



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**2nd Session**

**Day 9**

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

## **HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1992**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER:** Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 3, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Whitford.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

**Ministers' Statement 23-12(2): Social Assistance Caseloads**

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last five years the number of visits to Social Services' offices, where financial assistance was granted to those in need, has increased by 44 per cent. Expenditures over the same period increased by 70 per cent.

The social assistance program provides basic necessities and special needs to territorial residents, and helped over 24,000 residents in 1990-91, which is about 44 per cent of the territorial population. The program continues to be provided in the communities without any significant increase in field staff.

In order to provide support to those dedicated workers, the department is taking a number of initiatives:

1) A new automated social assistance information system has been implemented in all regions and will be fully operational by April of 1992. The system has been designed to give the department access to more up-to-date and accurate data and more accountable control over expenditures.

2) The department has identified the social assistance statutory training program as a priority, and has developed a comprehensive training program for staff. The training, scheduled to begin in March, will

increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the program delivery.

3) The department, in partnership with the Department of Education, is concluding negotiations on a five-year agreement with Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, and Health and Welfare Canada, to enhance the employment opportunities for social assistance recipients. The agreement, known as the Canada/NWT Accord is a continuation of a similar arrangement which was in place on a yearly basis for the last four years. The new agreement will provide \$1.5 million per year for training, upgrading, and job development skills targeted specifically at social assistance recipients. The goal of this program is to assist clients to become self-sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Members will join me in welcoming Mr. Louis Pilakapsi, the president of the Keewatin Inuit Association.

---Applause

Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

**Ministers' Statement 24-12(2): Workers' Compensation Board Appointments**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce appointments to fill two vacancies that presently exist on the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Robert Kuptana and Mr. Gordon Wray will assume their positions on the board effective immediately.

Mr. Kuptana, a resident of Sachs Harbour, previously served on the board for several years. At present, he is working as a translator for the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut.

Mr. Wray, a resident of Baker Lake and Yellowknife, is well known in both the business and political sectors of the Northwest Territories. Prior to serving as a Member of this Assembly, he was an active businessman in the Keewatin Region.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that both of these individuals will prove to be valuable contributors to the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board and I look forward to working with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I rise, today, to express my disappointment in the conduct of the Minister of Workers' Compensation Board, who just announced his appointments for the Workers' Compensation Board.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not against the individuals chosen, as I feel that Mr. Wray does have the ability to do the job. However, I do want to indicate the process used for these appointments is not one to be proud of. Mr. Patterson has consulted with only a few Members of this Assembly in determining who should be considered for these appointments. In consultation with many of the Members, it appears that Mr. Patterson has only consulted with the eastern Members of the Assembly, and this convinces me, in regard to the concern that I expressed in this House before, about Mr. Patterson's eastern mentality as a Minister.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it is the issue of the motion placed forth in this Assembly that has been totally ignored. On December 12, 1991 this Assembly moved, and I quote: "that the government of the NWT postpone filling membership vacancies in all government-created boards and agencies until after March 31, 1992." Today is only March 3; "and further, that where it is clearly in the public interest to reappoint members of boards and agencies, that these appointments be made for the shortest possible term." Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader's response at the time was, and I quote: "Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment the committee on its work and its diligent look at the concerns on the

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many boards and agencies that we have in the NWT. The government has no problem with the recommendations. It complements the kind of thinking that we have had on some of the requests that have been raised by the general voter of the NWT. "So once again I would like to compliment the committee on their work and suggest that the recommendation be supported." End of quote by the Government Leader.

These appointments certainly are contradictory to the Government Leader's comments in December, Mr.

Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell Mr. Patterson that as a Member of this Assembly I am not the least bit impressed with the process you used and with the total ignorance in violating and ignoring this House's recommendations. Thank you.

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

#### Member's Statement On Failure To Deal With Main Estimates

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I had no difficulty at all in the 11th Assembly in finding many questions to ask in question period in the interests of making this government accountable. The government came into power in the fall of 1987 and we had our main estimates to deal with right away. Within a few weeks the standing committee on finance could get on with its work. It had been prepared by the previous government, but the 11th Assembly dealt with the estimates and the budget was ready very soon past. Mr. Speaker, our government has been in office since November and we are still waiting for the main estimates, and we will not pass our budget until June or July. Until the Minister of Finance makes his budget speech, we will continue to deal with what I consider to be a phantom government. We know nothing about its plans, its policies, or its programs.

In this environment, Mr. Speaker, in my own defence, it is very difficult to know what questions to ask, because we do not know what we are doing. I feel like I am flying through very thick clouds. Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to make sure that the 13th Assembly, which will meet about four or five years from now, does not have to go through this process. We talk about accountability all the time, Mr. Speaker. To make governments accountable, we have to know what it is trying to do. It is unacceptable that a government be in power for nine months before it shows its face. Thank you.

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

#### Member's Statement On Presence Of Chairman Of Baffin Divisional Board Of Education In The House

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the chairman of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education. He could not leave yesterday, and I would like to recognize the hard work that he has done, and I would like to welcome him, Joe Enook.

**--Applause**

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

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

##### **Return To Question 157-12(2): Effect Of Crown Office Staff Turnover On Appeal Of Paul Quassa Case**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 25, 1992, on the effect of Crown office staff turnover on the appeal of the Paul Quassa case. Mr. Gargan asked whether he could be assured that staff turnover within the office of the Crown will not influence the decision on whether or not there will be an appeal of the Quassa matter.

I am advised that a decision has been made not to appeal the sentence in the Paul Quassa case. I have also been advised that the turnover of personnel within the Crown office has nothing to do with this decision.

In the Northwest Territories, the Attorney General of Canada, and only the Attorney General of Canada, has a role in deciding which cases the Crown will appeal. She is accountable to Parliament alone. Our government has no role in criminal prosecution decisions. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions.

#### **ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Question O231-12(2): Negotiation Of Agreement With Federal Departments**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services whether or not he is prepared to provide us with the details and the specifics of the items being considered for negotiation with the federal government that he indicated or announced today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understand what items the honourable Member is referring to.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please clarify, Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member indicated today that the Department of Social Services is involved in embarking upon a partnership with the Department of Education in negotiating a five-year agreement with Employment and Immigration Canada and Health and Welfare Canada to enhance employment opportunities.

I want to ask the honourable Member if he could provide this House with at least some general parameters of those negotiations and the types of programs to be included in that particular agreement.

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

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret that I misunderstood the Member's original question. Yes, I will endeavour to do that, and take the question as notice.

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

##### **Question O232-12(2): Term Of Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Can the Minister advise this House as to the length of the appointments of both Mr. Kuptana and Mr. Wray?

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

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Return To Question O232-12(2): Term Of Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** One year, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### **Question O233-12(2): Right Of Inmates To Vote**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice with regard to the whole issue on whether or not inmates have a right to vote. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there has been a review done with regard to this. Has there been a review on whether or not our Northwest Territories Act is okay as far as the Constitution goes?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O233-12(2): Right Of Inmates To Vote

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal Court of Appeal, in the case of Belczowski versus Canada, did hold that the provisions of the Canada Elections Act disqualifying prison inmates from voting in federal elections were contrary to the Charter. However, Mr. Speaker, it is not known, yet, whether this case will be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. It is likely that the results of that case would apply to voting provisions in the territorial Elections Act, but I am advised that it would be preferable to wait for the outcome of an appeal, if any, before amendments to that act are made or contemplated. Thank you.

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

**Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the Legal Services Act, again to the Minister of Justice, one of the provisions under section 4, clause 35, states, "Subject to this act and the regulations, legal services may be provided in relation to all civil matters except..." One of these sections deals with proceedings relating to elections. I would like to ask the Minister if he has reviewed that section and if there are any avenues the inmates might be able to take in order to challenge, the Elections Act, if the need arises.

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

Return To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member may know, there is a concern about the spiralling costs of legal aid, courts, court services and policing in the Northwest Territories. Because of that concern, the previous Minister of Justice had approved the appointment of a task force on legal aid to review the whole system, particularly with a view to dealing with the increases in costs. I have tabled that report and, to my recollection, it does not address that particular issue. In fact, the report is generally directed at limiting services and costs, rather than expanding them.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question, I have not considered expanding the scope of legal aid. In fact, I believe that I may be required, by financial restraint, to consider doing the opposite: limiting or controlling the scope of legal aid. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**MR. GARGAN:** I would like to ask if there are any avenues that inmates have if they feel that their constitutional right to vote is being violated. What are the options that the inmates have in that case?

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

Further Return To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that rather than spending a lot of time and money on litigation, I would suggest that the solution to that problem lies with this Legislature and, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it is a decision that can be addressed by this Legislature without the need for litigation. We as a Legislature can determine whether inmates should have the right to vote or not. It does not take a court challenge to decide. The honourable Member well knows the tools that are available to any Member of this Legislative Assembly to bring this issue before the House and to the attention of the government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, if the Member recalls, I made a motion with regard to changing the Elections Act, the Plebiscite Act and the Local Authorities Elections Act which none of the Members supported. This motion would have enabled inmates to vote. The opportunity for change was there, but it never occurred. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, in the event the possibility exists, it could be challenged. This could disrupt the plebiscite. Perhaps the government should be changing the acts so that inmates may have an opportunity to vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:** A question should not normally deal with a hypothetical case. I think the Minister understands the intent of the question. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect to the honourable Member, I would suggest that the federal case dealt with federal elections, and while it may well apply to territorial elections, I think there is quite a distinction to be made with regard to a plebiscite. I think the previous litigation on the plebiscite described the plebiscite as an opinion poll. It has a different status than that of an election in the sense of a municipal or a territorial election.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it is up to this Legislature to determine which classes of people it wishes to consult on, in effect, an opinion poll through the plebiscite. I think the Member's concern about the applicability of this case is valid and quite possibly justified with regard to elections legislation. I respectfully suggest that there is a whole different set of arguments that apply to plebiscite legislation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, in the event that the response would be what the Minister said, I would

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like to get a legal opinion on that. The Plebiscite Act does contain a clause restricting prisoners from voting. Under the act itself, that could be challenged if there was a plebiscite and the inmates decide to do that. What I am getting at, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not any Minister has taken any initiatives. Does the Minister agree that there might be a disruption in the plebiscite process if it was challenged? What is he doing about it?

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

Further Return To Question O234-12(2): Avenues For Inmates To Challenge The Elections Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the case is under Plebiscite Act, and I guess the case of Allman et al versus the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories in the Court of Appeal of the Northwest Territories, 1984, basically described the plebiscite as an opinion poll, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Charter right to vote has been

considered, so far, in courts to apply to elections rather than opinion polls. So, Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question, I am not concerned about the possibility of a challenge, or even a violation of Charter rights, by the exclusion of certain classes of people like prisoners with respect to the Plebiscite Act. I think the Member has a very good case to make, that the Charter, right to vote may well apply to our elections legislation in the Territories, but I am advised that it is quite a different matter with regard to the Plebiscite Act.

So the short answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not concerned about the validity of the Plebiscite Act as against the Charter, and I am not concerned about the possibility of a challenge. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. You have used up your three supplementaries, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Nerysoo.

#### **Question O235-12(2): Residency Requirement Under Plebiscite Act**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could ask the Minister of Justice whether or not he has had a legal opinion done with regard to the matter of the residency requirement that is defined under the Plebiscite Act.

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

Return To Question O235-12(2): Residency Requirement Under Plebiscite Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta pointed out the other day that the equality provisions of the Charter were not in effect when the residency requirement was litigated in the case of Allman versus the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories in 1984. I have sought advice from my department about the point the Member raised; namely, could the equality provisions provide a basis for challenge of the residency requirement that was not available in 1984. Mr. Speaker, I am advised that it is never possible to predict for certain what courts will do, but I am advised that the right to vote is the best ground to challenge the residency requirement in the Plebiscite Act, that it is not so much an equality argument as an argument founded in the right-to-vote provisions of the Charter. I am advised by my department that therefore the challenge was thoroughly dealt with by the court of appeal in 1984, and it was on the best

ground that could be available to a challenger today, and that therefore that case probably accurately sets out the law today as well as it did in 1984.

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

**Question O236-12(2): Challenge Disrupting Boundary Plebiscite**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question again to the Minister of Justice with regard to the Plebiscite Act and the opinion poll, in regard to whether it is the Plebiscite Act, or the Municipal Act, or the Elections Act. In the event that an inmate decides to challenge the Plebiscite Act because of not being allowed to vote, what would happen in this case? Would it, in fact, cause a disruption to the process with regard to the boundary plebiscite?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have a little difficulty with the question because it is bordering on asking Mr. Patterson a legal opinion, but with that in mind, Mr. Patterson, if you want to respond to the general tenor of the question.

Return To Question O236-12(2): Challenge Disrupting Boundary Plebiscite

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I was hoping you were going to let me off the hook, Mr. Speaker. I thought that was quite a hypothetical question: What if an inmate decides to challenge? Mr. Speaker, I have tried to be as clear as I can with the honourable Member. The right to vote, as it has been determined recently by the federal Court of Canada, relates to elections for public office. The Plebiscite Act is quite a different matter. It is like an opinion poll, and that is the language used by a court.

So, in the opinion of my legal advisors in the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker, an inmate could not use the recent federal court case to challenge the Plebiscite Act. It is clearly a different situation. The federal court of appeal case clearly deals with elections and not opinion polls. So if the Member is asking my opinion of what would happen, my opinion is that the challenge would not get very far and it would not disrupt the plebiscite. I think the Member has a good case with regard to elections, which should be looked at and dealt with by this House, but I do not think it affects the plebiscite or applies to the plebiscite. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I could remind Members that they should not be asking opinions but also remind Ministers that they are under no obligation to respond to a question of opinion. So it is a two-way street. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**Question O237-12(2): Renovations On Prince Of Wales Northern Heritage Centre**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Communications. It is with regard to my church in Fort Providence. During the fall session I addressed that issue, and also during the last budget session I also addressed it. One of the things I tried to do during the last budget session was to delete certain expenditures for the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and redirect it to the church in Fort Providence.

The arguments that were used by the department at that time were that they were doing some renovations with regard to some trailers they have used for storage and they are going to replace those trailers with the proper structure for storage of artifacts. I would like to ask if those renovations, to date, on the Prince of Wales museum have been done. I understand it has not been.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Culture and Communications, Mr. Alloo.oo.

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Return To Question O237-12(2): Renovations On Prince Of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; the renovations on the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre have not been done.

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

**Question O238-12(2): Assistance To Stabilize Fort Providence Church**

**MR. GARGAN:** In light of that, Mr. Speaker, are there any plans during this fiscal year to assist the community of Fort Providence to stabilize their church? I am concerned that if it goes on any longer there will not be a church there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan, this might be looked at as a new question. It is a change of subject from the Prince of Wales to the church. So we will class this as a new question. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O238-12(2): Assistance To Stabilize Fort Providence Church

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member knows that the department has been looking very hard to see where we can help Fort Providence. We have been dealing with the issue for quite some time. At some point in working on this we had a tentative plan to assist the community to stabilize the church. Also, in the past, I have attempted to find resources that would stabilize the church and to renovate it. I have not been able to get the adequate resources to renovate the old church. I am told by my department, the government, and this Legislature, that since we are in a fiscal restraint and the resources are limited we should be looking for resources outside of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I have directed my department to see if they can find resources with federal programs that might be available to assist the Fort Providence church. To this date, my department has no immediate plans to put forward a submission that would renovate the church. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O238-12(2): Assistance To Stabilize Fort Providence Church

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I realize that there is the need for restraint. Last year, Mr. Speaker, there was approval for \$180,000 for the Fort Good Hope church, and I think this year it is over \$200,000. Under what process has the government made the allocation for Fort Good Hope a priority over other communities?

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Fort Good Hope church has been recognized nationally as a building that is significant to the heritage of Canada. As to the Member's question, I will have to take the question as notice and get back to him with the detailed information as to why this government is spending money on that church. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O239-12(2): Availability Of Funding For Preservation Of Historic Sites**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could ask the Minister of Culture and Communications if he

would provide Members of this House with the various policies, or outlines of policies, that are in existence where individuals or communities can access funds for the development or preservation of historic sites and buildings.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Culture and Communications, Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O239-12(2): Availability Of Funding For Preservation Of Historic Sites

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, yes, I will be happy to provide the Members with that policy. Thank you.

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

**Question O240-12(2): Park, Cape Dorset**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism. I asked this question earlier, but I will ask it again. I realize that we, in the North, are in a time of restraint. My question is with regard to parks in Cape Dorset. We have asked this for a number of years; it was asked by the previous MLA. I also ask you, Mr. Minister, this question: I am just wondering if the park is going to be ready 10 months from now. It was supposed to be worked on for at least 10 months, and I hope by that time, in June, it will be ready.

We have some students from Cape Dorset, and I would like to see them graduate. I believe those few students from Cape Dorset will be graduating sometime in the month of June. I wonder if you have any responses for my questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O240-12(2): Park, Cape Dorset

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, we will start work on it immediately. Thank you.

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

**Question O241-12(2): Strategy For Arctic College Campuses**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, since the Minister's department made a decision to defer the academic building once again in Fort Smith, and since



the recommendation of SCOF has been to develop a strategy for Arctic College, I would like to ask the Minister, how long does he feel it would take to complete the strategy for Arctic College to address the issue of campuses?

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

Return To Question O241-12(2): Strategy For Arctic College Campuses

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, a lot of it will depend on the Strength at Two Levels committee. Their recommendations as to what happens to Arctic College are going to be very important for the department to come up with a plan. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O241-12(2): Strategy For Arctic College Campuses

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that now the Minister is allowing for

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consideration by the ordinary Members through the Strength at Two Levels committee, but at the same time I would like to ask the Minister, does he intend to also consult with the Arctic College Board of Governors and take into consideration the comment made in this House with respect to the number of campuses for the development of the Arctic College strategy?

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

Further Return To Question O241-12(2): Strategy For Arctic College Campuses

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question O242-12(2): Katannilik Park,  
Lake Harbour**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the response from the Minister of Economic Development regarding the parks. Perhaps I would ask him to repeat his response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Perhaps, Mr. Pollard, if you could repeat your response for Mr. Pudlat.

Return To Question O242-12(2): Katannilik Park, Lake Harbour

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member was questioning me about the Katannilik Park on the Soper River. Those funds are in the budget this year, and they are before the House at this present time. If the funds requested are approved by the House, then we will start work on the park immediately. Thank you.

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

**Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And  
Drug Abuse Patients**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services with regard to referrals. The situation right now on referrals is that all residents that are being referred under the alcohol and drug program are being referred through rehab centres here in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not these referrals, because of restraint, are restricted to not only the alcohol and drug program but are restricted to government employees as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will assume that the Member is speaking of referrals to alcohol and drug treatment centres, and the answer to that is, yes.

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

Supplementary To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So whether they are government employees or non-government employees, the same rule applies, that if they require treatment they are to go into an institution in the North.

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

Further Return To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, to avoid any confusion, any person that is being referred under the alcohol and drug treatment program -- the department does not have any control over employees because that is part of a collective agreement. If that is part of a collective agreement that takes precedent over anything that our department may be involved in. But any requests to our department for referrals by private citizens or employees, at the current time, there are no referrals because of a funding problem.

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

Supplementary To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, we had an opportunity to meet with the Minister in Fort Simpson during the first week of February. The Minister indicated that referrals for alcohol and drug abuse patients would be made up here but if there is a requirement for a cultural component then they may be referred down south -- I am not too sure whether you said that or not, but I would like to know if people who require treatment are given the opportunity if they request a cultural component, if the government would be open to that?

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

Further Return To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the reference to a cultural component was based on the concept that the Hay River treatment centre is planning. It is based on other successful programs where native persons go to seek help, that has included in its program not only the normal stuff, but they also have in there a cultural component which enhances the value to that individual. The Hay River proposal is to include a far greater cultural component than the facility that is here in Yellowknife or the one that is referred to as Delta House. I think what I was referring to when I was talking about referrals was that if it was deemed that this was going to be beneficial and a case made, then these things would be taken into consideration as well, as to where the individual would be going, rather than simply saying that the person needs treatment, and there is a space available in either Saskatchewan or some other institution. It would be taken into consideration as part of their treatment plan.

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

Supplementary To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, has the department done a review with regard to the amount of savings we are making by not referring people with alcohol problems to the South? I understand it is cheaper on the best base to send them south, and the transportation is equivalent to this.

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

Further Return To Question O243-12(2): Referrals For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Patients

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure how our department would be able to measure that, but, at the present time, we are not in any position to have people go to other facilities because of concerns of a financial nature, Mr. Speaker. Consequently, the savings are 100 per cent. I think what we are looking at is the

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treatment that one receives by going to a southern facility, as opposed to here. I will have the department or the agencies that provide this service review it -- if that is what the Member is asking -- to see if we have been successful as opposed to persons going back again for further treatment.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have completed your three supplementary questions, Mr. Gargan. Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

#### **Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I heard that the NWT Development Corporation, which gets its funding from this Legislature, recently purchased the Patterson Sawmill out of Hay River for \$1.6 million. I have been thinking about this quite a bit, and I have a few concerns about it. A lot of sawmills in the North never did make it. An example of this is Fort Resolution. The government pumped millions of dollars into it over the years. The sawmill was never successful. I wonder why the NWT Development Corporation bought this sawmill. Mahsi.

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

Return To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was not a government decision, although it is my responsibility, and I take full responsibility for it. It was a decision of the board of the NWT Development Corporation. They decided that it was the last sawmill left in the Northwest Territories. It had been viable in the past and had been in existence for 18 years. Mr. Patterson had fallen victim to the price of lumber falling from \$330 per thousand down to \$225 per thousand board feet, the same as the rest of the lumber industry in Canada. He was unable to come to terms with Renewable Resources, at times, on his logging area which he was occupying in the Cameron Hills. He moved further toward Fort Simpson and Jean Marie River which proved very, very expensive for him to haul logs in from there. Mr. Patterson wanted to return to Cameron Hills, but he was facing bankruptcy. There were some 40 jobs throughout the year at stake. There were several hundred thousand dollars' worth of purchases made in the Northwest Territories by this company. The board of directors of the NWT Development Corporation assessed it and felt that if they could bring him out of this slump, because he was debt-ridden, the possibility existed that this business could be returned to the private sector and continue to make a profit.

That is the story, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I take full responsibility for this decision. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**MR. ANTOINE:** The cost of \$1.6 million is quite a bit of money for a sawmill. I would like to know what is included in the package as far as assets, et cetera. Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, the NWT Development Corporation spent public funds. I have

to account to the House for that and, unfortunately, I am going to involve the private lives of the Pattersons. I think there is a misconception that Mr. and Mrs. Patterson walked away with their pockets jingling. What happened, Mr. Speaker, is that \$500,000 of the money was owed to ourselves through the business loan fund; \$600,000 of those dollars went into the working capital to enable them to put an inventory together; \$300,000 went to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to pay the loan, and Mr. and Mrs. Patterson each received two dollars, Mr. Speaker. They gave up the loans and personal guarantees that they had put into their company. That is how the \$1.4 million was disbursed, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**MR. ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that we indirectly own the sawmill, what are we going to do with it? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, the first thing we had to do was to decide whether we were in the business of sawing and planing lumber and selling it to lumber yards, or whether we were in the business of bidding on government contracts. We decided that we were going to cut the lumber, saw it and plane it, and we are presently making arrangements with the lumber yards in the Northwest Territories for them to carry our product. We are not going to compete with the private sector in that regard.

The purpose of the sawmill, obviously, will ultimately be to make money. The more volume we can put through, the better. This year, we are aiming at five million board feet. Our department is now entering into discussions with Fort Resolution to make an arrangement with them whereby they will cut one million board feet per year, rough cut it and supply it to the Patterson's sawmill in Hay River for planing. That will bring us to six million board feet. I think we can get to eight million board feet and sell into the Northwest Territories. Our intention is to supply the Northwest Territories. If we can run some into

Alberta, we will do that as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Who is presently managing this operation? Who is running Patterson Mills at this time?

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

Return To Question O244-12(2): Purchase Of Patterson Sawmill By NWT Development Corporation

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Patterson has a contract with us. He also has an option to buy back part of the sawmill if he is able to. We have given him certain managerial responsibilities, but at the same time the

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Development Corporation will be overseeing the whole operation. We will see how that works out, Mr. Speaker, and make some decisions along the road if it is not working out.

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

**Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease**

**MR. KOE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. The past government has supported the Native Communications Society of the Western Northwest Territories in their operations and also in their planning for expansion and development of a new media centre for radio and TV. Will the Minister advise us of the current position of this government on the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Culture and Communications, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, our position in regard to assisting native communication societies

throughout the NWT has not changed. We will continue to assist them in areas that we can, and also, we will continue to support them in the area of television communication, where we can.

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

Supplementary To Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease

**MR. KOE:** I understand that the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT has had a request in with the Minister, looking for a commitment so that they can proceed with their development plans for television. When will they receive an answer from the Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Alloo.oo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Member asking when the government will start participating in the rental space of the media centre or is he talking about the Inuvialuit Communications Society?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Koe, please clarify.

**MR. KOE:** It is the Native Communications Society of the Western NWT; they have a proposal in with the government and I am wondering when they can expect an answer on that proposal. It is regarding the lease, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** In regard to the space in the media centre, the television and radio services of my department, in co-operation with Public Works, has determined needs and is now finalizing an estimated cost. These will be considered in light of the present financial restraint efforts, bearing in mind the operational needs of the TV and radio and the aspiration of the Native Communications Society. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease

**MR. KOE:** I understand it is under review. Will it take a day, a week, a month, two months? I still did not get an answer.

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

Further Return To Question O245-12(2): Native Communications Society Media Centre Lease

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked my department to produce a document that I will be taking to cabinet on this issue. Until I get approval from my cabinet colleagues, I cannot make a commitment that the government will use part of the space that is available in the media centre.

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

**Question O246-12(2): Consultation Re Workers' Compensation Board Appointments**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Is the Minister prepared, in dealing with future board appointments, to consult all Members of this Assembly including the matter dealing with the chairmanship of the board?

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

Return To Question O246-12(2): Consultation Re Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**Question O247-12(2): Delivery Of Cultural Inclusion Programs By Local Ethnic Groups**

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Education. I had written a letter to him asking about the cultural inclusion program in the Territories. The question was whether the cultural inclusion programs could be delivered by local ethnic groups. Could the Minister let me know if he will respond to this letter?

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

Return To Question O247-12(2): Delivery Of Cultural Inclusion Programs By Local Ethnic Groups

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I have asked my department -- I know there are two sources of funding available that we provide to divisional boards. One is for the general schooling of the students and also there is a cultural component of the funding that we provide to divisional boards. I have asked my department to review these two

particular areas. There have always been complaints from the communities that there are not enough funds provided for cultural inclusion programs. My department is reviewing that, currently, to see where we could accommodate the community needs. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as soon as I can I will respond to the Member's letter.

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

**Question O248-12(2): Referrals To Southern Alcohol And Drug Centres**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services. One of the main

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reasons for referring people with alcohol problems to Yellowknife is because of the whole issue of restraint. I have had researchers do some research into that area on whether it is cheaper to keep the people up North and refer them to the centre here, as opposed to sending them to Action North or to Poundmaker's Lodge.

One of the things I find is that for a 20-day period here in Yellowknife at the Northern Addiction Services, it is over \$4000. If you send them to Action North, for the same thing, with the bus ticket and everything, it is \$2000 or \$2100. If you send them to Poundmaker's Lodge, it is around \$2300. So we are still saving over \$2000 by referring the people with alcohol problems to those places, in light of the fact that we do have a situation, I believe, where here in the centre there is a three month waiting list, and we have people out there who have a concern that we cannot wait that long. Perhaps it might be saving the government money, and would you be open to referring them at this point in time to southern treatment centres?

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

Return To Question O248-12(2): Referrals To Southern Alcohol And Drug Centres

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our intentions are not only to save money but I think the whole program is designed to help people, and help people we want to. Right at the present time, I am not aware of anybody going out for further treatment, other than in the last month or month and a half two people have come to Yellowknife from the Sahtu, and that was an emergency situation. I do know that there is a waiting list of people wanting to go to the facility here, wanting to go to Action North,

wanting to go to Poundmaker's. There are many people in need, and there are many people waiting for funds to go there. It is not that we are not sending people here or to Action North in High Level, or to Bonnyville or Edmonton; it is just that there is no money to send anybody anywhere at the moment. I am asking the department to really shake the bushes, Mr. Speaker, to see if we can get some moneys to look at the most urgent cases.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Allooloo.

#### **ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

##### **W4-12(2): Supervision Procedures At Akaitcho Hall**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a written question, asked by Mr. Antoine on February 18, 1992, regarding the supervision procedures at Akaitcho Hall. There are different types of leave for students who live at Akaitcho Hall, including leave for employment, weekend leave, town leave, and a number of special leaves. Akaitcho Hall administration and supervisors follow specific procedures in response to student requests for leave. Students who apply to baby-sit, or who have other outside employment, are permitted leave for these purposes on weekends or holidays. Students may also apply for weekend leave to visit with friends or relatives. In each of these cases, the student must apply and receive parental consent.

As well, the residence permits leave for special purposes. This may include supper leave for students who have birthdays, or when parents are in town. Students who are 19 years of age, or in grade 12, and who perform extra residence duties may also be granted earned leave. Students must follow the departure and return times set by the residence for all types of leave. To ensure the safety of students on leave, residence dormitory supervisors are required to follow procedures. They normally telephone the destination when students are signed out on weekend leave, to make sure students arrive safely. In some instances, a student may be signed out by someone who does not have a telephone. In that case, the supervisor ensures that they have the address where the student will be staying. If a student returns late from leave, parents are informed about it the following day by telephone, if possible. A letter documenting a

late return is also sent to parents by the dormitory supervisor.

In the case of students signed out by relatives, the most appropriate family member is informed, if possible. When a student is reported as absent without leave, the supervisor also checks with the hospital and the RCMP to ensure that they have not been in an accident, or are not in police custody.

Akaitcho Hall dormitory supervisors receive training in a number of courses before school begins, as well as throughout the school year. These courses include team building, parenting, drug and alcohol counselling, suicide prevention, crisis counselling and first aid. Their work is evaluated through the appraisal process used for GNWT employees. Thank you.

**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. Pudlat.

#### **ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 16-12(2), a letter from the municipality of Sanikiluaq regarding the proposed arts and craft centre in Baker Lake, for the attention of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I know that we have to help each other economically here in the Northwest Territories. When the Baffin Regional Council met on December 28, in Iqaluit, we did not want to be against the economic development of communities such as Baker Lake, as they are proposing to open an arts and crafts centre.

We, the people in Baffin South, feel that the three communities that I represent have a very good potential of becoming economically viable through arts and crafts -- Sanikiluaq, Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour -- and the problem that my constituents have is that -- the carvers in my constituency have a problem whereby they live off the revenue from their carvings and that is their traditional pursuit. We all have to try to make our own living. For this reason the arts and crafts centre that is proposed to open in Baker Lake is very much of a concern for my constituency, because my constituents feel that they

might not have any employment, or be able to sell their carvings.

My constituents have a trademark where there is the logo of an igloo, and they are recognized by the people in Canada. They feel that if the centre in Baker Lake opens they will be left behind, and their carvings will no longer be valuable. That is the concern of the people in Baffin South. They feel that their way of life might be taken away from them. They feel that their carvings might not be as valuable as

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they are at the present time. They feel that there would be more people buying carvings from Baker Lake, rather than my constituency, and they are worried that their livelihood might be taken away; they are recognized for their good carvings. I am producing this letter and express the concerns of my people...

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have tried to be quite patient, but in this particular case I think you have carried on a little bit too long. Please try to bring this to a conclusion.

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) I would like to get unanimous consent from the Members to lengthen my statement a little bit.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The rules are not very clear on tabling of documents, but it has been a tradition in this House to give a very brief tabling statement, so Members could try to respect that. Tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motions. Mr. Lewis.

### ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

#### Notice Of Motion 5-12(2): Appointments To The Special Committee On Health And Social Services

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 5, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that notwithstanding Rule 89(2), the special committee on health and social services consist of six members; and further, that Mr. Bernhardt, 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:** Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions. Motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.  
Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

### ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 16: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act to provide that the affairs of the corporation be conducted by the president in accordance with the direction of the Minister instead of by the board of directors, and to remove the reference to the board of directors. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your motion is in order, Mr. Morin. To the principle of the bill. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had not thought of speaking to the matter or the principle of this particular bill, but I must say that I have to indicate my opposition at this particular time to the principle. I believe that it is a bit premature to proceed to the dismantling of the Housing Corporation Board of Directors until we are clear about the direction that we want to take with our boards and our agencies and commissions.

The other point that I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, is simply that at this particular time the Housing Corporation Board is the only method that the communities and regions have to influence generally the housing policy in our government. Now, the Minister may shake his head at that point of view, but the simple fact is that at this particular juncture there is no other mechanism for allowing the regions and the communities to have influence. The suggestion may be made that Members on this side of the House can influence public policy, but that simply is not necessarily the case. It depends on whether or not the Minister and government are prepared to listen to us.

At this particular juncture, prior to making some decision about the direction we wish to take with boards, I think it is a bit premature; and I would find it very difficult, until I knew what would replace the

process of community influence, to support the principle of this particular bill.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the principle of the bill. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I do want to indicate that I did not intend to speak to the principle of this particular bill; however, since we have the opportunity, I did want to also indicate to the Minister that I am concerned in respect to the quick movement on the Minister's part and the government's part to address the corporation as a whole, to remove the corporation and the board members, even though the Minister did so indicate to this House. I am concerned on the process that is being used once again. First of all, as I stated earlier in this House, the agencies, boards and commissions committee did indicate to the government to hold all appointments. They did not state to do away with all appointments, but they basically said to hold all appointments until we could review these boards and agencies, and I do not think we have been given that opportunity to do so as yet.

Further, I do want to state that it was last week that the Government Leader allowed the three ordinary Members to sit with the three members of the cabinet to address the Strength at Two Levels report, which states that this board could be or could not be cut away as a corporation, and discussions have never even taken place as to how these Members on this side of the House feel, as to whether this corporation should be dissolved. Therefore I feel that the government is moving ahead without the proper process of discussion on what the Minister wants done. I am not stating that the Members would not support, possibly, the dissolving of the corporation; but it is the process that is being used, and I believe the Minister should be conscious of that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the principle of the bill. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Speaker, I, too, concur with my two colleagues, that at this point in time I do not think the Minister is making the right move, to do away with the board of directors. I will not be supporting this initiative at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the principle of the bill. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the process is, that after this second reading the legislation goes to the legislation

committee and then to committee of the whole, and that is where all Members will have an opportunity to discuss the bill. It is also my understanding that a couple of weeks ago one Member said that if the government wanted to do something, they should do it. They should bring it forward in the House and recommend it, and not ask ordinary Members to do their dirty work, or whatever it was, so that is basically what I am doing. I see this as something that should be done to save this government money, and it will become an amendment to the legislation that is

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coming forward now, and Members will have an opportunity to discuss it and debate it at that time.

Thank you.

### **Second Reading Of Bill 16: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, Defeated**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin's concluding comments. All those in favour? Is everybody's hand up, those that are in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

**---Defeated**

The bill has not got second reading and is defeated. Bill 16 has been defeated.

Second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; and Committee Report 3-12(2), SCOF review of the 1992-93 capital estimates, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

#### **Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93 And Committee Report 3-12(2)**

#### **Department Of Education**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** I call the committee to order. Members will recall that we were dealing with the capital budget, page 18-10 on the Fort Smith Region. There was a motion introduced by Mr. Antoine and a subsequent motion introduced by Mr. Arvaluk. We were just dealing with the motion of



deferral at this particular time. The motion is in order. We will circulate the motion.

Motion To Defer Motion To Add 12-Bed Student Hostel, Fort Simpson, Defeated

For the record, I will read the motion proposed by Mr. Arvaluk. "I move that further consideration of committee motion 32-12(2) be deferred until such time as the Minister of Education provides the previous plan and cost to renovate the old hostel." The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On May 4, 1988, a member of the Fire Marshal's office inspected the facility and noted...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** Order, please. As the honourable Member is aware, the motion is to defer motion 32. To the motion to defer. Mr. Alloofoo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:** Mr. Chairman, I have an answer to what the motion is requesting. I am speaking to the motion. The motion requests deferral until such time as the Minister of Education provides a previous plan and costs to renovate the old school. I am speaking to the motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** Thank you. The motion is to defer. It does not deal with the question of the honourable Member giving the answer. Once the motion is decided upon one way or another, the idea is that if the matter is defeated, the honourable Member can deal with the other questions. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**---Defeated**

#### **Motion To Add 12-Bed Student Hostel, Fort Simpson**

We are on pages 18-10 and 18-11. The motion before the committee as proposed by Mr. Antoine: I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity schools be increased in the amount of \$800,000 to add the project, 12-bed hostel, in Fort Simpson. To the motion. Point of order. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that motion was placed by the Minister responsible, and not by Mr. Antoine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** I stand corrected. All Members received a copy yesterday. For those of you who do not have a copy, we will take a 10-minute recess to provide everyone with a copy.

**---SHORT RECESS**

I would like to call the committee back to order. Department of Education, capital estimates, page 18-11. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** Question has been called. We do not have a quorum at the moment. Please ring the bell. The Chair recognizes a quorum. We are dealing with 18-10 and 18-11. The motion that the government Minister introduced, just for recollection and for the record: I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity schools, be increased in the amount of \$800,000 to add the project, 12-bed student hostel, Fort Simpson. To the motion. Mr. Minister.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**---Carried**

Does the Minister wish to invite the witnesses in?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, yes, I would like to bring in the witnesses.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** Is it the wish of the committee that the witnesses be invited?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**--- Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):** It is agreed. For the record, would the Minister introduce his witnesses?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my deputy minister, Hal Gerein; and to my right is Jim Moffat, who is the manager of facility planning. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Page 18-11, Fort Smith Region, total region, as amended. Mr. Minister.

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**Motion To Increase Schools Activity To Renovate School Hostel, Edzo, Carried**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to move: I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity schools, be increased in the amount of \$384,000 to add the project, renovate school/hostel, Edzo.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**---Carried**

Fort Smith, Schools, Total Capital as Amended, Agreed

Fort Smith, total region, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Inuvik, total region, \$780,000. Mr. Allooloo.

**Motion To Add Three-Classroom Addition, Fort Franklin School, Carried**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity schools, be increased in the amount of \$800,000 to add the project, Fort Franklin school three-classroom addition.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. We will circulate the motion. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Inuvik, Schools, Total Capital As Amended, Agreed

Inuvik, total region, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regard to the school at Colville Lake. Is the school now completed?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan, I do not see a reference to a school in Colville Lake. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, last year there was an approval of \$455,000 for the school in Colville Lake. I want to know if the school is built.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan, the question with regard to the Colville Lake school could be appropriately asked under general comments. We are in specifics and detail of capital. There is no indication at this particular time that that particular project is in the capital plan.

Total capital for the Baffin Region is \$5,444,000. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, under general comments, I have indicated that I will be moving a couple of motions with respect to new initiatives and prior commitments by this government.

**Motion To Delete \$5000 For School Project, Pond Inlet**

Mr. Chairman, I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity schools, for the junior/senior high school project at Pond Inlet in the amount of \$5000, be deleted.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, prior commitments for the renovations of schools should be completed before this project goes ahead; primarily, renovations for the J.B. Tyrrell Elementary School in Fort Smith and renovations for the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River. In my motion which was passed on Friday, I recommended that these two schools be moved ahead into this year's capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, our committee would like to see a common-sense and well planned high school policy prior to constructing new high schools. In addition, the estimates for this project have increased significantly already, and we do not even know what the high school policy is. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, our committee felt that this particular project for this year should be deleted. Mahsi cho.

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a new initiative. In the last fiscal year, 1991-92 main estimates, this Legislative Assembly voted for this plan, for \$50,000 for the junior/senior high school in Pond Inlet.

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I think the idea for the junior/senior high school in Pond Inlet is to begin the planning and the organization of the building. Often, these things take a while to do. The project, as the Minister has said, is not a new initiative. It was in the planning process. I would feel very concerned if the initiatives we have are put on hold for all the projects that were in the budget. I am aware of the few that directly affect the Inuvik area, but I do not believe that we should hold up this process to allow the planning and the organization of getting those projects in place. I have a concern, in going through all the processes, that this motion is coming to the floor right now.

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

### **No Coherent Long-Term Strategy Relating To High Schools**

**MR. TODD:** The point that is trying to be made by the standing committee on finance was, there is clearly not a coherent policy of long-time strategy that relates to high schools. There are differences of opinion within the Assembly between those who agree that high schools should be in communities or not in communities. Our concern was not to inhibit the construction of the Pond Inlet high school. Our concern is, is this the proper and correct action to take? Therefore, we felt at the time, and still feel, I suspect, that until we can see a well laid out high

school policy, which we still have not seen and which we asked for, our concern would be, should we continue to construct high schools in communities? That was the concern. What is the policy of the government? We have not seen a high school policy. There is concern within the committee, and a number of members on our committee from the Eastern Arctic, and I, for one, am one of them, are not convinced that building high schools in the communities is the answer to the educational needs of our children, and that is the reason behind this and the reason behind the motion.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** I would like to raise a concern, then, in terms of deleting the \$5000, is that not inhibiting the project as it has been laid out in the planning stages? Mr. Chairman, I agree that there may not have been a very clear and concise process in dealing with the higher levels of education. I am sure that we have some paper on it, but I do not know whether that would prove adequate. However, I would like to state that in a lot of the regions, the communities do get together, the divisional boards do get together, and they do plan, particularly in Baffin Island, where they would like to increase the grade levels in their community. So they do make those decisions at the regional level, and this has been discussed at the divisional board and at the community level as well.

Certainly in that particular region, Pond Inlet and Pangnirtung, they have supported the extension of grades into their communities, and a high school. These discussions have taken place over the years, to my understanding, and I would say that perhaps not all of us agree and take the same view on whether grades should be increased at the community level or whether students should be sent to an institution at a regional level. However, I believe that the communities themselves have made this decision that they would like to actively pursue that educational facility in that region, and it has not gone without community support.

So, Mr. Chairman, I know that these discussions continue at the community and regional levels, and these communities in the region have agreed and have supported this action. Thank you.

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project was delayed by one year. The department was able to delay this project because the duplex unit classroom that was presently used as a community library and day-care was able to be turned over to classroom needs. When the grade 10 was introduced in 1985, there were 252 students; and when grade 11 was introduced in 1988-89, there were 314 students, and the school was at 102 per cent capacity. In 1989-90 the new school was constructed, Ulaajuk primary school, and the total of students attending that from K to 6 was 332. Ulaajuk School at the time was at 98 per cent capacity. Takijualuk School, from grade four to 12, was at 75 per cent capacity.

The department was able to delay the two projects, renovation and construction of the high school, because we had a portable school duplex that was being used as a day-care and library. The school was able to move into those portables to accommodate the students. If we do not plan for constructing a high school in Pond Inlet, there will be overcrowding, and we will be in a situation where we would have to ship students out of Pond Inlet to other schools where there is kindergarten to grade 12 available. We tried to promote that local education is very important. I believe that would be contradicting ourselves that we will not be meeting the community's requirement for educating kids. We will have to be shipping kids out of Pond Inlet.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Chairman, is the amount of \$10,000 right? We all know that they are trying to get a hostel for Pond Inlet, and we are also supporting extension of the grades in Pond Inlet. I wonder if the Minister of Education or the Government Leader could tell me if that \$10,000 is the right amount, because of the planning. I think all the communities in all the regions are supporting education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money we had will be used for the new school in Pond Inlet.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Ms. Mike.

#### **Need For Good Quality High School Courses**

**MS. MIKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How can we be assured that this high school in Pond Inlet will deliver good quality high school courses for the students? In Pangnirtung there have been instances where the high school graduates are applying for work, and when they are given a test by the potential employer, their grade level is grade six.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): If I might, I do not want to intervene into the debate of the motion but the motion itself is to delete \$5000, that is the question that is to be addressed at this time. Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:** Mr. Chairman, I do have a concern about the quality of high school programs we deliver to our children. How can we be assured that we get good quality education if we do approve this?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to agree with you that the overall concern of quality education is a question. This \$5000 is to proceed with some very preliminary planning with the community in that regard, and I would assume that the \$5000 would be, at this point in time, used to talk to the community and perhaps have a discussion along those lines in terms of extending grades. This is a very preliminary amount of money, and the larger amounts are for future spending. However, I think there will never be an answer to the question. Eliminating the \$5000 it is not going to do the job in reaching that objective. There have been several discussions to move ahead. Even to discuss it is important at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess as a previous Minister of Education who started grade extensions, after a hiatus for a while in the NWT in the early 1980s, I just want to say that there is no simple answer, in my view, to which is better, community high schools regional high schools, or sending the kids south. It all depends on the support that you get in a community. If you have strong parental support in a community for a program, and if you have parents who are unwilling or reluctant to send their children out of the community to high school -- and Iqaluit is an awfully long way away from Pond Inlet, by the way -- then the quality of education will be affected. Mr. Chairman,

community high schools can work, and I am shocked at the Member for Baffin Centre...

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Order please. As I reminded the honourable Member for Baffin Centre, the matter and the question before us is to delete \$5000, and I have been quite lenient. But I do want to remind the honourable Member that the matter is a question of deletion and not necessarily the question of the programs and the services. I want to remind Members of that. I do not believe a debate should take place on the relevance or the matters related to programs and services. To the motion to delete \$5000. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$5000 is for a junior/senior high school in a community, and it seems to me I am talking to the motion if I am saying that is a good thing or a bad thing, am I not? I am against the motion. I think that community high schools can work, where there is parental support. I believe that Pond Inlet is such a community that is well organized and has strong feelings about this issue. I believe the same thing has happened in other communities where we have had great success with extending grades.

Pangnirtung, in my respectful opinion, is one of those communities that has been an outstanding success. I was surprised that there was one example based on one test by one employer that was used to condemn the whole program. I think that is wrong information, and I think there should be a better analysis of the success of the program in Pangnirtung before Members are told it has not worked.

Mr. Chairman, I think there is a principle here, and the question is: Is this Legislative Assembly prepared to tell parents who do not want to send their children far away to school to be looked after by someone else, "You have no choice; you have send your children..."

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Order please. The matter here, and the question before you, is a matter deleting \$5000, not the matter with regard to the relevance or the quality of programs and services. So I ask all honourable Members to review the question of whether or not we will delete \$5000. To the motion, the honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Well Mr. Chairman, if all we can say is whether we can delete the \$5000 or not, then I am not going to be able to have much to say. We should not delete the \$5000. It is a worthwhile program to give parents the option of

keeping their kids at school for extended grades, and the \$5000 is to plan that initiative. So I think parental choice and community support are critical, and I think it is in Pond Inlet, I think it is quite unfair to tell those citizens that they do not have the right, just because they do not happen to live in a large centre that can justify a high school. Thank you.

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

### **Insufficient Data Regarding Quality At Community High Schools**

**MR. TODD:** Nobody, repeat, nobody is trying to impede the aspirations of the people of Pond Inlet as it relates to the education of their children.

#### **---Applause**

There is insufficient evidence being provided by this Minister that shows that the quality of education with the community high school program is meeting the needs of the children. Provide us with that evidence, and we will support it. It is not a \$5000 issue here; it is an \$8.6 million issue. That is our long-term financial obligation.

We are talking about policy. We are talking about, is this policy of developing high schools in the communities the proper policy for educating our children? That is all we are talking about here, not whether it is the aspirations of parents, or whether it is the aspirations of a particular individual or a particular group. There is insufficient data that has been provided to us so far, as far as we are concerned in the standing committee on finance, for us to proceed with these kinds of expenditures, and we have asked the Minister to provide this to us. What is the long-term high school policy of the territorial government? That is all we are asking with this resolution, nothing else. It could come back in again. You could do it with a special warrant. There are all kinds of ways to get around this.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, the motion is to delete \$5000. I cannot support the motion, because I believe the community needs that \$5000 to begin their planning and answering the questions in their community. The community has asked and put forward their request and their requirements and what we are doing, if we take the

\$5000 away, is saying we will delay that for another year until certain other actions are put in place.

I believe this \$5000 may very well work well. Maybe there will not be a major expenditure down the line, as it is tied to in this budget, if the community is given the opportunity of maybe just exploring that question anyway. So I cannot support taking away \$5000 from a community so that they can begin discussing the extension in grades. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chairman of the standing committee on finance said, nobody wants to take anything away from Pond Inlet, but as Members of the standing committee, we felt it was very important that the government have some process in place to demonstrate why this money was needed, and we were not certain that we saw that. We would be quite willing, I think, at the standing committee, to consider a supplementary appropriation should this be shown to be necessary; but the government was not able to show us a policy for the development of regional schools. We were told that such a policy does not exist, and if so, how were we going about expending this money for regional extensions in the first place? We were not told whether or not there had been any assessment as to whether or not regional schools were being successful, and until we see such an assessment it would be fiscal irresponsibility to approve the expenditure of funds.

I do not think any of us have any opposition to spending the money to provide for better schooling for the students in the Northwest Territories. But we want to be sure that what we are seeing is an expenditure that will actually accomplish that goal. We have not been convinced of that, especially not with this sort of thing. So fine, spend the next couple of months preparing that kind of rationale, justify it to us, come back with a supplementary, and you will find it approved very quickly. But at this point in time we have not seen enough justification, and therefore cannot support this expenditure.

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

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### Reasons For High School At Pond Inlet

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In listening to the comments from the Members relating back to the motion, I cannot support the motion for these reasons: In the High Arctic nobody really knows for sure exactly how the High Arctic is accessible, and it is very hard up there weather-wise and depending on distance, and there is hardly any daylight in the wintertime. There have been people that go to Pond Inlet to go to school from my community of Resolute Bay, because in my community of Resolute Bay it only goes up to grade eight and there is no expectation. We do not expect to get high school grades in my community or in Grise Fiord. They can only go up to Pond Inlet to take their grade 12.

This planning money of \$5000 is to be used for the future generation. There are capital projects that are being made in certain communities, and when they get deferred it takes a long time for them to be brought back to the capital estimates again. I will not be supporting the motion because my grandchildren's children will be going to that school, so they can go to a school that is not too far from where they live, either from Grise Fiord or Resolute Bay, because Pond Inlet is closest to those communities. So I will not be in support of the motion. Thank you.

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if there are some double standards at work here. The standing committee on finance has made it absolutely clear to this government that it must live up to its commitments, and last year, if you look back to the capital estimates, we committed \$50,000 to this particular project. Nevertheless, there were \$50,000 voted by this House, and that was a commitment; and I have said that we will try, as a government, to live up to the commitments that the previous government made, and we will do that. I realize that some of the projects that were in there last year are not in there this year, and we have said we will bring them forward again.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Order, please. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, it seems that the standing committee on finance talks out of both sides of its mouth. It says on one hand, "You must live up to your commitments." I agree to do that, sir. But in the next instance they are in here with motions

saying, "You must delete this from the capital book." So there is no consistency.

It seems to me, also, that there were a number of motions passed by this House, on the recommendations of the standing committee on finance, to extend grades in communities in this particular area and to take the money from Yellowknife in order to do that. I do not think you were provided with any more information to make those decisions than you are getting on the Pond Inlet decision. So when I hear Members saying to this House, "Well, show us why," I say they want to be shown why in this instance, but in the other instances, where it was their idea, it was perfectly fine, "We will go with the status quo, we will go with the information given us." So I will not be supporting the motion, Mr. Chairman, because I do not think we should be supporting double standards. Thank you.

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

#### **Life Very Different In North Baffin**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be supporting the motion. As my friend, the Member for the High Arctic, stated, the life in North Baffin is very different from the life that exists in South Baffin, and especially a community like Yellowknife. It is totally different. Those students have an opportunity to attend high schools in their own community. Some of them cannot survive in a Yellowknife-type setting or even in an Iqaluit-type setting. So we are giving them a chance to at least have grade 12 in their own home communities, where the parental support is there, the grandparent support is there, and their friends are there.

As my friend from the High Arctic mentioned, there are kids attending high school in Pond Inlet coming from Resolute, Arctic Bay and Clyde River, because life in Iqaluit is too different from their own community. Pond Inlet is similar to Arctic Bay, Resolute and Clyde River. Mr. Chairman, for those kids who have an opportunity to attend high school in their home community, the chance would not be there if that service was not available in their own community.

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Chairman, I was not going to make a comment but I feel that I have to. First of all, I do not know if I really agree with what the Minister of Finance has stated because I want to

indicate, for the record, he says that they would live up to last year's commitments, and in last year's budget book they also anticipated and approved \$100,000 to renovate J.B.T. Elementary School in Fort Smith; and in this year's budget book there is nothing to address anything on renovations. I want to note further, for the record, that they did not spend one dollar on renovations for J.B.T. Elementary School out of that \$100,000. They took the money and used it elsewhere.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Order please. I just want to indicate to the Members again that the question is the matter of deleting \$5000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** I apologize. I know I should have stayed with the motion put forth, but I am somewhat disappointed with the way the motion is being debated. However, I did want to state that the concern that I had in respect to concurring with the standing committee on finance in regard to a junior/senior high school in Pond Inlet was that, first of all, there appeared there was no policy in respect to junior high schools in the Territories. It also further commits us as a Legislature to look at future dollars, not only in the amount anticipated as stated by the chairman of the standing committee on finance, but I think it was to the tune of \$11 million because it went for a junior high school with \$8.6 million plus an additional five classrooms for Pond Inlet for \$3.5 million. So we were concerned about future commitments as a result of this \$5000 approval, without the justification of the need which was presented to us.

I would like to know, and I think I asked that in the standing committee on finance, what year was this high school built? It is not as if there is not a high school there now that addresses grade 12. There is. Grade 12 is available, from my understanding, in Pond Inlet. It seems there has not been justification to decide on whether a new one is needed, and until we can get that justification for the expenditures of those dollars, we cannot concur with those dollars. That is the concern that I have as a committee Member in respect to this motion.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Chairman, I have been known to put my foot in my mouth; I have never been known to speak out of both sides of my mouth. The point we are trying to make here -- I just want to clarify a point that Mr. Pollard made with respect to the high schools

saying we are speaking out of both sides of our mouths -- that request here to adjust the capital budget was based upon a cabinet request, not a SCOF request, to meet the high school needs that they brought forward, not what we brought forward.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion to delete \$5000.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**Motion To Delete \$5000 For School Project Pond Inlet, Carried**

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

**---Carried**

Schools, Baffin Region, Total Capital, Agreed

Baffin, total region, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know if you said it was defeated or what you said.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion was carried. There is no need to indicate the record of the count, just to indicate that the motion was supported in the affirmative.

Schools, Keewatin Region, Total Capital, Agreed

Keewatin, total region, \$951,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

Schools, Kitikmeot Region, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Kitikmeot, total region, \$1,545,000. Mr. Allooloo.

**Motion To Increase Schools By \$750,000 To Add Duplex Classroom Unit, Coppermine, Carried**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education under the activity schools be increased in the amount of \$750,000 to add the project, duplex classroom unit, Coppermine.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**---Carried**

Kitikmeot, total region, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total buildings and works, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$125,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total acquisition of equipment, \$125,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$7,875,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Fort Smith, total region, \$70,000. Agreed?



**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Baffin, total region, \$185,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Keewatin, total region, \$145,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Kitikmeot, total region, \$60,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total contributions, \$8,335,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

Schools, Total Capital, As Amended, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total activity, as amended, \$23,943,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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**---Agreed**

Arctic College

Buildings And Works

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Arctic College, buildings and works, total region, \$200,000. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Is this the headquarters one, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Yes it is. Mr. Todd.

**Motion To Delete \$200,000 For Minor Renovations To Campus, Carried**

**MR. TODD:** I move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education, under the activity Arctic College for the project, minor renovations of the campus in the amount of \$200,000, be deleted.

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

**MR. TODD:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. This motion, along with two others we will be making, is in keeping with the Strength at Two Levels document and the position of the standing committee on finance that, any further expenditures on Arctic College, whether it be renovations or new buildings, should be put on hold until such time as a full analysis is done of Arctic College, and with respect to the duplication of services there is some consideration being given to a reduction of those services within the regions. The standing committee on finance felt that these expenditures, which are in total somewhere around \$700,000, at this time should be put on hold and deleted until a full long-term strategy has been put into place with respect to Arctic College and to avoid duplication of services.

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$200,000 is for Arctic College and has been an ongoing requirement for program renovations over \$5000 at various campuses located in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. These renovations are carried out by DPW as per agreement, and funded by Education. So far Arctic College has yet to identify the locations of various renovations for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arngna'naaq. To the motion. The question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**--- Carried**

Total region as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Todd.

Motion To Delete \$285,000 For Applied Arts And Library Building, Fort Smith, Carried

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Education under the activity Arctic College for the project applied arts and library building, Fort Smith in the amount of \$285,000 be deleted.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--- Carried

Total Fort Smith region, zero. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Inuvik, total region, \$230,000. Mr. Todd.

**Motion To Delete \$200,000 For Project Renovations, Inuvik Campus, Carried**

**MR. TODD:** I move that the 1992-93 estimates for the Department of Education under the activity Arctic College for the project renovations of Inuvik Campus in the amount of \$200,000 be deleted.

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money is requested to upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems to good engineering practice, and also for code requirements. As requested, assessment was made by regional DPW, and in order to keep the Aurora Campus open, the Department of Public Works would be required to do some minimal amount of work.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Inuvik, total region as amended, \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Baffin, total region, \$1,255,000. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Mr. Chairman, I did forget to move a general motion with respect to Arctic College that I would like to do now if it is at all possible. It was an error on my part.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. If I could maybe make a suggestion that the Member introduce a motion prior to a call of total activity on page 18-19. Thank you. Baffin, total region, \$1,255,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$400,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Kitikmeot, total region, \$300,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic College, Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total buildings and works as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$57,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total contributions. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Total activity. Mr. Todd.

**Motion That Arctic College Develop Strategy To Avoid Service Duplication, Carried**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I move that the committee recommends that Arctic College develop a strategy that would avoid duplication of services currently delivered at six of their campuses; and further, the committee recommends that all capital projects related to Arctic College, other than the adult education centres, be deferred until such time as a capital plan and strategy has been presented and approved by the Legislative Assembly.

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

**MR. TODD:** The motion is somewhat self-explanatory. It is in keeping with what we have said, consistent with the Strength at Two Levels report, and consistent with the position of the Legislative Assembly, where we have to take a look at ensuring there is not a duplication of services out there costing us oodles of money. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. To the motion. The question has been called. All those in favour? To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make one small comment. I do not believe that minor capital would fit in the spirit of this motion. As I understand it, the mover of the motion is motivated by the recommendations in the Strength at Two Levels report which talks about avoiding duplication of services, which I think is worthwhile. I would respectfully suggest that the kind of minor capital projects that have just been deleted by this committee, which provides moneys to keep buildings

operating in minor ways until the bigger-picture decisions are made, will put an undue hardship on the existing facilities which, I would remind the honourable Members, are being well used in all parts of the Northwest Territories.

I have no problem with the general direction from this motion, but I think when you take minor capital out and include minor capital projects in the meaning of the capital projects, this motion refers to being deferred until such time as a bigger picture of strategy has been approved. If so, you are being unnecessarily restrictive and hard on the college program. I just want to note that I think the knife has cut too deeply with that particular stroke. I realize it has been dealt with, already, in the committee. I am shocked and disappointed, but I want to say -- generally I accept the principle of this motion -- that the zeal should not go so far as to strap these existing facilities which are full of northern native students right now. I just want to register that minor, humble voice of protest in speaking to this motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**---Carried**

Arctic College, Total Capital, As Amended, Agreed

Total activity, as amended. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): I was going to consider calling the total capital expenditures under this department; however, I believe it is necessary to make the financial changes, including the additions and deletions, so that the House consents to the total amount. So I will not call the total amount at this particular time, but I will get the totals together and then we can do it appropriately.

That concludes the Department of Education at this particular time. What is the wish of the committee? Just prior to proceeding to Mr. Todd, I want to thank the Minister and the witnesses. If I could receive

direction from the committee as to what department we will do next. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next department is the NWT Housing Corporation. I would like to suggest that we go with a five-minute break and then proceed with the NWT Housing Corporation. I would like to proceed. We have had a spirited debate this afternoon. I would like to suggest we have a break.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, the charter that we were going to take to Cambridge Bay is delayed until 5:30 because the plane has not come in to pick us up. At that point we will be losing Mr. Bernhardt, Mr. Koe, Mr. Zoe, myself and Mr. Allooloo. I wonder if you would do a count and see if you have enough to keep going.

**MR. TODD:** I have no problem delaying it.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the wish of the House that we have a five-minute break?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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---SHORT RECESS

#### **NWT Housing Corporation**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): I will call the House back to order. Is it the wish of the committee that we deal with the Housing Corporation?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Morin, do you have opening remarks with regard to the capital budget of the Housing Corporation?

#### **Minister's Opening Remarks**

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mandate of the Housing Corporation is to assist residents of the NWT in accordance with need; to secure and maintain adequate, suitable and affordable shelter at a reasonable cost. These three terms: adequate, suitable and affordable shelter, are national standards that the federal, provincial and territorial government housing agencies use to determine the need and eligibility for social housing.

#### **NWT Housing Needs Growing**

Housing needs in the NWT are large and growing, and with a birth rate that is double the national average and the high rate of new families, the demand will remain high. The growing need for social housing, combined with the need to make budget cuts provides a real challenge for the Housing Corporation.

In its effort to meet this housing need, the corporation plans to build 232 public housing units and 152 home-ownership assistance units in 1992-93. This is a net increase to the social housing stock of 384 units, a net production that is higher than in 1990-91 and 1991-92.

The corporation also plans to retrofit 42 old public housing units, the Weber units. As a result of overall federal government restraint Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the corporation's federal funding partner, reduced the Housing Corporation's allocation of federal units by 15 per cent. In 1991-92 CMHC also introduced a new model which has significant implications for housing in the North.

#### **Changes In Funding**

In the past, the Housing Corporation received its allocation in terms of overall federal housing units. This allowed the GNWT to fund the Housing Corporation to deliver a certain number of cost-shared units, no matter what the lifetime operating costs of those units. Starting in the fiscal year 1991-92, CMHC began funding according to a fixed dollar amount, rather than a fixed number of housing units. In other words, the Housing Corporation received an amount of funding that included the capital costs for constructing social housing units and their lifetime operating costs.

High lifetime operating costs -- for example, high water and sewage rates -- means less moneys available for the construction of new housing units. It is, therefore, critical that the individual occupants contribute more toward the costs of operating and maintaining their homes. Both the corporation and the public must join in a combined effort to reduce costs.

While the changes in funding will have an effect on how funds are distributed over all our programs, the corporation has a greater degree of flexibility to follow overall government direction and encourage people to become private home-owners.

Given the urgent housing needs, the rapidly growing population and the present climate of fiscal restraint, it is essential that new options be explored to encourage private investment in housing.

Over the course of the coming year, the corporation will be reviewing all its program policies and procedures. Clearly defined policies and guidelines are needed to ensure that scarce resources are allocated as effectively and equitably as possible. Appropriate changes to programs will be made and the corporation will ensure that program guidelines are closely followed.

### **Needs Survey**

The next needs survey will be conducted in early 1992. Corporation staff are currently in the process of improving the questionnaire to ensure that the data provides a more accurate profile of the housing need in the communities. It is essential that both communities and corporation staff are confident in the survey's reliability as an accurate guide for housing allocations.

To the extent possible, social housing dollars should be aimed at households in greatest need. The corporation will continue to explore new ways to encourage home-ownership and aid in the development of a private rental market in communities. The corporation is developing options for those persons who do not qualify for the home-ownership assistance program because they either earn too much or too little.

### **Special Program To Meet Needs Of Elderly**

Special attention is being paid to the elderly population and the particular housing problems they have. For example, a number of smaller communities have no public housing and elders often find themselves living in old, small, very substandard privately owned accommodation. As well as providing more information about repair programs for elders, the corporation started to replace these substandard units with small, mechanically simple, but good quality new homes for elders in selected communities. The corporation will build on this idea and develop program specifically to meet the unique needs of the elderly population. It is intended to have a program developed in time to begin implementation this year.

While the main emphasis for the corporation in 1992-93, as in the past, will be the delivery of critically needed housing, these activities will be framed within

GNWT priorities, particularly those of economic development and community government.

Over the past decade the corporation has had considerable success in hiring and training local residents to manage and maintain our housing stock. The corporation will strengthen these efforts and will work in close co-operation with local housing organizations, community groups and government departments to create more opportunities for trades and professional training.

In addition, the Housing Corporation will utilize various tendering methods to ensure maximum local and northern involvement. To that end, programs will be delivered in a number of ways: labour-only contracts; supply, ship and erect contracts; design/build contracts; and projects where the corporation will be the project manager. The objective of all four tendering methods is to maximize training, business and employment opportunities for local residents.

Another key focus of the Housing Corporation in 1992-93 will be to work closely with government to develop and implement the government's community transfer initiatives. The corporation will begin the development of a strategy which will be used to facilitate and guide the implementation of this priority.

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The total capital budget is \$62,878,000, of which CMHC's share is \$35,430,000 and the Government of the Northwest Territories' share is \$27,448,000.

The capital funds requested will provide for 384 new houses. With fiscal restraint every effort is being made to target limited funds to those households most in need of assistance. The corporation is improving its programming and administrative practice to ensure the best use of limited resources, and at the same time meet the social housing needs of Northerners. In support of the community transfer initiatives, the corporation will strengthen its efforts and create additional training opportunities for local residents through its programs.

The initiatives I just reviewed show a great deal of innovation and flexibility, which the corporation will continue to strive for as we work toward our goals. There is a real limit to what the corporation and CMHC can do, the limit being the amount of territorial and federal dollars available for the construction, operation and maintenance of social housing. Only a

combined effort can address the fiscal realities of today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): I was going to say I hope you build the houses as fast as you talk. Mahsi. Mr. Todd.

### **Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we get equal time? Anyway, Mr. Chairman, previous standing committees on finance have indicated their active support for housing as a high priority. There has been a comprehensive audit and many internal studies, and yet the corporation still appears to be in a state of confusion. The corporation's capital estimates fall far short of the aggressive goals recommended by the previous standing committee.

This committee recognizes that the new management needs time to implement change; however it is essential that an action plan on how we are going to meet the needs of the communities be developed, along with the appropriate schedules; who, when, how and what. You cannot build a house without a blueprint and good project management. We certainly cannot build a housing corporation without a good blueprint and good management.

With respect to the Housing Corporation's budget, the standing committee on finance recommended that:

1) cabinet re-examine government capital projects in light of the fundamental housing needs, and develop a 10-year plan to eliminate the public housing shortfall. This, of course, was previously recommended by our colleague from across the way;

2) the corporation complete a credible housing needs survey as soon as possible, and commit that those communities that did not receive a fair and equitable allocation of housing units this year, be caught up in next year's budget, and that the NWT Housing Corporation consult with the communities on the allocation between HAP and public housing units to ensure the needs of all the residents are addressed. As recommended by the previous standing committee, the NWT Housing Corporation should provide the detail of future years' capital expenditures in the 1993-94 capital estimates and SCOF books;

4) that the corporation provide capital broken down by community in the SCOF books. The committee does not agree with the corporation's concern that making

this information public is too erroneous or will drive up the end price. It is beyond us. However, as recommended by the previous committee, the NWT Housing Corporation should build more apartment-type buildings to take advantage of economies of scale to put more housing units into the communities sooner.

The committee does not accept the unsatisfactory response provided by the corporation in the past. It is the responsibility of cabinet to ensure that there is a plan and solid management in place, and we certainly intend to monitor in the future that this takes place. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Is the Minister prepared to bring in his witnesses?

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I bring in my witnesses?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the consent of the House that the honourable Member bring in the witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**---Agreed**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses, please.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Larry Elkin, president of the Housing Corporation; and on my right is Jim Pratt, vice-president of finance.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments on the Housing Corporation. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think much of what needs to be said was already put forward by the chairman of the standing committee on finance, in terms of what we found to be of concern when going through the capital estimates for this department. Basically, we think that the cabinet, not just this department, needs to examine their priorities for capital spending in light of fundamental needs for people living in the communities, all communities. But there was also a real extensive concern among the Members of the committee in terms of the calibre of the housing needs assessment. We were not convinced that this was a reliable document.

Motion To Re-Examine Capital Priorities And Develop 10-Year Plan To Eliminate The Shortage Of Public Housing, Carried

With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the cabinet re-examine capital priorities in light of fundamental needs; and further that the corporation develop a 10-year plan to eliminate the shortage of public housing.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Copies of the motion have been circulated. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the standing committee on finance we found that there seemed to be very little long-range planning being undertaken by the government before they presented their capital plans. So we thought it was very important to encourage the government to work toward that. That is why we suggested that a 10-year plan for the Housing Corporation would lead well toward accomplishing a goal that we can achieve here. Thank you.

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

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**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that we should develop a more long-range plan so that communities can submit their housing needs, and they know what they are going to build in the future. It also ties in with training programs so you can have a more co-ordinated effort, and in the end you can have some people trained to build the units and you can deal with fundamental issues to get people all housed properly, and then we will have a more productive society. So I do not have any problems with that motion.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

**--Carried**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Point of order.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): Point of order, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, I am not sure you have a quorum.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Pudluk): I counted before the voting took place and I had a quorum at that time. General comments. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that was expressed in the committee, outside of the capital expenditures, is the way in which the Housing Corporation approached capital expenditures. In the past it is some of our belief that the Housing Corporation's concern was singularly to build houses at the cheapest and most effective way. The fact of the matter is that the Housing Corporation should be viewed the same way as we view other capital expenditures, and that is as an economic instrument in effecting employment and business opportunities throughout the NWT.

We think it is essential in the future, that in this idea of looking beyond just building houses, which is the priority, no question, there has to be a parallel train of thought that you have responsibilities outside of that, particularly in the smaller communities. It is our contention that there is a preoccupation with being a policeman rather than being a development officer. These are difficult times and we do not need any more policemen; we need people who will look at things from a developmental point of view and -- certainly from my point of view in my prior career -- and ensure maximum exposure for northern businesses. It is certainly not acceptable to me personally, and I think I can speak for the standing committee on finance, if we continue to give jobs and opportunities to outside firms that lead to little or no economic benefits in the Northwest Territories, never mind hire our people. It is essential, and I am encouraged by the Minister's commitment to work towards that goal. I hope his new president will also impart that belief down through the operation with the rest of the corporation employees. I am not as confident that they necessarily agree with that point of view. Thank you.

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

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reassure the Member that the Housing Corporation's direction, and the direction they have received, is that they are here to help the communities develop. They are an economic instrument. They are not only here to build houses, and the word or direction has been sent out to employees that we are here to assist the communities

to develop. There is no more of the mentality that we sit back and only inspect and police our contracts. Our project staff are instructed that they are here to assist the communities to develop as a community. That includes training programs and all the other things you can achieve from capital projects. That direction is very clear and I hope it is well understood. If people do not agree with it, then they can pack and go somewhere else, but if they are going to work for the corporation, that is the direction that they must work by. It is as simple as that. That is what we are all here to do: we are here to create jobs in the community.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): General comments. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am encouraged by Mr. Morin's initiative and he should be commended for that.

**---Applause**

I wonder if I can indulge in passing a few resolutions prior to us going line by line with the capital expenditures. Is that okay, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Yes, Mr. Todd.

#### **Motion To Undertake Credible Housing Needs Study, Carried**

**MR. TODD:** I would like to move that the committee recommend to cabinet that a credible housing needs survey be undertaken as soon as possible, to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of housing units.

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

**MR. TODD:** I think the motion is self-explanatory. It has been discussed many times. Clearly we have to get an up-to-date community involvement in the discussing of needs assessment, and I think we should move the question.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time we are just starting to redraft a housing needs survey and direction is very clear that the communities will be doing it. It will be done by the communities with the assistance of the Housing Corporation. It will be done in their language as well, because they are the ones that are going to do it and

live by it. It will also be what their preference is. If it is HAP housing or public housing, that will all be in that survey, and it will be from house to house and everything should be encompassed in that survey, and it should be done as well -- that is what drives our need from CMHC, so it will be acceptable to them as well. So that is a good motion.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the intent of the motion is. I do agree with what the Minister is suggesting and that is that up until now the surveys have been done by the communities with the assistance of the district offices. I am wondering if that is the intent of the motion or something other than what has been happening to date.

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**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): I will remind honourable Members that it is not normal to ask questions on a motion. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:** The big difference from before is that prior to this -- I am not sure what the budget was last year; I do not have that figure in front of me -- to drive millions of dollars of capital projects, the Housing Corporation spent \$10,000 on a survey. That is ludicrous. That is crazy. You have to pay or invest in getting something good, and with the community as well as Members contributing to the drafting of the survey instrument to begin with, and then the community doing it -- I do not think the communities ever fully understood the importance of the survey. Some did and took advantage of it -- I should not say took advantage of it, but they did it right and others did not do it right. They did not understand that this was the housing allocation for the next three years.

So we will drive that home. I think it will be driven home by Members of this Assembly when you go back to your ridings of how important this survey and how important it is that the community does it properly, with the Housing Corporation's assistance. So that is going to make the difference. Last year our portion was \$71 million and you spend \$10,000 -- that is not right.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.



### **Motion To Undertake Credible Housing Needs Study, Carried**

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

**--Carried**

General comments. Mr. Pudluk.

#### **Problems With Retrofitted Houses**

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is always a concern when it comes to the Housing Corporation, especially in my constituency. I think housing is one of the most important things for the communities to have. There are always a lot of people who need houses in the communities. There will always be a lack of housing in the communities. The sealift is always quite late, and it takes quite a long time to get the materials up to my constituency.

The houses that are due for retrofitting are always a concern, because sometimes when they do a retrofit on an old house the inside becomes smaller; and the designs are not always adequate. I will use this as an example: This winter I moved into a retrofitted house. I looked at the original design of the house and the retrofitted design. When I entered the new house that was retrofitted, it was in poor condition, even the outside doors. The porch area fills up with snow right away, because it was not done properly. At the top of the kitchen area there is a vent, and all the stuff around the stove is always freezing up whenever there is a high wind. I thought that since it was a retrofitted house I was going to go into a pretty nice looking house, but I found out that it was a lot colder than the previous house, even though it was renovated and painted very well.

Anything that is designed, such as housing -- I agreed with Mr. Todd's letter to the Minister of DPW with regard to the poor design of houses. The design of the houses does not fit the northern climate. It has to be done to the northern style.

The concern of my constituents is with regard to the houses that were built in 1962; they are called the low rental housing. They have not been replaced, especially in Grise Fiord. A lot of them have been renovated -- the houses that were built in 1962 -- and the Grise Fiord residents have said that the size of the house gets smaller when they are renovated. They

have approximately eight or more people in a three-bedroom house. They have concerns about the designing, and after the renovations the houses get smaller.

Another concern that they have, in my constituency, is that those people who go to renovate those houses start in the fall. They work during the winter, and all the materials that they are using to renovate with are just outside and filling up with snow. When they are finished renovating, they take off back to where they came from and just leave the garbage and all of the materials outside of the house and the snow covers it up. In the spring, the community has to do the cleaning up of those leftover materials from those renovations. This is one of the problems and the concern of my constituency. It is a long winter up there, and they do not clean their garbage when they leave.

The last comment that I have is with regard to HAP housing. The people who want HAP housing apply from the communities. Communities beyond the tree line want to own more homes, and they want to construct them themselves the way they want to make them. But the problem that they have is that the communities are not involved as to which people in the community will be getting a HAP house. The application has to go to Iqaluit first, and then it goes from Iqaluit to Yellowknife, and from here they find out whether the applicant is approved for a HAP house or not, and the applicant is not involved in the whole process.

They have a problem with the ceiling. This should not be a problem because people in the communities should be more involved, and they want to be more involved in getting a HAP house, but they are worried about their salary level. The policy that you have at the present time should be changed so that people in the communities could get their own homes regardless of their salary level. These are the concerns that my constituents have at this time, and I wanted to bring them up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Minister.

#### **Community Involvement In Providing Housing**

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Member's information, with the retrofit on the old housing units, they become smaller. I guess the reason for that is the insulation in the walls becomes bigger, so the unit does become smaller. As far as

stuff freezing up around the stove, that is a problem that should not happen. There is a problem with the design of the retrofit. I do not have the particulars here, Mr. Pudluk, but I will check into it, because maybe all we have to do is go to inside ventilation of those units. It may be a simple thing to fix, but that is why it is important that the community has a part in design as well as in any retrofits and that we get the community's advice, because they know the wind conditions and they know what happens in their community, so they should be involved in all aspects of that, as well.

The community should be involved in the design of units as well. There are 1962 northern rental units that have not been replaced. We are trying to replace as many as we can every year. We can only replace so many, so it will come to where they all get phased

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out because they are below standard and our objective is to phase them out.

The renovations start in the fall. Because of the sealift being so late, the only way we could possibly solve that problem, Mr. Pudluk, is by shipping in a year ahead of time, and I will have to check to see if that is possible. That would be one way to do it, but the majority of work, I believe, is in the interior of the unit, and the contractor is responsible for cleaning up behind himself. It is not the community. So if a contractor left a mess, then he should have deducted from his contract the clean-up costs. Hopefully we will not have a contractor leaving the community in the middle of winter, because the community will be doing all that work. That is what I would prefer to see. Retrofits and things like that, we want to see the community doing it, people in the community, so then they are more responsible, as well. That is what we work towards, but in the meantime we will ensure that the contractor does clean up.

It is good to hear that the communities in your area want to get more home-ownership because it is a high priority of the Housing Corporation. We all know that the home-ownership program is the best bang for our dollar. We can build, I think, seven or nine home-ownership units compared to one public unit, which has lifetime costs, so it is the best thing to do.

As far as the local community being involved, the community should be involved, and will be, starting next year when we redevelop the program. With reference to those with higher income, as well as

those with lower income, we want to redevelop programs to meet all the needs of the people. Right now all of those needs are not being met. The community should be involved in the allocation of those units as well. Once you develop a program and it is straightforward, and all the rules and policies are there, then the community can do it. I support the communities' getting more and more involved in their housing needs and trying to solve them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Fairness Needed In Allocation Of Housing Projects**

**MR. ARVALUK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to apologize for missing most of the day. I had an appointment with the ophthalmologist, and I thought he was only going to take a few minutes, but it took two or three hours.

Mr. Chairman, I realize that the estimates were prepared by the previous government before the last election, under the then Minister, Mr. Tom Butters. I also realize that cabinet Minister's have influenced each other in the preparation of the capital estimates. I am not blaming that previous government, but I would like to ask the Minister: Are you intending to make some corrections as to what the previous government has done wrong in the allocation of capital projects of housing?

If you look at page 03-19, for the Keewatin -- I am not criticizing the allocation for Baker Lake because they are in need, too. Just for comparison, the population is not twice as much as Coral Harbour but they are getting 12 units, and we are getting two units. When Mr. Tom Butters was in Coral Harbour we asked him if the government could provide emergency shelters because of the shortage of housing in Coral Harbour. We wanted insulated tents -- they would probably be about \$1000 each -- rather than an \$80,000 house. The problem that we have in Coral Harbour is that we have Northern Quebec dissidents arriving yearly, and that creates an incredible amount of shortage there. I would ask the Minister if he could try to be a bit more fair in the allocation of projects on a needs basis, as the motion stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to assure the Member that cabinet colleagues have no more influence over me than any

other Member of this Assembly with regard to housing allocations. The housing allocation, while I am Minister, will be driven by the needs assessment that is going to be done by the community. That needs study is going to say how many homes a community needs, what kind, and all that will be weighed equally. Every community is going to be treated as equal. There is not going to be any favouritism to any Member or to any community. I would like to assure the Member of that.

According to the last housing needs survey, the need in Baker Lake was 107 units. In Coral Harbour the need was 43 units. So I guess that is the reason you have 12 and two being introduced into those communities for this year. I would also like to assure the Members that if, for some reason, a needs survey in the past was not done properly in your community, the new needs survey that will be done by the spring of this year will pick up that slack. If you have lost out over the last three years, you are going to gain immediately, because your needs are going to be greater than the other communities that received more. So that will equal out, and it will be equal and fair. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to compare anything; however, I did not see, in the capital estimates, anything that I understand the government would like to have, a standard system of housing -- acceptability standards. Because the housing shortage is so great in our communities, we were even asking if the government could make emergency type, or short-term military type tents for winter. The people do not necessarily stay in their houses in the winter in the Eastern Arctic; they camp out several miles away from town and commute to work. There is nothing in the capital estimates for any type of emergency shelter to offset the shortage of housing.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the information of the Member, this year Coral Harbour is getting two units of public housing and five units of HAP housing, and three retrofits, so that is a total of 10, compared with Baker Lake getting 12 public and one HAP for a total of 13.

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The hour being 6:00 o'clock, I will now rise and report progress. I want to thank the Minister and his officials.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Good afternoon. Item 19, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 14 and Committee Report 3-12(2) and wishes to report progress, with 11 motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Secunder to your motion? Mr. Todd. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

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**---Carried**

Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

#### **ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS**

##### **Third Reading Of Bill 8: Elections Act**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

**---Carried**

Bill 8 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

##### **Third Reading Of Bill 11: Plebiscite Act**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Plebiscite Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**---Carried**

Bill 11 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

**Third Reading Of Bill 10: Local Authorities Elections Act**

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, be read for the third time.

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

**---Carried**

Bill 10 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE** (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow morning: at 9:00 a.m. of the standing committee on public accounts, and at 10:30 of the ordinary Members' caucus.

**ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 4, 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: Bill 17 and Bill 18
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 9-12(2), 10-12(2) and 12-12(2); Bill 14; Committee Report 3-12(2)
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 1992.

**---ADJOURNMENT**