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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Monday, February 17, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 6-12(2): Heritage Day

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: On the third Monday in February every year Canadians celebrate Heritage Day. Our heritage is what gives us our identity as individuals, as a community, as a region, and as a country. Celebrating Heritage Day promotes an awareness of the vital need to preserve our heritage for the generations of Canadians to come. In a time when many of us are promoting Canadian unity, it is important to remember that one of the strengths of our nation is its cultural diversity. This is especially true in the Northwest Territories, where a number of cultures maintain their distinct cultural identities while working together toward common goals.

The Heritage Canada Foundation has contacted museums in communities across the NWT to encourage and support participation in Heritage Day. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre got an early start on Heritage Day by hosting a special event on Sunday, February 16, in conjunction with the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Yellowknife Heritage Committee, the Multicultural Association, the Metis Heritage Association, the NWT Chamber of Mines, the Old Stope Association and Canadian Parks Service. Today, the Heritage Centre is open in the afternoon, and the public is invited to participate in a heritage scavenger hunt.

Aside from encouraging individual community museums to plan their own Heritage Day programs, my department is sponsoring a Heritage Day quiz which will be printed in News North so that people in all parts of the Northwest Territories can participate in Canada's Heritage Day celebration. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

**Member's Statement On Death Of
Thadeus Holman**

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Member's statement on the death of a student from Fort Simpson, here in Yellowknife, Thadeus Holman. On Friday, January 10th, young Thadeus Holman left Akaitcho Hall. On January 16th, it was learned that he had died alone and cold in a distant part of the city.

Mr. Speaker, Thad Holman was a good kid. He worked hard at school and was well respected by his teachers and his peers alike. I know that his passing has touched the entire community of Fort Simpson and the many schoolmates and friends with whom he shared his days in Yellowknife. I am sure that all honourable Members would join me in expressing condolences to his grieving parents, Christine Holman and Bill Lafferty, and to all his family.

At the same time, I would hope that all Members would seriously consider the concerns that I wish to raise about the level of supervision provided at the residence here, Akaitcho Hall, in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, although Thad left the student residence on foot around 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on a Friday evening, there were no procedures to ensure that resident supervisors follow up on whether he safely reached his destination. Although the youth failed to return at 7:30 on January 12th, a Sunday, it does not appear that resident personnel took any sort of immediate action to determine his whereabouts or safety. They did not even contact Thad's parents to tell them that he was missing until supper time on January 15th, which was a Wednesday, although five full days had passed since he had been seen at the residence.

Mr. Speaker, our children are very precious to us. When we arrange for them to attend school in Yellowknife, we parents are turning responsibility for their welfare, their safety and their supervision over to

the Government of the Northwest Territories. Something is not right here. I expect there are all sorts of excuses, and maybe even some policies, to explain why the lack of action by resident supervisors. I am not interested in excuses. I am interested in possibly making some changes so that parents from my constituency, parents from all western communities and all parents in the North, will be able to trust the care of their teenage children to this government institution. I will be pursuing this matter further during this session. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Treatment Of Injured Workers By Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 11, 1991, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South commented in the 11th Assembly on the adversarial attitude taken by the Workers' Compensation Board in its dealings with injured workers across the Northwest Territories.

On Thursday of last week, my honourable colleague for Deh Cho commented on the board's treatment of aboriginal harvesters and on the closed door process that has been used to develop policies in this area. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because I share both Mr. Whitford's and Mr. Gargan's concern. Something must be done about the Workers' Compensation Board.

Workers injured in the Northwest Territories endure unreasonable delays in the adjudication of their claims, delays in approval of returning programs, and a cumbersome appeal process. People who are unfortunate to live outside of Yellowknife -- like my constituency -- must deal with insensitive officials who consider it unnecessary to travel to the

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communities where no one must live and work.

Written communication from the board and its staff is formatted in the most legalistic and imposing fashion possible. Internal policies that I have read are represented as law, operational preferences or representative of established policy.

Mr. Speaker, something has gone wrong. Where is the human component in dealing with people? Where is the regional representation? Where are the

regional concerns being addressed by the Workers' Compensation Board? I find it -- we should all find it -- totally unacceptable that workers in the Northwest Territories would have to join together to form a self-help group in order to cope with the abuse they have received from the board and its administration. I believe this matter is of the utmost concern, and I would hope and urge the Minister responsible to give it his fullest attention. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Operations Of Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concerns about the operations of the Inuvik Regional Hospital. During the past year, and especially in the last few months, there have been inklings of unrest from staff and community people on what is going on in the hospital. Last week, there were a few instances where staff, supported by union workers in Inuvik, have had informational walks and talks with the public about their concern regarding management and staff.

I wish to express my support to the employees of the hospital. We need these workers to serve the public; and if they are unhappy, the public has the perception that they are not getting good service. Health care is a major issue and a major concern. I wish to make the Minister aware of what is going on.

I also have had numerous telephone calls and letters from residents of Inuvik expressing this concern. I will be following up on this issue with the Minister later. Mahsi.

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

Member's Statement On Health Of Ernie Bernhardt

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the House about the health condition of our colleague, Ernie Bernhardt. As most Members know, Mr. Bernhardt was admitted to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Wednesday night. I visited him this morning about 10:30. What he tells me is that he got sick Wednesday afternoon. When he was admitted to the hospital his temperature was 105 degrees Fahrenheit. At one point he was not able to walk. His throat was sore. He had a very bad headache. He was hooked up to IV during that time. This morning when I talked

to him, he was in the lobby of the hospital feeling much better, but he still looked very weak, and he did not look very healthy at all.

According to Ernie Bernhardt the nature of his illness was not determined. He tells me he should be out of the hospital by tomorrow. I cautioned the Member to take his time, if he does not feel he is capable of doing his job. He was quite concerned about not being in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure all Members join with Mr. Ningark in wishing Mr. Bernhardt a speedy recovery. Members' statements. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Member's Statement On Suicide In Hall Beach

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have learned of an individual who had just committed suicide last Friday, and I would like to inform this House that Neevee Allianak of Hall Beach has committed suicide. Mr. Speaker, I bring this to the attention of the House out of my concern for this horrible, unacceptable problem that we have in the Northwest Territories. Somehow we have to get the message across to every individual in the NWT that suicide is not, I repeat, is not the solution to anything but is simply the end of a life and the creation of a lot of pain and suffering by the departed person for his family and the whole community.

It is a serious problem in the Northwest Territories. We have to come to grips with it. We have to work with the communities. We have to work with the individuals who might be suffering and want to self-destruct. People in the communities have to realize that problems of suicide are not someone else's problem. It is a defeat that we all suffer together. The government itself cannot find the solution or stop the problem. Government can only provide programs that would help the community to become strong and better equipped to deal with daily problems and challenges that confront them.

I would encourage everyone to work with their community leadership to find a solution to finally stop this very horrible problem that we have in the Northwest Territories. If we believe in creating a better tomorrow, we will work together in this most important work that we can do, which is to find solutions.

I am deeply moved for the Allianak family and offer my condolences to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O36-12(2): Direct And Indirect Costs Accrued By NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Jeannie Marie-Jewell, MLA for Thebacha, on February 14, 1992. Mr. Speaker, further to the supplementary to Question O36-12(2) on direct and indirect costs of the NWT Housing Corporation Board, I wish to provide the following information:

The direct costs are in the following categories: 1) honoraria, transportation, accommodation and meal costs associated with the minimum of four board meetings and board committee meetings held annually; three in Yellowknife and one in a community location; 2) salary, benefits and expenses associated with the full-time executive secretary position for the board; and, 3) legal costs associated with attendance of an advisor at all board meetings. The total of 1991-92 costs, adjusted for inflation for 1992-93, is approximately \$290,000.

The indirect costs are in the following categories: 1) attendance of senior managers of the corporation at the minimum of four board meetings and board committee meetings held annually; three in Yellowknife and one in a community location; 2) preparation of new policies, programs and procedures for consideration of the board which would

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normally not require cabinet approval; 3) preparation of divisional reports for each board meeting; 4) preparation of the annual budget and financial reports for the board; 5) follow-up to resolutions and action items arising from each board meeting; 6) responses to board members' inquiries to headquarters and the six district offices; and, 7) contact and correspondence with the chairman on new appointments to the board and on general management of the corporation. The total 1991-92 costs adjusted for inflation are in excess of \$340,000. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O5-12(2): Legal Action
Against Alberta Pulp Mills**

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 12, regarding legal action against Alberta pulp mills; and one more. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Marie-Jewell asked about the time frame of the proceedings in the Daishowa litigation.

This is an application for mandamus to force the federal government to conduct an environmental assessment of those areas of the project which impact on matters within federal jurisdiction. The matter was put on hold pending a decision in the Oldman Dam litigation. The Daishowa case will now proceed unless there can be a resolution of it by agreement. The federal court has called for a telephone conference to include all parties involved. It is scheduled for the end of the month. After that, we will have a more clear idea of the time frame involved.

Return To Question O3-12(2): Meeting With Support Group For Injured Workers

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I have another return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 12, concerning the support group for injured workers.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board is aware of the support group but to date has not been approached to meet with them. He is fully prepared to do so if they wish to discuss workers' compensation issues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like to take a moment to welcome honoured visitors from Fort Smith: Mayor Dennis Bevington; president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Frieda Martselos; and president of the Metis Association, Mr. Ken Hudson. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

Returns to oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O14-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Transboundary Water Agreement

HON. JOHN NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell on February 13, 1992,

regarding the status of negotiations on the transboundary water agreement. Negotiations with Alberta regarding a transboundary water agreement began in 1983. Several technical documents and a monitoring program were developed as a result of these negotiations. As both governments were heavily involved in the ALPAC hearings, there were no meetings held during the latter part of 1989 and early 1990. Once the Government of the Northwest Territories announced legal action against the federal government over the Daishowa pulp mill, Alberta suspended negotiations because they felt their case may have been compromised by continuing negotiations. In addition, Alberta has indicated that they may not be able to finalize an agreement with the NWT until they have reached an agreement with British Columbia. This is because the water quality and quantity of the Peace River is affected by the Bennett Dam and other upstream industrial developments in British Columbia.

As a means to rekindle negotiations, the GNWT cabinet, in the spring of 1991, directed the Department of Renewable Resources to negotiate an interim agreement with Alberta. These negotiations dealt specifically with water quality on the Slave River and its tributaries.

The Mackenzie River basin committee, which includes the negotiators for the NWT and Alberta, has made a commitment to conclude negotiations on all transboundary bilateral agreements within the Mackenzie River basin by the end of 1992.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

**Question O41-12(2): Abolishment Of NWT
Housing Corporation Board Of Directors**

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing. On Friday the Minister of Housing indicated to this House that the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors currently costs up to \$600,000 to operate. It also costs an additional \$775,000 for GST, since they are not a government department. Is the Minister of Housing reviewing the structure of the NWT Housing Corporation with the intent of restructuring the management of the corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O41-12(2): Abolishment Of NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

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

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

Supplementary To Question O41-12(2): Abolishment Of NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, does the structuring include the demise of the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O41-12(2): Abolishment Of NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you look at all the figures that are associated with operating the board of

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directors of the NWT Housing Corporation, that would be one of the first things I would like to get rid of. It would save a lot of money.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Housing. Since it is clearly his intention to get rid of the board of directors, this would mean that it would no longer be an arm's length agency. Would it be his intention, then, to put housing directly under the control of a Minister of this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

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

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This then, would provide centralization of the program. Could the Minister tell me whether the local housing

authorities who operate under the current structure would also disappear?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

MR. LEWIS: Since the corporation was established in 1975, I believe, simply because this structure would make it much easier to access various federal dollars at arm's length from the government for housing programs, will this new proposed structure still be able to access federal funds in the same way that the corporation was able to do since that was the original intention in setting it up?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding from CMHC will not be affected by the change through the departmental structure. You will still have to keep a shell corporation within the department to ensure that the current agreements with CMHC and access to the CMHC program are still obtainable. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister concerned that this shell that would continue to exist would really have no function since it will no longer be directed by a board?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O42-12(2): Control Of Housing Corporation

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. We have no function. It will be operated as a department and we will not have a board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O43-12(2): Review Of Policies And Procedures Of Akaitcho Hall Residence

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in my constituency are saddened and angry, and although it is too late to do anything for Thad Holman, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do everything possible to ensure that our sons and daughters at Akaitcho Hall are cared for in the same attentive manner as they are when they are in their home communities. Will the Minister of Education agree to immediately review all policies and procedures regarding the supervision and care of students staying at the Akaitcho Hall residence?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that there is room for improvement over the existing system that we use in caring for out-of-town students that stay at Akaitcho Hall and other places in Yellowknife. I will look into the matter for the Member to see how we can improve the existing system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you taking the question as notice, Mr. Allooloo? The question is being taken as notice. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O43-12(2): Review Of Policies And Procedures Of Akaitcho Hall Residence

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The job description for the Akaitcho Hall dorm supervisor states that the duties and responsibilities encompass those normally assumed by parents in the operation of a good home. This is in the job description. Would the Minister reassure this House that the department would not condone a laissez faire parenting style in which care-givers are encouraged to do nothing, even when the whereabouts of their children is unknown for five or six days? Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O43-12(2): Review Of Policies And Procedures Of Akaitcho Hall Residence

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, when I have adequate time to review the current situation and have had time to review the job descriptions of those people who hold those positions, I will try and find solutions to the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Health. Is the Minister aware of the highly volatile situation between the staff and the management at the Inuvik Regional Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, Minister of Health.

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Return To Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware that there are concerns in that area but I did not realize they were highly volatile.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What steps will the Minister be taking to try to resolve the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the words are "is taking" rather than "will be taking". The department is appraising the situation continuously. It is not something going unnoticed. They are involved in looking into it.

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

Supplementary To Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister proceed immediately with a full investigation into the complaints raised by staff?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O44-12(2): Volatile Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we are already dealing with the complaints that have been ongoing for some time. These things cannot be dealt with all at once, but I think we are looking at the concerns. If there are any new ones I will certainly advise the department to bring me up to speed on them.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

**Question O45-12(2): Southerners Owning Homes
In Both The South And The North**

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for Housing. On Monday, December 16, 1991, page 123 of Hansard, I asked Question W10-12(1), Southerners Owning Homes in Both the South and the North. That question has never been replied to. Will the Minister reply this session?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin, Minister of Housing.

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take it under advisement.

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

**Question O46-12(2): Workers' Compensation
Board Opinion Re Injured Workers**

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Recently the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board told the press that injured workers could not be given lump sum payments for disability pensions because "They sometimes react to the windfall like lottery winners."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe the chairman, speaking on behalf of the board, actually had the gall to suggest that some workers spend their money too quickly and then are worse off five years later. My question is: Does the Minister share the chairman's obviously paternalistic opinion that injured workers must be supervised like little lottery winners who lack the self-control to manage their money?

---Applause

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

Return To Question O46-12(2): Workers'
Compensation Board Opinion Re Injured Workers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would not be so foolish as to ever admit to sharing anyone else's paternalistic opinions, so I would answer that question in the negative, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O46-12(2): Workers'
Compensation Board Opinion Re Injured Workers

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I know that since Mr. Patterson has assumed this portfolio, he has had access to a wealth of studies and written materials on the theory and administration of workers' compensation boards. Has the Minister come across any studies carried out in this or other jurisdictions which support the chairman's claim that workers who receive lump sum disability payments are worse off five years later? Is there any evidence to this effect?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O46-12(2): Workers'
Compensation Board Opinion Re Injured Workers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any studies at all on that subject. I have not seen any, nor have any been brought to my attention. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O46-12(2): Workers'
Compensation Board Opinion Re Injured Workers

MR. TODD: Since this board and its officials seem to be fond of representing their own decisions as the law of the land, will the Minister confirm for this House that the Workers' Compensation Act does not specifically prohibit lump sum payments of disability pensions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O46-12(2): Workers'
Compensation Board Opinion Re Injured Workers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there are some limitations in the Workers' Compensation Act with respect to lump sum payments. The Member, as I understand it, is generally correct that there is no legislation, in general terms, for prohibition of lump sum payments being made, although the circumstances under which they can be made is circumscribed by the act in certain

situations. Generally, his assertion is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

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Question O47-12(2): Delay Of Court Hearings Resulting In Suicide

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. (Translation) As you heard the Member for Amittuq speaking about Neevee Allianak who committed suicide -- I have found that the people in my constituency who are waiting to go through the court process have a very difficult time in that it causes them to commit suicide because they are dreading the moment they have to go through the court system. (Translation ends)

They wait three or four months, and it becomes psychologically and emotionally difficult for young people to deal with this. In a lot of cases they commit suicide or attempt to commit suicide. Will the Minister look into a community-based judicial system in the aboriginal communities in order to prevent undue delay for people accused of small crimes?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O47-12(2): Delay Of Court Hearings Resulting In Suicide

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the honourable Member that I am fully in favour of, where possible, and where a community is willing to undertake these difficult responsibilities, our government giving as much support as possible to provide alternatives to the conventional justice system as well as alternatives to circuit courts. I will look forward to working with the honourable Member, since I know there are some people very interested in taking on some responsibilities in at least one community he represents, and other honourable Members, in coming up with creative alternatives to allow a more community-based approach and an alternative to sometime frustrations of the existing system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O48-12(2): Community Support Regarding Schools In Inuvik

Mr. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Education. On Friday in Hansard I

noted, in response to questions from Mr. Lewis, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, regarding the schools in Inuvik, the Minister stated that he required community support, "What I require is the community council supporting the teachers in taking it to the divisional board." Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of a letter signed by the Inuvik Community Corporation and the Inuvik Gwich'in Council, supporting the teachers in their endeavour to resolve their concerns with management. What action is the Minister taking to investigate the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O48-12(2): Community Support Regarding Schools In Inuvik

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the Member, I am very anxious to see the resolution of this problem in Inuvik. I have instructed my officials to seek solutions to this problem and ask them to work with the divisional boards. I am told that a meeting of the divisional board will take place on Wednesday and this topic will be discussed. In the Education Act it says that the school year shall be in session 190 days and the academic year has to be approved by the Minister, in consultation with the local education authorities. As a result, any changes to the academic year would have to be requested by the local education authority and approved by the Minister. So far, I have not received any requests from the divisional board or local education authority. I would expect that if the divisional board approves or supports the teachers, soon after they meet on Wednesday I will be getting a request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O48-12(2): Community Support Regarding Schools In Inuvik

Mr. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue is one of definitions of administration in-service days or professional development days and who has authority to approve these. Has the Department of Education, over the years, consistently held the present position that all in-service days require a change to the school year and must be authorized by the Minister? Has there been a change in the policy, and does approval of in-service days require a change to the school year?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the answer. I have to take the question as notice.

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

Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. The residents of my constituency have become increasingly concerned about the potential impact of contaminants entering the Athabasca, Peace and Slave Rivers as a result of paper and pulp mill development in northern Alberta. There is relatively little that scientists can tell us at the present time about the cumulative effects of pulp mill contaminants on human health. Since the Minister of Renewable Resources has indicated to this House last week that low levels of dioxin, furan and toxic fumes were found in fish samples in lakes near the Slave River system, will the Minister of Health please indicate what priority has been placed by his department on researching the health effects of environmental contaminants entering northern river systems from outside our boundaries?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to indicate to the Member for Thebacha that the department is going to be more involved in the study in the future. We are aware of the findings from that last review. They are not conclusive. We do put a priority on it. I am just being apprised of what our involvement will be for the future.

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

Supplementary To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister what priority this department places this in, and he stated that he places it as a priority, but among the other health issues that we face in the North, I would like to know if it is a high priority or a low priority.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

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Further Return To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The safety and health of the public in the Territories is our primary objective. To ensure that people's health is looked after, we place a high priority on any event that may cause people concern.

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

Supplementary To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate to me what is the research capacity of his department to address this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, we have not placed a research team into that yet. We have to rely considerably on the research that is being done by the federal government in this area. They are keeping us apprised on their findings, and the Member is aware that they are not really conclusive at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Your last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister indicated that this is going to be a high priority and since he has indicated that he will rely on the federal government -- the federal government has allowed all this development of pulp mills -- and since he has indicated that he has no research capacity, how can he state to this House that it is a high priority issue to be addressed?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O49-12(2): Departmental Priority For Researching Contaminants Entering Northern Rivers

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The Member asks tough questions. We do not have a research team looking specifically at that, as the Member is well aware. We do have representation from our department, perhaps not at the level that the Member would like, but it is something that we are going to be coming more involved in as time goes on.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education this question. There has been so much confusion about what is going on in the school system in Inuvik, would the Minister explain to this House his understanding of why the teachers in Inuvik are, in fact, working to rule? Why are they doing it?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Education, Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, this will have to be my own view, until the information comes into my office. It is unfortunate that there is so much frustration and misunderstanding on this issue. I am told there are two things that the teachers would like to see. One concern is that they would like to see a change in administration and personnel. The other concern is the director's ability to communicate to the department, and also to the teachers. They would like to get two and a half days for in-service and administration which they would like to take out of the 190 days which are set aside for school sessions.

I am told they cannot get both. At this moment they cannot get a change in the director and they have not been able to convince the community education council, or divisional board -- I am not sure which -- to get two and a half days for in-service administration which they would like to get. Unfortunately, that request has not been communicated to my office in the form of a letter. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as in-service is concerned this has traditionally been worked out between the staff and the administration so that you can get some professional work done. There is nothing in the act which says this is a legislated thing. I would like to ask the Minister; Is there a reason for the denial of the use of the one and a half days of in-service which has normally always been worked out amicably? Is that because there has been a breakdown of communication between the local authority and the school, or between the administration and the school? I am talking about the superintendent or director in the school. Where is the breakdown, exactly?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: At this moment I am not sure where the breakdown is. As far as I know, the education council has to apply to two divisional boards and the divisional board requests -- if they agree that the teachers should get two and a half days for in-service and administration they make that request to me. I have not received that yet. In fact, they have not been denied; I have not seen the request. Apparently it is up to the Minister to grant or deny the request. There has not been a request that has come to my desk from the divisional boards. That authority rests, I am told, with the Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary. Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

MR. LEWIS: I do not intend to debate with the Minister but it is pretty clear that in the past that has not been the procedure, so I would like to ask the Minister: If this could be worked out amicably within the region, in the spirit of local control and so on, would he in fact have any difficulty in staying away from it and let it be sorted out locally?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

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Further Return To Question O50-12(2): Inuvik Teachers Working To Rule

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I would gladly see that. I would like this issue to be resolved at the community level and that the formality would just go through my office. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: We will take a brief moment and recognize Chief Henry Beaver from Fort Smith.

---Applause

Oral Questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O51-12(2): Retraining Injured Workers Through Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. I have concern about some of the approaches being taken by the WCB with respect to meeting the retraining needs of injured workers. My question to the Minister responsible for the WCB is: If workers become permanently disabled due to an unfortunate accident on the job, what services are available through the WCB to assist them in entering a new career pattern?

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

Return To Question O51-12(2): Retraining Injured Workers Through Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, there are staff within the Workers' Compensation Board who have responsibilities in that area. I cannot at this time indicate precisely how many people or what resources, but I am pleased that it has been made possible to brief MLAs, this coming Thursday I believe, first-hand from the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, on all aspects of the board's operation including this side of retraining. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O51-12(2): Retraining Injured Workers Through Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Well, I spent eight years on the Workers' Compensation Board and I still have some difficulties understanding what they are doing. When the worker is receiving disability pensions identifying potentially new careers, what gives the staff of the Workers' Compensation Board the right to determine whether these goals and aspirations of injured workers are

acceptable? Who determines what career patterns they want to take, the worker or the staff?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O51-12(2): Retraining Injured Workers Through Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, ideally it should be a joint process of support and co-operation between the worker, who may have their own ideas about a career, and the staff, which may be able to provide supportive advice. If that is not happening I am concerned, but ideally it should be a co-operative, mutually supportive relationship. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. Second Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O51-12(2): Retraining Injured Workers Through Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Okay, would the Minister confirm that most of the retraining dollars that are currently being spent by the Northwest Territories' Workers' Compensation Board are actually spent in southern Canada? That is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since, unfortunately, most of the workers who are on pension with the Workers' Compensation Board live south of 60, I suspect that the honourable Member's suggestion is correct. However, I do not have an analysis of the proportion of money spent north of 60 or south of 60, so I am afraid I will have to take that question on notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O52-12(2): Representation On Health Boards

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In the regions such as the Baffin we have health boards. We have 13 outlying communities in the Baffin, and from those 13 communities each one has a representative on the health board. Now as far as the future is concerned, I wonder if they will be thinking of cutting down the number of representatives on the

health boards; they have equal representation as it is now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Health can respond to that, or the Government Leader. Minister of Health.

Return To Question O52-12(2): Representation On Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do have a number of health boards in the Territories and some of them are rather large health boards. They have up to 22 members, and while we have no intentions at the moment of cutting any health boards, I think the committee that is looking at agencies, boards and commissions is concerned with a number of things. We, too, want to review the sizes of boards and the need for representation on these boards.

But to answer the question, we have no intention of cutting boards at this point in time until a full review of the boards has been concluded. Right now there is no refilling of positions as they become vacant because of resignations or expiration of the terms. This is because of restraint measures, and only in situations of a quorum need, will we consider filling a vacancy at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary. Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question O52-12(2): Representation On Health Boards

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the response, Mr. Minister. I understand you will be reporting back with more detail but right now, who appoints the representatives on the health boards? Are the community people involved in appointing or delegating representation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford

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.Further Return Question O52-12(2): Representation On Health Boards

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are vacancies on any board and we are seeking to fill those positions, nominations are sought from the particular region, or we seek nominations from a community council or band. It is not the Minister going out and picking anybody. We get the names and they are considered by the board and by

my department and myself before any spaces are filled.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O53-12(2): Resolving Inuvik Teachers' Dispute

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. It is with regard to the matter that has been raised by my colleagues, Mr. Koe and Mr. Lewis. I ask the honourable Member, the Minister, if circumstances do not allow, or at least are such that the community education council does not want to be involved with the matter pertaining to in-service training, would the Minister allow or be prepared to accept a recommendation or a meeting with the appropriate representative to resolve this matter between the teachers and the Department of Education?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo, the Minister of Education.

Return To Question O53-12(2): Resolving Inuvik Teachers' Dispute

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O54-12(2): Identification Cards For Entering Licensed Premises

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Government Services. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that many parents worry about when they send their children to school here in Yellowknife is that they will find their way into licensed premises such as the bars, and into alcohol-related difficulty. I wish to emphasize here that I am not referring to the death of my young constituent earlier this year, but rather to the serious concerns that many parents have about seeing their children come to Yellowknife. I understand that the Minister of Government Services is responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board and I would like to ask him the following question: Will the Minister take immediate steps to include a provision in their liquor regulations or the Liquor Act, which requires operators of licensed premises to ensure that all persons drinking in the bars have identification cards issued by Government of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Government Services, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O54-12(2): Identification Cards For Entering Licensed Premises

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that young people who are under the drinking age do not have proof of age for drinking in licensed establishments. However, Mr. Speaker, there are times when young people are invited to drink with their friends in private homes. We are not able to control this. However, I will review the matter because I am as concerned as my colleague about this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O54-12(2): Identification Cards For Entering Licensed Premises

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have reviewed the sections of the liquor regulations and the Liquor Act which deal with the levels of supervision in licensed premises, and I find that they are rather vague and would be difficult to enforce. Would the Minister take immediate steps to amend the Liquor Act and regulations to require that in all bars where there are more than 75 people or so that there must be a door man stationed at the entrance to check identification cards? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O54-12(2): Identification Cards For Entering Licensed Premises

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will be looking at the legal implications with my staff and we will look at the issue seriously.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O55-12(2): Analysis Of Restructuring Of Housing Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Could the honourable Member provide Members of this House with an analysis of the restructuring of the Housing Corporation and the changes that are going to be made if restructuring is going to take place?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O55-12(2): Analysis Of Restructuring Of Housing Corporation

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

MR. NERYSOO: A new question to the Minister of Finance. I have had an opportunity to review the Beatty report, Strength at Two Levels, and part of the review that has been provided to all Members. One aspect that has not been a part of the presentations and may be a part of additional presentations is the matter of privatization. I am wondering if the honourable Member is considering the matter of privatization in terms of cost reduction and expenditures with regard to the Government of the NWT.

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

Return To Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

MR. NERYSOO: Supplementary to the Minister of Finance. Does he have a detailed summary or analysis of how privatization is to fit within the whole issue of the implementation of the Beatty report?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

HON. JOHN POLLARD: No, Mr. Speaker, there is no detailed report yet. There has been some discussion with regard to government housing. I think Mr. Lewis asked that question the other day, Mr. Speaker, and there has been some talk about the Power Corporation as well, Mr. Speaker, but that is as far as we have got.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. I would like to ask the honourable Minister if the report that was concluded on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding privatization -- and I know the honourable Member is aware of that report -- whether or not that particular report is being considered when the government is reviewing the matter of privatization and its effect with regard to the delivery of programs and services.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O56-12(2): Privatization In The Beatty Report

HON. JOHN POLLARD: That report will be taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O57-12(2): Assessment Team To Study Hospital Situation In Fort Simpson

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. First of all I would like to thank the Hon. Tony Whitford for coming to Fort Simpson to attend a meeting with the Deh Cho Council on February 8th. The Minister had the opportunity to listen to the people at the community level.

I believe that this government is supposed to provide programs and services to people at the community level. He heard our concerns regarding the hospital and he saw with his eyes what is required in Fort Simpson. He indicated to us that he had an assessment team coming into Simpson on February 12th and I would like to know when he can provide me with an indication of how he will deal with the situation at the hospital in Fort Simpson. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O57-12(2): Assessment Team To Study Hospital Situation In Fort Simpson

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my honourable friend across the way, this was not the assessment team that went in on February 12th. It was a group that went in to touch base with the people in that area. If you will remember, I promised consultation and I think the preliminary work would be

to find out who the key players are going to be; that was phase one. They did some in-house work to look at some of the statistics from the hospital itself. As to when we would be prepared to go ahead with this, there was a time table drafted -- I will have to get back to the Member a little later on, as I do not have it in front of me -- as to the steps after we have identified the key players, when everything would take place. I will endeavour to do that.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W3-12(2): Community Visitation By WCB Officials

MR. TODD: I have a written question for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Maybe this is one way that I will get my message across. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please provide the Legislative Assembly with:

- 1) A listing of all duty travel to the Northwest Territories' communities undertaken by board members and officials of the Workers' Compensation Board during the 1989-90, 1990-91 and to date in the 1991-92 fiscal years, indicating the destination, purpose and total cost of each trip; and,
- 2) A listing of all duty travel to locations outside the Northwest Territories by board members and officials of the Workers' Compensation Board for the same period of time, indicating the destination, purpose and total cost of each trip.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W2-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Renewable Resources concerning the status of the NWT/Alberta interim water quality accord.

Return To Question W2-12(2): Status Of NWT/Alberta Interim Water Quality Accord

Hon. John Ningark's return to Question W2-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 14, 1992:

a) Negotiations on the draft interim water quality accord were completed on October 10, 1991. The document was then sent out by both jurisdictions for public consultation.

b) The Government of the Northwest Territories distributed the draft accord to the NWT coalition against pulp mill pollution on October 28, 1991, for review and comment. Subsequently, the Government of the Northwest Territories funded a two-day workshop in Yellowknife on November 20 and 21, in order for coalition members to meet with the GNWT's negotiators. The coalition circulated the accord among their representative organizations and submitted comments to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Since the NWT coalition against pulp mill pollution represents community, aboriginal and non-government organizations, it was felt that no further consultation was required.

c) An initial meeting, prior to formal negotiations on the interim accord, was held February 12, 1991, in Edmonton. Dennis Patterson, the then Government Leader; and Stephen Kakfwi, Deputy Government Leader; met with Mr. Grant Horsman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Federal Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Ralph Klein, Minister of Environment; and Mr. Rick Orman, Minister of Energy. Several officials from both governments were also present. In addition to the initial meeting, several letters of correspondence were transmitted prior to formal negotiations.

d) Three formal negotiation sessions were held during 1991:

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i) June 21, 1991 in Edmonton. In attendance were: B. McLeod, Renewable Resources, GNWT; B. Overvold, Executive, GNWT; S. Lewis, Renewable Resources, GNWT; J. Donihee, Justice, GNWT; B. Oppen, Federal Intergovernmental Affairs, Alberta; T. Cottrell, Federal Intergovernmental Affairs, Alberta; P. Melynychuk, Environment, Alberta; A. Lamb, Environment, Alberta.

ii) July 21, 1991 in Yellowknife. In attendance were: B. McLeod, Renewable Resources, GNWT; B. Overvold, Executive, GNWT; S. Lewis, Renewable Resources, GNWT; A. Ferguson, Justice, GNWT; B. Oppen, Federal Intergovernmental Affairs, Alberta; P. Melynychuk, Environment, Alberta; A. Lamb, Environment, Alberta.

iii) October 10, 1991, in Edmonton. In attendance were: B. McLeod, Renewable Resources, GNWT; B. Overvold, Executive, GNWT; S. Lewis, Renewable Resources, GNWT; B. Oppen, Federal Intergovernmental Affairs, Alberta; P. Melynychuk, Environment, Alberta; P. Lamb, Environment, Alberta.

No negotiation sessions were held in 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

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

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 1-12(2): Report Of The Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges has the responsibility to review the Rules of the Legislative Assembly on matters brought to its attention by Members.

During our first meeting, the committee agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of the current Rules of the Legislative Assembly. A comprehensive review of the rules has not taken place since the 10th Assembly. It is the opinion of the committee that such a review is necessary to ensure that the current rules allow Members to best perform their parliamentary duties in a consensus system. Some Members have also expressed the view that the rules could better reflect the cultural tradition of the many peoples that it serves.

The committee will be consulting with all Members to solicit their views and recommendations to improve the current rules of the Legislative Assembly. The committee has already received communication from the chairperson of the ordinary Members' caucus asking the committee to review the time allotment for Members' statements. We will be reporting on this review and any recommended changes to the rules in due course.

This report of the committee deals specifically with a matter referred to it by the Legislative Assembly. During the first session the standing committee on legislation's report on a review of the legislative process for the 12th Legislative Assembly was adopted by the House and referred to the standing

committee on rules, procedures and privileges. The committee was asked to prepare the necessary amendments to the rules needed to implement the new legislative process.

Rule Changes To Implement The New Legislative Process

The report of the standing committee on legislation recommended sweeping changes to the way legislation is reviewed by committees of the Assembly. After examining the process recommended by that committee and adopted by the House, our committee had some difficulty with the process as proposed. While we have based our recommendations for amendments to the rules primarily on a process recommended by the standing committee on legislation, we are recommending three further changes to allow this process to function better in our consensus system. The committee recognizes that our recommendations represent some changes to the process as proposed by the standing committee on legislation, however, we are of the opinion that these proposals conform to principles 2 and 9 of that report. The three changes to the proposed process that we recommend are:

1) Chairman's Liaison Committee

The standing committee on legislation had recommended that bills receiving second reading be ordered to the committee's liaison committee for referral to the appropriate standing or special committee. The chairman's liaison committee would be made up of chairmen of all standing committees and chaired by the Deputy Speaker.

The committee was of an opinion that as this is simply a co-ordinating committee that decides which committee should review bills, there is no need to recognize it in the rules. The Office of the Clerk can develop procedures whereby this committee can meet during session to delegate the review of legislation to the appropriate committee.

2) Amending Bills In Committee

The standing committee on legislations report also recommended that "bills may be amended by a motion passed by Members of the standing committee" that is reviewing the bill. This may be done without the consent of the sponsor of the bill. The bill, as amended, would be then received by the Legislative Assembly on the report of the committee

and moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

Similar types of responsibilities are given to committees in other jurisdiction in Canada. However, all other jurisdictions operate on a party system and the party in power usually has the majority of Members on committees, perhaps with the exception of minority governments. It was pointed out that the proposed system allows for a committee to pass amendments that are directly opposed by the sponsor of the bill, whether it is a government public bill or a private Members' public bill. It would be the responsibility of the sponsor to propose a motion to rescind that amendment in committee of the whole. If such a motion did not pass the sponsor of the bill would be in the unenviable position of either proceeding with a bill that they find objectionable to some degree or allowing it to die on the order paper.

Another potential problem with the process discussed by the committee was the possibility that a few Members can change legislation. For example, there are seven Members on the standing committee on legislation; five Members constitute a quorum. Under these circumstances, it is possible for three Members of this committee to pass amendments, without the consent of the sponsor, that substantially alter a bill. The committee was of the opinion that decisions such as this should be made by the whole Assembly sitting in committee of the whole.

The committee was also informed that any amendments proposed in standing or special committees are subject to the same rules that exist for amendments in committee of the whole. Therefore, the committee recommends that a standing committee charged with reviewing a bill be given the power

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to amend bills with the consent of the sponsor of the bill. It is our opinion that this will occur in the vast majority of cases, and the committee would encourage Members to attempt to reach such a consensus.

However, if the committee has proposed amendments where a consensus cannot be reached with the sponsor of the bill they can then propose them in committee of the whole when that bill is under consideration. The whole House can then decide the matter.

3) Review Of Bills In Committee Of The Whole

The committee was concerned that a bill reported by a committee could be proceeded with in committee of the whole on the next sitting day. We were especially concerned that any Member wanting to propose amendments to the bill may have only one day to review the bill, draft amendments and have them translated. This seemed somewhat unreasonable. For this reason, we are proposing a two day lag between the time the bill is reported and when it can be proceeded with in committee of the whole.

Finally, it was apparent that there are numerous administrative and procedural changes that will occur when a significant change in process such as this is implemented. It is the opinion of the committee that the Office of the Clerk should be charged with developing the necessary procedures to ensure that the process functions as well as possible.

Recommendations

Therefore, the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges recommends:

1) That Rule 20(3) be amended to include reports of committees on the review of bills as Item 11 in the daily routine of business in the Assembly and that items 11 to 16 be renumbered accordingly.

2) That Rule 65(2) and Rule 66 be deleted and the following substituted therefore: 65(2) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, when a bill is read for the second time it stands ordered to the appropriate standing or special committee. 65(3) Notwithstanding Rule 65(2), when a bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue of the Northwest Territories is read for the second time it stands ordered to the committee of the whole for consideration. 66(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, bills referred to a committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 days pass from the day the bill has been given second reading. 66(2) All amendments made in committee must have the concurrence of the sponsor of the bill. 66(3) All amendments made in the committee shall be reported to the Assembly. Every bill reported from any committee, whether amended or not, shall be received by the Assembly and ordered into committee of the whole. 66(4) When amendments to a bill have been made in committee, the bill shall be reprinted as amended and introduced with the report of said committee. 66(5) Unless otherwise ordered by the

Assembly, a bill reported by a committee shall not be taken into consideration until two sitting days have passed from that report. And further, that Rules 67(1), 67(2) and 68 be renumbered 68(1), 68(2) and 68(3) and new Rule 67 be added. 67(1) In proceedings in committee of the whole on bills, the preamble and title are first postponed, then every other clause is considered by the committee in its proper order, the preamble and the title to be last considered. 68(2) All amendments proposed to bills in committee of the whole must be written and translated and made available to the Assembly at the time the amendment is proposed.

3) That the Office of the Clerk develop the necessary administrative and procedural changes to implement the new legislative process.

4) That the adopted rule changes come into effect on the next sitting day of this Assembly.

Motion To Move Committee Report 1-12(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

That concludes the first report on the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by my colleague for Inuvik, that the first report on the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges be received and moved into committee of the whole for discussion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 57(1), I wish to table Tabled Document 7-12(2), the following response to petitions:

Petition 1-12(1) tabled by Mr. Arvaluk and responded to by the Minister of Justice; Petition 2-12(1) tabled by Mr. Zoe and responded to by the Minister of Transportation; Petition 3-12(1) tabled by Mr. Ningark and responded to by the Minister of Transportation.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motions.

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

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 9:
Insurance Act**

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, February 19, 1992, I shall move that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Insurance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13:
Financial Administration Act**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 19, 1992, I shall move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Allooloo.

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ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 1: Education Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

**First Reading Of Bill 2: Engineering, Geological
And Geophysical Professions Act**

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, An Act to

Amend the Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

First Reading Of Bill 3: Medical Care Act

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 3 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

First Reading Of Bill 4: Mining Safety Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**First Reading Of Bill 5: Act To Repeal The
Neptune Resources Corporation
Loan Guarantee Act**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 5, An Act to Repeal the Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ningark.

First Reading Of Bill 6: Purchasing Management Association Act

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 6, Purchasing Management Association Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

First Reading Of Bill 12: Tobacco Tax Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 12 has had first reading. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

Committee Report 1-12(2): Report Of The Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

CHAIRMAN (Mr. NERYSOO): I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with the report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges. I would like to indicate to Members that we will be taking a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee back will come to order. We are dealing with the report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges. Mr. Zoe, did you have any additional comments or remarks to make with regard to the report, prior to getting into general comments?

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I have made my report to the House already and I think it is straightforward, but if Members feel they need more information maybe I can elaborate a little later on after I hear some concerns and general comments, but I think the report is straightforward. It basically reflects the wishes of the legislation committee that made the report in regard to the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I am a Member of this committee and I guess it is probably not appropriate for me to congratulate the chairman

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on the report, but I would like to just generally say that in co-operation with the standing committee on legislation I think we now have an improved legislative process. I hope Members of this committee will agree so that we can put the new rules into place beginning tomorrow. I understand if we approve it here that they could be in effect quite quickly, and I also would like to say that I think the Member's comments on the issue of amendments were appropriate.

I think 90 percent of the time we solve these issues in the committee and we should be proud of the way our consensus system works in that our committees are effective in getting legislation changed and approved in a co-operative manner. When that does not happen it should come to the whole House and so I agree with the approach that has been made and I do think it will apply only in a small percentage of the situations. Most of the time the bills can be amended and improved in committee co-operatively with the sponsor of the bill, whether that sponsor be a Minister or private Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any other general comments? Does the committee wish to go through the recommendations? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Recommendation 1. Mr. Zoe.

Motion To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that Rule 20(3) be amended to include "Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills" as Item 11 in the daily routine of business in the Assembly; and that Items 11 to 16 be renumbered accordingly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Recommendation 2. Mr. Zoe.

Motion To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that Rule 65(2) and Rule 66 be deleted and the following substituted therefore:

65(2) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, when a bill is read for the second time it stands ordered to the appropriate standing or special committee;

65(3) Notwithstanding Rule 65(2), when a bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue of the Northwest Territories is read for the second time, it stands ordered to the committee of the whole for consideration;

66(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, bills referred to a committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee, or 120 days pass from the day the bill has been given second reading;

66(2) All amendments made in committee must have the concurrence of the sponsor of the bill;

66(3) All amendments made in committee shall be reported to the Assembly. Every bill reported from any committee, whether amended or not, shall be received by the Assembly and ordered into committee of the whole;

66(4) When amendments to a bill have been made in committee, the bill shall be reprinted as amended and introduced with the report of said committee;

66(5) Unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly, a bill reported by a committee shall not be taken into consideration until two sitting days have passed since the report;

And further that Rules 67(1), 67(2) and 68 be renumbered 68(1), 68(2) and 68(3), and new Rule 67 be added: 67(1) In proceedings in committee of the whole on bills, the preamble and title are first postponed, then every other clause is considered by the committee in its proper order, the preamble and the title to be last considered;

67(2) All amendments proposed to bills in committee of the whole must be written and translated and made available to the Assembly at the time the amendment is proposed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Recommendation 3, Mr. Zoe.

Motion To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Office of Clerk develop the necessary administrative and procedural changes to implement the new legislative process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Recommendation 4, Mr. Zoe.

Motion To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the adopted rule changes come into effect on the next sitting day of this Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Zoe, does that conclude the report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges?

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the standing committee's report on rules, procedures and privileges. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

---Agreed

That concludes the items for consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. I will rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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.MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-12(2) and wishes to report that Committee Report 1-12(2) is concluded. 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 that motion? Seconded by Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Tuesday, February 18, 1992: at 9:00 a.m., of the full caucus; and at 10:30 a.m. of the ordinary Members' caucus.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 18, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions

6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills: Bills 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 12
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT