



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**2nd Session**

**Day +**

**12<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1992**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

**---Prayer**

**SPEAKER** (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Thursday, February 20, 1992.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Member's Statement On Giving Youth A Chance To Decide On Plebiscite**

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the day we should be making decisions that involve our young people. For example, it seems that we, the leaders, have put our young people aside and have forgot about them. As leaders we must realize that they will be taking over our jobs in shaping the government, and they want to be involved now. We have to give them the opportunity of being involved in running their future government. We have to let them know that they should stay in school to finish their education, so that they can take over and do the jobs of leaders and politicians. When it is time to vote on the boundary plebiscite on May 4, we have to give our young people a chance to decide for themselves, because they are our future leaders and politicians.

There will come a time when those young people will come of age to be leaders and politicians. Let us give them this one-time chance to vote on the boundary plebiscite, and by giving them this chance we will gain their trust. I am sure that if we, as leaders, give them this chance, we will give them something to look forward to. Mr. Speaker, let us make good decision, today for the future of our young people. Thank you.

**---Applause**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' Statements. Mr. Lewis

**Member's Statement On Executive Council's Version Of Consensus Government**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express a real concern that I have about the current Executive Council's version of consensus government. I find it unbecoming that people who are in a leadership role should be asking ordinary Members to propose changes to government which are really only, at this point in time, clearly in the government's interest. If you are an ordinary Member, you have your own agenda of the things you want to do, and if it is the wish of the government to get rid of the Housing Corporation's board, they should go ahead and do it. If they are convinced that is the thing to do and they can save money, and so on, that is the thing that you can do and you have the authority to do it because you are the government. If you want to get rid of the Denendeh Conservation Board because you think it is no good and it has no purpose, you should have the courage of your convictions to go ahead and do it and not ask ordinary Members to take the heat for things that you want to do yourself.

I can go on at great lengths on all the things that the government would like to do. It is a strange version of consensus government if the involvement that we are going to have is simply to be an instrument of somebody else's policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Shame, shame!

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

**Member's Statement On Situation At Inuvik Regional Hospital**

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make some statements about the situation at the Inuvik Regional Hospital. In May of 1991, an article appeared in the Inuvik Drum dealing with the concerns of employees at the Inuvik Regional Hospital, and how staff were concerned that certain management practices were affecting staff morale and staff turnover.

In the same month there was a letter in the Inuvik Drum from the regional vice-president of the Union of Northern Workers, again addressing the issue of staff morale. A subsequent issue in the Inuvik Drum, again in May 1991, ran an article on how the chief executive officer of the Inuvik Regional Hospital had met with a

committee of hospital workers to address their concerns. The staff were assured that these concerns would be looked after.

However, recent demonstrations by the hospital and Union of Northern Workers employees indicate that morale has not improved. It has, in fact, declined to the point where members of the community are getting concerned about the ability to receive proper health care and concern about the impact this morale problem will have on the level of care for themselves and their families. This decline in staff morale also has a ripple effect on the community as staff continue to change and are unhappy, and it has a serious social impact on the community. Employees are working in stressful environments and take this home with them, and it has a ripple effect at home.

Mr. Speaker, I have received over 80 letters and numerous phone calls from residents of Inuvik relating to this issue, and I will later today be tabling these letters in the House. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

#### **Member's Statement On Baffin Art Shop**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a concern from Baffin South. You all know there are some concerns arising from Baffin. Their concern is the art shop and if it is going to go bankrupt, because this is income for the people in Baffin. Their main concern is that, for example, there is a new facility that will be built in Baker Lake sometime this winter. Their main concern is, is it going to be an improvement for the social life of the community? This is also

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my concern. So I stand this afternoon to express my concern. My question is, is there going to be an improvement? Perhaps my next question is that I think it is going to involve the whole community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

#### **Member's Statement On Absolute Discharge For Individual Convicted Of Sexual Assault**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, several years ago I was charged with spousal assault in which the circumstances were that I did not commit any physical harm or any bodily injury, but I did push my wife, and for that I was charged with assault. In the section

under the Criminal Code on assault, the definition of assault varies from touching a person, brushing a person, to striking a person. The situation, Mr. Speaker, was that I did plead guilty to that. I did touch my wife.

But a situation this morning which I was quite disturbed to hear was when an individual that is a leader in his community and in his area was also convicted of touching a girl, I believe, and for that he did get charged, was found guilty, but had an absolute discharge. I think the difference between those two cases, Mr. Speaker, is that when I touch my wife I touch her in the right place and not in the wrong place. I do not see the situation to be any different in this case. It happened about eight years ago, but it was not cause at that time, nor should it be the cause today. Leaders are expected to get away with doing things with the knowledge of the public. The judge says this person is guilty but he could go free. I do not believe in this kind of justice system, and I think we should get this point across to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to Ministers' statements.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Unanimous consent has been requested to return to Item 2, Ministers' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

## **ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Ministers' Statement 12-12(2): Interim Report On The Commission For Constitutional Development**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last spring, a committee of political leaders developed terms of reference for a commission to develop a comprehensive constitutional proposal for a western territory in the event of the division of the Northwest Territories. Last July, this House affirmed the commission's terms of reference, appointed an additional member and appropriated funds to enable the commission to fulfill the first phase of its mandate.

The commission, chaired by Jim Bourque, with members Bertha Allen, George Braden, Les Carpenter, Richard Hardy and Francois Paulette, is making every effort to complete its complex and

difficult task in a thorough, co-operative and timely fashion.

It has funded interested parties to facilitate their participation, conducted a round of community consultations, done research and expert consultation, and, above all, struggled together as a group to reconcile strongly held and sometimes contradictory views on what principles could form the basis of a constitution to serve all residents of a new western territory.

This morning, the commission released its interim report. The commission will now embark on a second round of community hearings to seek reactions from the public. Armed with this advice, it will complete a final and more detailed report by April 27. This will signal the end of the first phase of the commission's mandate.

I want to commend each commissioner for his and her effort, and I encourage them to maintain the goodwill and energy that they have displayed to see the project to completion. However, the commissioners are not alone in shouldering responsibility for success. The challenge now is for all of us --western MLAs, political leaders, and citizens of every community -- to examine carefully the recommendations of the commission, to discuss them openly and frankly but without rancour, and to help guide the commission toward a final report which could form the basis of a consensus among residents of the West for a constitution for a new territory. Thank you.

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

**Ministers' Statement 13-12(2): Workers' Compensation Board And Hunters' And Trappers' Coverage**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, the Legislative Assembly wanted to provide some form of special insurance coverage under the Workers' Compensation Board for those people who were full-time hunters and trappers. It was never intended to provide coverage for those people who only occasionally hunted, but the program would be designed for those who spent most of their working time hunting and trapping "professionally."

Mr. Speaker, copies of various original Hansard debates are now being distributed to all Members.

These will show the discussions that took place at that time and the reasons for the coverage.

As a result of those debates, a program was developed in late 1987. The total cost of providing this insurance coverage was paid for by the government through the Department of Renewable Resources.

There were some problems in determining who would be eligible for the program. Normally, the salary of the worker is used to determine the level of coverage that the worker could receive. There is always a maximum level of benefits that can be received, and this is based on the YMIR, yearly maximum insurable remuneration. In 1988 the YMIR level was set at \$40,000 and remains the same today.

Early in 1990 the WCB reviewed the program, and many meetings were held on all aspects of the program. The Department of Renewable Resources, among others, was involved in these discussions.

Since there was no such thing as a "salary level" for hunters and trappers, it was necessary to develop some criteria to determine who would be eligible for the program and to determine the level of benefits that a hunter would receive. It was obvious that new guidelines were needed that would be clear and fair to all. The WCB recognized that the guidelines would have to include not only the value of the furs taken but also the value of the country foods that were used to feed the hunter and his or her family members.

Following direction from cabinet, the WCB established policy guidelines in August of 1990 which took these values into account, and it was determined that in order to determine eligibility, the value of the furs harvested would be added to the value of the food used. The minimum level to be eligible for the program was set at \$10,000 for a full-time harvester.

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When a claim is received, the WCB will seek proof from the hunter or trapper that they meet or exceed the \$10,000 level to be eligible for benefits. The benefits will not be based on the \$10,000 but at 90 per cent of the YMIR in place at that time, less some reductions, such as income tax and Canada Pension Plan. Today a hunter would receive compensation or pension benefits based on the present YMIR of \$40,000.

Information on the new guidelines was distributed across the Territories for the information of all full-time hunters and trappers. The WCB can also provide coverage for those persons who are not eligible for this coverage. Persons who have other sources of employment and pursue hunting and trapping only occasionally can purchase "personal optional protection coverage." At present this coverage costs four dollars per \$100 of coverage. To purchase the full coverage of \$40,000 would therefore cost \$1600 per year.

Mr. Speaker, since we do not have staff in every region, it is difficult for the WCB alone to administer this type of coverage across the Territories. This is why it has been very helpful to have the active involvement of the Department of Renewable Resources in programs such as this.

We are also trying our best to develop policies and procedures that are fair to all, and thus the board continually reviews all of these policies and procedures with affected groups. At present, the WCB is continuing their reviews of the hunters' and trappers' program with the Department of Renewable Resources and other interested parties. Any suggestions from Members of this Assembly will be welcomed.

I do hope that the information session held today has assisted Members to better understand the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board. I would also point out that Members who are approached by constituents for information or assistance are welcome to raise their concerns with myself, my staff, or staff of the WCB itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. I wonder if I could ask that if Ministers have a statement to be made on a given date, if at all possible, that they could try to be here when the Ministers' statements are called. Otherwise the flow of the order of the House is disrupted. Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

### **REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

#### **Member's Statement On Contamination Of Liard And Mackenzie Rivers**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have concerns about the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers. My constituency is in the middle of the confluence of the Liard River and the Mackenzie River. I was raised along the river and am very concerned about the

river. About three years ago there were a lot of fish floating down the river in the middle of summer. There were fish such as suckers, arctic grayling, et cetera. Over the last couple of summers, we have not been able to catch arctic grayling. We call them bluefish. Last summer, I went to all the traditional fishing spots; however, I was not able to catch arctic grayling. We, in my area, are all concerned that something is going wrong with our river.

I spoke about this in December with regard to clear-cutting in British Columbia, and the possibility of environmental damage in that area. Recently, members of the Fort Simpson Dene Band travelled to northern Saskatchewan. They found out that there is an environmental process going on for the development of five more uranium mines. Presently, there are three uranium mines operating there. I am told that the rivers in that part of the country eventually flow into our part of the country. We are concerned that any type of pollution that may be dumped into the river eventually makes its way into the Liard River or the Mackenzie River. I think everybody in the North should be concerned about this, especially the government.

Let it be known that we are concerned about it. I will be asking more questions later on in question period. Mahsi.

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

### **ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

#### **Further Return To Question O91-12(2): Exact Amount Of Grants In Lieu Of Taxes To Larger Municipalities**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 19, 1992, on federal grants in lieu of property taxes. As of February 19, 1992, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs estimated \$4,503,517 of federal grants in lieu of property taxes as outstanding to the tax-based municipalities. The 1991 outstanding grants in lieu have been included in the above total. As all interim payments have not been received for 1990-91, the current total outstanding grants will be reduced substantially.

Mr. Speaker, I also have the outstanding grants in lieu of property taxes broken down by municipality. For Fort Simpson, the total outstanding is \$324,221; Fort

Smith, \$451,232; Hay River, \$229,282; Inuvik, \$934,797; Iqaluit, \$969,795; Norman Wells, total outstanding, \$100,314; Yellowknife, \$1,493,876; for a total outstanding of \$4,503,517.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. I would like to welcome Mr. Gary Bohnet, President of the Metis Nation, to the Assembly today.

**---Applause**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O92-12(2): Eggs Being Exported From NWT Without Proper Licence**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance with regard to a process which was developed back in 1982 with regard to obtaining an egg quota for the Northwest Territories. Right now we have an illegal operation, as you know, in Hay River, in which eggs are being produced and transported down south with no licence or permits of any kind to allow that to happen. I would like to ask the Minister -- I think it is the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, I am not too sure -- but I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he is aware of this illegal operation that is happening in Hay River, which is allowing the export of eggs from the Territories, and if there is any action that is going to be taken by this government on it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Who would like to handle this one in the government? The Minister of Finance.

Return To Question O92-12(2): Eggs Being Exported From NWT Without Proper Licence

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Economic Development -- I do not believe the Minister of Justice knows about any illegal operations, sir. We realize that there are two egg operations in Hay River, and it has been rumoured that some of those eggs are walking across the line into Alberta, sir, but I could not prove that.

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With regard to the quota, we are not making very much progress in that area as well, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if there are some irregularities, that they would be merely unintentional, Mr. Speaker, because as everybody knows there is a discussion going on right now with regard to GATT,

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, talks. There is talk of eliminating the system that controls egg marketing in Canada, so I would imagine that like Nelson, CEMA, Canadian Egg Marketing Association, would put their telescope to their blind eye in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I just could caution Members that right now, to the knowledge of this House, it is hypothetical; so unless this House becomes privy to some definitive facts, then I would caution the Member to be careful about asking a hypothetical question. Mr. Gargan.

**Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he is aware that there is an egg operation in Hay River, and whether or not he is aware whether or not the operation is according to the laws of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is to a new Minister; therefore it poses a new question. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, yes and no. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister's response is "yes and no". Is it yes or no?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson. Supplementary answer.

Further Return To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of egg operations in Hay River; no, I am not aware of illegal practices concerning those egg operations. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**MR. GARGAN:** I would like to thank the Minister for his response. Am I correct in saying that the operation that is happening in Hay River now is probably licensed to operate; they received an egg quota that was allocated to them from the Canadian Egg Marketing Board, and they also received export permits to ship eggs south?

**MR. SPEAKER:** That was really two questions. Perhaps the Minister would like to handle the first question and then, perhaps, as his last supplementary Mr. Gargan could pose a second question. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure who has the responsibility for licensing egg hatcheries, but I do not believe it falls within my responsibility.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is an open question, the first part of a two-question series. Would the Minister of Economic Development like to handle this one?

Further Return To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, both operations in Hay River fall within the town boundaries of the municipality of Hay River. As far as I know, sir, they are both legally operating. The Northwest Territories does not have a quota with the Canadian Egg Marketing Association, CEMA, and, therefore, neither of those operations, to my knowledge, has quotas from CEMA. I would add, Mr. Speaker, that to my knowledge they do not have export permits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development, if they do not have an export permit are they, then, selling the eggs only in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O93-12(2): Hay River Egg Operation In Accordance With NWT Laws

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, I know that you can buy those eggs pretty well anywhere in the Western Arctic. I assume they are selling the eggs into the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, but I do not know for sure what their market area is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have used up your supplementary allotment, Mr. Gargan. Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

#### **Question O94-12(2): Public Works Minister's Commitment To Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Speaker, during the last session the Minister of Public Works reaffirmed his commitment to develop a business incentive policy that allows only northern-owned and operated companies to bid on all government contracts in the Northwest Territories. This commitment was consistent with the Minister's support for a motion passed in this House on April 11, 1990, that directed the Executive Council to draft and implement such a policy. My question to the Minister of Public Works is this: Is the Minister still committed to implementing a policy that will allow only northern-owned and operated companies to bid on Government of the Northwest Territories' contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O94-12(2): Public Works Minister's Commitment To Business Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am committed to developing a range of policies that will meet the

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end of what we tried to achieve in the last Legislative Assembly; that is, to maximize local labour in contracts and help Northerners to develop businesses. I think we can accomplish that with training programs in the communities by increasing the business incentive policy that now exists and making sure that people follow the rules. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O94-12(2): Public Works Minister's Commitment To Business Incentive Policy

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform the House when we can expect to see the implementation of the policy consistent with the principles of "buy North", and "tender North" only?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O94-12(2): Public Works Minister's Commitment To Business Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By this session.

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

**Question O95-12(2): Environmental Meetings  
Between BC And NWT**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Last December I talked about the concerns of the people who live in Liard along the Liard River just 20 miles from the BC border. My concern is, will there be any meetings that are going to take place between the BC government and the Government of the NWT in regard to environmental problems that are going to be arising from the type of logging that they do in BC, which is clear-cutting? This is probably directed toward the Government Leader.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O95-12(2): Environmental Meetings Between BC And NWT

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, a communique has been sent to the appropriate government people in the provinces to ask to be recognized and set up a meeting. We have been rather busy during the session, but we hope to do that.

In terms of the additional issue on uranium development, we have not sent that communication out yet, but that is being constructed now and we will be happy to give a copy to the honourable Member. However, we are committed to meet his request to try to co-ordinate the relationship with the provinces and the NWT when they are proposing or doing major development that will affect the communities and the Mackenzie River and Liard River.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

**Question O96-12(2): Finance Minister's  
Commitment To Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the current Minister of Finance. On April 11, 1990, a motion was passed by the 11th Legislative Assembly that directed the Executive Council to prepare a policy that would permit only northern companies to bid on government contracts. This motion was moved by the current Minister of Finance, seconded by the current Minister of Public Works. During the last session the Minister of Finance told this House that his department and the Department of Public Works were looking at the policy because it does meet the specifics of this motion. My question to the Minister of Finance is: Is the Minister still committed to implementing a policy consistent with the principles of that motion, that this policy should allow only companies resident in the NWT and who meet the government's business incentive policy to tender on all Government of the NWT contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:** This question is directed to the Minister of Finance, but I caution Members that any question to the Minister of Finance has to deal with his present capacity as Minister of Finance, not taking into account what he might have done in his past life as an ordinary Member. Minister of Finance.

Return To Question O96-12(2): Finance Minister's Commitment To Business Incentive Policy

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Morin, in his capacity as the Minister responsible for the business incentive policy, will be bringing to cabinet, tomorrow morning, information in that regard for cabinet perusal, and I will know what is in that document tomorrow.

As far as my commitment, personally, to that end and to that motion, I still stand behind that motion, sir. Thank you.

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

**Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment  
To Development Of Business Incentive Policy**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of DPW. My colleague from the Keewatin had basically asked the Minister of DPW if he still believes in the business incentive policy, recognizing that it will be used to maximize northern preference, train northern people. I would like to ask if the Minister believes this policy



should be developed, and will be developed, to ensure that we utilize, as the Government of the NWT, absolute northern preference for tenders that are given and awarded to the territorial contractors. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The past business incentive policy was to equalize and bring up to par northern businesses that have to compete with southern businesses. The business incentive policy, as far as I was concerned, was never there for training northern people, and that was the problem with that policy. We have to address the training of northern people in a different way for the simple reason that the percentage was not great enough to make sure that our people were getting trained.

We have been doing capital projects in the Northwest Territories for many years, and still the majority of the people that are working on those projects are coming from the South or from outside the community, and as far as I am concerned that is unacceptable. So we do have a plan, and we will be talking about it in this Legislative Assembly during this session, for how we are going to maximize the training, how we are going to get our people trained, how our people can take care of those jobs, so that money does not go to Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Newfoundland, or wherever it is going now, and stays in the Northwest Territories.

In the past Legislative Assembly, the people that know me

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know that I was a strong pusher for that, and I will continue to do that. We have to train our people and we have to ensure that they do have the jobs, and any policy we put in place has to reflect that. I will do that as Minister of DPW. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, in as much as I recognize what the Minister is saying, that he would like to make sure that this policy that encourages northern contractors to train northern people to take advantage of opportunities that are given by the government, and recognizing that the Province of Quebec has an absolute preference policy for only contractors of Quebec, I would like to know whether the Minister is going to ensure that any contracts that are given out to tender for northern people, or any tenders that are being awarded, will use the absolute northern preference, and that the policy will be developed with absolute northern preference only. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that in Quebec it is not an absolute policy to hire Quebec firms only. I will get that information and distribute it to Members. One thing we have to look at is what we are trying to achieve. It is always nice on paper to say "absolute northern contractors only," but will we be able to achieve it, and are we going to use our work force to police that and make sure that everybody does that, only tender in the Northwest Territories? Or should we use the work force we have to develop training programs and make sure our people are working? That is the question we all have to answer. We have only so many PYs, so what are we going to use them for? You know, either do something positive or just be a police force.

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

Supplementary To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not answering my question. I am asking, with the new policy that is being developed, will the Minister ensure that northern preference, absolute northern preference, will be granted to people who tender on these contracts that are being awarded? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is asking that only northern contractors with residence in the North are allowed to bid, the answer would be no. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O97-12(2): DPW Minister's Commitment To Development Of Business Incentive Policy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister, then, tell me, if he does not believe that absolute northern preference will be given in the new policy that is being developed for business incentive, then what is the purpose for the business incentive policy to be amended so that we can enhance and encourage, so businesses can take the opportunity to train northern people for these contracts that they are going to be awarded?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendments to the business incentive policy I am putting forward to cabinet tomorrow may get through cabinet, or they may not be approved by cabinet. I will be in a better position to answer this tomorrow. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you taking that as notice, Mr. Morin? Yes, he is. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker. You asked the Minister if he was taking it under notice, and he did not reply into the record. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will repeat the question for the record. Mr. Morin, are you taking the question as notice?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Dent.

**Question O98-12(2): Committee To Develop New Mining Safety Act**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. During the last session the Minister announced that a consultative process to develop the new Mining Safety Act would take place under the auspices of a committee with an independent chair. Can the

Minister tell the House if this committee has been struck yet?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for mine safety, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O98-12(2): Committee To Develop New Mining Safety Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I am still actively consulting, particularly with organized labour, in order to get this committee established. Those consultations are not quite concluded; but when they are, Mr. Speaker, and I expect that to happen shortly, I will give this House a statement on the results of the process to date, and I expect that very shortly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**Question O99-12(2): Consultation With Elders In Elective Surgery**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. On February 10, I attended a funeral in Fort Providence of an elderly person who died, in Edmonton, because of the surgery that was performed to remove gallstones. The person was 89 years old, and perhaps if there was a concern regarding prolonging his life, then maybe the surgery should not have been done. The point, Mr. Speaker, is that the old man did have that surgery, and as a result of that he hemorrhaged and did not regain consciousness.

I realize that transportation is a concern, but when people of that age are required to travel to Edmonton to have surgery, they should be informed as to whether or not it is in their best

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interest to have surgery that could have serious complications. I would like to know whether they are advised of that or if they are just told, "You need these gallstones removed, so you have to get them removed."

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

Return To Question O99-12(2): Consultation With Elders In Elective Surgery

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not know the specifics in this instance, but I think that medical matters like that are between

patients and their doctors. I think that doctors make their best judgment at the time with the information that they have. I think we are treading on pretty thin ground if we start to tell people, "You are too old to have an operation," unless there are some other factors in there that the doctor might know at the time. I think it is a judgment call that the medical profession takes very seriously and it is a matter between a physician and a patient as to the level of care they should receive.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O99-12(2): Consultation With Elders In Elective Surgery

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, the senior I am referring to is from my community. The concern that I have is that we do not have any qualified translators to convey the situation to the senior. The senior had his nephew, and he does not speak his language perfectly himself, but he accommodated him. I think in a situation like this, where a person loses his life, that we have to look at it seriously and see what it is that we could do to improve the situation. I do not know if he was given the right information or not. I am not questioning the fact of the confidentiality between the doctor and the patient; I am questioning the process that resulted in the loss of life.

I would like to ask the Minister if there is a process used in the communities when a patient is being referred south, or whether it is still a situation between a doctor and the patient, regardless of whether there is a lack of communication.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Whitford.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a tough one to answer because I do not know what took place and whether translation was a problem. I am not sure of the specifics; and if I could take this matter as notice, I will get the Member the specifics on it, and we can get more of the question answered...

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** You are wasting our time.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Well, on matters of health and seriousness like this, it is hardly fair to say that we are wasting time. This is important, and I am trying to give the Member...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me; this is argumentative. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

### **Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health what is the status of the Metis health benefits.

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

Return To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** The matter is still under review, and there are a number of things that we need to deal with. It will be before cabinet in the near future.

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

Supplementary To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister give us some indication as to the time frame within which he anticipates the matter will be concluded and he can give a definite answer as to whether he can address the Metis health benefits, or is the government going to deny the Metis health benefits? Can he give this House a specific time frame that we are going to be looking at?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** No, I cannot give the Member a specific time on it because there are a number of things that have to be addressed yet and we are in consultation with the main players in it.

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

Supplementary To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me the outstanding issues that still need to be addressed with respect to the Metis health benefits?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of areas that we are not able to come to any immediate decision on. I think the definition of "Metis" is a prime one, and the cost impact to the health care system. I think it is principally on the definition first.

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

Supplementary To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister basically stating that the two specific items that are outstanding to date are the definition of a Metis, and also the cost impact to the government?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Yes.

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

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Supplementary To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those being the only two outstanding items in respect to addressing the Metis health benefits, when does the Minister feel that he can make some announcement in this House as to when this government will be addressing the long outstanding issue of Metis health benefits, since the government of the Northwest Territories took responsibility for the health program?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O100-12(2): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope by the next session, sometime in June. I may by that time have something for the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

**Question O101-12(2): Proposed Park For Lake Harbour**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I stated just yesterday that I presented this document yesterday, the park proposal in Lake Harbour. Maybe the Minister of Economic Development can give us an update on the planning or give us a document on the planning process of the park proposal there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O101-12(2): Proposed Park For Lake Harbour

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will make the document available to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question O101-12(2): Proposed Park For Lake Harbour

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Yes, I think I already have a document on the planning process. As well, I have a document on -- they have been training tourism operators, and that will probably be concluded in June. I would like to know more about the process of training that they have for tourism operators in that region.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

**Question O102-12(2): Number Of Proposed PYs To Be Transferred To Power Corporation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Member for Hay River, wearing whatever hat he wants to wear. There is a proposal in the Beatty report that the POL, petroleum, oil and lubricants, program be transferred to the northern power group. I would like to ask the Minister if he has calculated the number of PYs that in fact would be transferred to the Power Corporation under this proposed transfer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance.

Return To Question O102-12(2): Number Of Proposed PYs To Be Transferred To Power Corporation.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O102-12(2): Number Of Proposed PYs To Be Transferred To Power Corporation

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would undertake to provide me, then, with that information so that I can see the impact on the city of Yellowknife if those positions are transferred.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O102-12(2): Number Of Proposed PYs To Be Transferred To Power Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, I think what has been talked about is a transfer of responsibility from Government Services to the Power Corporation. I do not think there has been any discussion, sir, of a physical move of bodies from one community to another. It is not nearly in that stage. I would undertake to provide to the Member, though, the number of people who are concerned with the POL that reside in Yellowknife at the present time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**Question O103-12(2): Dental Practitioners With HIV Or AIDS To Inform Patients**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. He is a descendent of the aboriginal people, and aboriginal people have principles regarding honesty and openness, both on the part of the healers and the persons being helped. However, Mr. Speaker, I have trouble relating to the principle on a recent situation in which a dentist with AIDS treated residents of the Northwest Territories without telling them that he had the disease. Many Northerners, I am sure, think that if a dentist has a communicable disease, his patients should be told about it so that they can make an informed decision about whether or not to seek treatment elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would advise the House whether it is possible for regional health boards to include a clause in their contractual agreements with dental service providers which requires a practitioner with HIV or AIDS to inform his or her patients.

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

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, the question is quite complex, and I will need time to look at this. I would like to take this as notice.

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

**Question O104-12(2): Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services. Mr. Speaker, in December the Minister indicated that he had set up, under the auspices of the Mining Safety Act, a committee that will have an independent chairman to address the Mining Safety Act. Has the Minister, to date, appointed an independent chairman to facilitate this committee? Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O104-12(2): Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O104-12(2): Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, has the Minister formulated and completed his committee?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O104-12(2): Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** No, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O104-12(2):  
Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what is lacking with respect to the formulation of this committee in order to address the Mining Safety Act?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O104-12(2):  
Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, in consulting with various parties who are vitally interested in new and improved mine safety legislation, I have encountered strong opposition to the composition of the committee as I announced it in this Legislature. This opposition, Mr. Speaker, is strong enough and significant enough that it could threaten the effectiveness of the committee and the willingness of all parties to participate in that committee. Mr. Speaker, the reason the committee has not yet been struck is not from want of effort, but it is because I am still trying to resolve the fundamental objections that have been expressed from some quarters about the composition of the committee. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O104-12(2):  
Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Could the Minister indicate to this House where the opposition is and from what group it is coming?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O104-12(2):  
Appointment Of Chairman, Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** As I said, Mr. Speaker, I am still consulting and indeed will be having a meeting on that very subject later today. However, I can answer the Member's question in general terms. Mr. Speaker, representatives of organized labour are concerned about my announced intention to have a representative of unorganized labour sitting on the mining safety committee. That is the major problem that I am facing and trying to resolve at the moment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

### **Question O105-12(2): Funding For Environmental Surveys, Sanikiluaq**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Finance. In our area, as well as in Sanikiluaq, we know there is a panel on environmental surveys who have been requesting environmental assessment. Have you put aside money for their request for funding? They said they had received a percentage of what they had requested. The environmental panel had requested to do some surveys in their area. Maybe the Minister of Finance might know about this request or if they have funding for that purpose.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, I do not have any knowledge of it right now, but I will look into it for the Member. I am taking the question as notice.

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

### **Question O106-12(2): Quarterly Funding For Divisional School Boards**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Yesterday I questioned the Minister about the monthly educational grant payments, and I know that all divisional school boards in the North are very concerned about this quarterly funding. Yesterday you indicated that your department has developed a paper that you will be taking to the Executive Council, and the Executive Council has not made a decision on how they are going to deal with this yet. Can you tell the House when you will be presenting this paper to the Executive Council?

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

Return To Question O106-12(2): Quarterly Funding For Divisional School Boards

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:** Mr. Speaker, sometime this month I will be taking that paper to cabinet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O106-12(2): Quarterly Funding For Divisional School Boards

**MR. ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have talked to the financial people in the Deh Cho Divisional School Board. They take their job very

seriously, and they indicate to me that they do a financial plan for the whole year. As you know, the year end is coming very soon, at the end of March. They are in limbo as to what is going to happen. So the sooner they have some sort of indication as to what is going to happen, the better. For people like myself who have students in school, especially in Simpson where we do not know whether we are going to have grade 11 or 12, we need to know as well. So would the Minister tell the House as soon as possible what kinds of plans they have? I would appreciate that. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Allooloo.

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Further Return To Question O106-12(2): Quarterly Funding For Divisional School Boards

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member's concern is very well taken. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

#### **Question O107-12(2): Mining Safety Committee**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services. The Minister indicated in December that the committee dealing with the Mining Safety Act would begin its work in January. I would like to know if the Minister could indicate when the committee will start its work on the Mining Safety Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O107-12(2): Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the honourable Member that there has been quite a lot of work done toward a new Mining Safety Act. Good submissions have been received from a number of interested parties about the previous bill which had been tabled for public comment. I have also received a lot of good advice about good people who could serve on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, there is one fundamental issue that I am trying to resolve. I hope that I can resolve it as soon as today or tomorrow, one way or the other, so that I can report back to the House either that the committee can proceed or that there will be another

course of action, if it will be required. So if I resolve this outstanding issue satisfactorily in the next few days, I expect to get the committee up and running fairly quickly, although later than I had hoped. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan.

#### **Question O108-12(2): Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Before Christmas I had the research division do work in the area of the operations of the workers' compensation boards across Canada and their accountability, with checks and balances. But the Workers' Compensation Board here does not seem to have that. If you look in your main estimates on the operations of the Workers' Compensation Board, there is no objective to see the level of performance or "performance for results" system. Would the Minister indicate whether or not the Workers' Compensation Board employs any performance standards, management for results system, or operational objectives by which its performance can be evaluated?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O108-12(2): Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The "performance for results" system the Member refers to has not been applied to the Workers' Compensation Board, as far as I know. However, Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Member that there is a mission statement that has been adopted by the Workers' Compensation Board which lays out specific goals for the board, and I would be pleased to provide that information to all Members regarding that mission statement. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O108-12(2): Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, one of the difficulties that a lot of the Members have, including people who are making claims, is with regard to the tribunal. They have two appeals processes, but they are both within the Workers' Compensation Board. The only province

that has adopted an appeal outside the board is Prince Edward Island. The Minister just mentioned the mission statement is a performance -- I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there are any directions from the Workers' Compensation Board to have an appeals process outside the Workers' Compensation Board.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O108-12(2):  
Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is quite correct. At the moment the so-called appeals tribunal, which is a group of three people -- the chairperson, who is a director of the board, and commissioners appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the board -- is the last level of appeal. I think the Member is asking me whether any consideration has been given to changing that appeal process, and I would have to tell him that as of this date, as the Minister responsible, I have not considered a change to the final level of appeal, which would require an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act. I have not contemplated such a change up to this point in time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O108-12(2):  
Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board

**MR. GARGAN:** I agree that the Workers' Compensation Board tells their claimants that they have exclusive jurisdiction over decisions relating to all aspects of the workers' compensation process. Will the Minister confirm for the House that, in fact, a decision must be made in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Act and can be appealed to the territorial Supreme Court on the basis of jurisdictions on matters of law?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O108-12(2):  
Performance Standards For Workers' Compensation Board

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is absolutely correct, and I should have clarified that in my answer. Ordinarily the appeals tribunal is the final level of appeal, but if any worker

can establish an error of law in the process, then certainly an appeal to the courts can and would be allowed. In matters of law there certainly is an appeal to the courts, depending on the facts. That is correct. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for Public Works. I believe he dealt with the matter of the northern incentive

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policy, or is dealing with that particular matter, and I want to know if the honourable Member is, or will be, addressing the matter of setting out guidelines that will allow all northern businesses equal and fair opportunities on all contracts in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that all northern businesses now do have that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy

**MR. NERYSOO:** Is the honourable Member aware of concerns that have been expressed in the Inuvik Region about matters of government contracts being issued on a monopoly basis to certain contractors?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of this issue. Are you talking about negotiated contracts?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.



Supplementary To Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy

**MR. NERYSOO:** I am not certain if the honourable Member answered the question. It has nothing to do with negotiated contracts. It has to do with contracts that have been called through the tendering process, and then the rules have been changed to allow for one particular contractor in the community to get access to those contracts. So I am asking the honourable Member if he is prepared to look at the tendering process to ensure that all northern contractors are treated equally and fairly on public tendered contract calls.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O109-12(2): Equality For All Northerners Under Northern Incentive Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the tendering process, if people are bidding on it and then the rules have changed after the tenders have been submitted, then that is not legal. So it is guaranteed I will look into it and fix it if that is happening. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

**Question O110-12(2): Minister's Support For Principle Of Absolute Preference**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for his reply to my question on the northern preference policy. I am encouraged to know that he still supports the principle of that motion, which was passed on April 11, 1990.

My question would be, would I be safe in assuming that the Minister will continue to support the principle of absolute preference that was contained in that motion when the policy goes to cabinet tomorrow?

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

Return To Question O110-12(2): Minister's Support For Principle of Absolute Preference

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I repeat once again, I am committed to the principle of that motion and I will be so directed, although I think the Member should be aware that cabinet is a consensus organization just like this House and the Member...

---Laughter

...and the Member will have to be satisfied with the consensus of cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O111-12(2): Membership On Mining Safety Committee**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you. My question is to the Minister responsible for Public Services and Safety. He noted in terms of the review process for the Mining Safety Act, that there were concerns, and maybe the honourable Member could clarify for me those particular concerns with regard to membership on the committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O111-12(2): Membership On Mining Safety Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am endeavouring to try to resolve the concerns that have been expressed by representatives of organized labour, and it might be a bit premature for me to suggest that they cannot be worked out, but I will tell the honourable Member that although most mines in the NWT employ unorganized workers in situations which are quite different from that of the organized mines, in that the other mines are remote, are by and large fly-in operations, are newer mines and use different methods of mining. Representatives of organized labour have made a strong point to me that an unorganized worker on the mining safety bill committee would have no mandate from Members, or at least a much lesser mandate than if they were from an organized work situation, and that that unorganized worker could be subject to influence by management. It is on those principles that there have been objections on the workers' representatives on the committee being appointed in that manner. But as I said, I am hoping that I can find a way to resolve this concern so that we can get on with the important task -- which I believe we all agree on, workers and industry -- of updating and revising the Mining Safety Act in the NWT.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Time for question period has expired. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Todd.

## ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### Question W7-12(2): Northwest Territories Post-Secondary Student Statistics

**MR. TODD:** I have a written question for the Minister of Education. Would the Minister of Education please provide the following information:

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1) the number of Northwest Territories students enrolled in post-secondary programs for the past 10 years. This information should be provided by year, ethnic status, program type -- technical or degree, and school -- Arctic College or southern educational institution;

2) the number of Northwest Territories students who have graduated from post-secondary programs for the past 10 years. This information should be provided by year, ethnic status, program type -- technical or degree, and school -- Arctic College or southern educational institution;

3) the number of Northwest Territories students who have received student financial assistance for post-secondary studies for the past 10 years. This information should be provided by year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a former Member of this House, a former Member of Parliament and the present chairperson of the Northwest Territories Water Board, Mr. David Nickerson.

---Applause

Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

### Question W8-12(2): Tendering Process In The Inuvik Region

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question to the Government Leader.

1) Is the Government Leader aware of any concerns or problems with the public tendering process in the Inuvik Region on government tender calls and/or contracts?

2) What is the present tendering process that is used, or to be used, in the Inuvik Region?

3) Would the Government Leader indicate whether the Government of the NWT is prepared to establish

clear guidelines and rules that will apply equally and fairly to all government tender calls and contracts and to contractors within the Inuvik Region, taking into consideration the special arrangements or agreements with the aboriginal people within the region?

4) How are the present tendering guidelines being applied to contractors or to contracts within the Inuvik Region?

5) Have all the present tendering rules and guidelines been applied fairly and equally to all contracts or to all contractors?

6) Have there been any changes to the tendering guidelines or rules, and what changes have been applied and to what contractors?

7) What contract preferences have been given to contractors, and what is the nature of the preferences given, and to what contractors have these preferences been applied?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

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

## ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Committee Report 2-12(2): Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleagues on the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, I am pleased to provide to the House today a report on the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the trade advisory committees.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, under the authority given to it by this House, has completed a review of the Northwest Territories Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the existing trade advisory committees.

Throughout the review process the committee focused on the following aspects: the mandate, composition, organizational structure, and function of

the board and each committee; working relationships between the board, the trade advisory committees, Arctic College, and the Department of Education; pertinent legislation, regulations and policy; and larger issues surrounding the training and certification of northern tradespeople in accordance with national trends and standards.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and thoughtful input received from people appearing as witnesses or submitting briefs during public hearings in Fort Smith on January 22, 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I will speak to each of our specific recommendations in more detail once we begin consideration of the report in committee of the whole.

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

Therefore, I would move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions be received and moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** ...(Microphone not turned on) Reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Koe.

#### ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 11-12(2), 80 letters which I have received from residents of Inuvik regarding concerns about the Inuvik Regional Hospital.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 12-12(2), a document called "Plebiscite Direction" under the Plebiscite Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions. Notices of motions.

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Ms. Cournoyea.

#### ITEM 15: MOTIONS

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Madam Government Leader, you must seek unanimous consent to deal with it today, as 48 hours' notice is necessary unless honourable Members seek unanimous consent.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Ms. Cournoyea.

Motion 2-12(2): Tabled Document 10-12(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker:

I **MOVE**, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government, be moved into the committee of the whole for discussion.

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

---Carried

Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government, will be moved into committee of the whole today. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion with respect to Tabled Document 9-12(2).

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

Motion 1-12(2): Tabled Document 9-12(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I **MOVE**, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

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

**---Carried**

Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, is ordered into committee of the whole. Motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

#### **ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

##### **First Reading Of Bill 15: Official Languages Act**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I wish to move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the first time.

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

**---Carried**

Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

#### **ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

##### **Second Reading Of Bill 13: Financial Administration Act**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would permit the Financial Management Board to forgive a debt or obligation owed to the government where the amount of the debt or obligation does not exceed \$1000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Bill 13 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

#### **Second Reading Of Bill 9: Insurance Act**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Insurance Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Insurance Act to allow a warning respecting a limit to the amount payable under an insurance contract to be printed in bold print of a certain size; and to increase the insurance premium tax from two per cent to three per cent, and the fire insurance premium tax from .5 per cent to one per cent. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Bill 9 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute; Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Committee Report 2-12(2), Report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions: Report on the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the Trade Advisory Committees, 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. What does the committee wish to deal with first? There is Committee Report 2-12(2), Tabled Document 10-12(2), Tabled Document 9-12(2) and Ministers' Statement 10-12(2). Mr. Koe.

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**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can we deal with Committee Report 2-12(2), Report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions: Report on the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the Trade Advisory Committees?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): We will deal with Committee Report 2-12(2) first, but now we will take 15 minutes for coffee.

---**SHORT RECESS**

Committee Report 2-12(2), Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions: Report On The Apprenticeship And Trade Certification Board And The Trade Advisory Committees

The committee will come to order. We are going to deal with Committee Report 2-12(2). Mr. Koe, do you wish to make opening remarks?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

**MR. KOE:** As I mentioned earlier, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions met in mid-January in Fort Smith, and one of the activities we looked at was the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the trade advisory committees. The standing committee has made some observations and a series of recommendations, and I would like to go through those.

#### **Apprenticeship And Trade Certification Board**

First of all I would like to talk about the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board. Subsection 5(1) of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act makes it mandatory for the Minister to establish a board called the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board. Seven Members must be appointed by the Minister, such that there is equal representation of employers and employees from the trades occupations. The board is required under the act to hold a minimum of four meetings each year.

The board is intended to perform several functions. It is empowered to hear appeals of certification decisions made by the supervisor of apprentices, but such an appeal has never been made. It also reviews recommendations made by the trade advisory committees on training and examination issues. It takes on other duties assigned to it by the Minister, although the standing committee could find no instances in which this has taken place. It can make

recommendations to the Minister about which trades should be designated and about regulations governing the trade, and it can make recommendations for appointments to trade advisory committees.

In reviewing the composition of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board, the standing committee agreed that it was important to ensure existing levels of representation of employer and employee interests. While the standing committee would encourage the Minister to make appointments which provide adequate regional and women's representation, as well as representation from the full range of designated trades, it was felt that this was unnecessary to establish this in legislation.

However, the standing committee was of the opinion that some adjustments should be made to the statutory role and meeting requirements of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board. Statutory authority to hear appeals should be taken from the board, and the act should be amended to allow the Minister to appoint time-limited appeal panels. The standing committee also felt that a requirement for the board to meet at least four times yearly should be removed in favour of meetings held at the call of the Chair.

#### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, our first recommendation is, and I would like to make it a motion: I move that the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act be amended to a) repeal provisions requiring the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board to meet four times each year; b) repeal provisions which require the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board to determine appeals relating to apprenticeship contracts; and c) allow the Minister to establish appeal panels which would be in existence for a time-limited period for the specific purpose of determining appeals relating to apprenticeship contracts.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. I should have allowed the other Members to make comments before recommendation 1 was reached. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

### Trade Advisory Committees

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a few comments about the trade advisory committees. Subsection 7(1) of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act allows a Minister to establish trade advisory committees for any specific trade or group of trades, and members are appointed by the Minister. Their statutory role is to provide advice for the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board in matters relating to apprentice training programs and tradespersons' qualifications.

There are no statutory restrictions on the number of trades for which an advisory committee can be established. In the past, there have been as many as eight. Presently there are four, and these are the carpenter trade advisory committee; the construction mechanical trade advisory committee; the heavy duty/motor vehicle trade advisory committee; and the housing maintainer trade advisory committee.

In reviewing the functions of these committees, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions realized that it is very important to ensure that the Department of Education and Arctic College receive input on new standards, training methods, and technologies in the various trades disciplines. The trade advisory committees have been fulfilling this function.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions was of the opinion that this function be performed through other means. A restructured Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board could be established in a fashion which allows input from the range of designated trades in the Northwest Territories. Arctic College campuses offering trades training could establish smaller, voluntary program advisory committees capable of providing the administration and faculty with input from industry. Provisions could be added to the Apprenticeship and Trade

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Certification Act which allows the supervisor of apprenticeship programs to appoint smaller

committees for a specified time to perform assigned tasks.

### Motion To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make motion number two. I move that the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act be amended to eliminate all provisions dealing with the establishment or function of trade advisory committees.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:** Mr. Chairman, just a correction if I may. My friend said, "I would like to make motion number two." I think he was trying to say, "I would like to make a motion on recommendation number two."

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Mr. Koe.

### Mandate For Workplace Safety

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee also looked at other matters. The first was the mandate for workplace safety. From our review of the consolidated resolutions of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board it was noted that recommendations on safety matters had been referred to the Minister. While this is laudable on the part of the board, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions could find no indication that the Minister had specifically assigned the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board "other duties" in this respect, pursuant to section 6(1)(c) of the act. Presently, a number of GNWT departments -- for instance Health, Safety and Public Services, and the Labour Standards Board -- and agencies such as the Workers' Compensation Board are active in the study and enforcement of workplace safety standards. The standing committee was concerned that these initiatives should proceed in a co-ordinated plan and should be subject to program evaluation.

### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, our third recommendation deals with this matter, and I would like to move that the government undertake a review of all workplace safety initiatives, services, education strategies and studies and prepare a plan for their co-ordination and evaluation.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Mr. Koe.

### **Promotion And Awareness Of Trades Careers**

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a few comments on promotion and awareness of trades careers. The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions took special note when the chairperson of the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board pointed out that there exists a "negative social perception" of trades careers. Trades training has been undervalued as a career option, too often equated with inaccurate images of "dirty jobs," "blue collar lifestyles" and "boring work." In contrast, the high earning potential and excellent opportunities for personal growth and the community esteem associated with trades in the North are a reality often overlooked by persons looking for career development options.

Members of the standing committee agreed that there has been insufficient promotion of apprenticeship and trade certification as a career path. It was noted, for instance, that among the widely distributed series of "Northerners on the Move" posters, not one of the role models depicted was a tradesperson.

The standing committee wishes to stress that the trades sector should be a valued component of the human resource base of the NWT. With increased emphasis on self-sufficient communities and the advent of industrial mega-projects, the demand for skilled, qualified tradespeople will become intensive. Northerners should be encouraged to prepare for these career opportunities now, so they will not be lost to non-resident workers in the future.

### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried**

Mr. Chairman. our fourth recommendation: I move that the Department of Education work with the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board to develop and table in the Legislative Assembly a plan for emphasizing the designated trades as an excellent training and career opportunity for residents of the NWT. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Mr. Koe.

### **Academic Requirements For The Trades**

**MR. KOE:** I would like to make a few comments about the academic requirements for the trades. The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions struggled with questions related to the basic expectations for pre-trades academic qualification. Members were able to identify from their personal experience many individuals in community settings with excellent technical skills and work ethics who were simply not able to succeed in apprenticeship programs because of the academic requirements for qualification. The standing committee felt that to a significant degree some young Northerners are prevented from accessing trades careers solely as a result of educational disadvantage.

This begs consideration of whether a separate system of technical training standards should be developed. Emphasis might be placed on the development of competency-based workplace training. The process could be modeled after, but not the same as, trades apprenticeship. The prospective

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trainee's academic record would be de-emphasized at entry and at completion, however. The goal would be to develop northern workers with skills required for the community workplace. Clearly, persons pursuing this process would not be considered tradespeople and would be ineligible for their Interprovincial Red

Seal, but it would be a means of providing training and vocational development to those who are limited in their access to apprenticeship.

Certainly, the standing committee was not decided in its deliberations on this matter, as a readjustment of academic standards carries a certain peril itself. However, because of the unique educational and workplace conditions which present themselves in the Northwest Territories, the standing committee believed that this question was worthy of further review.

#### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, our fifth recommendation: I move that the Department of Education work with the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board to prepare, for tabling and debate in the Legislative Assembly, a five-year plan for the development of an alternate system of standards for workplace qualification.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Mr. Koe.

#### **Women In The Trades**

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I would now like to talk about women in the trades. The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions applauds the fact that two of the seven appointments to the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board are tradeswomen and would wish to see even greater representation, if possible. However, the standing committee noted statistics indicating that only about five per cent of current apprentices in the Northwest Territories are women. The standing committee believes that it is important to see an increased emphasis on encouraging northern female participation in trades careers and ensuring access to non-traditional occupations.

#### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, our sixth recommendation: I move that the Department of Education develop a plan, including yearly participation targets, for increasing the number of women in the apprenticeship programs.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Mr. Koe.

#### **Motion To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried**

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Our final recommendation: I move that in accordance with Rule 94(4), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to all recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes our report. I would like to thank the committee Members and all of the witnesses who appeared before the committee to produce this report. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. Does this committee agree that this report, CR 2-12(2), is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. What does the committee wish to do now? Mr. Koe.



**MR. KOE:** Yes, I would like to recommend that we deal with the item Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Does this committee agree that we deal with Ministers' Statement 10-12(2)?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

#### **Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** We will circulate the copies of Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute to all Members. Okay, I believe everybody has a copy now. I wonder if Mr. Koe would like to start it off. Mr. Koe.

#### **Opening Remarks By Mr. Koe**

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday the Minister of Education tabled this document entitled "Education Dispute", regarding the Inuvik teachers at the elementary school, and it is now affecting the teachers at the high school in Inuvik. Yesterday I mentioned that I believed the honourable Minister was not disclosing all the facts in his statement, and I would like to make a few comments to this effect relating to the Minister's statement.

In the first part of the Minister's statement he mentioned it was at the teachers' request that the community council was turned down last November. I would like to point out that these requests were turned down after being previously approved. The teachers in question are upset because all three in-service activities in question were supported by the director and the staff, and the staff of SAM School were encouraged to various degrees to participate in them.

I will refer to the three days in question. The first is on March 12<sup>th</sup>,

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as a special needs profile in service in the morning, and this in-service activity was led by Lynda Mann and was actively supported by the director of education and the supervisor of schools during the course of last summer in meetings with the principals. This support is reflected in the minutes of the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education on November 29, 1991, and in their minutes dated May 24, 1991.

The second in-service activity was the new language arts communication curriculum scheduled for March 13, 1992, in the morning. Five teachers were given five days to develop this unit by the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education last spring. These teachers put in more than five days of their own time, and over 100 hours were used to put together a curriculum that is about 125 pages long and currently is not going to be used. If it is not, it will be a real waste of resources.

The third issue is regarding the SAMS language arts unit, in support of a new language arts curriculum in-service activity scheduled for March 13, 1992 in the afternoon. The Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education staff development plan has been in existence since 1989. However, the board was overly optimistic in its time line, and the actual curriculum guide, kindergarten to grade six, was not received from the department until March, 1991. The school plan was amended to 1991-92 and approved by the board. This school plan was reviewed at a three-day orientation for all new teachers in the summer of 1991, and staff were assured that these activities would support the staff in implementing new programs. These were detailed in the staff development strategy.

The SAM School plan for 1990-91 was approved at the March 26, 1991, meeting of the now defunct Inuvik Education Society. Notwithstanding item number three of their minutes, where the director declared the supervisor of schools can approve the 1991-92 school plan, apparently without recourse to the community education council, in point of this fact, this 1991-92 school year was approved by the supervisor of schools and was identical to the 1990-91 plan approved by the Inuvik Education Society.

The SAM School staff were shocked when this school year plan was turned down by the community education council in November, especially since it was done in an in camera committee meeting, without the principals present, who, by legislation, are ex officio members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer now to the second paragraph where the Minister stated, "This means that teachers are not participating in school activities that take place outside of normal classes until they get what they want". I would like to state that this issue could have been resolved because members, especially the NWT Teachers' Association president, tried to resolve the matter for the past two weeks with the Department of Education and tried to meet with

the Minister also prior to supporting the work-to-rule schedule.

A letter dated February 18, 1992 was also sent to the Minister requesting a meeting either here or in Inuvik. To my understanding there still has been no meeting to discuss these specific issues.

Mr. Chairman, in paragraph three the Minister states that teachers are required to spend 190 days "or just a little more than six months each year" teaching our students. The school year in the NWT resembles very closely school years in the rest of the country, with variances of a few school days more or less. In other provinces extensions to the school year have been put forward and rejected by parents. Simply put, parents want the summer with their kids, and Canada's climate is probably the main factor. It is no different in the North. Notwithstanding, it was disappointing to see the Minister obliquely trying to assess blame on teachers for the length of the school year. I do not believe the Minister believes that teachers have an easy job; however, he is certainly getting bad advice from his department when he stands up in the House and claims teachers work a little more than six months. This comment is irresponsible in the extreme, especially from a new Minister and a new deputy who should be trying to solve problems and cement partnerships with teachers rather than making comments which have negative connotations and are politically sensitive.

Yesterday, or two days, ago the Minister, Steve Kakfwi, stated his admiration for public servants who have had to make do with less, and on the heels of his comments honourable Minister Allooloo contradicts the essence of these comments. Sure, we are all aware of the efforts that teachers put into their commitment to teaching and to community life. I think most teachers, or quite a few teachers, spend a lot of their time after hours and on weekends working with our children and working in other community activities, and I do not think these were taken into consideration when you made your statement.

The preceding is not the only bad advice he is receiving; it has been stated that the Minister was told by his advisors that he should not meet with the president of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association because the president only wanted to use the current work-to-rule as a collective bargaining negotiating ploy. Absurd in the extreme. The work-to-rule was generated in Inuvik and not prompted by the NWT Teachers' Association. In fact, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

recommended to the teachers in Inuvik that they hold off their actions for a couple of weeks until some kind of meeting could be held with the Minister.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Allooloo.

#### **POINT OF ORDER**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Point of order. The Member is making some allegations that are not true, especially with respect to whether the Minister was given advice not to meet with the union members' president. I wonder where he is getting that information. That is not within my knowledge.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Koe, can you try to keep that to facts. It will be debated, of course, but try to be careful. Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** It is an emotional subject, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment now, on the top of page two, on the Minister's statement where he talks about the public process for establishing school years.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Point of order.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** On a point of privilege, could we deal with my point of order, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Allooloo, I told Fred Koe that we will try to be careful with his presentation and stick to the document, Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), and he already agreed, Mr. Allooloo. He is now presenting his case on the last paragraph of your statement. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may proceed, on the top of page two of the Minister's statement he talks about the public process for establishing a school year. The Minister is totally correct in his comment that the school year is established by him on the advice of the divisional boards. In service, the issue at point here, is a decision that is made usually in the course of the school year by the director in

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consultation with the school staffs in his or her jurisdiction. These in-service activities are unique to each school and are generated through the expression of a need for specialized training in order to implement curriculum as a program. This in

service has been going on in the Northwest Territories since schools were built, and until this date never required prior approval by divisional boards, local education authorities, and certainly not the Minister. In point of fact, this sort of in service is usually just reported to the local education authorities by the director before or after the fact. This proceeding makes sense. It is a professional decision. An elected board cannot evaluate its value but has to trust the judgment of their educational administrator. This could be the problem in Inuvik. Notwithstanding the 1992-93 guideline for the development of school years, which suggests there should be no in service -- a position that is incredibly short-sighted in view of the cultural mix and differing learning styles of children, and that, if implemented rigidly, will have teachers and classrooms with curriculum that has the philosophical and cultural overtones that require stress in certain areas in which they have had no training.

This is a particular problem in the Northwest Territories where there is a 25 to 35 per cent turnover of teachers. Without specific in service in specific areas, the Northwest Territories students are not getting full value from the system, as teachers lurch through the curriculum, not really aware of the direction or stress required by the varying culture or community.

My last comment refers to the final comments made by the Minister, "That is the way it should be done and I do not see any reason to change this practice." Mr. Chairman, the practice to which the Minister refers is simply not practice. In point of fact, in the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education region, in January one of the schools in the region had an in-service session for a full school day in co-operative learning, with full knowledge of the director without any request for a modification of the school year or any authorization by the Minister.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Alloo.oo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** With regard to my previous point of order, I would like the Chairman to make a ruling on my previous point of order.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): (Translation) Right now I do not have information. I would rather look in the Hansard first before I get back to your comments. I will go through the Hansard to see if what is being said is true or not. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:** My point here on the last topic is that preceding types of in service, which I have been referring to, have already been implemented and more shall be, in every region of the Northwest Territories, without all of the rigmarole that is going on in the Inuvik Region. I am left, and the people in Inuvik are left, with the dilemma of what is going on here in terms of who is leading the band, who is giving direction. The direction that has been given is not adequate and is not acceptable, and we find it very irresponsible. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Koe. Are there any other general comments? Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the honourable Member for making such a long and detailed analysis of the statement on the situation. I would like to have the opportunity to review his document and what he has presented. There are a lot of allegations there, a lot of assumptions, and some areas which we are not aware existed or were part of the deliberations. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. Those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

(Translation) Right now I will report to the Speaker to see what he has to say about this topic.

#### **ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Chairman of committee of the whole, Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 10-12(2); Tabled Document 9-12(2), and Tabled Document 10-12(2); Committee Report 2-12(2), and wishes to report progress; and Committee Report 2-12(2) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** I do not believe that the matter has been concluded.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Committee Report 2-12(2) is concluded is what he said. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Nerysoo, now would you second that motion?

**---Laughter**

The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE** (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for this evening: after adjournment, of the standing committee on finance and of the striking committee. Meetings tomorrow morning: at 9:00 a.m., of the ordinary members caucus.

#### **ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Friday, February 21, 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

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12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions

16. First Reading of Bills: Bill 14
17. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 15
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Ministers' Statement 10-12(2); Tabled Document 9-12(2) and Tabled Document 10-12(2)
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 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 21, 1992.

**---ADJOURNMENT**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1992