



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**2nd Session**

**Day -**

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

## **HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1992**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER** (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Monday, February 24, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Ministers' Statement 14-12(2): Mining Safety Bill Committee

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members will recall that at the last session of the Legislative Assembly I announced a new consultative process for mining safety legislation would take place under the auspices of a mining safety bill committee. This committee would have an independent chairperson who is knowledgeable in mining, two representatives from industry and one representative each from unionized and non-unionized labour.

In the Assembly last Friday, I mentioned that the NWT coalition of mining unions, comprising the United Steel Workers of America and the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers, had informed me that they would not participate on this committee. The coalition is firm in their belief that miners working in the remote fly-in mines outside of Yellowknife have no mandate to participate on the committee because they are not members of a union.

Mr. Speaker, I have extended the opportunity to participate to all groups who will be affected by new mining safety legislation. While I am very disappointed that the coalition will not participate, the

mining safety bill committee must go forward. The need for a new mining safety act is crucial for the occupational health and safety of all those working in the mining industry. I have accepted the nominee from the Union of Northern Workers to represent organized labour on this committee. In the next day or two I will announce the full membership of the committee.

As you know, the Legislative Assembly has established a new legislative process which provides ample opportunities for the public to have input on proposed legislation while it is being reviewed by standing committees of this House. Mr. Speaker, this is in keeping with our aim of a more responsible and open government, which is expected of us by the citizens of the entire Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members will join me in welcoming Mr. Jack Anawak, the Member of Parliament for Nunatsiaq.

---Applause

Ministers' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Ministers' Statement 15-12(2): Annual Report For The Science Institute

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will be with pleasure that I will table the annual report of the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year 1990-91 at the appropriate time today.

Mr. Speaker, in preparing its annual report, the Science Institute recognizes the need to preserve our natural resources and has chosen to use recycled paper for this report.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the Science Institute operates research centres in Inuvik, Igloodik and Iqaluit. During the past fiscal year over 400 researchers, involved in some 180 separate research projects, received assistance at the research centres. Through the efforts of the Science Institute, more and more results of such research are being provided to the citizens of the Northwest Territories.

Cross cultural science camps for students nine to 13 years of age, initiated by the Science Institute in 1989,

continued in 1990-91 with a repeat of the camp near Rae. Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of Members to the fact that the science camps have been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, as a significant event of the world decade of cultural development, 1988 to 1997. The camps bring together centuries of traditional knowledge and modern scientific methods in the minds and lives of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, the Science Institute inaugurated a technology development program in December 1990. The thrust of the program is to seek technologies which can be adapted to the needs of Northerners and to develop technologies which may be exported to other polar nations and elsewhere. Work on alternate energy projects such electrical power generation by photo-voltaic systems and wind power as well as aspects of food production and alternative household heating systems is ongoing.

Small northern industries continue to receive assistance through the industrial research assistance program, a National Research Council of Canada program delivered in the NWT by the Science Institute.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I will present this annual report to the Legislative Assembly later today.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Hockey Game, Fort Liard

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, last weekend was a great one for Canada's national sport. While the national hockey team won the silver medal in Albertville, the Legislative Assembly's own high-flying team, "LA Senators," took to the ice in Fort Liard. The event was the opening of a new arena in Fort

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Liard, and I would like to thank the honourable Member for Nahendeh, my friend Jim Antoine, for the kind invitation.

The game began immediately after the official opening ceremony, and we played three 30-minute periods. It was clear from the opening face-off that the strategy of the local team was to tire us out and then take advantage of our fatigue. I recognize that strategy, Mr. Speaker, because it is one that I have used myself from time to time in this House, and it almost worked for them, Mr. Speaker.

It was not long before the Minister of the Housing Corporation was experiencing dizzy spells. I think it may have been because our opponents were skating circles around him, not to mention the spinning and turning he was doing himself. Mr. Morin took the only penalty for body contact, whatever that means. Fortunately for our opponents, though, Mr. Arvaluk was holding back on taking out his aggression on the ice. I personally felt that this was motivated by his desire for a smooth resolution of the boundary issue.

The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Ernie Bernhardt, was our goal tender for most of the game and allowed only five of the eight goals scored against us, Mr. Speaker. Watching **MR. BERNHARDT** in the net, I was reminded of the earlier days when we took the first electronics program at AVTC, Adult Vocational Training Centre, in Fort Smith, and were among the first northern students to receive our diplomas in the program. We used to watch Ken Dryden playing for the Canadiens at that time, and I wondered if **MR. BERNHARDT** was daydreaming of those days too, especially when the puck went trickling past him on several occasions.

Of course, one of the better "Stars on Ice" was our host, Jim Antoine. He showed a lot of leadership during the game, similar to the qualities which have brought him to the floor of this House.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Unanimous consent has been requested. Are there any nays? There being no nays, continue.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Yes, thank you. I would like to thank the Members for allowing me to complete my statement. Finally, it would be wrong for me not to mention our secret weapon. Without a doubt, the most improved player on the team was my friend, the Hon. Dennis Patterson. Honourable Members interested in our rich parliamentary history will know that last year, in

Fort Resolution, Mr. Patterson did win the prestigious "Bambi on Ice" award. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, there has been a substantial improvement. Now, instead of Bambi on ice, he looks more like the Roadrunner. His playing style reminded me of his usual reply to the Opening Address here in the House; once he winds up and gets going, there is no stopping him.

---Laughter

---Applause

In fact, one of the most exciting plays of the game occurred when Mr. Patterson dished out a punishing bodycheck on the MLA for Nahendeh. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, they both happened to be on the same team.

---Laughter

Further, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Patterson showed his usual fine understanding of the relationship between politicians and public servants by repeatedly checking his own deputy minister -- his team mate, Al Menard - - and taking the puck away from him. And Mr. Menard, being a perfect example of a civil servant, allowed Mr. Patterson to do that.

A special thanks goes to our coach, the honourable Member for High Arctic. As the Dean of this Assembly, Mr. Pudluk brought his wisdom and experience and sense of humour to the game in the same way in which he brings it to our House as Deputy Speaker.

Many other MLAs were in attendance at this special event, Mr. Speaker, but did not have the opportunity to lace up the skates.

I must say that we all enjoyed the excellent feast put on by the people of Fort Liard, and we appreciated the first-rate organization which surrounded the opening festivities. I am certain that I speak for all my honourable colleagues, and especially for our team of hockey all-stars, in thanking Mr. Jim Antoine, Chief Stephen Kotchea, Mayor Dale Hoose, and all the people of Fort Liard for their hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I think all Members will agree with the words of the "Golden Gargan."

---Laughter

Members' statements. **MR. BERNHARDT.**

Member's Statement On Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement on the absolute discharge for Paul Quassa. Mr. Speaker, like my honourable colleagues for Deh Cho and Thebacha who spoke on this subject last week, I am dismayed and offended by the territorial court's decision to reward the anti-social and criminal behaviour of a political figure by granting an absolute discharge.

Last July, Mr. Speaker, Paul Quassa came into my home town of Coppermine and committed a sexual assault. As a guest at a private house party he made lewd and suggestive comments to a respected female member of our community, and then he followed this uncouth conduct with unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature.

It was not an outsider who behaved in this way, Mr. Speaker. This insult came from a so-called leader of our own people. As president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, Mr. Quassa should be committed to protecting Inuit women from this sort of dehumanizing experience.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear!

---Applause

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

He should know that no Inuk woman has to endure the indignity of sexual victimization in the 1990s. And even if Mr. Quassa was not aware of this fact, Mr. Speaker, our court system should be.

I cannot understand how Judge Thomas Davis of the territorial court. could excuse this behaviour with an absolute discharge. Later today I will be tabling an earlier court decision which summarizes a range of sexual assault cases, some of which occurred under very similar circumstances to Mr. Quassa's -- which all resulted in a court-imposed penalty of some sort.

Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues will be aware that at one point in my life I was in court and was sent

to jail because I physically abused a woman. I am not proud of that time, Mr.

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Speaker, and I have apologized to the victim and to women's organizations throughout the Territories.

I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

I have never made a secret of the fact that what I did was wrong, and I accepted my punishment. I can remember some of the authorities telling me at the time that they planned to make an example of my situation. Well, what sort of example has been made by the court's judgment of Paul Quassa?

With this decision, I am afraid that Judge Davis has provided us with an example that drunkenness, sexism and lack of self-control are all excusable, so long as you happen to be a political figure of today in the Northwest Territories. This court decision has failed to respect the dignity of aboriginal women, or to uphold their right to safety from humiliation and sexual harassment.

Mr. Speaker, within our past traditions our Inuvialuit forefathers used to turn their backs on people who were unwilling or unable to live in harmony with our society. In modern times we have counted on the court system to deal with the deviants among us. Since the court has now demonstrated its unwillingness to perform this role, perhaps we should now turn our backs collectively on Paul Quassa until he delivers an appropriate apology and seeks the confidence of Inuit in a general election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Public Dissatisfaction With Standards Of Education In NWT

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the continuing public dissatisfaction with the standards of education in the Northwest Territories. In the 1950s, Mr. Speaker, the major concern of the federal government was to make schooling available for as large a number of students as possible, because at that time many people lived in scattered communities and hunting camps throughout the Northwest Territories. This was the period, Mr. Speaker, when there were huge schools and school residence building programs. The goal at that time was to get 100 per cent enrolment of school-age children.

It was not until the transfer of education to the territorial government in 1969 and 1970 that the focus changed to the actual content of the school program to reflect northern interests. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years, despite this focus, the statistical emphasis by this government is still on enrolment -- just bodies. This forms the basis for the expansion of grades in communities and the continuing demand for the expansion of capital assets in communities. We do too little, in the opinion of many people, to measure the output, or to reassure the public about the standards being achieved in our system. We continue to expand grades in communities with no assurances that before grade 10 is added that there is an adequate grade nine, and so on. Our students, in many cases, are being short-changed in pursuit of government policy that only makes sense if it is implemented sensibly. In many cases there is evidence that it is not being implemented sensibly.

Residential schooling in the West, Mr. Speaker, commenced in 1867 at Fort Providence, and yet in the West there are still only six schools that offer high school programs. In the Eastern Arctic, high school programs are offered in 13 schools. Many of my colleagues do not believe that in the Eastern Arctic, where schools were not established until the 1950's, that the standards are so much higher than they are in the West. Many of us refuse to believe that.

When we deal with Education capital, and also the O and M estimates, I am sure there will be much discussion about this issue of quality and standards and, also, the whole issue of value for money, because there are vast amounts of money being poured into education without any reassurances about what we are receiving in exchange for it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members will join me in welcoming Mr. Paul Kaludjak, the mayor of Rankin Inlet.

---Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On School Space Requirement, Coral Harbour

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my observations in Sakku School in Coral Harbour, it became obvious to me that the school is under some pressure spacewise in teaching areas. The older grade nine and 10 are using the community education committee chambers and have done so for the last three years. Inuktitut classes for grades four to nine are held on the stage at the gymnasium. Although there is a partition between the gymnasium and the Inuktitut class, there is still considerable noise interference.

With a grade 10 class of approximately 22 applicants expected for 1992-93, and a kindergarten intake of 24, the school total is expected to rise to 190-plus students for August 1992. Our high school students are much younger than in past years, and it is their parents' expectation that they will continue grades 10, 11 and 12 in their home community. This program expects grade 10 in 1992-93; grade 11, 1993-94; grade 12, 1994-95.

The estimated total of students for 1992-93 is 190-plus; 1993-94, 215-plus students; 1994-95, 245-plus students. This will undoubtedly put tremendous strain on space requirements. The two portables are considered now to be unsuitable for educational purposes. Renovations to the Arctic College building, which would bring much-needed seminar office space and that were planned to be completed last summer or, at the latest, this summer's construction season, appear to have been abandoned.

The present school facilities were built in 1978-79, and Coral Harbour is the only Keewatin community that has not had a new school or an addition built within the last five years. The students and community have taken great pride in and care of their school and have had only one broken window in the last 13 years, and that was done by the front-end loader during snow clearance. Vandalism and damage to the school is negligible. There are no break-ins at the school.

Surely those communities that take care and pride in their community school should be rewarded, not penalized. The community of Coral Harbour will need new teaching space to accommodate the increase in the under-five population. So it is imperative that a capital plan be implemented as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Todd

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Member's Statement On Northern Preference Policies

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I asked both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Public Works about implementing policies that would allow only northern-owned and operated businesses to bid on government contracts. The implementation of such a policy is consistent with a motion passed by this House on April 11, 1990. As we are all aware, that motion was proposed by the Ministers of Finance and Public Works when they were ordinary Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about what I am now hearing from the Minister of Public Works, my good friend Don Morin. The Minister now talks about developing a plan to train northern people, allowing Northerners to do these jobs, and other initiatives. However, the Minister has also told this House that the policy under consideration does not allow only northern businesses to bid on government contracts. This is in stark contrast to the discussions that took place when the "tender north only" motion was adopted by this House. As the honourable Member for Hay River said at that time, "If we do not take the bull by the horns and make a decision that is absolute, then we are going to continue to have these holes that these contracts trickle through."

The leakage of government dollars from the NWT is incredible.

---Applause

When we try to stop these leaks by adjusting and fine-tuning current policies, we are just plugging the holes with our fingers. Pretty soon we are going to run out of fingers to use.

I am sure the Minister has been given many reasons why we cannot institute this policy by his officials in the department, but this is a decision to be made by the politicians, not by the bureaucrats. There will be some political risks attached to this policy, and I would suggest that these risks are worth taking. We do not need 20 reasons why we cannot do the policy; we need one reason why we should do the policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has already told this House that he is committed to this principle of "tender north only." I would suggest the Minister of Public Works reaffirm his commitment to this principle and bring forward a policy that reflects the same. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Visit To Rankin Inlet

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while some of my colleagues this past weekend were playing hockey in the Liard Valley, other Members of this House, Mr. Todd, Mr. Pollard and myself, were out working. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I regret not having the opportunity to go play hockey with my colleagues, because I had to respond to a request by Mr. Todd to visit his constituency, Rankin Inlet, where we had some very productive meetings with the Keewatin Regional Health Board and with the hamlet mayor and council.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that I did not get over to Whale Cove because the weather was not co-operative. However, the concerns of Whale Cove were expressed to other members of the travelling group by teleconference while my deputy minister and I met with the chairperson and the executive director for the Keewatin Regional Health Board in a private meeting that was also very productive.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is in just such meetings like this that good repartee can be established, and I hope that they will continue in the future in the spirit of consultation at a community level. I feel that is where you can get the flavour of what the real problems are, and I just want to say that so far I have been to Thebacha, Nahendeh, South Baffin, Iqaluit, Hay River, and now Rankin, and I look forward to...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, your Member's statement seems to be dealing with your ministerial responsibilities.

---Applause

A Member's statement should be discussing one item to deal with your responsibilities as a Member, not as a Minister.

Members' statements. Perhaps, Mr. Whitford, you could join the team as another secret weapon in the future. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Return To Question O15-12(2): Development Of Region-Based Dental Service And Travelling Orthodontic Program In Keewatin

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am returning to a question asked by Mr. Todd on February 13, 1992, development of a region-based dental service and travelling orthodontic program in the Keewatin. Mr. Speaker, on February 13 the honourable Member for Keewatin Central asked me to reply to recommendations that he had tabled in the House this past December. Mr. Speaker, all the tabled recommendations which were attached to a letter received by the Department of Health from the chairperson of the regional health board have received careful consideration. Some of the matters in the tabled document had been raised in correspondence to which the department had previously replied. In addition, a letter summarizing the department's response to the regional health board's recommendations was sent to the honourable Member and to the chairperson of the Keewatin Regional Health Board on February 17.

In my letter of February 17 to the chairperson of the Keewatin Regional Health Board, the Department of Health provided some suggestions on how the board might further its planning of region-based dental and orthodontic services and identify some of the issues which must be addressed. The department's director of dental services is willing and able to assist the board in developing service planning.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to support the board's planning initiatives in these areas provided that they can be planned and implemented

collaboratively with the Department of Health in a cost and service-effective manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. **MR. BERNHARDT.**

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**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Minister of Justice on the Quassa affair. On February 14, 1992, Judge Thomas Davis of the territorial court granted an absolute discharge to Paul Quassa, the former TFN president, even though Mr. Quassa was found guilty of sexually assaulting one of my constituents.

In an apparent attempt to down-play the seriousness of Paul Quassa's criminal behaviour, some media and some political leaders have been careful to refer to the charge as "sexual touching." Will the Minister confirm to the House that touching a woman in a sexual fashion is, in fact, considered a form of sexual assault?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, where there is no consent, then the Member is correct, that form of behaviour is a criminal offence, sexual assault.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, **MR. BERNHARDT.**

Supplementary To Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister please explain to the House what is meant by the term "absolute discharge"?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, an absolute discharge is a form of sentence whereby upon conviction an accused person is deemed to have no criminal record. In layman's terms it would be a form of forgiveness by the court, whereby although the person has been convicted, it will not be held against him in future and there will be no criminal record alleged in future for any reason. It is, in effect, wiping out the conviction. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Further supplementary, **MR. BERNHARDT.**

Supplementary To Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another supplementary for the Minister of Justice. Recognizing that it takes a lot of courage for a female victim of sexual assault to bring forward her complaint, and recognizing that a trial is a very stressful experience for the victim to endure when the accused pleads not guilty, and recognizing that an absolute discharge is not even a slap on the wrist because there is no court-imposed penalty and the conviction is not even included in the offender's criminal record, is the Minister not concerned that Judge Davis' ruling on the Quassa affair will discourage women from bringing incidents of sexual assault to the attention of the authorities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to caution Members that the Member is asking for an opinion, and it is very difficult for the Minister to know exactly what Judge Davis was thinking. With that caution, Mr. Patterson.



Further Return To Question O125-12(2): Absolute Discharge For Paul Quassa

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Well, I appreciate your ruling, Mr. Speaker, because the Member's question is difficult to answer for that reason. I hope the Member will also appreciate that in the present legal system in the NWT, judges are independent from the Executive or the Legislative branch of our government. They do not report to me. They are not accountable to me, as Minister of Justice, for their decisions, nor do the Crown prosecutors report to me.

Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect to the honourable Member, and while I do respect the honourable Member's freedom to express his opinions on his case, it is difficult for me, as Minister of Justice, to make a comment on a judgment because it could be interpreted as threatening the independence of the judiciary. That principle has been used to challenge some decisions made by territorial judges. So as Minister of Justice, I hope the honourable Member will appreciate that you are putting me in a difficult position by asking me to comment on a judgment in a particular case, although I do respect the Member's right to speak on this matter as he sees fit.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O126-12(2): Request For A School Bus For Sanikiluaq

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Sanikiluaq has requested a school bus. Has the Minister received a letter from the community of Sanikiluaq? I can relay their concerns to him and send the Minister's response to my constituents.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O126-12(2): Request For A School Bus For Sanikiluaq

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the request by Sanikiluaq for a school bus. I have not received a letter from them since I have been Minister of Education. I am aware that they have written letters to the previous Minister, but I have not received one as yet.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pudlat, supplementary.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As no one has sent you a letter as the new Minister, I will try to come up with a letter this week on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That really was not a question, Mr. Pudlat, but I am sure the Minister will find it useful as background for the previous question. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Education, just to follow up on my colleague's question. The existing Department of Education busing policy requires students to live two kilometres or more from the school in order to access busing services. Would the Minister review the current policy respecting busing of children to and from schools? I am certain that the Minister will find that the present policy is not adequate and is unfair, particularly in the smaller communities.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Education, Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate in what time frame he will undertake this review?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, as soon as I can.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, can I ask the Minister if he will be more specific? Is he going to review it tomorrow and report to the House? Is that his intention?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O127-12(2): Department Of Education's Busing Policy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could review the status and get back to the Member tomorrow in a statement. But I will not be able to make a judgment on the quality or the adequacy of the busing policy by tomorrow.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O128-12(2): Consistency Of Business Incentive Policy With "Tender North Only" Policy

**MR. TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works. During question period last week the Minister

indicated he was going to present to cabinet revisions to the northern preference policy, particularly the business incentive policy. I believe that cabinet is going to get this information on Friday of this week. Could the Minister advise this House whether the policy that went to cabinet or is going to cabinet is, or was, consistent with the "tender north only" motion that was passed by the Legislative Assembly on April 11, 1990?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for Public Works.

Return To Question O128-12(2): Consistency Of Business Incentive Policy With "Tender North Only" Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The business incentive policy that is going to go to cabinet has been given to the standing committee on finance already for their input. Once we have had their input, then it will go to cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O128-12(2): Consistency Of Business Incentive Policy With "Tender North Only" Policy

**MR. TODD:**

That is news to me, Mr. Speaker. Since it appears that the Minister has changed his mind about the principle of "tender north only" and the Minister of Finance has not -- that is one vote against and one vote for -- I would like to know how the rest of cabinet feels on this issue. Can the Minister now advise this House what decisions were made by cabinet? In particular, will they endorse the principle of "tender north only"?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O128-12(2): Consistency Of Business Incentive Policy With "Tender North Only" Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make it clear to the Member that I have not changed my mind. The thing we were trying to accomplish back about a year ago in the motion John Pollard put forward to the House and I seconded, was to try to ensure that the majority of the work in the work force is hired in the North. I am tired of bringing in imports from the South, and I believe we can accomplish that with the policy we gave to SCOF. You cannot accomplish something with one policy; you have to look at it in a broader range.

If in three years I stop the leakage of dollars going south with training programs and a better business incentive policy and other policies, that will ensure that businesses in the North get the work; instead of using DPW as a police force, use it as a development force, and then we will all be a lot happier and our communities will be happier. Because nothing says that just because a northern business gets the work, they are going to hire Northerners. I know there are some northern businesses who do hire south, and there are a lot of people coming in from Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and other provinces.

What I am trying to do is to ensure that the community benefits and with the policy that we are proposing to cabinet -- and it will be a cabinet decision and not only my decision -- we can accomplish that. I am sure we will make the Member across quite happy with the new policy and the new initiatives we are taking. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O128-12(2):  
Consistency Of Business Incentive Policy With  
"Tender North Only" Policy

**MR. TODD:**

Well, I am encouraged to hear that the Minister still stands by the "tender north only" policy. I am wondering if the Minister will commit to bringing any revisions of the current policy before the standing committee on finance prior to implementation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O128-12(2): Consistency  
Of Business Incentive Policy With "Tender North  
Only" Policy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been to the standing committee on finance with the revisions to the policy, and we are waiting, up until today, to get their input. I will wait for that before I take it to cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. **MR. BERNHARDT.**

Question O129-12(2): Demand For Demonstrated  
Confidence In Paul Quassa

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. I was dismayed to learn that a man convicted of sexual assault against one of my constituents not only went

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unpunished by the territorial courts but now plans to resume his former position as president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut. Will the Minister now make a commitment not to recognize Paul Quassa as president of TFN until he has demonstrated that he has the confidence of Inuit people by standing for re-election by the full membership?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs,  
Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O129-12(2): Demand For  
Demonstrated Confidence In Paul Quassa

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that I think it is the board of the TFN that would be handling an issue of this nature and not this government. It would be seen as unduly interfering in the affairs of an organization that we have no business getting ourselves involved in. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O130-12(2): Not Recognizing TFN As  
Legitimate Organization

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. It is well known that a group, or especially the government, does not have to deal with a group of people or a country that they do not recognize as legitimate, as a proper body or organization. Would the Minister, then, say to this House that in fact he will not be dealing with him on the basis of this government's principle of protecting the women of the NWT?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O130-12(2): Not Recognizing TFN As Legitimate Organization

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I am responsible for dealing with quite a number of aboriginal organizations in the NWT as well as across this country. It would be difficult for me to start making conditions as to under what terms and conditions I would recognize the different executives and representatives from these organizations. While I understand the comments that are being made by the various Members about what they perceive the issues to be, as far as I am concerned as a Minister, I believe that the TFN is responsible for their own executive. The board is managing the affairs of the organization. There is an executive that is in place to carry out their direction on a day-to-day basis, and I believe it is really an internal matter that I have very little power or authority to do anything about; ultimately, I think it is the Inuit, the constituents of TFN and other public leaders that have to deal with it and make a decision on it, not this Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O130-12(2): Not Recognizing TFN As Legitimate Organization

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that he is in a difficult position to respond to the question, but can the Minister in his position, representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and

representing this House -- can he at least write to TFN about the feeling of reappointment of the TFN leader to the position that he is holding now? I am not necessarily asking him to approach the leader himself; rather, the board of directors of TFN. Will he be letting them know about the government's feeling on that reappointment?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O130-12(2): Not Recognizing TFN As Legitimate Organization

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I think as a Minister I could make note of the comments and the concerns that have been raised here and simply pass them on to TFN, in light of some of the very immediate and significant decisions and issues that we all have to face and which this government and other people of the North have to face that are being initiated and carried out by the TFN leadership. So I can take that step and pass it on to the TFN. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O131-12(2): Minister Of Justice Expressing Public Concerns To The Judiciary

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, is there a process by which the Minister of Justice can express public concerns to the judiciary, taking into consideration respect for the independence of the judicial system, regarding the recent case and decision with respect to Mr. Quassa?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Member for asking that question. It is a question that arose in my own mind as a result of at least one question that I was asked today, and statements from other honourable Members earlier in this session. It is a sensitive matter, and I would

appreciate the Member's indulgence to take the question on notice and get back as soon as I can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O132-12(2): Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Both in the press and in this chamber, the Minister has indicated that we could be in a deficit position of anywhere between \$50 and \$100 million. Now that is a big jump, Mr. Speaker; for ordinary people like us, that is an awful jump -- to talk about \$50 million and \$100 million. So I would like to ask the Minister, since he is now well immersed in his new portfolio and has got a grasp of everything, whether he could explain to us the circumstances under which we could be in a \$100 million deficit position.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O132-12(2): Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year we will run a deficit of some \$50 million. This year the forecast was to run a deficit of some eight million dollars. That will eat up our accumulated surplus, Mr. Speaker, and if we continue to spend in the manner in which we have been spending and our revenues from the federal government continue to decline, then next year we could see ourselves running a \$75 or \$80 million deficit. In two years that could grow to well over \$100 million, Mr. Speaker. So when I say between \$50 and \$100 million, I am saying that could happen in the next two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

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Supplementary To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you. We have new figures now, Mr. Speaker, of between \$75 and \$80 million. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, since we have already taken all kinds of measures -- we have put the brakes on spending all over the place -- does that mean that if we continue going the way we are going, that these figures will not apply, that we will not have that kind of deficit, because we have already taken all kinds of money-saving measures?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard

Further Return To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, no. The freeze measures that were put on were to stop the spending that was taking place, because I was alarmed at its growing from an eight million dollar forecast deficit, and I could see it going through the \$40 millions -- and it went through there very quickly, Mr. Speaker -- and so the freeze was put on to stop the spending this year, to get the thing slowed down. If we continue with the freeze, we still may run a large deficit, so that is not the answer to our problem, Mr. Speaker. The answer to our problem is to live within our means. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**MR. LEWIS:**

Will the Minister confirm, then, that our overall problem is really a revenue problem? Is that how he would describe the nature of the beast he is trying to tackle?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our revenues from Canada have declined because the down turn in the economy in southern Canada has had an effect upon our formula. The gross domestic product has been very low, and that has had an effect on our formula. The population factor which we thought would work in our favour has not worked in our favour, and we are some \$33 million lower in revenue this year than what we had forecast, Mr. Speaker. So the Member is correct that the lack of revenues coming from Canada is one of those things that are aggravating our financial situation -- that and increased demands. We have got Health, which is continually demanding money, and we have to treat those people, Mr. Speaker, so it is demand partly, and it is also the fact that we are receiving less money from Ottawa, partly. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it seems that the formula is what is causing difficulty, and we had a shortfall of \$30 million, it is very difficult to translate this \$30 million, in light of the fact that we had a surplus, into this \$50 to \$100 million that the Minister of Finance has referred to. Is he anticipating that there will be a further reduction in revenue, then, to account for this \$100 million he keeps on talking about?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O132-12(2):  
Circumstances Of Deficit Position

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, that will occur if our revenues remain as they are. Our spending has to be brought below our revenues, Mr. Speaker, and at our present rate of expenditure that is not occurring. So I do anticipate that if we do not get out of this recession, if the formula does not start to perform better, there may be some further losses of revenue from Canada; but that alone is not the problem. The problem is that we are

spending more than we are taking in, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O133-12(2): Statement Re Sexual Assault Case From Minister Responsible For Status Of Women

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Council on the Status of Women has expressed outrage with regard to the absolute discharge of Paul Quassa, even though he was found guilty of sexual assault, and rightly so. Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken with a woman yet who has not expressed grave disappointment regarding this sexual assault case. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Status of Women: Will he be making a public statement on the government's position regarding this case?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Ningark.

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not communicated with women's groups across the Territories. We have women's groups in different regions and communities, and we also have women's groups here in Yellowknife. Once I have communicated with women's groups, I will be in a position to respond to the Member. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O134-12(2): Child Sexual Abuse Specialist Position For Kitikmeot

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. There is a child sexual abuse specialist position in all regions except Kitikmeot. That is a coincidence, I guess. There was an advertisement to fill these positions not

long ago. Have they been filled? Will the Kitikmeot be given that child sexual abuse specialist position?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Social Services.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have an up-to-date answer on whether this position, or any position like that, has been filled. To my knowledge, at the moment, we may be caught in between that freeze on staffing positions. I would like to take this question as notice and reply to the Member as soon as I find that information.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O135-12(2): Departmental Advisor Re Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Renewable Resources made a return to a question, under advisement, to me, with regard to the office/warehouse

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complex in Lac la Martre. Could I ask the Minister, with regard to the comments that he made -- the department advised the community in the fall of 1991 -- could I ask the Minister which department official advised that particular community?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O135-12(2): Departmental Advisor Re Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bob MacLeod, who is the assistant to my deputy minister, advised the chief verbally that the project was under review. And Len Hedberg, who is at the Yellowknife office, wrote a letter to the chief of Lac la Martre stating that the project was being reviewed. The chief, Isadore Zoe, was informed verbally and in writing about the

projects being under review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Zoe, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O135-12(2): Departmental Advisor Re Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister if he can give me a copy of that correspondence that was sent to the community?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O135-12(2): Departmental Advisor Re Lac La Martre Office/Warehouse Complex

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. A few months ago the government imposed a freeze on staff hiring. Recently in the papers, I notice, there has been an increase in recruitment advertising. Will the Minister advise this House whether the freeze is still on?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Personnel, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, the freeze that we set in 1991 is still in effect. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**MR. KOE:**

Is this freeze for all government positions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the freeze was in effect except for certain designated jobs that the government felt were essential and should not be included in this freeze. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**MR. KOE:**

How long will the freeze be in place?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I think the freeze will be on until this government and this Legislature have made certain definite decisions about what is going to be spent by this government and what is not going to be spent. Following that, when it becomes more clear what our financial situation would be and when things have stabilized, I think we will return to this question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**MR. KOE:**

Can the Minister state what he considers essential positions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O136-12(2): Status Of GNWT Hiring Freeze

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, when we implemented this freeze, we indicated that exceptions would be allowed, and departments were given the provision that they could come forward and make a case to fill jobs and go to advertising, where they felt it was essential. That was the way we approached this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O137-12(2): Continuation Of Special Needs Programming In Keewatin Schools

**MR. TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the constituents in Keewatin Central have become increasingly concerned about the possibility that special needs programming for children in our schools will be curtailed due to serious funding cutbacks and, in particular, the school board's inability to access interest in its core funding. Any reduction in this sort of program, in my opinion, is entirely unacceptable. These services are badly needed by persons who, in many cases, are unable to speak for themselves. Mr. Speaker, I sometimes wonder what the priorities of this government are. Will the Minister outline his department's plan to ensure the consistent and continuing delivery of special needs programming in our Keewatin schools?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Education, Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice so that I can get back to the Member with a full plan that the



department has. Also, because of this issue the Executive Council has to deal with the divisional board funding, and I have to take that decision to cabinet and then the government will be talking to the divisional board in terms of their quarterly or monthly funding. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Mr. Antoine.

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Question O138-12(2): Policy For Protecting NWT Environment

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the environment. As a person that grew up along the Mackenzie River, I had the opportunity to enjoy life on the river. Since growing up, I have noticed a great change in the river. There is a lot of pollution coming into our area through the water. There is a river from BC and another one from Alberta and some from Saskatchewan. As well, we are hearing there is pollution coming into the North through the air currents and so forth. Does the government have any overall policy or plan of action on how to address this serious and growing concern in the North? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O138-12(2): Policy For Protecting NWT Environment

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the lunch hour, about an hour ago, we had a luncheon meeting with the Minister of the Environment from Ottawa, our counterpart. One of the things we talked about was the setting aside of 12 per cent of parks within the national -- and another thing we talked about was the pollution coming from the other jurisdictions, such as Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. In the next three weeks I will be meeting with our provincial counterpart, the Minister in Alberta, and this is one of the issues that I intend to talk about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O138-12(2): Policy For Protecting NWT Environment

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Minister for his answer, but I do not think he quite answered me because he is telling me some of the things he is doing, but I want to know if the government has a strategy of some sort for dealing with this growing concern in the North of protecting our environment from pollution from outside our borders.

I am going to ask a series of questions. I want to know if there is an overall plan of action, for example on dealing with the pollution in the water from pulp mills, in the air currents and so forth. To me the government should have an overall plan and strategy in addressing these issues. Going after a specific pulp mill in Alberta and taking them to court is like a band-aid solution. If you lose it you lose it, but if you win, it might be a good victory. But there are a series of pulp mills in the South that are contributing to the pollution in the North. Is there an overall plan that the government has that would address this concern?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O138-12(2): Policy For Protecting NWT Environment

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the transboundary water agreement negotiations with the Alberta government. We also have an interim water quality accord. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, in his address to us on our overall fiscal position, the Minister of Finance indicates that one of our options would be to sell off some of our assets. Would he confirm that one of the things he is

considering is the sale of the NWT Power Corporation?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance.

Return To Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, that is one option that I may suggest to cabinet, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Beatty report, which seems to have been adopted by the government, recommends that the sale of petroleum oil and lubricants would be transferred to the NWT Power Corporation, would the Minister indicate that in any proposed sale this would include not only the Power Corporation but anything transferred to it as well?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance.

Further Return To Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

That possibility certainly exists, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, we are getting into the range of hypothetical questions, but I would like to ask the Minister if he has given some thought to the fact that the creation of a large private sector involving both

the generation of power and also the sale of fuel would, in fact create a monstrous monopoly which may not be in the public interest.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O139-12(2): Possible Sale Of NWT Power Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the House that in those instances where there are utilities that have a monopoly, there is a Public Utilities Board that is there to protect the public interest. So I think there is some safeguard there if we were to proceed in that direction.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O140-12(2): Public Utilities Board

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister refers to the Public Utilities Board, is he referring to the Executive Council as the Public Utilities Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question O140-12(2): Public Utilities Board

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

No, Mr. Speaker. There is a Public Utilities Board in the NWT, chaired by Mr. John Hill, that is responsible for reviewing applications for rate increases by utility companies in the NWT.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O141-12(2): Peel River Watershed

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question to the Minister of Renewable Resources, supplementary to the concerns that have been raised by Mr. Antoine. The honourable Member has indicated that he is pursuing a management agreement for the Mackenzie Basin watershed region. I want to ask if this government is pursuing a management agreement with regard to the Peel River watershed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not really familiar with this question. I will take it as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question is taken as notice. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O142-12(2): Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of "Strength At Two Levels"

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. The Government Leader has stated that the committee will be dealing with the document Strength at Two Levels. To this date my honourable friends, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Koe and myself, have not yet received an invitation to attend or to even participate. Yet the Government Leader has issued a document, Living Within Our Means, along the lines of Strength at Two Levels. DPW and Government Services have been combined under one Minister, and Finance and Economic Development, and the same with Justice and Safety. This morning we read in the newspaper that there was a proposal for the elimination of the Housing Corporation Board of Directors. Will the Government Leader be involving the committee Members before the document, Strength at Two Levels, is filed in this House?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O142-12(2): Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, Strength at Two Levels and Living Within our Means are proposals of how we can overcome some of the serious problems we have with running the government. If I have not, as Government Leader, put out an invitation, this will be coming out very soon. What has been tabled is a process to achieve those goals and the implementation on how we go about them; what we finally accept will be dealt with with the involvement of the three Members, and I can assure you this will be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O142-12(2): Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of "Strength At Two Levels"

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if there is a consistency in procedure in this House, because I know that the Minister of Finance told the chairman of the standing committee on finance, or maybe it was the Minister of DPW, that they are waiting for the document from the committee on finance. Now, does that mean that the government will be tabling the document Strength at Two Levels before the committee has had time to review it with the government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea

Further Return To Question O142-12(2): Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the Strength at Two Levels document has been tabled in the House, and the summary and conclusions and recommendations have already been tabled in the House. And this, Mr. Speaker, is the report and the process that we are recommending and the process that the committee would be working within, and under that umbrella. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question O142-12(2):  
Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of  
"Strength At Two Levels"

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just want to be clear in my mind as a committee Member that it has been tabled. I understand that. I am not arguing with that. My question is that there have been too many hints from the government that some of these have been in the process of implementation. My question is, how long will the government go on with this before we have time to review it as a committee?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O142-12(2): Involvement Of All Members In Discussion Of "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, what we have attempted to do is to put forward a process and a formula on how we are going to deal with the many issues. First of all, there are some recommendations in Strength at Two Levels that make eminent sense, and these are the things that we will explore. How we do them and how we ultimately achieve those goals is as yet to be determined. So, Mr. Speaker, I myself, who will be with the implementing committee, have not dealt in detail on how we would finally reach those goals.

I know that the Member probably is alluding to some suggestions in terms of the Housing Corporation, but Mr. Speaker, if anything in this document refers to anything that we do on a day-to-day basis here, I am sure that we can link that to Strength at Two Levels, because there are many recommendations there that make eminent sense. So I hope that if there is any suggestion that goes toward Strength at Two Levels, and it seems to imply that if it is in there we will do nothing -- I hope that is not the suggestion that is being made. However, I will again commit that when we begin the process of implementing the recommendations, or some of the recommendations, or part of the recommendations of Strength at Two Levels, that the committee Members will be able to sit down and not have to decide on the process of how we are going to do that, because too many times in the past we have asked people to sit on committees where we do not have a process and a blueprint of

how we are going to reach those goals, so in the end we ad hoc things and we do nothing. So all we are trying to do is set a process in place so we may be able to work and achieve those goals. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan.

Question O143-12(2): Advice From Status Of Women Council Re Paul Quassa Court Decision

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to

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direct my question to the Minister of the Status of Women Council. This government, Mr. Speaker, spends over \$250,000 on the Status of Women Council for advice on behalf of women. I would like to ask the Minister, since the court decision made on February 14 regarding Mr. Quassa, the Status of Women Council group has expressed outrage with regard to the decision; I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the Minister has sought advice from this group with regard to the decision that was made in the courts.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O143-12(2): Advice From Status Of Women Council Re Paul Quassa Court Decision

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Since the decision has been made, on a number of occasions I have talked about this with my wife. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, if I could, pursue the question of Mr. Arvaluk with the Government Leader. There is an indication that Members here are not concerned about the matters of

the Beatty report. Maybe it is misinterpretation of what has been said, but I want to ask the honourable Member, if Members do not agree with the proposals that have been made by government, then how and what is the method by which we can amend or change the direction the government is taking? That could, in fact, completely contradict the direction that has been proposed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I believe that as we go along in terms of trying to provide a government that is closer to the people, trying to provide easier access to this government, if our committee and the way that the process fleshes out as to how best to do things at the central level and the community level -- if there are better suggestions or if there is a different way to do it, and if there is a quicker way to do it, I think that as a committee we would be striving to reach that objective. So I do not want to presume that someone is going to make assumptions in certain areas, because I am sure that the thinking at almost all levels will continue to be applied to how we go about our job as a government. It will be at the committee level. It will be at the community level. It will be at this level, and certainly at all the standing committee levels as well, so this is an ongoing discussion and an ongoing process that is not going to be realized in three or four months. As a matter of fact, we see a long process, because some communities will take longer and want to do things a little bit differently. So I will not presume what the thinking is going to be as to how we meet the end objective, but the objective here is to try to give back to the people the responsibility of decision-making and of organizing themselves. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. I want to ask the honourable Member, the Government Leader, if there is a proposal that could be or may be made with regard to the continuation of regional structures and whether or not that particular matter will be given serious consideration by this government.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I would be entirely concerned about, just being involved with a lot of communities, and that is that we do not create another government where we pass a bunch of money over to another regional government, where they in turn will pass it down to the communities, so the communities would have to make representations not only to the territorial level but to a third level. It may be that once communities gain their strength and they wish to organize themselves in groups of communities -- I think that we should be entirely open to that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Government Leader. I want to ask, if the initial proposals are such that the communities determine and, in fact, in some cases present an argument of immediate development of a regional structure, whether or not this government is prepared to accept that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O144-12(2): Ordinary Members Amending Government Direction Re Beatty Report

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, that would be up to the communities, and I think this government would be very concerned. I am sure the Member will concur with me that the communities themselves have had enough strength at their level, that it is coming from the community itself, yes. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to extend question period before I ask my question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, and it is regarding the office complex in Lac la Martre. Mr. Speaker, in his response to my question the Minister indicated that the decision to defer this project was confirmed by FMB, Financial Management Board, on December 24. I take it that they are deferring it until next year. Am I correct?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

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Return To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not recall the decision to defer the office/warehouse being confirmed by the FMB. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, the response the Minister gave me on Tuesday, February 18, I assume was written for him or he was just reading something that was given to him by somebody else. He indicated, according to Hansard, that the actual decision to defer the Lac la Martre project was confirmed by the Financial Management Board on December 24. I have asked if my assumption is correct, that it is being deferred until next year, 1992-93. He indicated that it was not deferred. Which one is it? Is it the written one you told me on Tuesday that was deferred and confirmed by FMB? You are now saying that it was not deferred. Can I get a straight answer as to whether this project was deferred or not?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a brief meeting with my deputy minister and my assistant deputy minister. We agreed that this facility should be deferred. Mr. Speaker, even a politician has the right to make a mistake once in a while. Maybe that was my mistake when I said it was confirmed by the cabinet. Actually it was my officials and I, and we talked about this in my office on the sixth floor in the Renewable Resources' office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I am appalled by the response that has been given to me by the Minister. Maybe I should ask for his resignation at this time. Mr. Speaker, is it that the delay was not brought up to the Financial Management Board for a decision? If that is the case, why was it not brought up to FMB?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I conferred with my colleague here -- I guess it was confirmed by the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I am really confused now. In the written statement he tells me it was confirmed; later on he tells me it was not; and now he tells me that it was. I am getting the runaround from this government and this particular Minister with regard to a capital project that was approved for this fiscal year. My understanding was that a decision was made by FMB on December 24, according to the Hansard. I asked him the simple question of, was it deferred until next year, 1992-93, and he could not even answer that. Could I ask the Minister if it was deferred until 1992-93?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O145-12(2): Deferment Of Office/Warehouse Complex In Lac La Martre

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The project is deferred until we have enough money to build the facility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. You have completed your supplementaries, Mr. Zoe. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O146-12(2): Effect Of Government Policy On Self-Government On Gwich'in Claim

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Government Leader. It is in relation to the remarks that were made earlier about regional negotiations. I am curious, Mr. Speaker, as to how the present policy of government, which primarily deals with the matters of community self-government on the basis of individual communities, does not consider the agreement that was reached between the Gwich'in and the federal government that allows the Gwich'in to negotiate directly with the federal government on a regional basis. I want to know how government policy is, in fact, going to reflect the final agreement between the Government of Canada and the Gwich'in.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O146-12(2): Effect Of Government Policy On Self-Government On Gwich'in Claim

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I cannot predetermine how those talks are going to be. I know that the discussions at the community level have not begun yet. I know that the Gwich'in are very interested in it, and we have said that we are committed to talking with them. I cannot predetermine that at some point in time these will be areas we have to respect. If someone has a provision in the claim, then we have to honour that provision. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question O147-12(2): Involvement Of Implementation Committee Members In "Strength At Two Levels"

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on the questions that were raised by Mr. Arvaluk and Mr. Nerysoo, to the Government Leader. In response to a question that was asked by Mr. Arvaluk, the Government Leader implied that there will be a blueprint, in a manner of speaking, created for the implementation of Strength at Two Levels. I would like to ask if the Members who were chosen by the ordinary Members here to be a part of the

implementation committee, whether they could be involved in that process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Government Leader.

O147-12(2): Involvement Of Implementation Committee Members In "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if my English is very good or maybe I am not making myself very clear, and I apologize for that. The documents that I have tabled are a process outline and talk about the various tasks that have to be accomplished. The implementation of those tasks will fit into the process, and this is where the

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committee comes into play, to try to take on those tasks that have been identified. How you break it out in the end -- that will be an ongoing job, and yes, you will be involved and the committee will be involved in the implementation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O148-12(2): Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Government Leader. On December 16th the ordinary Members put forth a motion requesting that the government consider three ordinary Members to participate in the strategy committee for implementing the Strength at Two Levels report. I would like to quote Mr. Pollard's response at that time:

"Mr. Speaker, I think we would like to point out to the House that any changes we may make in government structure would ultimately have to pass through the standing committee on legislation, the standing committee on finance or the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, or all three of these committees. Mr. Speaker, ordinary Members will be consulted through the process even though the House may not be sitting. Mr. Speaker, we will commit to involve ordinary Members in reviewing the

path that we may follow with Strength at Two Levels. We are unable, though, to go as far as to say that three Members from the other side could join us at cabinet meetings. However, you have our commitment, Mr. Speaker, that ordinary Members will be involved. Thank you very much."

I would like to ask the Government Leader, when were the ordinary Members involved in formulating this document, Reshaping Northern Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O148-12(2): Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, we have not done anything yet. I will say what I said before. We have not implemented anything. What we have done is identified tasks, looked at areas from the recommendations and the jobs that would have to be done. We have not talked to communities. Some of the communities have expressed interest in discussion on community self-government, which would have been happening anyway.

The fact is that we have not implemented, and committee will be helping to look at how we are going to take on these tasks. We have identified certain areas that could have a little more priority than others, areas of concern, and this is where the committee will be involved, in carrying that out. But at the same time, those changes and processes will be in the normal planning process of this government, as it will sometimes mean that maybe other programs will be able to be funded, because if we tighten up maybe we will have money for other things.

So all these things go through the normal process. But the day-to-day and ongoing issue of how we carry out those tasks -- we have not done anything at this time, other than to set up the process and the area of where and how we can possibly approach those.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O148-12(2): Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**



Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader, why were the three ordinary MLAs chosen to be on the implementation team not consulted while developing the tasks for producing the document, Reshaping Northern Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O148-12(2):  
Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, because it is not an implementation of Strength at Two Levels. It is a process by which to accomplish those goals and objectives.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O148-12(2):  
Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it is not an implementation, but I would like to ask the Government Leader again, why were not the ordinary Members involved in developing this document, Reshaping Northern Government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O148-12(2):  
Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of this government is for the cabinet to try to put into place the issues that have been put before us and is to get this government into a position where people feel that it is accessible and that the programs and policies are delivered as close to the people as possible. These documents that are presently in front of you are the outline and the broad objectives of what has to be done in terms of putting together that process. It was highly technical in trying to translate what has come out of other papers, other initiatives, as well as Strength at Two Levels, on what can be done or what we can possibly achieve in

certain time frames, looking at the government as a whole and what is possible.

So I did not believe that in setting up this technical way of dealing with things it was possible and desirable for the Members to be involved at the time. The mandate was given to us to structure a process where we can deal with those issues and goals and objectives, and this is what we did. This is just the background, and now the work has to be done. That is where I assumed that the Members wanted to be involved, in actually doing the work, not designing the technical nature of the boxes on where we are going to go. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Your last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O148-12(2):  
Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, since the ordinary Members that were suggested to participate in the implementation team were not consulted at any point in time when the government decided to develop their document, Reshaping Northern Government, and since she indicated that Members would participate in implementation once the work was to begin, I would like to ask the Government Leader whose decisions they were to consolidate departments. Were they community decisions or government decisions, in

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isolation, without the participation of ordinary Members?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O148-12(2):  
Implementation Plan For "Strength At Two Levels"

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the working paper was developed from a lot of different areas, including suggestions from the Strength at Two Levels report. From the very beginning this government and myself have stated that we have to approach government in trying to change the way we do business. It was no secret that

we had to get on with that kind of job. But first of all we had to set up a process so the job could be done. That is the idea of what is in the documents now, the process and what has to be done within the scope of what is in Strength at Two Levels, within an awful lot of other discussion that has gone on.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, we have many proposals out there. For example, the communities are asking where they fit into this process. They want to know where they make their decisions. That is the most important area that we stop at with local government when we gave them only so much responsibility. Now they are asking where the rest of it fits in. This discussion has been going on forever.

At the same time, and I say again, there is great concern on how this government operates at a central level as well. It appears there are too many decisions here, there is too heavy a structure here, and people can take more authority and responsibility at other levels. We have numerous boards and agencies, and people are wondering where to go. All these things are mixed up as to where we go as a government. We are merely trying to put in place a process where we can deal with those issues; and while we are dealing with those issues, a committee will look at it and put it to the various committees of this Legislative Assembly and that will go on.

So on behalf of the people at the community level, I hope that we will respect what they want to do. There are other areas where we have to consider that the Minister responsible for aboriginal rights is dealing with, in terms of what people want to do under their claims. These are all a mix of different ways of how government best serves a people. And if we do not begin to address it at a community level, then we are the only ones that are going to be talking about it. The communities will know no more or no different than what they do today. So we have to put that discussion at a point where it is begun at a community level.

In terms of the regional concept of the Gwich'in, I am quite familiar, and I think everyone here is quite aware, that the Gwich'in can deal unilaterally with the Government of Canada without even going through this territorial government. We are aware of that. They have that in their claim. If the Gwich'in want to pick up right now and say they do not want to deal with the territorial government, within their claim they can go directly to the federal government.

However, where we will be involved is that some of those resources that would go directly to the Gwich'in are sitting here in the territorial government. So whatever is taken away from the budget, that we have, to go to the Gwich'in, we would have to concede that it would have to be passed on. Because they do have that right within their claim.

So in the end, either we do it together and recognize those rights and those agreements or we will sit back and we will let those discussions go directly between the federal government and the aboriginal groups. And right now I think if we work together to do that, it will give them a better deal. That is what we are setting out to do. Where does the rest of the Territories sit; that is, those that are not negotiating specifically for their group? So all I am saying is, let us get it together or else we will be left out. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O149-12(2): Ongoing Involvement Of All Members In Implementation Of Beatty Report

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue to pursue the questions with regard to the process. I would like to ask the Government Leader -- I recognize the concern that the Government Leader has expressed with regard to a unilateral process that could occur and could cause problems even for this government if it happens. However, the concern that we have as ordinary Members is the perceived unilateral process that exists right now in our government: that there are certain decisions that have been made to implement - or at least that is the perception -- to implement Strength at Two Levels, the Beatty report, without consultation and without involvement of ordinary Members.

Could the honourable Member seriously consider ensuring that all ordinary Members, including those Members that are among our implementation representatives, could continue to be involved in consultations with regard to the Beatty report, Strength at Two Levels, on an ongoing basis, and not only when certain reports are concluded?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Government Leader

Return To Question O149-12(2): Ongoing Involvement Of All Members In Implementation Of Beatty Report

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that that is what I was saying. I know that there is a perception, but one of the things I will say again is that oftentimes we set out to do a chore or a task and we sit together and we throw three or four people together and say, "Let us grab this and let us grab that, and let us just ad hoc it along."

For once I had hoped that we would take a report that was commissioned to answer a lot of the questions that were out there in the general public, so we would not have to start all off again ad hocking our general representative responsibility to our constituents.

The constituents do not like it because they say every time we get a new government we start all over again. They wonder what happened to all that work that was done. They say they were talked to a few months before the last government by this group of people that were on the Strength at Two Levels report. They came around, they say, and had meetings in the regions. They want to know what happened to that. There was a lot of effort and a good deal of money spent in trying to co-ordinate and think of people and look at ways and means that we can pass on to the people we are serving that responsibility and the funding to take over the programs and services.

I am committed to that, and I am also committed to making sure, on an ongoing basis, as we begin to do our work, that all the Members of the Legislative Assembly will be involved. And whether it is at a committee level or in the legislative assembly and the committee of the whole, where the committee presently is right now, people can keep bringing that in continuously. I suppose it can be tabled every session. We had some information meetings earlier on the report, on the overall presentation a while ago to all the Members to see whether the process was adequate or whether it has holes in it. I am sure there are some points where there are places we can improve. But I will say again that we are committed to involve everyone who wants to be involved. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O150-12(2): Access Of Previous Government To Beatty Report

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a question concerning the Strength at Two Levels report. The first time I came across the report was when I got here. I wonder if the previous government had access to the same document. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Government Leader.

Return To Question O150-12(2): Access Of Previous Government To Beatty Report

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the report was commissioned by the previous government. It was not finished when the previous government went out. The report was delivered to the Finance Minister, and the report was given to all MLAs in December, before you left for home. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O151-12(2): Availability of Beatty Report To Previous Government

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Government Leader. Were any of the documents or any portions of the report available to the former government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I want to caution Members that the present government is not responsible for the actions of the former government. Ms. Government Leader.

Return To Question O151-12(2): Availability of Beatty Report To Previous Government

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Whitford.

#### ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

W1-12(2): Manager Of Medical Travel

#### HON. TONY WHITFORD:

I have a return to Question W1-12(2), asked by Ms. Mike on February 14, 1992: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question from the honourable Member for Baffin Central, I have provided a copy of the job description for the manager, medical travel position, under separate cover. This position was approved for establishment on a two-year term basis by the Financial Management Board in September of 1991.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

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

#### ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 13-12(2), the Annual Report for the Science Institute for the year 1990-91. Thank you.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

#### HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 14-12(2), the Public Accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ended March 31, 1991, Volumes I and II. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

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. Before we proceed to motions, we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the Legislative Assembly to order. We are dealing with Item 15, motions. Mr. Lewis, Motion 3-12(2), Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction, to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Lewis.

#### ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 3-12(2): Tabled Document 12-12(2)  
"Plebiscite Direction" To Committee Of The Whole,  
Carried

#### MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order, Mr. Lewis. To the motion.  
Mr. Lewis.

#### MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, this issue of the plebiscite and the plebiscite direction and questions to be asked is of great interest to the public. For that reason, I would like to see this paper discussed in committee of the whole. Thank you.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

Secunder of the motion, Mr. Antoine.

#### MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As seconder of this motion I also feel it is important that we discuss this before it gets passed. I think it is important that some of the concerns come out from people that I represent.  
Mahsi.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction, will go into committee of the whole. Motions. Mr. Lewis, Motion 4-12(2).

Motion 4-12(2): Membership Of The Special Committee On Health And Social Services

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, this motion concerns the membership of the special committee on health and social

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services.

WHEREAS the special committee on health and social services was established by Motion 40-12(1) of this Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Rule 89(2) requires that any special committee established shall consist of no more than five Members;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to name Members to the special committee on health and social services;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Mr. Dent, Mr. Koe, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Nerysoo and Mr. Pudluk be appointed as Members to the special committee on health and social services.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order. For the record, the seconder now is the honourable Member for Nahendeh. In the written motion that I received it was previously the honourable Member for Kivallivik. Members will take note of the change. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, since I was directed to have a meeting of the striking committee to deal with the names that

have been submitted by the Clerk, according to the deadline established, the committee met last week and examined the names that had been submitted. From that list of people, considering the different workloads of different individuals and memberships of various committees, the five people that I have mentioned in this motion are recommended to the House as people who should be appointed to this committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Secunder, Mr. Antoine. To the motion. Mr. Arngha'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had originally seconded this motion and then thought about it again and withdrew my position as seconder for this motion. I would like to point out that there is only one Member from the Eastern Arctic on this special committee, and this is why I withdrew my position as seconder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague from Kivallivik, the Nunavut caucus is concerned that there is only one person from the Nunavut caucus, whereas there are a number of people from the western caucus. Either we eliminate some of the Members because of the concern that the mover of the motion suggested, that the special committee should not consist of more than five, or we waive that practice, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken to a number of my colleagues from the Nunavut caucus, and they were interested but were not put onto this committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have some concern about the membership within the committee. It seems that, primarily, Members are from the Western Arctic, and there is only one representative from the eastern part of the country. Mr. Pudluk is from the High Arctic, and it is very hard to travel to other regions

when you are living in the High Arctic. I had the same concern as my colleague across the table, Silas Arngna'naaq, and my colleague, the Member for Amittuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I will speak to the matter of the committee but, more importantly, I think I am going to have to clarify the record here. People here are giving the impression that people did not consider the matter of people from the Eastern Arctic, and that is not exactly the case. It is really not a matter that is normally discussed in public but the fact is, and Mr. Pudluk will rise on this, there was only one other person from the Nunavut caucus that considered the position of being on this particular special committee. I just want to clarify this for the record. I do not want to name names but I think the person knows and indicated in this House who that person was. I want to clarify that for the record because I do not think that people like myself appreciate the arguments that are being made with the view that we are being dishonest, or that we are not considering people from the Eastern Arctic, because that is not the case. People know, from my own personal record, that I do not have any biases or arguments against representation from the Eastern Arctic; I never have, so I just want to correct that for the record so that people do not get the impression that I am sitting on the striking committee at the expense of people from the Nunavut area, because that is not true. I think I can speak for all Members of the striking committee on the basis that that is the way we consider placing Members on the special committee.

The other aspect of this particular committee is that special committees now have been reduced to five Members, with no alternates; that is the new rule. If you want to change the idea of special committees, then for God's sake introduce a motion to make the appropriate amendments, but do not accuse Members of the striking committee of trying to ignore the concerns of Nunavut. That is not the case, and I just want to make that point.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I heard any allegations against the striking committee, but I know on a number of other occasions when we did not have a balance, that the striking committee did go out to seek other people to see if they were interested, or brought it back to caucus saying that there were not that many people interested from either side, and I would think that for the general feeling here, it probably would be appropriate to put it back to caucus to find out why there were not other Members. I do not know whether the striking committee did go out, once they found that this situation might occur -- go out to talk to different people to see if they were interested in it, because I know in the past that often if we just wait for people to put up their names and sometimes do not encourage people, people sometimes forget about it, although I would like to give the benefit of the doubt that this was done in any event. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know why the procedure of nominating a Member to the committee or special committees has been done, like the secret ballot previously. Yes, I, too, was approached as to whether I want to be a member of that committee or not. However, with my committee membership now, I think I have got almost all the committee membership seats. I do not know if that is fair or not, but I am getting a little bit busy here.

How we should have dealt with it, I guess, is to determine during the full caucus what would be a good representation on that committee, rather than filling out papers like it was in a secret ballot -- and as it turned out my friend here was the only one who put his name down -- but if it was discussed in an open, full caucus meeting in an committee room, we

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probably would have been able to balance out to make up good representation on that very important committee. Social problems in the North are one of the biggest problems, and the social committee would have had a good impact in advising the government on social matters. Maybe the whole procedure of selecting committee membership in all of these areas is wrong.

I, in fact, disagree with the system of the striking committee. Especially, I was not pleased when the committees were chosen on the basis of the individual on finance. I fought tooth and nail trying to be on finance. Of course I would not have been put in there except as an alternate. I will not be supporting the motion because I want to select a committee with a better method than what we have been doing.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would ask Members if they would speak to the motion. We are straying from the motion. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I guess the motion is to establish this committee, and I have to say, in speaking to the motion, that I would not want to see this very important committee start off on the wrong foot. I believe that until the problem of balance is addressed by the striking committee, the committee is going to be having a credibility problem because it only represents Members from one region of the Northwest Territories basically, apart from the High Arctic. So Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully recommend to the mover of the motion that something went wrong with the process of soliciting nominations. Perhaps the Members who filled out that questionnaire assumed that there would be other Members from Nunavut participating on this committee, but when we see the result, it is obviously skewed, and so I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, that if it is skewed to the West it should be called the western special committee on social...

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Shame, shame!

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Well, it is imbalanced. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest, with the greatest of respect to the Members of the striking committee, that they should have realized that the committee is not balanced, and they should go back to the drawing board and go back to caucus. It is obvious that there are a number of Members interested in serving on this committee from the Nunavut area of the Northwest Territories, and I would respectfully suggest to the mover of the motion that it would be wise to withdraw the motion, take a little more time and get a more balanced committee

so this committee starts off on a good footing and with credibility with all Members of this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not support this motion, not because there is imbalance but, as the honourable Minister for the Justice Department just said, he does not want this committee to start off on the wrong foot, but it looks like he is making very sure that we do. I think the Nunavut caucus should be meeting on this and decide among themselves who they would like to see.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. To the motion. Mr. Lewis. Mr. Zoe. You will be able to speak, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some difficulty in supporting the motion, too. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the responsibilities of Members, I would like to express to Members that the whole purpose of the striking committee is to ensure that all the ordinary Members are given equal opportunity to serve on certain boards and commissions. If I look at the list of people that have been selected to it, again there is only Mr. Pudluk from the High Arctic on it, and not anybody from the Eastern Arctic. But the other thing is that all the other Members are serving on a very important committee, and that is the standing committee on finance, and there are four Members of the committee that serve on the finance committee. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the finance committee does have a large workload with regard to the reviews of the capital estimates and the main estimates, and that itself would consume about six weeks of the finance committee's workload. They are the only ones that are selected to it, and so it would perhaps make more of a workload for them. I feel that I cannot support the motion because of the demands that are put on only a small number of Members.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am having a difficult time with this motion, particularly the small number of Members that are on...

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Tell the truth; it is because you were not picked.

**MR. ZOE:**

Could be. In particular, for the Eastern Arctic Members that are on the committee. I would suggest that the make-up and the number should be increased to accommodate the number of concerns that have been raised this afternoon here.

Motion 5-12(2): Refer Motion 4-12(2) To Striking Committee, Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Deh Cho, that Motion 4-12(2) be referred to the striking committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Could I have a copy of your motion please, Mr. Zoe? In fairness to all Members we will take a short break and have this motion translated.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the Assembly back to order. Everybody has a copy of the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Motion 4-12(2) has been referred back to the striking committee.

Item 16, first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 14: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput that Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

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---Carried

Bill 14 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 14: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Government of the NWT to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Second Reading Of Bill 15: Official Languages Act



**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Official Languages Act to delay the requirement that rules, orders, regulations, by-laws and proclamations made before December 31, 1989, be in English and French by April 1, 1992 to retain their validity.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Item 18, 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; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; and Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

**ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

The committee will come to order. We have a number of items to deal with this afternoon. I need direction from the committee as to which item you want to deal with. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with the document Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute, because this was something we did discuss and then drop when Mr. Koe was not going to be in the House. It is still an ongoing dispute that has not been

resolved, and we need to have some answers to questions that Members might ask.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Is the committee agreed that we deal with Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Ministers' Statement 10-12(2): Education Dispute

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

General comments. Mr. Alloofoo.

Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, on February 20th the Member for Inuvik made a number of allegations in his statement related to the dispute between teachers at the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education, saying that all the facts were not disclosed by the government.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that the real issue here is not in-service training, the real issue is closing the schools for two and one-half days, two and one-half days when students will not be in school. As I said in my earlier statement, there is a public process for setting the school year, a process that supports the devolution of the responsibility to communities by involving parents through the community education council. This process also involves the divisional boards, and their proposal is then presented to the Minister of Education. This process was followed, and on April 30, 1991, the school year for Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was set at 190 days plus five professional development days. Once a school year is legally established, a school principal cannot then submit a new plan to the community education council which arbitrarily shortens the school year by another two and one-half days. The Inuvik community education council turned down this proposal in November of 1991, and they were quite right in doing so.

The issue is not in-service training, as I stated earlier. I am not surprised that the board or its officials would

state their support for in-service training. That is something that we all support. What we do not support is the closing of schools for more than the five days already provided to teachers throughout the year.

The NWTTA appears to be making a distinction between in-service and professional development. The Department of Education does not view these activities as separate things. In fact, article 17.01 of the NWT Teachers' Association collective agreement links the two by referring to "professional development and in-service training of teachers." If we want to talk past practice, Mr. Chairman, I would refer the Member to the fact that board and departmental personnel often provide curriculum in-service training sessions on regularly scheduled professional development days.

The Member alleged that one school in the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education was closed for a full day in January without any modification of the school year. The school and staff in question understood this was to be one of their five professional development days. I would state further as well that if there are instances where boards allow schools to close for periods beyond the five days allowed, then it should not be happening.

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On Thursday, February 20th, the Executive of the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education met in Inuvik to again discuss the issue. Their position is that the 1991-92 school year adhered to the department's guidelines in providing 190 school days and five professional development days. The approved calendar has no provision to close Sir Alexander Mackenzie School for either in-service training or administration days. Therefore the board does not support closing the school for any additional days.

However, the board and the community education council recognize and appreciate the concerns of the teachers. A plan is being presented to the teaching staff at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School which will meet their needs in providing in-service training but will not require the closing of the school.

So, Mr. Chairman, the request by teachers in Inuvik could be resolved, and I think it will be resolved very quickly. The divisional board has offered a solution, and I believe the teachers are looking at the proposal which the divisional board has put to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister aware if a teachers' representative was invited to speak to the Beaufort/Delta Board of Education on the concerns that they had? Were they invited to submit any proposals or counterproposals that might resolve the matter that you outlined in your presentation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, this school year for the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was set last April. The teachers requested an additional two and one-half days back in November, and they submitted their proposal to the education council and the education council did not agree that the school should be closed for an additional two and one-half days, outside of the five professional development days which were negotiated.

I believe that the school submitted their proposal to the education council and their proposal was turned down. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the honourable Member answered the question. I asked if a representative of the teachers was invited to speak to the Beaufort/Delta Board of Education to raise the concern that they had, and whether or not they were asked to submit a counterproposal to the one that was originally submitted to Peter Murray, to the community education committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if the teachers were represented at that particular meeting, but I am told that on the education council board the

principal is an ex officio member of that particular board. I do not know if he was there to represent the teachers or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

In that case, maybe I could make a couple of comments. I think the matter at hand is probably the result of a greater misunderstanding about the issues and the positions that have been presented rather than, I believe, a policy that could accommodate the proposals that have been made by the teachers. I do want to say that from the information that I have received, there is great confusion as to who is actually responsible for the final decision, because I believe that in November a submission was made to the Beaufort/Delta board and they approved the idea of the in-service training. Maybe I am confused about that, but that is the information that was given to us. It was then subsequently brought to the attention of the community, to the CEC, and they then rejected the position. Now, maybe it is a misunderstanding on my part and it needs clarification, but I think that has been one of the problems that seems to be the basis for confusion.

Now, I am not going to try to make any arguments in support of the proposals that have been made, but I do think that one aspect that requires our serious consideration, or reconsideration on this government's part, is to really indicate who has the final decision-making authority in the region. Is it the CEC or is it the Beaufort/Delta Educational Board? It has to be clear, because we cannot continue to have a situation where the community CEC overrules a decision of the overall board, because the board itself has -- for instance, in the case of Inuvik, the overall board has jurisdiction with regard to the high school. It is a collective decision-making process because all communities in the region are affected by that particular high school, and so I am concerned that we should have a situation where, when people are brought to a meeting, that they do not have the kind of clout they think they have, especially if another board, an independent board, a community board, begins to overrule decisions that they agreed to.

I am not going to challenge the issues you have raised or brought to my attention, but I do want to say to you that it is important to resolve this particular matter. I raise that point with you and ask you if you

could have your officials meet to resolve this, because it is necessary so that there is a clear indication in future about who really has jurisdiction.

On the matter of in-service training, whether or not the teachers are going to have the same kind of access to in-service training that most other school boards have across the North, I think that what you will find is that they are not going to be unreasonable if there is a solution that they are part of. I think that if I could ask you and your department officials to try to work that resolution out -- because I do not think that at this particular juncture people have the kind of confidence they should have in the regional director, the board and the

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executive director, and maybe there is a lot of confusion about that but that is the reality and until you resolve that I do not think you are going to have any teaching community in Inuvik that is going to be satisfied or happy with the relationship they presently have with the executive director of the board of education. I think you have to resolve that as much as you have to resolve the matter of in-service training.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Education Act is very clear on who has the authority to set sessional days. With respect to this particular problem, the school calendar year is set on April 30 of that particular year. For instance, for the 1992-93 school year, I believe the school year is going to be established by the Minister of Education on April 30 or prior to that. In establishing a school year, it says that the act requires the Minister to consult with the local education authorities before the academic year is finalized, so the community education council gets involved in establishing the school year. The school days are set by the act to be that of 190 days. Depending on the number of hours that the kids are taught, that particular calendar can be moved either way, and also in-service training.

The NWTTA collective agreement says that there will be five additional days set aside for professional development days, but in some cases those five additional days are enhanced by lengthening the

school hours. For instance, I mentioned that in Hay River last year school hours were lengthened by 10 minutes each day. That allowed the teachers to have more time to have in-service training. But in Inuvik the school year was set in April on the advice of the educational authorities and the divisional board. Apparently the teachers were not happy with the in-service training. They wanted to have more in-service training, and they brought their proposal to the education council, and the education council turned them down, unfortunately. That is where the problem began, but I believe that my officials will be meeting with the NWTTA tomorrow morning at breakfast time, and also the teachers have been given a proposal by the divisional board which they could look at. I have not heard whether that would resolve the problem, but I believe it will resolve the problem. Perhaps tomorrow afternoon, when the session is on, I could update the Members on the situation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you. If I could ask the Minister if those Members that are concerned or affected by the regional board could receive at least the proposal that was submitted, if it is possible, or at least a summary of the proposal itself, so that we are clear about the proposals and also we can get clarification on the counter-proposals that are being made, so that we can try to bring some resolution to this particular matter. But I do say that I am hoping that this particular matter is resolved before April 30 of this year so that it is clear what we can do next year, and we do not have an argument in November again, because I do not think it is in the interests of the teachers or the board or the students that this kind of situation arises in the middle of their educational term.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

Project Proposal To Introduce Seasonal Homes Unit To Primary Teaching Staff, Sir Alexander Mackenzie School

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I would just read the proposal into the record. Remember the request for 2.5 days for in-service training?

"The proposal is that six substitute teachers for a half day to release primary classroom teachers in the morning session will reduce the number of substitute teachers required. Session needs to be conducted prior to March 31, 1992, so that the costs can be accrued to the 1991-92 budget and take advantage of available human resources.

"What is available in terms of resources now is that three board consultants would be available to take on the duties of two of the presenters plus classroom. One Inuvialuktun co-ordinator would be available to take on duties of the language instructor, and two teachers-in-training would be available to take over two classrooms.

"The rationale is that the Seasonal Homes unit needs to be introduced to the primary teaching staff at SAMS by the committee members who create the unit. Without a proper instruction the intent of the unit will not be realized. While it would be beneficial for all staff members to understand the unit intentions, it was designed as a primary document and, as such, at a minimum, the primary staff required an introduction to the unit.

"The suggested plan is an attempt to provide an introduction to primary teaching staff with as little disruption to school operation as possible. That is, all primary classes will be covered by substitute teachers, teachers-in-training or qualified teachers employed as board office staff.

"Classroom assistants and special needs assistants could attend the primary session if the school administration felt that school operations could be met, if they were released for half a day. The cost would be six substitute teachers at about \$80 per half a day. The total would be \$480 per day for the duration of the 2.5 days of in-service training."

This is the school board's response to the teachers' request.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Chairman, this business of in-service is very often mixed up with professional development because what happens is sometimes the Minister may issue some directive or other to get something done. It happens in Yellowknife quite a bit, where the board

wants something done and the kids have to go home a bit early one day. They have a meeting, and they have people explain exactly what has to be done with registers or particular programs. So it is something that is recognized as something different from professional development. This seems to me to be an attempt to solve a problem, and I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that it has been turned down? They have tried to find a solution to this by hiring substitute teachers and using staff, and so on. Does the Minister have any idea why the proposal is being turned down by the staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

My understanding is that the request for two and a half days by teachers has been turned down by the education council for the reasons that the education council does not see any reason why 190 days should be reduced. They would like the kids to be in the classroom for the total of 190 days. I believe that is the main reason that the school education council does not want to see additional days off school for the kids. They are saying that the 190 school days should not be diminished by additional in-service days. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try the question again in a different way. It is my understanding that the staff at SAMS have rejected the proposal of the regional board,

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and they have proposed some solutions for in-service which were developed by their director. The director for that board has told the board how they can solve the problem by, in fact, hiring substitute teachers and using some of the staff. My question is, why is it not acceptable to the teachers there, who could still have their in-service? It is still possible to have it. The solution proposed is that they spend four hundred and odd dollars to hire some substitute teachers and use some staff. What is the reason that the teaching staff is deciding not to accept that proposal? That is my understanding of what is going on there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

My information and my understanding of what is going on might be a little different from that of the Member for Yellowknife Centre. My understanding is that it is teaching staff who are requesting two and a half days; the teachers are asking for two and a half in-service training days. It is the educational council of Inuvik who is turning down the request from the teaching staff, for the reason that they do not want to see kids not attending school for an additional two and a half days. They tell me that is the main reason as to why they are turning it down. It is not the staff; it is the education council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I will try again. Where is the idea coming from that this can be solved by spending \$400? It is in a solution to spend \$400 to get some substitute teachers to do the teaching, and keep the kids in school so that they can get their 190 days. Where is this idea coming from that it can be solved so that nobody loses? The teachers can get their few hours off, the kids will be taught by the subs, and this is the solution. Who is proposing that solution and who is turning it down?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I did not quite get his question before. The proposal is coming from the divisional board, and it is being put to teachers. I have not heard formally, to this date, whether the teachers will accept the proposal that is produced by the divisional board. I believe that it was late Friday that this proposal was put to them, and I have not heard whether they are turning it down or not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The SAMS staff unanimously rejected the proposal of the Beaufort board to allow them to have their time off, but their solution is to spend this \$400 so the kids will still get taught. What I want to know, and maybe the Minister could undertake to find it out, is why it is that the staff have turned it down, because they have solved their problem. They can get their time off and the kids would still get taught, and it would only cost \$400, so why are the teachers turning it down? That is my simple question, and from what the Minister has told me, he did not know this had happened on Friday -- that it had been rejected. Maybe we could get the answer to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will get the answer for the Member and for the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Further general comments. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Further to that point that has just been discussed, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association issued a press release dated February 21, that was Friday afternoon I believe, stating that the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School staff -- I will quote the press release: "The Sir Alexander Mackenzie School staff unanimously rejects the position of the Beaufort/Delta Divisional Board of Education regarding the proposed format for in-service training that is based upon a plan presented by the director of Education." That is the first paragraph of that press release, and it goes on. So, this was released, and I am surprised the Minister has not received a copy of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Minister? General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does this committee agree that Ministers' Statement 10-12(2) is concluded? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Just one more comment, I guess. I am not sure at this stage, with the latest information that is available, what the department is going to be doing. What is the Minister going to be doing to try to resolve this dispute?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff will be meeting tomorrow morning at breakfast time with the NWTTA, which the Member just read there as part of their press release, in an attempt to resolve this issue. Plus, if it is not resolved, I have received a letter from the Member inviting me to go up to Inuvik. I will look at his invitation to see what we could do. I would like to see this problem resolved as soon as I can. I will wait to see what this meeting tomorrow of my officials and NWTTA produces, and I will make my decision whether I should go up to Inuvik or not on the invitation of the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Any further general comments on the Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute? Does this committee agree that the Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), Education Dispute, is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I have Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; and Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; what does this committee wish to deal with now? Give me direction. Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93. I have four items we can deal with this afternoon. Give me a direction. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

There is a motion on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 10-12(2), and wishes to report that Ministers' Statement 10-12(2) is concluded. Mr. Speaker,

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I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

CLERK ASSISTANT (Ms. Perkison):

(Translation) There will be a meeting tomorrow, February 25, of the standing committee on finance and of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions. Tomorrow morning there is a caucus committee; at 10:30 a.m., a meeting of the ordinary Members.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 25, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I have one clarification... (Inuktitut only heard on tape). This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 25, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT