe it or not, understand how frustrating it must have been for the honourable Member to have been advised not just by myself that it would be inadvisable to comment while investigations were under way -- no less than two investigations respecting her and her department. I understand that it would have been especially frustrating since all of this took place in that very sensitive and critical period of the run-up, and then the calling of a territorial election.

I am happy that the honourable Member was eventually vindicated of all of the charges that were made. I expected that would happen. I also hope that the honourable Member has, in her usual open fashion, rid herself of the feelings over this unfortunate episode. I do hope that the matter can now be put behind her.

Mr. Speaker, while I would not describe the honourable Member as being tactful or even forgiving,

I would without hesitation say that she is hard working and always honest and open with her thoughts and feelings, and I do respect her for that.

Tribute To Mr. Tom Butters

Mr. Speaker, while on the subject of former cabinet colleagues, I just want to take a minute in closing to acknowledge the contribution of two former cabinet colleagues, and I know Mr. Koe paid tribute to Mr. Butters yesterday. He was the Dean of the 11th Assembly. I had the privilege of working with him for 12 years. He was known and respected for his willingness to travel to communities, to give his time and for his famous attention to detail.

Tribute To Mr. Gordon Wray

Mr. Wray, as well, was a colleague of mine who I want to credit for his deep and personal commitment to economic development. He developed and concluded the transportation and economic strategies, and negotiated a new and improved Economic Development Agreement, all of which I think will stand this House and our government in good stead as we move forward in dealing with these two critical areas.

I also want to say that as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I have come to appreciate the priority Mr. Wray put on developing recreation and sport facilities in all our communities; also his support for the Arctic Winter Games. I think these particular contributions amongst many that Mr. Wray made, should be noted as we begin our new term.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to working with this new Assembly. I have a feeling of energy and optimism coming from honourable Members. I think this Assembly is going to be very hard working. I think so-called ordinary Members -- I do not really like that term -- or non-cabinet Members of the Assembly will keep us on our toes and perhaps as never before, but I hope we will be up to the challenge.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you. I know you can bring your experience on both sides of the House to bear in doing this difficult job which is a critical job in a consensus government aided by Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Mouteritnak and the other capable staff of the Assembly. I want to close by wishing every honourable Member, their families and their constituents a safe and happy holiday, and a good new year. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Replies to Opening Address. Ms. Mike.

Ms. Mike's Reply

MS. MIKE: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I will be speaking in Inuktitut. I rise to speak on a matter of great concern to me. I was shocked yesterday to hear you suggest to a Member that he should deal with constituency concerns at his own leisure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to serve my constituency in this House with all the rights and privileges that it offers. As the rules

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and precedence indicate, I cannot, nor do I wish to challenge the Chair, but I do want to bring to the attention of this House and all the Members that I was not happy with the way in which Mr. Pudlat was dealt with yesterday when he was asking questions.

Mr. Pudlat is a new Member, the same as I am, who has little knowledge of the practices or rules of this House. I must accept your decisions, but I will not accept ad hoc challenges or what I consider cynical remarks which could challenge the privileges of a Member. I am prepared to accept guidance and advice from the Chair, reminders of the rules and appropriate application of the rules. For those who are unaware of what I am referring to, unedited Hansard of Tuesday, December 17, 1991, page 549, Question O139-12(1), asked by Mr. Pudlat. The subsequent answers and interjections clearly point out my concern.

I want others to be aware of my concern, and I want those who are responsible for the management of this House to be aware of my concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Mike. Replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a Petition 3-12(1) from Pelly Bay, pertaining to the access road to the area which is about 12 miles out of Pelly Bay to facilitate hunting, tourism and recreation. Mr. Speaker, it has 60 signatures.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 37-12(1), a document I received from the Friends Against Family Violence Society in Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 38-12(1), the Task Force on Legal Aid in the Northwest Territories, Report to the Legal Services Board, November 1991. The recommendations of the report have been translated. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motions. Notices of motions.

Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 40-12(1): Establishment Of The Special Committee On Health And Social Services

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a motion on the establishment of the special committee on health and social services:

WHEREAS the people of the Northwest Territories should expect and receive services that they may require to support a healthy social and living environment;

AND WHEREAS attitudes, visions and priorities relating to health, social services, housing, victims' service, elders, justice, correction and parole delivery service models need to be reviewed and updated to meet the needs of residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS delivery of these services is not confined to the Departments of Social Services,

Health, Justice and the territorial Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS there has been a need identified at the community level to deliver these services in a holistic manner so as not to destroy the social fabric and cultures of people in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS effective service delivery models need to be developed to achieve the goal of a health social and living environment;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that a special committee on health and social services be established;

AND FURTHER, that the following terms of reference for the special committee on health and social services be adopted.

The special committee on health and social services shall:

a) inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly;

b) inquire into current problems and public concerns about health and social services in the Northwest Territories including, but not limited to, the following: service and program delivery, administrative organization, departmental infrastructure, affirmative action policy implementation plan;

c) present interim reports to the Legislative Assembly from time to time, and a final report by September 30, 1993.

The special committee may, on its own authority:

a) examine all matters that are under the authority of the Departments of Health and Social Services and all legislation, policies and philosophies of the Government of the Northwest Territories in the areas of health and social services;

b) consult with members of the territorial government and its departments, public and interest groups in a manner approved by the committee, including hearings, meetings, oral and written submissions and other appropriate means;

c) recommend changes in existing policy from time to time as deemed necessary. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Executive Council, fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to move the motion to establish the special committee on health and social services. This motion is presented partly in response to concerns raised about social service delivery models and departmental administration, and partly in an effort to go beyond merely solving specific problems in isolation. Residents of the Northwest Territories expect and should receive services that are conducive to promoting a healthy life style physically, mentally and socially. We must attempt to deal with social problems in a holistic manner if we are to provide our constituents with a healthy living and social environment. We must promote interaction between departments in the delivery of all health and social services, and not confine or apportion responsibility to one single department. We must go beyond current models and be forward-thinking in our approach to the growing social problems faced by the people in the Northwest Territories

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today. We have to be creative in our prevention models while ensuring an effective way of dealing with current problems.

To be truly effective, we have to allow communities to fully participate in the decision-making process and allow them to take ownership of programs. What we ought to be delivering to our constituents is a mechanism by which communities can heal themselves through methods that are tailored to their needs, not the needs of the bureaucracy. We need to hear from the elders and youth and all our people in the communities. We need to build a new vision of social service delivery models based on some of the traditions which our people have used to help the needy. We need a northern approach and this can only be built by listening, and I believe much of this listening has never been adhered to before.

We have the ability to deliver these mechanisms. We have a devolution policy developed in 1988 and recently cited by the Government Leader as a way to be more effectual. We must respond now despite the hard economic times. To simply ignore the critical concerns compounds our problems. What will be the cost, ultimately, if we fail to act now? We need functioning, productive, healthy communities to promote economic growth and to maintain the unique

social and cultural fabric of the North. We must afford our communities every advantage to achieve maximum benefits and realize their potentials in this effort.

Here are a few of the issues which the special committee could deal with. Financial controls for social service programs, general administrative and policy deficiencies in the departments, general program deficiencies in the departments, general deficiencies and other aspects of the social safety net which falls outside the specific mandate of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, we also address the reasons for asking you to support the establishment of a special committee rather than some other mechanism. Public inquiries tend to be costly and often are limited in the scope of issues which can be dealt with. I do not believe it will be the appropriate vehicle for generating public comment on general social problems. A ministerial policy or administrative review can be cost-effective and expedient, but generally limits public participation. We do not need advice solely from within departments through advisors. We need advice and input from communities.

A third option would be to utilize various standing committees to review different related matters. The disadvantage of course is that we fractionalize and limit our review of general social problems. A special committee has many advantages and few disadvantages. All aspects of service delivery models can be addressed in totality. A special committee can consider interdepartmental mandates and provide an opportunity to gather support from the public.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments about what I see is the proposed process. This process should not be that costly, not like other special committees that we have had in the past. We can utilize the services of all the MLAs and many of whom have expressed their willingness to participate in this exercise. MLAs can report at open meetings to the special committee or at meetings in their constituencies or regions. We may be able to set up a toll free line and not all committee Members would have to travel, maybe only a couple in each region.

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder to the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Inuvik made very good comments and pointed out mostly the items. I am

very happy to second this motion, mainly because the government in the North is very new, it was established in 1967 when it moved from Ottawa. We have to understand that our government has to be different because of the cultural differences in the North. It has to be different from southern governments. We have created other special committees. We have to listen to the concerns of our constituents and try to solve the problems that exist here in the North. The special committee on health and social services will be very beneficial to our people.

There are a lot of problems today in our communities on social issues. People try to commit suicide amongst other things. I am sure if we hear those concerns from our people we will try to solve the problems. A lot of times we do not have all the answers. Our constituents may have some of the answers. I fully support the motion, even though it may be a lot of work and require travelling, but we have to hear the voices of our constituents.

I know in the future these kinds of committees will not exist. Once the government is settled we can always go back to what we have tried before. I am very happy that this motion came forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking closely at the preamble and at the terms of reference proposed by the honourable Member, I have a lot of questions I would like to ask in a less restrictive environment presented by committee of the whole. I think it is a very important motion and I think it is on an issue of extreme important to all MLAs on which we may all have useful ideas to contribute.

Motion To Refer Motion 40-12(1): To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

I move that this motion be referred to committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a seconder? Mr. Whitford. Your motion is in order. A motion of referral to a committee is non-debatable. All those in favour? For the record, to ensure there is no mistake, we will call a recorded vote. The motion is to refer this motion to committee of the whole. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Patterson, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Koe, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Arvaluk.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Bernhardt, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Pudlat.

MR. SPEAKER: Supporting the motion, 10; opposing the motion, four; abstaining, two. The motion is carried. This

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motion is referred to committee of the whole.

---Carried

Motions. Motion 41-12(1), Establishment of a Tax Reform Commission. Mr. Gargan. He is not here. This motion is stood down.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills.

Speaker's Ruling

Before I call the next item on the agenda, I have had a look at the Hansard from yesterday and I would like to respond to Ms. Mike's comments. Ms. Mike was referring to a comment by the Speaker which followed an exchange of questions and responses between Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Patterson. What I attempted to do is, at the end of that exchange I felt that Mr. Pudlat had not been given the answer that he was looking for. What I was suggesting, because I thought Mr. Pudlat was frustrated by the answer, that it might be appropriate for Mr. Pudlat to approach the Minister and explain the details of the particular question he was asking. He could have then been either satisfied or could have returned later in question period and asked the question.

I was attempting to be helpful. I apologize to Mr. Pudlat if my words caused him any problems. I thank Ms. Mike for bringing it to the attention of the Chair. I would ask Members to recognize that I too am learning this job and in an attempt to be helpful I

probably did not make myself as clearly understood as I should have. So Mr. Pudlat, I am sorry if I caused you any problems. I was attempting to be helpful. And anything I can do in the future to help Members, and any problems with procedures, I am more than happy to do so.

Next item on the agenda is 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"; Motion 40-12(1), Establishment of a Special Committee on Health and Social Services, 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. We have four items to deal with. What does the committee wish to deal with first? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: I would like to deal with the motion on the special committee on health and social services after a break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does committee agree we deal with Motion 40-12(1)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

Motion 40-12(1): Establishment Of The Special Committee On Health And Social Services

This committee will come back to order. There is discussion on the motion. We are dealing with Motion 40-12(1), the establishment of the special committee on health and social services. This committee wanted to deal with the motion in committee of the whole. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was able to spend some time with the mover of the motion with respect to the concerns I had with regard to the motion in totality. I have indicated that I basically support the concept and the intent of the motion, but as I have stated to the mover, I have problems with his discussion on the motion once it was moved and ready for debate. I want to indicate

to this House the types of concerns I have with respect to this motion.

A special committee on health and social services can no doubt be used to assist Members to determine how we can be able to approach the concerns that relate to social services and health in the Territories. I have always said two things that are major stumbling blocks in being able to address social issues accordingly.

First of all, the main concern I want to bring forth to Members' attention is with respect to the social fabric that we have in our societies. We have to ask ourselves what is acceptable in society. What does society allow to be acceptable that we feel may cause social problems? I know that there are many communities in the North that do not look at incest, for example, being a major problem. It has not been until the past four or five years that this government really looked at the problem of child sexual abuse and decided to deal with it. The same with family violence. Ten years ago, people could not even speak of spouses being beaten up. That was something you simply did not talk about because it was not acceptable to society to beat up your wife, but society did not really openly object to it either. As a result, you had these types of social problems hidden away for years. It has not been until the past 10 years that our government has decided to deal with these social issues.

I know that four or five years ago, the Department of Social Services did not even have funding to deal with suicide because of the fact that they knew it was a problem, but they did not realize how bad it was until it started coming to the forefront of this Assembly.

This is where I have stated in caucus that until we can determine what is acceptable to society and what society will accept, that will allow them to determine what type of social problems there are. It is difficult for us as a Legislature to be able to say family violence is a social problem, child abuse is a social problem, child sexual abuse is a social problem and incest is a social problem. It is difficult for us to be able to determine what society wants to be their social problems.

The other fundamental problem is which society is willing to deal with these problems because there are many societies in the North that just do not want to deal with them, period. Even as a Legislative Assembly it was not until last week that we said we will not allow any more liquor to be given at

government functions. It was an acceptable thing to us. That is a social problem. Alcohol is one of the major social problems in our society today. You may feel alcohol is a social problem; let me tell you particularly to Members of the Eastern Arctic, that I am horrified to think of how solvent abuse is going to be a social problem to many of your youth in the years to come. Substance abuse of all forms is going to be a social problem to all youth across the Territories. How are we going to want to deal with this?

The point I want to make is that we can set up a special committee to deal with social problems, but at the same time we have to stress that communities are going to have to want to take hold of these problems and deal with them with the assistance of the government. That they, too, are going to say they do not want incest in their communities any more;

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they do not want family violence in our communities any more; they do not want child sexual abuse in our communities any more. This type of thing is not allowed in our communities. They are going to have to show leadership and want to deal with it. We can set up any type of committee to want to deal with this, but if society does not want to deal with it, there is no point in even trying to address it.

Legislation Inadequate For The North

The other issue that I also wanted to bring up, Mr. Chairman, is our legislation -- particularly with the Department of Social Services because I am more knowledgeable in that area, and I do not know about the legislation with respect to health -- and probably most government legislation this government has accepted, has been legislation that is probably duplicated from the South. Of course it does not meet our needs in the North. That has caused many problems in the North. When you look at the Child Welfare Act, it is so archaic and is causing many of the problems with respect to child welfare. Until we can get the act updated to meet the needs of the North, we are still going to continue to have the problems with respect to children being sent south to homes and their families may not even know where they will be later on. This type of baby shopping from some parts of the Territories is sort of an acceptable thing. I have always said that legislation with respect to our acts to deal with some of our problems has to be looked at.

I know this motion identifies that. For that reason, I certainly support the concept of a committee, but I do not support the concept and the formulation of a committee to go out and see what social problems there are. Twenty-four of us can sit around this room and list all the social problems, and I bet we will come up with the same problems that we have right across the Territories. I do not agree, Mr. Chairman, with the concept of a committee going all over the Territories from community to community like the standing committee on the northern economy or the special committee on education. Our education system is worse now than it used to be. I am almost sure of it. I do not agree with the housing committee that went all over the North.

I think what has to be done is part of the reasons why these are problems and how to address them in being to do program delivery has to be looked at by this committee. I certainly want to make it perfectly clear that there is no doubt that I support the concept of this committee to be developed and formulated and to address these issues, but at the same time I do not appreciate any more funding dollars to be travelling all over the North to find out what the problems are.

The other concern I have, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that when the mover spoke on the motion -- and I had indicated to the mover that I did not appreciate the perception of social services being totally dumped on -- because that was my perception and understanding when he spoke on the motion. I took exception to that. At the same time when we spoke he basically indicated that he would clarify it.

I am concerned with respect to the health transfer, and this is why this committee is to also look at issues of health. I am concerned at the fact that the federal government is trying to shy away from their responsibilities and offload the cost to this government for Inuit and Treaty people, saying that we should absorb the cost of health, and I believe that is probably one of the reasons that we are in a deficit today, because we are basically told that we have to pay for expenses that were given as a right -- and I am going to state that, it was a right, not as a privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Excuse me, Member for Thebacha, your time is up.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for the committee's consent to continue with my general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to state that probably the majority of our deficit is going to be determined on whether or not this offloading from the federal government is going to have to be absorbed by the territorial government. If we have to absorb it, we are going to be quite surprised as to the amount of the deficit we will be in. At the same time, since we have transferred over health, there have been many concerns with respect to regional health boards. They have been wrestling with the government saying, "Who has the responsibility to deliver health?" The regional health boards basically say, "We have the responsibility to deliver health." The Department of Health states, "We give you the money to deliver health, but at the same time you should be able to exercise your authority and responsibility providing you stay within our guidelines." At the same time we are telling them that we want to devolve all this responsibility to the communities, but we put such rigid guidelines on them that it is difficult for them to exercise their authority accordingly. That is a problem that has to be identified with the special committee, the clarity of lines of authority and responsibilities. I think that is one key area, and I indicated that to the mover that that has to be stressed.

I do want to advise Members that it is not my intent to vote against the formulation of a special committee on health and social services. There are major concerns that have to be looked at, and I do not think it is fair that we should expect one Minister to be able to address all those concerns, and I do not think the Minister should look at this as an area of non-confidence in his abilities to do his job. He should welcome it, that we are trying to assist him to be able to do his job a lot easier. With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude my remarks and just basically indicate to this House clarification on some of the concerns that I have had with respect to the mover of the motion, on some of the comments he made particularly with respect to the Department of Social Services and the formulation of this special committee on health and social services. Thank you.

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

Problems With The Terms Of Reference

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the chance to discuss this in committee of the whole. Unfortunately, because of other business in this

session and perhaps my own negligence, I did not have a chance to talk to the honourable Member who moved this motion, and I generally feel that when a major initiative of this kind comes forward -- previous Houses did initiatives on education, on housing and on the special economy -- it is very important for a Member making such an initiative to try to consult fully with all Members to make sure that such an important thrust is supported by everyone and understood by everyone. I am afraid I am going to have to make my criticisms of his motion here in committee of the whole.

I do want to agree with the Member for Thebacha that obviously these are important issues. I just spent my reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address talking about social issues. They are important and we need to pay attention to them, and I do not disagree in principle with the establishment of a committee, but I must say, Mr. Chairman, with the greatest of respect to the honourable Member for Inuvik, this motion and terms of reference look like they have been drafted by a bureaucrat. It is all about service delivery, policy,

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legislation, administrative organization and departmental infrastructure, and I feel that the terms of reference are very narrow.

From reading this motion for the establishment of the committee, it looks to me as if the terms of reference assume that all the solutions to our social and health issues lie within government; that if we tinker with the policy, the establishment, change dotted lines to solid lines and change the organization, that somehow things are going to get better. There is talk in the motion of public consultation. I frankly do not think that very many members of the public are going to comment on issues that seem to be repeated in the terms of reference and in the preamble, which keeps talking about things like service delivery models.

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that these things should not be addressed, nor that they do not need attention, but I find the whole thrust of the motion to be focused on government, on organization and therefore very narrow, and I think I agree with the honourable Member for Thebacha that there are some very fundamental community issues that have to be addressed as well if we are really going to make a difference on these grievous social problems. I agree that we do not need to spend a lot of money finding out what those problems are, but I do believe that in addition to talking about things like

infrastructure, service delivery models and the bureaucratic jargon that is replete in this motion, I think we need to talk about fundamental issues with the public such as the responsibilities of parents, the roles of parents, the roles of communities in looking after themselves, and I do not see that in this motion. To me it is all about policy, legislation, organization, and I find the terms of reference incomplete and for such an important initiative.

I would respectfully suggest to the honourable Member that he take note of the comments made today, take a little more time to solicit support from Members and give us time to talk with our constituents over the holidays. I would very much like to get input from the social agencies in my community and the socially concerned persons, about how they would like to see us tackle problems of addiction, family violence, sexual abuse, that we all know exist. But I think the honourable Member for Inuvik could benefit and make this a more complete, more supported initiative, if he gave us a little more time to have input. So I would be interested in his responses and perhaps he could persuade me that he had these other issues in mind.

I will say again, the thing looks like a government review. It looks like something that could be done by a government department or a management consultant -- the way the terms of reference are drawn. It does not seem to emphasize the human, political, basic, fundamental family problems that we all know about. It is all oriented toward the government reorganizing the government. And that, Mr. Chairman, is not going to be the only solution. It may be part of it, but we have to, as Mrs. Marie-Jewell said, we have to start coping with how we change attitudes in communities, how we get people taking more responsibility for their lives, how we encourage people to discharge their responsibilities as parents.

So I find the terms of reference quite incomplete. They are very important. I hope no honourable Members would say that we should have a committee so we will just go ahead with terms of reference that may not be perfect. I would rather see us agree in principle today and say we are going to establish a committee, but get the terms of reference properly done. I will say again, I would like to have some input from my constituents before I finalize this thing. The deadline is September 30, 1993, I am told we do not have much money to spend on a committee before the end of the fiscal year anyway. Why do we not take the time to consult our constituencies, come back in February, get terms of reference that are real

and responsive to the views of all Members and do it properly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Member for Baffin Central.

Education Plans Major Role In Social Problems

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion. I think it would be better to go to our communities as to how we would like to see the social services programs being delivered. There are other issues like sexual abuse and alcohol abuse, but everything is concentrated in headquarters and very little in the communities in terms of counselling. I think that is where we should start, providing proper counselling for sexual abuse victims and incest and family problems, because if we do not deal with that there is going to continue to be an alcohol problem. Alcohol problem is only a symptom of another sickness. If we do not provide any type of counselling services for the communities, we will continue to have problems across the North with alcohol, drugs and substance abuse.

Education should play a role in this as well. There are a lot of parents who do care about their children and the type of education that they are receiving, because they are unilingual they are not able to help, it is almost like being handicapped. It is not that they do not care what their children do in school. A lot of times they are not able to help because they do not have the formal education. They cannot help with their home studies. Or if the child cannot solve a problem with their homework, they are not equipped to help. It is an intertwined problem with not only social services or health, but it is combined with housing as it says in the motion, and education has to do with it also.

We continue to see educators in the communities who can only spend time from 9:00 in the morning to 5:00 in the afternoon with a very impersonal attitude a lot of times. Occasionally, we are very lucky to get an educator who truly cares about the children and the type of help the children do not receive at home. These educators realize that the parents cannot help. There are some teachers who volunteer their time for study periods and make themselves available to children who need help with school. But not all teachers are like that. It is a big issue which I think has to be dealt with, and it has to start in the community. If we bring it out to the community, maybe we will get some parents motivated in solving

some of the problems we are facing now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a few comments in response to the honourable Member for Iqaluit when he said he was not consulted and that he would like to go home and consult. If I read the reports and heard the reports properly during the election and prior to the election, this was an issue in just about everyone's campaign. It was an issue throughout the Territories during the election. I think it was the Member himself who expressed the loudest concerns about a particular department -- the Department of Social Services. It was the Member himself who expressed very sincere interest in becoming the Minister of that very department so that he could fix up those concerns. It was mentioned I did not consult him. I did consult through the caucus we had with all the Members that were there. I talked about this issue which was an item of debate in our caucus. I did mention at that time that I will be bringing something forward to this Assembly and I gave proper notice on Monday that this motion will be coming up. The Member had a week

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and a half, similar to all other Members, to talk to me on this issue.

So I do not think that statement is fair, but I do not think it was up to me to go to each individual Member. I went to as many as I could and talked to as many as I could. The ones who were interested came to me and we talked. These are just some comments in rebuttal to the Minister in terms of what is in the terms of reference. I am sure the Member knows my prior history so there may be a slight slant of some bureaucracy. I spent 21 years in there. Maybe my writing is not perfect, but I try. I tried to express and develop some vision. It has been cited and stated a couple of times already. We know what the problems are out there. Dennis, I think your community is one that has been through this. You already have a community that is looking after some aspects of program delivery.

The other reason both departments are in there is that it is a major focus of the Beatty Report. This government has already announced that it intends to amalgamate both departments. So therefore I included, and it was expressed by several Members to do this, to include both because they are related

issues. So this is why the terms of reference are drafted in the manner they are. There is one word, that I think stands out in the terms of reference and it is "philosophies," philosophies of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and if you broaden that it should hopefully give us some forward thinking and maybe develop some vision. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a problem in the large communities and it clearly shows. For a long time, a fairly long time, as we know it has been like that. When we started going to the different communities, when we started gathering in each of the communities from the camps, it was not much of a problem when we are gathered around in the camps, but we had talked about it and thought about how we could further improve it, but it does not seem to be improving at all. It has been talked about by a lot of people about how they could improve it. It feels like it is going to improve slowly but those social workers in the smaller communities especially, I think that if they had better or further education it would help more to resolve these problems and these social workers who have not had enough education to do their jobs, although they are literate in English. When they have husbands and wives they know how to counsel children. I do not think that they have formal education with counselling with these sorts of problems. Without the formal education, I think that this is why social workers in the different regional offices, if these programs of training are delivered to these regions, it would be better.

In Pelly Bay there is a special committee from the territorial government, Mr. Chairman, one person came into the community only once from the housing association committee. I know that in the other communities, in the other hamlets there are committees, as we are called committees in these communities. As a committee in a community we do not have much power to try and fix these kinds of things.

I have worked for the municipality of Pelly Bay for some 16 or 17 years, and prior to working for the municipality of Pelly Bay I was one of those people that goes out camping, spring, summer and in the fall, Having been out on the land for a number of years, I find that there were almost no social problems in the small communities.

In and around 1950 people from the outlying camps were told that there would be social programs available within a prescribed community, social programs such as housing, roads, government offices and social welfare. After five or six years, we realized that putting people together or cramping people together into one small community was not a good solution. But this is something that we all know we will have to live with.

Forming different committees is not a solution to our problem. We have tried that at the community level in Pelly Bay. I think we have about seven or eight committees within this community which has a population of 400 people. I agree with the mover. We should do something about decreasing the social problems we are faced with within the Territories. I agree with the Member that we have to do something about this problem. Knowing that we are going through extreme restraint within the system, I think this would put more financial burden on this government. I am not against the Member's motion, but since we have a new Minister of Social Services, maybe we should give him a little more time to see if he can deal with the problem. I think there are other alternatives to solving the problem. I do not know what the alternatives are, but I think we should give the Minister a little more time to see if he can turn things around for the better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. The Member for Kivallivik.

Inuit Solutions To Problems Will Have To Be Looked At

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Listening to the comments that are being made, I cannot just sit back and say nothing. In the communities with social problems, the social workers have a lot of work to do. We see them in every community. I think of all the programs that the government offers, this is one of the hardest issues to deal with because they affect the minds of human beings. What the social workers say is everyone is aware in the communities. I do not agree that it will only affect certain communities. For example, in the Baffin Region, Keewatin Region or Kitikmeot Region, I am sure there will be some communities that will not be involved because all the communities are different. Problems will be encountered in the communities. I am sure a lot of the communities that would have comments to make on how they used to handle problems, and I am sure that will be brought up in

some communities -- how the Inuit used to handle problems. The Inuit had their own way of solving different social problems, and I am sure those will have to be looked at again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Member for Kitikmeot.

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be supporting the motion to have a review on health and social services within the Territories. The reason I will be supporting the motion is that in the bureaucracy at the headquarters, regional and community levels there seems to be an attitude problem by people who have positions of authority, and this has a ripple effect down to the social workers. Like it or not,

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attitudes change because, in essence, you control your clients, you control what they do, you control them as to even when to say you have to come to the office at a certain hour, like 3:00 p.m. or 9:30 in the morning. Like it not, the clients have to go there and be present. A lot of these attitudes have to change.

The values and beliefs of the non-native social workers are not in line with our values and beliefs as native people. I think that equality has to be looked at, treating everybody as human beings, not as a number when you come to the office. During my campaign in Coppermine and Cambridge Bay, many of the clients had indicated that they were not satisfied with the services that are being provided by the social workers. I was a social worker at one time and I enjoyed what I was doing until I got burned out. You have to be almost a super-human being to be a social worker because everything is dumped on your lap on a daily basis. You figure you can have a night off with your family and the next thing you know somebody knocks on your door with a problem and you have to act on it right away. You are there to serve the people. Many times there are people in there who are very insensitive to helping people the way they should.

As Ms. Mike said, I think it is intertwined with education. But when you really have total control about one way of living, that person in the end is not going to have any self-esteem. Their programs are not in place to get our people off their seats. There is nothing in them to be really independent. Many years ago everybody went on the land hunting and trapping and we had our own independence, we were

independent from the government structure. But since the government has come into existence in the NWT everybody moved to all the large settlements and that in itself took away the independence of being happily involved, rearing your children the way you are supposed to. But now we are unable to do that because there are not enough jobs for the whole community.

Aftercare Is Important

It is going to take an extra department or something to realize we have a major problem. We talk about development, we talk about many things, but the minute we speak about social problems in the NWT, we have a tendency to chuck it because it costs too much money to make a study. But if we put a good study together that is made by this House or by an independent group of people, I think solutions will fall into place so that we can resolve these problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there is always a dilemma when you are faced with a motion like this because everyone recognizes this is a major problem for us and it seems to be problem that gets bigger and bigger all the time. When I decided to run again in this last election, I put together a pamphlet which had the things in it which I thought were important and that we should get on with. One of the items I put in there was a complete review of our social system, an examination of social issues. Once you get elected on a basis of a platform of what you believe in, you cannot just conveniently throw it aside and say, "Well that got me elected, it does not matter now." That is not the way you can behave in public life. So although I recognize that we do have financial problems and although we do have a new cabinet and a new government, I have to keep my word, that if you say that is what you are going to do, then you have to proceed with it.

However, what I would like to also recall to Members is that when we were in this chamber discussing who should be in the cabinet and so on, I did make the comment that recognizing that we had a very serious financial climate in which we were operating. Since we had three major studies, if you like, one on education, one on housing and one on the economy, then perhaps if we do something on social issues we could perhaps deal with it in a different way to what we have done in the past. Not simply to say it is less

than an important issue but we should do something about it and should examine it and maybe we can do it in a way that is different to what we have done before and perhaps also, Mr. Chairman, we can do it, you know, on a different scale. In other words, you have got to be able to do the work that you are charged with, within your means and perhaps we can look at just a new way of looking at social issues, and the terms of reference, in fact, provides us with a tremendous amount of flexibility as to how we go about it.

But I certainly do not believe in supporting this motion than committing myself to a road show, where we go to every single place and we really, really put on a cadillac performance. I think that we can do a very good job on the basis of knowledge that we got and try to get a think tank, if you like, together to see if we cannot come up with something that gives us some direction.

I am also encouraged by the fact that one of the things that did come out of the last committee that we put together, which was the one on the economy, is very much reflected in the Beatty report. I was impressed by the fact that many of the things that we looked at in giving people more control over the things that mattered to them, in looking at structural problems, looking at things like dependency, just taking a different vision, if you like as to how we should advance our economy, that we should not be just simply going over the same round you know, with the same kind of tools.

So this may give us an opportunity to examine social and health issues but just maybe do it in a different way to what we have done before. But I am committed to deal with it and I support the motion, when that motion in fact is in front of us to vote on it. I am not sure what that procedure will be. Thank you.

Good Government Is Not Always Cheap

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is interesting to note that some of the arguments that have been made -- I do not think that there is any sane, knowledgeable person in this Assembly that could or would want to give the impression that the intention of a special committee dealing with health and social issues is going to be a cadillac committee. The fact is that the financial circumstances do not

allow us to become a cadillac committee. At the same time we all have

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to appreciate, I believe, the serious problems that we have generally in our communities in these two areas.

I think that one of the problems that we have had for many years is that we have not sought the advice or at least listened to the people when they have given us, what I consider, good advice as to how we could deal with social issues. I think that our own attempts previously, in establishing special committees, have always been immediately after elections. The special committee on education was formed in our first session, the special committee on housing was formed in our first session, so there is nothing magic about the idea of allowing a new Minister to get to know his department and not at the same time establish a special committee to go and seek other advice as to how and what solutions those people might give in helping that new Minister in future, and our government in future, address some of the more serious social problems that we have.

Maybe if the government would have listened to me the first time when we talked about the transfer for health, maybe we would not have the \$31 million deficit that we have now. But I think I was not trying at that time to stop the idea of taking on more responsibilities, but clearly indicating that I was not happy with the agreement as it was. I think sometimes you have to say, "I told you so." Maybe this is the only opportunity I will give. Maybe I will get more when we deal with Health.

In terms of dealing with not only dealing with the social problems, but I think there is a real need for us to address the health matters. I think that a great deal of some of the social problems that we have cause us significant expenditures on the health side and I think that it would be in our interest to review how all the social problems that we are encountering, the social issues that we have to address, interrelate to a point where the problems we are encountering in every one, result in failure in other areas. I just want to tell you that I am prepared to support the motion.

I know there is a suggestion that is being made not to proceed with the terms of reference at this time. My only concern with that is that we are establishing a committee generally with no direction and if the attempt is to remove the terms of reference and say we will talk about it at a later time, then what is the

purpose of setting up a special committee at this time with no terms of reference. That is my only concern. I think if the attempt is that yes we agree to establish the committee, lay that out and agree to that fundamental principle and agree then to seek the advice and input and the agreement of all Members that we will agree to establish, along with the financing, that issue. I have no problem with that. But I really believe that the principle of establishing the special committee has to be agreed to now and then we can work on the other issues. But I think that that is important. And whatever happens between now and the next session is something we can deal with. But it must be established.

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

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make one comment in response to the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, where he stated that we should give the new Minister a chance to look at his department, but during question period I asked the Minister whether or not he was going to review his department. He stated a categorically "no" as his response.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments on some of the comments that have been made. I think the focus of my motion and proposal is that a review take place looking at all health and social services issues. In terms of health, we have had a health transfer and need to know the effect especially on aboriginal and treaty people. We have to know if the level of service is adequate. Are the health and hospital boards functioning properly? Are the regional hospital boards functioning properly. We have to look at the long-term care programs. We have to look at mental illness. I would like to quote the statement made by Ethel Blondin in the House of Commons. I quote, "Mental illness affects more Canadians than any other disease. The northern Territories lead the nation in illness and poor health. The North experiences higher death and disease rates, and higher birth and infant mortality rates than the rest of the country. Cancer is four times greater. It has the highest rate of suicide in the country."

Fifty Per Cent Of Government Budget Is Because Of The Plight Of Aboriginal People

Mr. Chairman, I have also estimated -- and this is very rough -- that 40 to 50 per cent of this government's budget and quite a substantial number of employees and buildings are in place because of the poverty and the plight of aboriginal people. All government

departments are included. We have to look at some of the programs: our correctional centres, our legal aid program, our parole system, all the alcohol and drug programs in all our centres, the hospitals, public health centres, et cetera. You have to look at the level of transmittable diseases. Look at our homeless people. Look at all the social counselling groups, all the help groups, all the associations created to help these poor people. If the government had implemented a lot of the recommendations in the past studies and reports, I do not think we would be in this mess.

Another thing is I do not foresee a travelling road show. In my statement earlier, I mentioned that the MLAs which I have consulted have expressed an interest and willingness to participate and contribute to do their part in their constituencies in their regions.

I think we want to focus on solutions. I mentioned that the majority of us know what the problems are. The people know what the problems are. We have to focus on solutions. The reason I would like to get this motion passed today is that I think in the next three months we can do a lot of the ground work in setting up a strategy and how to proceed. I do not believe we start formal work until the new year when the budget is in place. I am sure if all the MLAs are committed, including Executive Committee Members, I think they will realize the situation and support this motion.

Motion To Adopt Motion 40-12(1)

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that Motion 40-12(1), titled Establishment of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, be adopted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

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HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I move an amendment that would delete all the words following the word "established" in the "now therefore" clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Patterson, can I have that copy of the motion and have it typed and see what we can do with it. We will have it typed and translated and come back in five minutes.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Point of order.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Prior to taking a five minute break, I would like to move that we extend sitting hours until all the items under consideration in committee of the whole are concluded.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Order please. You cannot make a point of order and a motion at the same time. We will take a short break and we will come back. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The committee will come to order. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman I would like to move that we extend sitting hours until the items that are on the order paper are concluded.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I am sorry, Member for Thebacha, earlier there was a motion to extend the hour and there was also a motion at that time and to extend the hours is out of order. Now it is 6:30. A motion to report progress is always in order and not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Speaker, your committee has made a motion to report progress and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to your motion? Mr. Nerysoo. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive the rules to go back into committee of the whole to deal with the items on the order paper.

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

I will put you back into committee of the whole to conclude the business of the day, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the matter of motion that has been proposed by Mr. Patterson to amend Mr. Koe's motion. We do not have back the decision and the motion itself, so if we could take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

I would like to call the House back to order. I have had an opportunity to review the amendment that has been proposed by Mr. Patterson and have to rule the amendment out of order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Motion To Amend Motion To Adopt Motion 40-12(1), Defeated

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now think I see what I did wrong. I would like to move that committee motion 10-12(1) be amended by adding the following words after "adopted": "except for all phrases following the phrase, now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that a special committee on health and social services be established." Mr. Chairman, with some help, I have been able to arrange for this to be translated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): If I might have a moment to look at the motion, the amendment. Before ruling on the matter, I should have the attention of honourable Members. I must indicate to you that like all formal motions we number committee motions as well. The motion that was proposed, the committee motion that was proposed by the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe, is committee motion 10 and so as a result of that, the amendment that is being proposed by Mr. Patterson is to amend committee motion 10 and therefore it will amend formal Motion 40-12(1). Now after considering the committee motion, the amendment, I rule the amendment in order. To the amendment?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the motion. General comments to the motion, committee motion 10? For those, just prior to dealing with this motion, we are dealing with the motion, "Mr. Chairman, I move that Motion 40-12(1), titled establishment of a special committee on health and social services be adopted." That is the motion. Mr. Whitford, to the motion.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to make a few comments prior to this motion being introduced and I did not have a chance because the motion was made. What I was going to say, and it deals with the establishment of a special committee on health and social services, that although I did state that I would not call for such a special committee to be struck, the reasons that I had for doing that were that we had just recently gone through a couple of reviews. The Beatty team had presented its paper or report in which it gave some recommendations that may or may not, of course, be adopted by the government toward dealing with these two departments that I am involved with. Prior to that or sometime during that, there was also another report that had been conducted. It was conducted by the firm Peat Marwick and is not yet tabled, and I was proposing to the department that I table this as soon as possible, which would have been in the next session. It did a review of the Department of Social Services as well and made some good recommendations dealing with some of the problems that the group saw. Some of those subsequently have been

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introduced and the recommendations put in place, and would have steered the department in a positive direction.

After becoming aware of all this, these are my reasons for saying that I would not have supported a review at that time, and I want that to be known. I needed time to conduct my own review of both departments, and they are very complex departments, as my predecessor is well aware, and there are many areas that intertwine between Health and Social Services. I needed time in order to review these and see how we could implement some of the recommendations into the amalgamation process that

would eventually take place and there would be only one department, not two departments.

I am concerned with the special committee and the work that is necessary. I will abide, I guess, by the direction the Government Leader and cabinet take, and the direction that the House gives, but in support of the department and the people that are actually working there, they have to face another committee and another group studying them. It is going to take away valuable time from the work that they are trying to do, and put the clients at a bit of a disadvantage. I have their assurance after speaking with both departments that they will co-operate should a special committee be struck. It is not that we will be uncooperative, it is just that we are saying that under the present conditions that the whole government finds itself where we are going into the "Strength At Two Levels" trying to implement some of the recommendations; we will be looking at that and how to do it and we will be consulting with Members on a number of issues in the recommendation process.

To have a special committee at this time look at it, maybe -- I would not go so far as to say "counter-productive" but it may impede the direction and the force that we would be using to make both these departments more streamlined and provide better service to the clients. That was my concern, in defence of both departments. Yes, we will co-operate, but it will be almost overwhelming to people to have three or four studies done within two years. I just wanted to share those particular thoughts with you. I think that any recommendations that come out of such a study will be given every consideration, but I just wanted to say that if it is the intention -- okay I will leave it at that and say that I probably will abstain from voting either way because it directly affects departments that I am with, and we will comply with whatever direction is set by the Government Leader, cabinet and this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I get the feeling that most of us agree that there should be some sort of committee established to deal with social issues, since there are a lot of social problems out there in the NWT. I think we all agree that something has to be done to attempt to find solutions that are crippling our communities. But in terms of this motion, I agree that something has to be done, but I am not sure that having the terms of

reference in the motion limits us MLAs as to what the terms of reference of that committee should be.

My first question would be, the motion says the a special committee be established; I wonder who would establish that committee? My main concern is that I agree there should be a committee, but in terms of coming up with terms of reference, I think every MLA should be speaking to what the committee should be doing.

MR. PUDLUK: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Point of order, honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We already dealt with Motion 40-12(1) and there is a motion on the floor which says it be adopted. I believe they are speaking for the former motion, not this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. On your point of order -- actually I was going to say he did have a point of order, but the fact is I was trying to be a little lenient in terms of the interpretation, to allow the Member to express some of the concerns he might have generally on the motion. But the point of order is that the committee motion before you deals with the adoption of the motion and I just did not want to disallow the opportunity for Members to make a few comments. But I agree that had he strayed much further, he probably would have been called to the order of the Chair. Mr. Allooloo, to the motion.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman. Motion 10 states that the committee adopts Motion 40-12(1), Establishment of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. What the motion is requiring us to do is to adopt the formal motion. I would like to speak to that one, the one we are adopting.

Mr. Chairman, in reviewing Motion 40-12(1) which motion 10 wants us to adopt, I feel that the MLAs do not have an opportunity to come up with terms of reference which the special committee on health and social services will be guided by. I wish that opportunity to be given to all 24 of us to determine what the committee's work is going to be. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can see which way the wind is blowing, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, committee Members are

not interested in fine tuning or enhancing the terms of reference.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to clarify that I do consider social issues important. They were an issue in my constituency and other constituencies, although frankly, Mr. Koe did not correctly describe the concern in my constituency when he said it was concern about the department. The concern is about the root causes of social issues in the Northwest Territories. If this is not part of the motion to establish a special committee, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what I should be talking about. I am talking about the root causes of social issues. If that is not on point, please rule me out of order right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that the motion is to adopt Motion 40-12(1). That is the motion before you. I do not believe that the general questions or issues are a matter of discussion at this particular time. What I try to allow is a bit of leniency even in Mr. Whitford's presentation to give him the opportunity, along with Mr. Allooloo, to raise some of the concerns they might have generally with the motion. If you get into the specifics, then I have to rule you completely out of order. But I am trying to be a bit lenient to hear the views of Members on the motion that is being proposed. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to take an undue amount of time. Just let me say simply, Mr. Chairman, I believe that once the committee is established which I think is going to happen, that the committee should review its terms of reference. I happen to think they can be improved and enlarged. In speaking to the motion, I hear Members saying that MLAs will play a primary role in the public consultations. I think this is a good idea. I think we all should be holding meetings in our ridings to

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discuss these issues and to give guidance to the committee. Also, hearings and community visits will not be emphasized as they have been emphasized by previous committees which have spent considerable amounts of money.

With respect to the Member, that idea is not reflected in the motion before us; the idea of relying on MLAs and de-emphasizing public hearings. In fact, it is wording like you have with any other committee of the Assembly. The new committee may want to fine tune

its terms once it has met and in its first report to the House.

Also, and I have made this point already, I think the motion unduly emphasizes the government, its organization, its policies and philosophies as a way of dealing with social and health issues. I believe the people have an even more important role to play in dealing with those fundamental issues. I would like to suggest that the issue of the root causes and the origins of problems inside our family units and our communities should be emphasized more in the committees terms of reference and perhaps they could be added to and enhanced once the committee has had time to consider this advice.

I will support the motion but I would like to go on record as saying I think the terms of reference can be enhanced and improved upon and after consulting my constituents, I may well have some free, gratuitous advice, to offer to the Members of the new committee. I will say that I think this issue is fundamental to all of us, whether we happen to be on cabinet or not. These issues affect every MLA and every constituency and that is why I have not hesitated to participate in this debate this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an ordinary MLA for the past two years, some of the issues that are being discussed here are the ones that I have discussed in the House with the other Members as an MLA representing three small communities which have their fair share of social problems. Some of my constituents are victims of injustice in the system, therefore I will be supporting the motion.

---Applause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In writing the motion there were options on how to formulate the motion and after much consideration the format that is presented is the one I thought would be the best and that is why the motion has the format it has. My understanding of the process is once this motion is approved, the striking committee will be struck at our next committee in February. That committee will then review and if necessary in their first report to the Assembly at that time, may recommend changes in the terms of reference and will, I am sure, establish

the rules and conduct of the committee and how they will do the business. I think at no time in my statements or anybody else did we say we were not interested in fine tuning the terms of reference. So those are my final comments and everything else I say, I stand behind and support this motion.

Motion To Adopt Motion 40-12(1), Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Ministers' Statement 2-12(1), Ministers' Statement 5-12(1), Tabled Document 3-12(1). To these issues. The honourable Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, since the government has agreed to consider allowing the three ordinary Members on the implementation team for the Beatty report, as a result of our motion that we passed yesterday, the Members being selected were Jim Antoine, James Arvaluk and Fred Koe. As an ordinary Member caucus we had decided that we will conclude the debate on the "Strength at Two Levels" and both Ministers' statements and we will be willing to introduce "Strength at Two Levels" back into the February session. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Does the committee deem these three items concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): This concludes the items in committee of the whole. I will rise and report progress.

---Applause

REVERT TO ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Good evening. I call the Assembly back to order. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Motion 40-12(1), Ministers' Statements 2-12(1) and 5-12(1) and Tabled

Document 3-12(1), and wishes to report that these matters are concluded with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, third reading of bills. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Private Members' Bill 4: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Private Members' Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4 has had third reading. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 4, returns to oral questions.

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MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent has been requested to return to Item 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Allooloo.

REVERT TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O105-12(1): Differing Rates For Post-Secondary Students

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. I have a return to an oral question asked by Ms. Mike on December 13, 1991, with regards to differing rates for post-secondary students. In 1989 the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development restructured its student financial assistance program by collapsing the categories of

special assistance provided to students, and increasing the base rates. In 1990, the Government of the Northwest Territories increased students' allowance rates, but continued to provide categories of special assistance.

While the base rates for living allowances are higher through DIAND, the GNWT program can be more beneficial for students. The GNWT program provides special allowances for needs such as child care, tutoring, and travel for dependents, in addition to living allowances for students.

Indian and Northern Affairs has placed monthly ceilings on their assistance to individual students. The GNWT has not established ceilings, and therefore has the flexibility to consider individual circumstances and student needs. Also, the GNWT program has no maximum limit on the number of years that a student can receive sponsorship. DIAND on the other hand will only sponsor students for the stated length of the program, except in special circumstances, such as illness.

I will be providing details of differing rates in writing to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O154-12(1): Friends Against Family Violence Society Proposal

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked today by Mr. Koe dealing with the victims' assistance program in Inuvik. A letter was sent by the former Minister of Social Services, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, on November 12, 1991, to the president of the Society of Friends Against Family Violence, indicating that the full proposal had not been received from the society but the proposal would be reviewed once submitted by the family violence prevention program with the Department of Social Services. The response of November 12, 1991, still applies. The department is awaiting the complete proposal so that a review can be done and suggestions can be provided regarding shelter development in Inuvik. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Returns to oral questions.

Prior to the Commissioner entering the House I would first like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a

safe journey home. To our staff, our interpreters and our Pages, I would like to extend the best that this Christmas season can bring.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if His Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to assent to bills and prorogue this, the first session of the 12th Legislature?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS: Before I begin, Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you that I consider that discretion is the better part of valour, therefore I will not make a long-winded speech to close this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to again congratulate your Sergeant-at-Arms, Harry Finnis, and his many Pages, who continue to provide remarkably efficient service to this House.

---Applause

For those of you travelling, may you have a safe journey home. You have had a very long and hard work schedule in front of you and you have carried out this work with great distinction, and I might add particularly the new Members. They have done very well.

My staff and I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1991-92; Bill 2, Borrowing Authorization Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act; Private Members' Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I prorogue this first session of the 12th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, and look forward to seeing everyone at the second session of the 12th Assembly in February. Qujannamiik. Mahsi cho. Thank you.

---Applause

---PROROGATION