



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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**THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1992**

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**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

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

Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Thursday, March 5, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ningark.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Ministers' Statement 28-12(2): Consultation With Women's Groups

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to fulfill a commitment I made to this House. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women I said I would consult with women's groups to get first hand their comments and concerns on the situation involving Paul Quassa, his recent court case, and his position within the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut.

I can tell you that the women I spoke to were very concerned about the fact that Mr. Quassa received an absolute discharge from the court, concerned about the message this sends to others who may commit offences of this type, about whether there are consequences for such actions.

Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns expressed by the leaders of NWT women's organizations and others about what sorts of messages we send to those who commit offences against women. But while I am concerned with what happens to offenders in the courts, I am also aware that the Northwest Territories has the highest rate of imprisonment in Canada, and that even with that rate, we still have a serious problem with offences involving violence. So I want to

direct our efforts toward what we do about the attitudes which give rise to these offences, what we do to prevent the assaults, what we do to change people's behaviour.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. In the gallery today Members will join me in welcoming Rita Arey, president of the Northwest Territories Status of Women Council; and Lynn Brooks, executive director of the Northwest Territories Status of Women Council. We also have with us Mr. Jack Anawak, Member of Parliament for Nunatsiak. We have with us, Lauren Taillefer and her class from the adult learning centre in Hay River.

--- Applause

Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Ministers' Statement 29-12(2): 1992 Arctic Winter Games

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 1992 Arctic Winter Games will be held March 16 to 22 in Whitehorse, Yukon. As Minister responsible, I am pleased to provide Members of the Assembly with an update on our NWT team to this premier trans-Arctic sport and cultural event.

Mr. Speaker, our NWT Team consists of 308 athletes, coaches and mission staff, who will compete in all 17 sports at the 1992 Arctic Winter Games. Athletes on our team come from 34 different communities from all regions across the Northwest Territories. I am pleased to note that community representation on our team has steadily increased. In 1980, only 20 communities sent athletes to the games. The competitive success of our athletes from the smaller communities in earning a spot on the NWT team is only one indication of this government's success in providing facilities, coaching and competitions to all residents of the Northwest Territories. Regional representation on our NWT team is as follows: Baffin, 18; Keewatin, 35; Kitikmeot, 12; Inuvik, 27; Yellowknife, 126; Fort Smith/Hay River, 48; and Mackenzie, 41.

Mr. Speaker, this week I have provided each MLA with a list of participants from their constituency. In fact, every Member of this Assembly, except two, has representation on the team. As well, our NWT team

will be complemented by a cultural performance group of 11 who will form part of the major cultural program planned in conjunction with the games.

The success of the Arctic Winter Games, however, should not be judged solely on the composition of our final team that has earned the right to compete in Whitehorse. The Arctic Winter Games have earned the importance they hold throughout the North because they involve mass participation in a series of regional and territorial trials; for example, those held in December and January to determine the final team for these games. Over 2400 athletes, coaches and officials from 47 communities competed in the regional and territorial trials for the right to represent the NWT at the 1992 Arctic Winter Games. The Arctic Winter Games territorial trials are the single largest sporting event in the Northwest Territories.

I am sure all Members will join me in wishing all athletes the very best of luck in their upcoming competitions, and even if they do not bring home the gold ulu, I am sure they will represent us well.

--- Applause

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Minister Ningark.

Ministers' Statement 30-12(2): International Women's Day

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1977 the United Nations passed a resolution recognizing March 8 as the day for celebrating women's rights. All Northerners should be proud of the contribution women have made and are making in their communities. They are providing commitment and dedication, not only in this House, but in our schools, in the economy, in social development and in keeping our families strong.

The NWT's theme this year is "Celebrating Together." For the week of March 5 to 16 women in the Northwest Territories will be participating in a number of activities. I encourage all Members to join the celebration in their home communities and in Yellowknife. Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to northern women on this International Women's Day. Thank you.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Flippant Manner Of Cabinet Members

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice the concerns of the ordinary Members' caucus over the flippant attitude of cabinet members in responding to questions or concerns from MLAs on this side of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I would remind my honourable colleagues that each and every MLA in this Assembly was elected to represent his or her constituents to the best of his or her ability, not to merely follow a course charted by the Members of the cabinet. I would like to remind my honourable colleagues that when an ordinary Member asks a question, or raises concerns, he or she is doing so on behalf of the citizens of the Northwest Territories. In doing this, it deserves a prompt, complete and informative answer, not a hollow, flippant joke.

When a Member such as Mr. Lewis voiced concerns over a government slogan which he felt was inappropriate, as he did yesterday, his concern deserves consideration by the Minister or cabinet, not a trite comment such as Mr. Whitford's remark, and I quote: "You would find fault with the Lord's Prayer."

I could go on at length, Mr. Speaker. Members of cabinet have provided many more examples in the past few weeks. Instead, I would urge honourable colleagues to keep in mind that all MLAs represent the people of this land, and our concerns are not to be dismissed out of hand.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Native RCMP Constable In Lake Harbour

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, please tell me if I am not following the rules properly. I am not sure if this is appropriate under Members' statements. This is directed to the Minister of Justice. There is an RCMP native constable in Cape Dorset. This community is the first in Baffin to have a native RCMP. The native RCMP constable in Sanikiluaq will be retiring shortly. The people of Lake Harbour have been concerned about having a native RCMP constable in their community. Before the native RCMP constable retires, the people of Lake Harbour have requested another native RCMP constable to be placed in that community because there would be fewer interpreter services required in Lake Harbour, especially with regard to confidential client consultations. The people of Lake Harbour would like to get another native RCMP constable as soon as the present native constable retires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Ms. Mike's Birthday

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just like a session, birthdays cannot be avoided. They just come. Therefore, I would like to wish Ms. Mike a happy birthday, and present her with a little gift.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members join with Mr. Arvaluk in wishing Ms. Mike the best on her birthday. Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question O268-12(2): Community Economic Development Officers

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I am not representing only one community, and I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I have been asked many times by the communities whether there is an economic development officer for those communities. This is my question directed to the

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.  
Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member.  
Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O269-12(2): Status Of Contribution Funding To Alcohol And Drug Projects

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is March 5, which is my birthday, Mr. Speaker, the sixth day after the deadline imposed by the Minister, who has been attempting to force community-based organizations to sign alcohol and drug contribution agreements to which they are opposed. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services: What is the status of contribution funding to the alcohol and drug projects in Pangnirtung and Iqaluit?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O269-12(2): Status Of Contribution Funding To Alcohol And Drug Projects

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The date came and went and I did not get any calls on the day after February 29th.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

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Supplementary To Question O269-12(2): Status Of Contribution Funding To Alcohol And Drug Projects

**MS. MIKE:**

Mr. Speaker, was it that they have not signed, or have they? The 29th came and went, yes; we all know that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O269-12(2): Status Of Contribution Funding To Alcohol And Drug Projects

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the letter had gone to BRC, Baffin Regional Council, with an agreement, and there was a deadline of the 29th of February, at which date an answer would be expected, negatively or affirmatively. There was no response on the 29th, and there was no response on the 1st and the 2nd, so one has to assume that it is a negative response.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O270-12(2): Number Of Youth Justice Committees In NWT

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. Can the Minister of Social Services advise me as to how many youth justice committees we currently have in the Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information at my fingertips; however, I will get the information for the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions, Oral questions.

I wonder, then, if I can take this opportunity on behalf of the Assembly to say it is with great pleasure that I recognize today, seated in the Speaker's Gallery, Her Honour, the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mrs. Helen Maksagak, accompanied by her husband, John.

--- Applause

Oral questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to go back to Members' statements.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member has requested unanimous consent to return to Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

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

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Deputy Commissioner

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to add my words of praise to the Government Leader's for the new Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, there are a great many reasons for selecting Helen Maksagak of Cambridge Bay as the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. She has been very active in church groups. She ran a successful foster home with her husband, John, for many years. She is a member of the social assistance appeal committee, the housing association, the drug and alcohol board of directors, and many, many other support groups.

Helen Maksagak is also a very warm human being who treats each and every person with compassion and makes them all feel very special. But, the most important reason why I think Helen Maksagak is a wonderful choice for Deputy Commissioner is that she is my aunt.

--- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt. We will return to Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**REVERT TO ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question O271-12(2): Funds Granted To Youth Justice Committees

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services a question. I realize he

took my previous question under notice. I would like to ask the Minister if he knows the amount of money that has been given to youth justice committees. Can he give me the amounts granted to youth justice committees to complete the work required across the Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Social Services, Mr. Whitford.

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Mr. Speaker, I will get the information for the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, to be clear, are you taking the question as notice?

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will take the question as notice. I do not have the up-to-date information which the Member is requesting.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice and concerns legal interpreters in the courts. Court legal interpreters who have gone through the training program, when they are interpreting in court -- the only protection they have is that they are considered to be one of the court's officers. Is there any legislation to protect the court interpreters?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that question is that there is no legislation that I know of to protect court interpreters from possible liability.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister's department considering drafting appropriate legislation for a court interpreters profession act?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice, Mr. Patterson.

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Further Return To Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been brought to my attention recently as an issue which should be looked at. I can tell the honourable Member, at this point, that I have asked my department to examine the issue of the liability of court and perhaps other interpreters who work for our government. But as yet I have not received advice, nor have I formed an opinion about whether legislation or some other form of protection is advisable. But it is an issue that I have asked my department to examine. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Oral questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Justice. Will you and your department consider drafting legislation for legal court interpreters?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O272-12(2): Legislation To Protect Court Interpreters

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I certainly respect the honourable Member's experience in that field. If she is recommending that such legislation and such protection is advisable, then I will take that advice very seriously and yes, I will certainly consider such legislation once I have had an opportunity to examine the legal circumstances and advice on that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Members will join with me in welcoming Mr. James Eetoolook, the acting president of TFN.

--- Applause

Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

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

**ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Committee Report 5-12(2): Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions On Appointment Of Members To The Workers' Compensation Board

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Our report from the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions on the appointment of members to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, at its meeting on March 5, 1992, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions discussed the matter of an announcement made on March 3, regarding two new appointments to the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board. The standing committee was also aware that further appointments to the board are under consideration within cabinet.

The standing committee expresses its extreme dissatisfaction that the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board has not followed a

previous recommendation to postpone filling membership vacancies in all government created boards and agencies until March 31, 1992.

This recommendation, which was passed by a motion of this House and apparently concurred in by the Executive Council, also indicated that "where it is clearly in the public interest to appoint or reappoint members of boards and agencies, that these appointments be made for the shortest possible term." It is the standing committee's view that the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board has not established that it is clearly in the public interest to proceed with these board appointments. In fact, given that these positions on the board have been vacant for some time, it is very questionable whether it was necessary at all to make the appointments at the present time.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions is outraged with respect to the inadequate consultation process followed in making these appointments. This government has repeatedly made commitments to consult widely with Members of this Assembly prior to making important board appointments. This clearly did not occur in this instance.

In an earlier report, the standing committee has indicated that a comprehensive review of the Workers' Compensation Board and its operations would be undertaken early in the new fiscal year. The government should be aware that the findings may result in recommendations that could significantly alter the structure and policy framework of the board. It is for this reason that the Minister must consult with the standing committee prior to any consideration of appointing members to the Workers' Compensation Board.

The process through which the March 3rd appointments were made to the Workers' Compensation Board was clearly contrary to the committee motion passed in this House when dealing with Committee Report 1-2(1). Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that this report be moved into committee of the whole and be placed as the first item on the order paper.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Koe. Who is seconding the motion, Mr. Koe?

Motion That Committee Report 5-12(2) Be Received And Moved To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rephrase that motion. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that the report of the special committee on agencies, boards and commissions on the appointment of members to the Workers' Compensation Board, be received and moved into committee of the whole as the first item of business for consideration for today. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Koe. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Committee Report 5-12(2), report on the appointment of members to the Workers' Compensation Board will be put into committee of the whole as first item of business, Reports of standing and special committees.

Before I go on to the next item, I wish to inform the House that I have received the following message from the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest

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Territories. "I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992, during the second session of the 12th Legislative Assembly. Signed by Helen Maksagak, Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories."

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

## **ITEM 12: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS**

**HON. JOHN NINGARK:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 18-12(2), a document on fish sampling methodology for monitoring programs in the Northwest Territories and Alberta.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson. favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

## **ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 19: Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 9, 1992, I shall move that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act, be read for the first time, Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 22: Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1992

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 9, 1992, I shall move that Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 23: Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 9, 1992, I shall move that Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Mr. Lewis.

## **ITEM 15: MOTIONS**

Motion 5-12(2): Membership Of The Special Committee On Health And Social Services, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:**



Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion:

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that notwithstanding Rule 89(2), that 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.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

--- Carried.

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

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

Second Reading Of Bill 18: Young Offenders Act

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Young Offenders Act to allow the director of corrections to designate a place or facility of open

custody after the place is in use; and to allow the Commissioner to retroactively designate a place or facility of open custody. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

--- Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

Second Reading Of Bill 17: Child Day-Care Act

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Child Day-Care Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Child Day-Care Act to clarify when the director may suspend a licence of an operator of a child day-care facility, and to make related amendments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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--- Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills, Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole

of bills and other matters: Committee Report 5-2(2), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions' Report on Appointment of Members to the Workers' Compensation Board; 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. Arvaluk in the chair.

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

Committee Report 5-12(2), Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions On Appointment Of Members To The Workers' Compensation Board

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

This committee is now in order. Committee Report 5-12(2), Report on Appointment of Members to the Workers' Compensation Board. Chairman of the committee, Mr. Koe.

Opening Remarks From The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

#### **MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will speak to this committee report on the appointment of members to the Workers' Compensation Board. The committee's review of this issue arose as a direct result of Ministers' Statement 24-12(2). In that statement the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board announced appointments to fill two vacancies that presently exist on the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Chairman, statements and questions raised by the ordinary Members following the Minister's statement highlighted the fact that inadequate consultation had taken place prior to the announcement. More seriously, in making these appointments the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board chose to overlook the fact that this House in its first session passed a motion recommending that no board appointments should be made until March 31, 1992. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions brought this motion to the House in the first committee report tabled in the 12th Legislative Assembly. We considered this to be a significant motion, one which is necessary to provide the time for the government and standing committee to take stock

of the way boards and agencies operate in the Northwest Territories. It is especially vital in the case of the Workers' Compensation Board, which already had been targeted by the standing committee for a comprehensive review.

When we met this morning, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions was very concerned about the way this Minister disregarded these considerations and without adequate consultation with other honourable Members of this Assembly, proceeded to appoint these two new members to the Workers' Compensation Board. We considered it an outrage to view the Minister's actions in this regard. The standing committee considered these actions undermined the committee process, and indeed can be regarded as threatening the very spirit of our consensus system of government.

Motion To Express Displeasure With Timing Of Minister's Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that this Legislative Assembly express its extreme displeasure with the actions of the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board in making appointments to the membership of the Workers' Compensation Board, in direct contradiction to the position this House adopted on December 12, 1991, which recommended that the filling of board vacancies be postponed until after March 31, 1992.

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

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is being passed around to the Members. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

#### **MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am making this motion on behalf of, and at the request of, my honourable colleagues on the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions. Members of the committee consider this to be a very serious motion. This is a motion of censure. We are bringing forward this motion in the hope that it would make it apparent to the Minister, and to cabinet as a whole, that the standing committees are serious in fulfilling their assigned roles and responsibilities. We have concerns about the apparent attitude of the Minister in this case, and we are not willing to stand by silently. I therefore urge all my honourable colleagues to support this motion today. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be voting on this motion, obviously, but I would like to have the chance to make a few comments, if I may. First of all, when I was first appointed to this position, I met with the Workers' Compensation Board at the first opportunity, and in the general discussion that followed one of the strong recommendations of the board and of the chairman to me was that they were having real difficulty getting on with their business because they were operating with a bare quorum. They said they had been waiting for some considerable time hoping that vacancies on the board would be filled, because it was impairing the operations of the board. This was also raised to me by the chairman, at one of our first meetings, as a problem that I should attend to, because it was impairing the operations of the board. When members from the four people who were on the board were unavailable, then the board could not meet and could not expeditiously do its work.

So, Mr. Chairman, that was put to me by the board and chairman as something that I should urgently deal with, and I proceeded to do so. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to note that, and I will refer to the chairman of the ABC committee's report that appointments, if made, "Where it is clearly in the public interest," and I would respectfully suggest that I at least had a basis for thinking it was necessary for this board to do its work to have a little bit more cushion on the quorum, that where those appointments were required that they "be made for the shortest possible term."

I would like to point out that although the Workers' Compensation Act allows appointments for up to a maximum of five years, I have made these two appointments for one year. So, Mr. Chairman, I think at least somewhat in the spirit of the motion of the House, these are short-term appointments and certainly not of the length that would ordinarily be filled. Finally...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Point of order, Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is the Member Speaking to the motion, or to the report of the agencies, boards and commissions committee?

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I do not see any reference to the length of time in the motion itself. I thought we were dealing with the motion specifically, not the report.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Mr. Zoe, I will have to rule that Mr. Patterson is in order, because he is talking about the membership, which is right in the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Reasons For Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

There is just one other point that I would like to make, Mr. Chairman. I understand, from talking to the chairperson of the agencies, boards and commissions committee, that they are anxious to review the operations of the Worker's Compensation Board. I want to make it clear, and I have written to the chairman stating this, that I welcome the ABC committee's interest in this board, for which I am responsible to report to the House. Furthermore, I will be pleased to co-operate fully with the committee in its work in reviewing the board and providing what ever information the committee might need to do its job.

I would like to just offer one other reason why I felt it was important to recommend to cabinet that some appointments be made now rather than later, Mr. Chairman, and that is for the reason of continuity. Mr. Chairman, the board appointments are now set to expire in June and July, within a very short space of time. My concern, Mr. Chairman, was that if it should be decided that there be replacements of the present members of the Workers' Compensation Board, you could have a situation, without appointments being made a few months earlier as these two have been made -- you could have a situation where you could have a completely new board in place in June or July, and possibly a new chairman as well. This lack of continuity is something that I am sure all Members would agree is generally not desirable with important boards with important responsibilities.

It is desirable, I believe, to stagger the terms where ever possible so that if board members are replaced there will not be a wholesale turnover of the board

resulting in all new inexperienced members sitting on the board. It was with that factor of a cushion for turnover that I also recommended to cabinet that these two vacancies be filled sooner, rather than later, because I felt that if we waited until June or July and it was decided to reappoint most existing or all existing members to the board, then you would have a whole new board coming in all at once with no background or experience.

Those were some of the factors in mind, Mr. Chairman, and I do want to say that I do appreciate some Members' comments the other day in speaking to this, that we are not talking about the individuals appointed, that it is the process of appointment that is of concern. I take it to mean that Members of the Assembly generally feel that while we may have found capable people to sit on the board, the process that was followed was objectionable, or outrageous, I guess, is the term I should use.

Mr. Chairman, I hope these comments are of some assistance to Members in considering this motion. I just want to say, inclosing, that we did have a chance to discuss this matter fully in caucus earlier this week. I did appreciate the offer of Members of caucus to have input on appointments to this very important board. I have invited their input, and I welcome their suggestions about who could go on this board from hereon in. With the ABC committee's interest in reviewing the operations of the WCB, I hope we can work together from here on in, in a co-operative fashion to look at this board, to consider their recommendations for change, and to have those recommendations dealt with before any further appointments need to be dealt with in June or July.

I hear what the chairman is saying. I do accept the advice, and I think, at least from here on in, that we can consider the advice of that committee before any further appointments are made. Qujannamiik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had not thought of speaking until Mr. Patterson spoke. I think the process was more than unfair. I think the fact is that the Minister did not think it necessary to consult all Members of the Assembly to seek their advice on the matter of appointments. In fact, he spoke only to certain Members of this House, to seek their advice,

and did not even have the courtesy to provide Members of this House with any notice that he would be seeking the idea of appointing new members to the Workers' Compensation Board. I think that was pretty unfair. I hope that in future, whether or not it is this particular board or others, that all Members will receive the same kind of courtesy of consultation and involvement.

I think the fundamental concern and principle that is the basis of this particular motion is the matter of having Members of this House involved in determining the manner in which our government will be run and how our particular regions will be represented in a direction and manner in which our influences are heard and are to be seen. If our influence is not important, then I guess we should be told that. I do think it was pretty unfair, and I think that it was wrong, more than just to suggest that it was an error. That is all that I want to say at this particular time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

Disappointment With Process In Workers' Compensation Board Appointments

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had not really planned on speaking to this motion, either, until the Minister spoke. As the Minister is aware, I expressed my displeasure that very day that he announced the appointments with the way the process had proceeded. As far as I am concerned, there was no consultation. All I heard was the Minister advising me that he would be appointing two new Members that afternoon. The argument was made that time was of the essence, that there should have been some room for continuity. I would like to point out that appointment was made two days ago, and as early as last week the schedule was out for committee meetings. It was obvious that agencies, boards and commissions would be meeting this week, and for sake of two days I am disappointed that the Minister did not take the opportunity to consult with the committee to determine whether or not there was, in fact, some agreement that this might be necessary.

Especially, I think the Minister had a responsibility to consult with that committee because the Workers' Compensation Board had been noted as being one of the agencies which we had been very interested in

having a serious look at, and as soon as possible. If, in fact, the Minister had appeared before the committee and made the point that a quorum was a problem, there may have been some agreement for the Minister to appoint, perhaps, one Member. But to this point in time all I have is what the Minister has said today, that a quorum was a problem. This was not something that was put to us at the committee for us to consider this as being a problem, and if they have been operating this long with four members, did they really need to have six members immediately in order to solve a quorum problem? If there a problem with one of the four, then perhaps that person needs to be replaced, but let us have the arguments made in front of the agencies, boards and commissions committee, especially in the situation where we

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have said this is one of the groups that we want to have a look at.

I really think that the process here was a slap in the face to the committee operation of the Legislative Assembly. If we are to have any sort of grounds for existence in this Legislature, then I think we have to have our views taken very seriously. Otherwise, what is the point? I do not want to sit on a committee that does not get taken seriously. I am not interested in putting in the time and just wasting it. If I am sitting there with nothing to accomplish, then let us get rid of them. Let us not have the committees. If we are going to have a straight departmental type government, where the government takes all the actions and proposes all the actions without consultation, then let us give it up. Let us go to party politics, and let us have it work that way. If you want to have consultation, then you have to use your committees.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell. To the motion.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to make a couple of comments in respect to the motion. I have no problem supporting it, as I indicated my displeasure in the House a couple of days ago when the announcements were made. Basically my displeasure is on the process of the appointments, and not the appointees, because there is no doubt in my mind, as I said before, that I feel Mr. Wray is capable of doing the work. I do not know Mr. Kuptana, however. I think it is the process that has been used

on this whole issue of these appointments that has disturbed the Members. There seem to be some blatant actions of ignoring recommendations of this House, and that is what is a concern to Members, a concern to myself particularly.

I recognize the Minister stated that it was upon the advice of the chairman, and in discussions with the board they feel that they needed more members. What seems ironic is the fact that under his leadership as the Government Leader, he concurred to down-size that board, and when he concurred with that he should have thought whether or not it would be difficult with their members, that they would have problems with getting a quorum. So you cannot basically say one thing, and then at a later date say another thing contradicting your actions.

I did want to state, in concurrence with the committee, that there was a recommendation in this House adopted in December. It was unanimously passed in this House. The government concurred with it. The government complimented the committee for its work, and a mere two months later, they did totally, actions against what this recommendation had asked them to do. I feel that it is not only disappointing to Members of the House who spend their time in committee meetings, meeting until sometimes 10:00 o'clock at night seeing what they are going to do with their plan of action as a committee members -- and then for it to be totally ignored-- I think that it is ignorant of Ministers not to consider, even consider, recommendations of this House.

With respect to the way it was fulfilled, I said my viewpoint and I will say it again, that I do not believe any appointment on any board that should be respecting the wishes of the people of the Territories or looking after the interests of the people of the Territories, regardless of where they are, that the appointment selection should only be to whoever the Minister wants to consult with. He has been a Minister long enough to know that he should be conscientious in advising all Members that these appointments were to be made available, and to ask for our input.

I think the fundamental point here that Members want to make is that the Minister has to respect Members of this House in consulting before he makes decisions that affect our constituents and until he learns that he is going to keep getting criticism by Members of this House. He has to be accountable to Members that represent viewpoints on behalf of their constituents. So with that, Mr. Chairman, I do want you to know

that I have no problem supporting this motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

To the motion. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

Motion To Express Displeasure With Timing Of Minister's Appointments To Workers' Compensation Board, Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

The question is being called. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Back to general comments on the Committee Report 5-12(2). Do we agree, then, that this matter is to be concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Does the committee, then, wish to go to Bill 14 with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs? Is that agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

We will recess for 15 minutes before we start.

**---SHORT RECESS**

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

Will the committee come to order. What does this committee wish to do now? We are on Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93. Does this committee wish to go to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. The Minister for MACA is Mr. Patterson. I wonder if you would like to make any opening remarks.

Municipal And Community Affairs

Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could have picked a better day to bring my departmental estimates forward, but here I am, and I am pleased to introduce the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Chairman, the department is proposing capital estimates totalling \$36,351,000 for 1992-93. Priority continues to be placed on the building of new water and sanitation infrastructure and improvements to existing infrastructure, which amounts to about 43 per cent of our proposed capital estimates, or \$15,699,000. Most of these resources are allocated to water supply and treatment, water distribution, and

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sewage collection systems.

Another nine per cent, or \$3,234,000, is proposed for the construction of new arena facilities. Such facilities allow our athletes to prepare effectively for the Arctic Winter Games and other competitions, while providing healthy and socially worthwhile community activities for our youth and for community residents in general.

A further seven per cent, or \$2,602,000, is planned for the provision of mobile equipment for road maintenance, public health, and fire protection. The equipment retrofit approach to funding mobile equipment continues to be cost effective in maintaining asset usefulness while developing the capability of municipal work staff to repair community mobile equipment.

Mr. Chairman, a further seven per cent of this budget, or \$2,571,000, is identified for the planning, design, upgrading or reconstruction of community roads. In this work, the Department of Public Works frequently assists by providing engineering and contract management services to local governments.

A further three per cent, or \$1,224,000, is proposed for technical and financial assistance to carry out site development. The associated drainage and landfill schemes help facilitate the development of logical community design and promote a safe and healthy environment.

The department's capital resources in 1992-93 do not address all identified basic needs and infrastructure requirements to address current community population growth and the ongoing replacement of aging capital infrastructure. However, I believe that the department's comprehensive capital planning process has identified, through consultation with local councils, the most urgent needs as represented in these proposed 1992-93 capital estimates. Those are my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before I call for general comments, I wonder if the Minister would like to bring in any witnesses at this time.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, if I may. I have two witnesses I would like to bring in.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Is this committee agreed that the Minister bring in witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Proceed, Mr. Minister. Could you introduce your witnesses for the record?

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have on my right Mr. Al Menard, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Mr. Vern Christensen, assistant deputy minister in charge of capital planning. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. I wonder if the chairman of the finance committee would like to make any opening remarks. Mr. Todd.

**Comments from The Standing Committee On Finance**

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance, in reviewing the MACA budget, was quite concerned that the program departments must have more input into the standard of facilities we are building, particularly where the cost of construction appears to be excessive. The departments cannot abdicate their responsibility to ensure that we get the best value for money. Clearly they must communicate to DPW what their requirements are.

It was our observation that, for example, the cost of constructing hamlet offices -- we calculated specific instances where some of these hamlet offices were coming in at \$318 to \$381 to \$382 per square foot. This was not including the time costs of Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works, and hamlet staff. We feel these kinds of square footage costs are unreasonably high and are perhaps due to excessive standards that are being delivered, and we think that the program departments should be more intimately involved in determining these standards. We also know that hamlets have said for years that if they were allowed to control some of the capital projects, as has been suggested to some extent with the Strength at Two Levels report, they could do a better job at perhaps a more economical cost.

Another concern was with respect to facilities larger than what a community is currently entitled to. We were told that in one particular case, the community would pick up the difference. It is the contention of the standing committee on finance that indirectly the GNWT ultimately pays, and that these oversized facilities have correspondingly higher operating costs. It is the standing committee on finance's contention that this is not consistent with government policy, and frankly unfair to other communities.

The Arviat water supply we talked about is planned for construction in 1993-94 when we know the potential health problems faced in that community, and I am not specifically talking about E-coli. We are talking about others, and we know the history of that community and its problems associated with water reservoirs and water supplies. We feel this matter is

an urgent one and the department should give it its immediate attention.

With respect to MACA's budget, we are going to recommend the following, and this will be done later on in resolution form: that consideration be given to advancing the Arviat water supply improvements in 1992-93; that communities be provided with basic recreational facilities, and only the basic recreational facilities based upon MACA's own criteria and according to the policy that is currently in place. We feel that cabinet should develop a policy to bring about costs closer to those experienced by the private sector, and ensure that government standards are not unreasonably high. It is the contention of the committee that a number of these buildings, if they were in design/build or some other way of doing things, could be built at a far lesser cost, and in fact provide the department with more money to do more.

We feel there has to be a closer relationship between Municipal and Community Affairs as the client department, the local authority, hamlets and Public Works as the professional advisers, to work together to achieve better value for money spent; consider new ways in which to build some of these capital projects that will ensure the maximization of local labour and control as Mr. Morin, the Minister of Public Works, talked about earlier last week; and support, of course, the local general contractors in that particular region.

We were told by people that MACA has recommended alternative approaches for some years that have not been taken. These alternatives should be pursued vigorously. Departments like MACA should have the flexibility to use other options, other than Public Works, for capital project management. Anyway, as they say in biblical terms, "Here endeth the lesson." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I agree with some of the things that Mr. Todd is saying; not all of them, but some of them. One of the things that keeps coming up is with regard to recreational facilities. One of the things that I would like to see, with Mr. Todd's support I hope, is to see -- we do need a policy and we do need the size of facilities, but also if the

community is serious about having those facilities they should be doing their part, too, prior to any facilities being established in the community. In most communities you have to pay a portion of the cost for any capital recreation facilities. When we had that building built in Fort Providence we paid \$280,000.

One of the things that the community has requested is for a two-sheet curling rink. It is happening but it is happening in 1994-95, I believe. The community, Mr. Chairman, already has their portion of the money in the bank waiting for that day to come. They have \$180,000 right now and their portion required, if the capital structure is \$492,000, is \$197,000, which they could have by that time.

The community should be doing some of their own revenue raising too. Of the projects that came up during the last eight years that I have been a Member, most of them were allocated. I do not know the success rate of the community actually picking up the rest of the tab, or if it has been successful. When I look in the capital there are several communities who make contributions but for the size of the projects, similar to Providence, they are paying far less, at least half, of what they are expected to pay. I think that is unfair. Either you have it the same across or do not have it at all.

I would like to thank the Minister and his department - since the direction was given by the Government Leader to have the Members involved with the planning and design and infrastructure of communities, the community of Fort Providence has been doing a community plan. They have not come up with a final report but we do have copies of the process that we have been working toward at public meetings. The only difficulty that we are experiencing, Mr. Chairman, with regard to that, and I think it should be noted by the department, is that we are using consultants from Edmonton.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Shame, shame!

**MR. GARGAN:**

It costs the community to have workshops. They have one option, they go into the community and say, "This is what we have come up with," and it costs the community money, because they go back with some other plans and they come back with that one plan again and there is really no focus on -- "Well, we have three options here, what is your option?" The



consultants are good for that and it costs the community a lot of money to do that. I think it should be noted because the government is spending quite a bit on it and the community is also wasting a lot of money just to support consultants for doing this work.

Mr. Chairman, the other one is that on January 29 we were at the Hay River Reserve and we met with Mr. Evans and Jim Haining, with regard to planning for the next four years on what we see as a priority for the communities. I believe the Minister received a letter from me with a motion which was recommended by your department that if you have a priority list that you want to implement, then have the communities come up with a motion supporting that. We have done that. One of the priorities for the reserve is for them to be considered within the next four years, to see if they could get a recreation facility on the reserve.

We have \$700,000 this year for Fort Providence which is for a water treatment plant. That was in the works for about five years and this was supposed to be the year that they were getting it. We have been living with a small tank that supplies the water trucks. The floor has been caving in, and last year Municipal and Community Affairs put a little money into the plant itself because it was not very stable. There were holes in the cement that had to be covered with gravel and general patch-up work to ensure that the operation and delivery of water would be adequate for that one year. I am glad that we are finally going to be getting a new plant.

The community of Fort Providence has also suggested that because the government is in a deficit position, and that we are in restraint, they have decided that at this point in time -- if we look at the capital books from the previous years it says that Fort Providence, for example, will be getting a treatment plant. There are a number of years where there is approximately two million dollars, until 1997, for a core water and sewage service. Because of the financial situation of the government they have decided that there is no urgency for something like that to go ahead and we could back off on it. Whenever the opportunity arises where there is financial stabilization by the government they will wish to be considered for a core water and sewage system. That is their wish.

I thought I should let you know that the community has been able to compromise to say that they are willing to make this sacrifice and continue with their water delivery services and sewage services. The

only thing that I want to tell the Minister is that we are short on the delivery of water services, and for the pump-out systems too. Because of the demand we have people working two shifts, working overtime, working on Christmas and on holidays. I would just like the Minister to know that we probably need the third water truck pretty soon if we are going to keep up with the demands of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a couple of remarks with regard to this particular department. I know from the Minister's statement that one aspect of community development that is important is the matter of drainage, in terms of land developments and municipal developments. I just wanted to ask the Minister if he could deal with his other colleagues, the Minister responsible for Public Works and the Minister of Housing, to address this particular matter. There have been some concerns that have been raised previously, in some of the municipalities, about who is actually responsible for making the decisions about drainage, and who is responsible for actually constructing or placing those systems into the community, and who is responsible for paying for it. In some instances there seems to be some confusion as to who is supposed to pay for it and I would ask, not necessarily criticize the process as it is right now, but ask that the Minister try to resolve some of those particular matters with other Ministers so that we do not have some of the problems that we are now encouraging.

I also wanted to ask the Minister and his department officials, whether or not you could seriously consider reviewing the capital budget and, in some cases, dealing with private enterprise, providing some of the facilities or requirements that are outlined in the document. I note, for instance, in one particular case a staff house in Arctic Red River; that particular project is to be considered this year. Not that I am opposed to the idea of that funding, but ask whether or not there might be another way of considering leasing, for instance, a unit if the band was to build it or if somebody else was to build it, at less capital cost, but taking into consideration the ongoing O and M.

I just note that because we are in a situation now, financially, we have to look at all of the alternatives possible, and I would ask you if you could at least consider that. It may not be possible but I would ask that you consider it. I would ask you to consider that in a number of the other projects that are being considered in the document. Maybe you can deal with those other issues first.

In dealing with this last issue, I do not want to put anybody in an awkward position here but I want to address this matter, and unfortunately I was in the chair yesterday when the Housing Corporation was up. I would ask the Minister to review whether or not we could, when there are reproduction requirements in the NWT, whether or not we could ensure that if there are companies in the North that can deal with reproduction of blueprints and community plans, that companies in the North can be given an opportunity to receive some of those kinds of contracts. I do not want to put any body in an awkward position but I would like the Minister to at least consider that and to deal with it appropriately,

Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the same thing of the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation through a written letter, and also the Minister of Public Works. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could just briefly acknowledge the Member's comments on the staff housing lease-back option in Arctic Red, and the blueprint production through the private sector, and just say that I have noted his concerns and that option in Arctic Red will certainly be pursued if possible. We are committed to using private companies to do that blueprint work wherever possible. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my Members' statement I stated to this House that the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay, Baker Lake and Clyde River have a chronic snow removal problem. I will specifically talk about Repulse Bay and Chesterfield because they are in my riding.

Some of it is due to a poor town plan design, respecting the prevailing winds. Of course, there is the natural habit of snowstorms in those two communities. They are so frequent that those communities, with D-6 equipment, cannot keep up with the snow removal on roads, especially to the school and to the lake.

Both of those communities have requested, through their five-year capital plan and also through the individual letters to MACA -- for instance, Chesterfield Inlet wants a 966 model payloader, and Repulse Bay requested a D-8. I was advised that the government policy requires a special consideration for the community if there is to be D-8 equipment of that size.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the Minister that in respect to equipment, you cannot really place the size of a community in relation to equipment, because the problem is not the size of the community, whether is small or big; the problem is with snow. The snow -- I guess in the Western Arctic they call it ice -- to use it is snow, because it is so packed hard that regular four-wheel vehicles can actually ride on that snow. It is so hard that the D-6s are not strong enough, and they are not big enough to keep up with the clearing of the roads, especially the banks. They call them the banks, I guess, because most of them are the height of this building. It is rather dangerous, because once you get on that road, especially when you are walking, there is no way for you to get out of the road until you get to your destination. There is no way to climb that, to get away from the other vehicles. I would like to ask the Minister if he will be advising those two communities that I am talking about, that there is to be a review of the type of equipment that is needed for those two communities in the near future, because there is a capital budget for retrofitting of D-6 for \$75,000, but that chronic problem is not going to be eliminated just by having a retrofit of that D-6 equipment. I would like to have the Minister actually dig into the situation and determine what the real problem is, not from the philosophical or hypothetical standpoints of the size the community requires of that kind of vehicle, but look at what is really needed for those two communities individually. Then we will probably start to have the problem solved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure how much detail you want me to go into in general comments, but I will just briefly say that we are aware of the problem. We are working with both communities on this issue at this very moment. We are looking at how we can meet the community concerns, which we believe may be able to be addressed in part by operator training, and the particular blade that the Cat is equipped with. I look forward to visiting those communities soon with the honourable Member, and we will then be able to discuss the issues directly with the councils. I do want to say we acknowledge there are special snow problems there, and we are committed to finding a satisfactory solution by working with the community and the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would just like to elaborate a little bit on our thinking when it comes to looking at alternatives in terms of the project management component of MACA. MACA's budget capital is significant. It has an impact on every community across the Territories. I have not taken a historical look at the costs. This time around I just took a look at the costs that came before us. It appears to me that if the current trend of these kinds of costs of buildings continues, we are just simply not going to be in a position to do very much. I realize there are certain rules and regulations, and policies if you want, with respect to DPW being the operational arm to delivering a product, but it is my belief that you should be given more latitude to look at alternatives, and it may be that if we can convince the powers that be this year, that if nothing else we run one or two or three experimental projects where you handle it yourselves in whatever manner you choose to do, whether it is design/build or lease -- that is another option that could be considered. And I believe in some cases, in the community of Iqaluit for example, the curling rink is leased through the municipality. So some of these ideas have got to be considered.

It is not a question of, "Can we?". We have got to look at other ways of doing things so we can get more efficiencies of scale. We have to take a hard look at what our standards are. We do not want to build square boxes all over the country, but at the same time, if we get too complicated and let too many fingers in the pie -- it appears to me that in some ways the architects -- and I do not want to sound

critical of architects -- are driving up, to some extent, the capital costs without any consideration for the financial limitations of this government. Never mind the ability to build them, because if we are going to use, as I said last week, the territorial budget as an economic instrument then no one of us can abdicate our responsibility in terms of making it simpler, if I am making sense to you. If it is an economic instrument and we have to find a way to do the building, whether

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it is an arena or a community hall or a new hamlet office, we have got to remember that if we are going to involve more Northerners, and I am confident we will, then we have got to design and take a look at our capabilities for building as well, never mind the direct costs.

So I would urge you to take control of some of your capital projects, seek approval through the cabinet to do some experimental pilot projects, or whatever the term is, and let us do some cost comparisons and 1) see if we meet the standards and quality that we want and; 2) see if there is a significant savings. If there is not, then we stand corrected, but if it is done right -- in my experience and in discussions I have had with people across the Territories, there can be savings. That is all we are trying to say.

But I think, more importantly, aesthetically buildings have got to be pleasing, no question of that. But one of the problems we had in the past with the NWT Housing Corporation was that -- and the current Minister of the Housing Corporation spoke many times in the House about it -- buildings became so damned complicated that nobody could build them. It was all outsiders that had to come in. You had to be a mathematician to understand the plumbing and ventilation systems. I think that is another factor you have to take into consideration. If you make it too complicated, then it will limit, to some extent, our ability to maximize the northern content to the projects.

So MACA, with the size of its budget and its responsibility to the community level, runs parallel in some ways and even more so than the Housing Corporation, and therefore it has to view what it does in that light, in terms of an economic instrument, getting some activity going, making sure that we have maximum Northerners involved in it and getting more for less I think we can get more for less by taking some steps to do that, and I would encourage you to

negotiate or whatever you have to do to get some freedom to do some of these things. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to briefly comment that we do welcome that advice from the standing committee on finance. Ever since this department first appeared before that committee to examine the capital budget, we have been working with DPW on precisely the approaches that the chairman has suggested --smaller scale, simpler, more cost effective approaches, to these hamlet offices, in particular.

I am pleased to report that we are not getting resistance from the Department of Public Works. They are co-operating with us. Maybe today it is a little early to say precisely what we are going to be doing in Hall Beach and Arctic Bay, the communities which were pointed out, but I do believe that we will be taking some innovative approaches there and if we can save some funds -- and I welcome the opportunity to do that while still meeting the basic standards -- then this will be of great satisfaction to me and I know, to the standing committee on finance.

I want to also mention in that connection that we have noted the strong recommendation on the Arviat water improvements, and this would be one way of advancing that project; is if we can identify some funds through new approaches to the hamlet offices, then we can apply those funds to another worthwhile priority, such as advancing the Arviat supply system. I do not want to get into detail, I guess the time would be when we get to the item, but this advice is well taken by this department and DPW, Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

General comments. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to add to some points that were made by my colleague Mr. Arvaluk, in talking about the snow problems we have in the Keewatin and the kind of vehicles that are purchased by the government.

In speaking to the hamlet workers in my communities, one of the workers was pointing out that there was a

need to purchase a front-end loader to remove snow in the wintertime, to clear the roads. The employees of the hamlet were making recommendations on the kind of vehicle they would like to see purchased for that community. Because of a government standard, I guess it must be across the Territories, they had to purchase a particular type of front-end loader which could be switched into a fork-lift or similar vehicle. Because of that the initial cost of purchasing that type of vehicle was lower than the recommendation that was being made by the hamlet council.

In the first year of operation of that vehicle there had to be major repairs made to the vehicle, because the conditions we have in the Keewatin Region are such that they require a particular type of vehicle to remove the snow. I think when the government sets standards for the Territories they must consider different areas of the Territories that will be affected by the quality of service that will be provided for those regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, my view on the budget is that the basic community infrastructure has to be in place. I notice that a number of projects from a previous year have been delayed and carried forward this year. Why have these projects not gone ahead in the previous year? Is it because we have too many projects being done by the department? Especially the basic things like fire protection, water supply and so forth. These are essential services. I have always maintained that these types of projects are essential. But I do not know why the departments are postponing some of these essential services. Could the Minister respond to that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did give the standing committee on finance a list of the carry -overs from last year and the reasons. There is a reason in every case, such as completely unexpected bid results. In one case the contractor got suddenly ill, and in another case we had a weather problem and winter came early. We do not delay important projects capriciously. I will provide more detail if you wish, but I

think in every case there has been a factor causing those delays. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

Municipal Capital Assistance Policy

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Zoe, yesterday I questioned the Minister in regard to the municipal capital assistance policy that was developed by the department. It is in relation to capital. He indicated it is in front of the government. Why was it not brought forward to Cabinet earlier?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I think the Member is incorrectly assuming that I had not brought the policy forward at the first opportunity. As soon as I was appointed this fall I realized that the issue was outstanding and had not been dealt with, for whatever reasons, by the previous government. I can assure the honourable Member that I have moved forward to consider that O and M and capital financing formula, which is a complicated matter, as quickly as I could. I do not know if it is proper for me to comment on what the previous government did, but this Minister has been making it a priority. It is a complex matter, and it has been before cabinet for some time now. I do not want to raise expectations about when it is going to be dealt with, but I want to assure the Member that it is a priority with me and I am trying to get it resolved as soon as possible, given the heavy workload in cabinet these days. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, listening to the comments of my other colleagues, I concur with them. For instance, the water supply improvements in Arviat. We notice that the problem has been there for quite a while. It seems to me that the department has not moved as quickly as they should have in terms of getting adequate

water improvements for that particular community. Mr. Chairman, maybe it is appropriate at this time, under general comments, to move a motion to that effect.

Motion To Advance Arviat Water Supply Improvements To 1992-93, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs advance the Arviat water supply improvements to 1992-93. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Before I rule on the motion, the copies will be circulated. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I think my motion is straightforward. I think a number of Members have made comments to that effect. I think the department is also aware of the urgency for this particular project to move ahead. I would encourage my colleagues to support me on this particular motion. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

I just want to make a few comments to the motion, just to add to what Mr. Zoe is saying. I would also like to add to what I was saying in the fall session on the water supply in Arviat.

I was speaking to a person in Arviat today, and he was saying that at least once a year they have to clean out the bottom of their water tanks because of the grunge that builds up in the water tanks. He said that the next time I am in Arviat, and would like to see some minnows and other bugs that go into the water tanks, he would be willing to show me that, as well.

He also indicated that at this point there is a project being run by the hamlet council to supply ice to the community for those people who do not have snowmobiles to go and pick up the ice -- it is a 15-minute drive from the community -- and they are paying people with snowmobiles to go out and get ice for them. This is a very strong issue in the community of Arviat, and I hope that everybody will be in favour of the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

--- Carried

Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more item that I would like to touch on. The department knows that each municipality usually conducts a five-year plan for priorities for their community. Some of the items that they prioritize in their capital plan do not necessarily fall under the department, and I would encourage the department to co-ordinate between the other departments the needs of various communities.

I have a situation where the department is planning a community gym for the community of Snare Lake in 1993-94. The local education authority has also requested to the Department of Education that they want a facility of some sort attached to the school. To me it appears that the departments are not talking to each other in regard to capital needs of a community. I am just indicating to the Minister and his department officials that each community usually has a five year capital plan. Could the department try to be the lead department to co-ordinate between the other departments when they are doing their capital? Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Mr. Chairman, could you permit us to move forward with four or five appropriate resolutions prior to going on a line-by-line basis with the budget, to expedite things?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Motion To Provide Only Basic Recreation Facilities To Communities, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provide communities with only the basic recreation facilities to which they are entitled according to policy.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday my good friend, the Minister of Finance, accused me of speaking out of both sides of my mouth. On this issue, really you cannot have it both ways. Either you set a criterion for communities or you do not set a criterion for communities. That is what we are trying to say. If the criterion is a medium arena or a 3000 square foot

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office building, then that is what we have to set; and that is what we are trying to say here. It is no disrespect to one community or the other. If we are going to set rules, then we are going to have to stick to these rules. If we are going to have exceptions to the rules, which of course we all are, then they have to be justified. That is all we are saying in this resolution.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Government Leader.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I was going to ask for some clarification on that. It seems to me that some of the problems that have existed are that when a community comes forward and they are entitled to a certain facility, that they do say that they would pay for it, but in fact the money is not collected at that period of time. I hope this would

allow for flexibility if a community comes forward and prepays the difference of what they are entitled to and what they would like to see, within reason. It seems to me this is what the honourable Member has stated.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

That is correct. What we are saying is we want to ensure that there will not be a continual cost as it relates to the territorial coffers, for the sake of a better word. We also have to remember that there are additional O and M costs attached to some of these buildings. That is what we are saying. We are not trying to be unduly harsh, but it should be the exception and it should be as you have suggested. I would suspect that if a community came on the front end and demonstrated its ability to find funding from other sources and put forward a strong case, that we would be sympathetic. But there is a bit of a concern within the standing committee on finance that if we proceed with this as a matter of course, that ultimately it could cost us money; and frankly, it is unfair to some of the communities that cannot.

**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

General comments. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In line with what was just discussed when we were talking about this last motion, at the standing committee on finance we had some concern about municipal surpluses and the ability of hamlets to redirect them. We recognize that there is a very important principle here that you have to respect, and that is that if one hamlet is extremely efficient with managing its money, you do not want to penalize it for having been a good fiscal manager, if

you would. But we were concerned that there also has to be the recognition that the funds that hamlets and communities are winding up with, for the most part are paid for by the territorial government in the first place.

We did not feel we should come forward with are commendation saying that all surpluses should be returned to the government, but we do feel that there is room to re-examine the policy as it sits right now and see if it makes sense. We were not confident that it was totally adequate for right now.

Motion To Re-evaluate Policy Allowing Municipalities To Retain And Redirect Surpluses, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the committee recommends that the current policy allowing municipalities to retain and redirect surpluses be re-evaluated in light of the current territorial deficit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was some concern at the standing committee on finance about this. It was not one where there was a feeling that this was necessarily a major problem right now, but we did feel that it was time the government re-examine the policy. Perhaps there may be some other incentive where we could provide for municipalities to be better fiscally managed and that might help to save the government some money in the long run.

We were not prepared to come forward with a specific recommendation on what that might be, but we would hope the department would keep this motion in mind and re examine the policy as it is right now and just ensure that they are satisfied with how it is working and if not, recommend some changes to us; and if they are satisfied, then they should be prepared to justify the policy to the Members of this House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

--- Carried

General comments. Mr. Todd.

Motion To Bring Costs Of Capital Projects Closer To  
That Of The Private Sector, Carried

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the cabinet develop a policy to bring costs for capital projects closer to those experienced by the private sector and ensure at the same time that government standards are not unreasonably high.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

The motion is in order. Mr. Todd.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Question is being called. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

General comments. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was pleased earlier to hear the Minister say that the department is listening to the standing committee on finance when we recommend that the department look at new ways of building things, making projects smaller, more simple, and ensuring standards for construction are reasonable. Only by doing our best to ensure as many projects as possible are set up so local people can work on them will we achieve an important economic goal. Value for money spent does not always mean the most square feet at the cheapest cost, or a fancy building in the end. Sometimes value for money has to include the contribution to the local economy, or as Mr. Todd and his famous friend, Brian Mulroney, are noted for saying, "Jobs, jobs, jobs."

Mr. Chairman, maybe we have to consider in some cases even a system where the whole job may not

be tendered but employment initiatives are put in place instead.

Motion To Ensure Maximization Of Value And Local Labour, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs work with local authorities and the Department of Public Works to achieve value for money spent; and further, that the department consider new ways to build capital projects that will ensure maximization of local labour and control and support of local general contractors.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Thank you. The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. The question is being called. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, earlier this afternoon Members have been referring to the department to be more flexible in terms of capital projects. For those reasons I want to move this particular motion.

Motion To Give Option Of Not Using DPW For Capital Project Management, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that all government departments and agencies be given the flexibility to use other options than the Department of Public Works for capital project management.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Zoe. The question is being called. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

General comments. Mr. Pudlat, you wanted to make a general comment.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am going to talk in Inuktitut. Please put on your receivers if you want to understand what I am saying. Now that the motion



has been dealt with, I would like to say to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, we hear the government is being told to go according to their policy when they are building capital projects. I asked the Minister of MACA yesterday, in regard to a recreation centre, how much planning they have done about the recreation centre for Sanikiluaq. He responded to me by saying that they have not done any planning for a recreation centre in Sanikiluaq. I am not aware what the previous MLA for Baffin South was told. I know that the Minister stated to me that there have not been any plans for the recreation centre yet for Sanikiluaq. I would like the Minister of MACA to consider building a recreation centre in Sanikiluaq. I know that the government is in a deficit right now and under fiscal restraint, but I know that the recreation centres are one of the first buildings built in the communities.

The Minister of MACA stated to me yesterday that there are not plans at all for a recreation centre for Sanikiluaq. I am asking the Minister of MACA, as soon as possible when he can get it going, to plan for a recreation centre for Sanikiluaq.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very direct with the honourable Member. There has just been a motion passed by this committee that standards and criteria established by the government should be respected and not varied. Sanikiluaq has a community gym. It was incorporated into the school. Sanikiluaq will have an arena in 1994-95. There is money to start that project in the capital estimates before us. They would be, I am told, under our standards, eligible for a curling rink once the arena is built, but I would not want the honourable Member to think that the community is entitled to any additional recreation facilities or a recreation complex once the gym and arena are completed. That is the recreation facilities that they are entitled to, apart from the curling rink. We are doing pretty well in Sanikiluaq according to the standards that are applied in every other community. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you had stated that yesterday when I asked that question -- I have received your answer now, thank you very much.

Directorate, Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

General comments. Does this committee wish to go page by page, starting with 13-9? Page by page, 13-9. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Detail of capital. Directorate, equipment acquisition, total region, \$30,000. Total acquisition of equipment \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total activity, \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-11, details of capital. Community works and capital planning. Buildings and works, headquarters. Total region, \$175,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Thank you. Pardon me, Members, I forgot to mention on page 13-11, Fort Smith. Fort Smith, page 13-13. Total region, \$3,299,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-14. Inuvik, total region, \$1,358,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

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Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-15. Baffin, total region, \$3,196,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-17. Keewatin, total region, \$2,907,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-18. Kitikmeot, total region, \$375,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total buildings and works, \$11,310,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment acquisition, Fort Smith, total capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Equipment acquisition, Fort Smith, total region, \$599,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment acquisition, Inuvik, total capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Inuvik, total region, \$397,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, total capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-19. Keewatin, total region, \$223,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed.

Equipment acquisition, Kitikmeot, total capital, Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$725,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Equipment acquisition, total capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$1,944,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

Contributions, headquarters, total capital. Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-20. Contributions, headquarters, \$2,477,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

Contributions, Fort Smith, total capital. Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$3,471,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed

---Agreed.

Contributions, Inuvik, total capital. Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-21. Inuvik, total region,\$2,710,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Baffin, total capital. Agreed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Baffin, total region, \$2,152,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, total capital. Agreed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-22. Total contributions, \$10,810,000, Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community works and capital planning, total capital. Agreed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total activity, \$24,064,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community Planning

Buildings and works, Hhadquarters, total capital, Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-24. Community planning, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$35,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$711,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Inuvik, total region, \$1,301,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-25. Baffin, total region, \$1,509,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-26. Keewatin, total region, \$1,772,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$736,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total buildings and works, \$6,064,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Contributions, total region, \$30,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Community Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-27. Total activity, \$6,094,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Surveys And Mapping

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-29. Surveys and mapping, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$767,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total buildings and works, \$767,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Surveys And Mapping, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total activity, \$767,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

Sport And Recreation

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-31. Sport and recreation, buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$337,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Inuvik, total region, \$160,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-32. Baffin, total region, \$709,000. Agreed?  
Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Unfortunately Mr. Pudlat is not in the House, but on the large arena for Sanikiluaq there was some concern expressed by the standing committee on finance with respect to Sanikiluaq. Sanikiluaq has 460 people and under the criteria warranted a medium arena. For a large arena you had to have 600 people. The rationale at the time was that this large arena would be partially funded by the municipality and the fact that the community was going to expand. That is a pretty weak argument.

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As to municipality partially funding, I wonder what the Minister's position is on that right now. Are we proceeding with the large arena as has been suggested here, or have we re-evaluated our position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did take the advice of the standing committee seriously when it was given to us a few months ago. We have examined this project closely. We have examined the fiscal capacity of the community to pay for the larger size and upon close examination we are not confident that fiscal capacity is there, so I have instructed my department, for planning purposes, to plan a medium size arena for this community. I think this will meet their needs for some considerable years to come. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-32. Baffin, total region, \$709,000. Agreed?  
Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, is it the understanding of the Minister that the name of the large arena should be changed to medium arena? Is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Yes, that is correct, Mr. Chairman.

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Baffin, total region, \$709,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Keewatin, total region, \$1,905,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$1,310,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Total buildings and works, \$4,421,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-33. Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$230,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$80,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Page 13-34. Inuvik, total region, \$140,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Baffin, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Keewatin, total region, \$55,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed.

Contributions, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total contributions, \$605,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Sport And Recreation, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Page 13-35, total activity, \$5,026,000. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

With regard to the above ground pool enclosure, Norman Wells, \$70,000, how big is the pool?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is 20 feet by 40 feet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total activity, \$5,026,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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--- Agreed

Lands, Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Page 13-37, lands, buildings and works, total region, \$370,000.

Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total buildings and works, \$370,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Lands, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total activity, \$370,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Page 13-7. Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, program summary, total capital expenditures, \$36,351,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Does this conclude Municipal and Community Affairs? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister, we thank you and your witnesses for your time. Next is the Department of Transportation. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

If I could recommend that we continue, and continue with the Department of Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

Department Of Transportation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Allooloo, as Minister of Transportation, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the Members of the Legislative Assembly with the 1992-93 capital estimates for the Department of Transportation. In October 1990 the NWT transportation strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The strategy deals with transportation as a key component in meeting the economic, social and political needs and aspirations of the people of the NWT. This strategy recommends major capital expenditures for improving and expanding our transportation facilities. Its detailed proposals offer a guide for the investments of both the federal and territorial governments in northern transportation.

Within the mandate of the territorial government, the proposed capital estimates for next year follow directly from the objectives set out in the NWT transportation strategy. For those parts of the strategy that still belong to the federal mandate, I will continue, as your Minister of Transportation, to press the federal government on delivering its responsibilities in the North.

The capital estimates propose expenditures of almost \$11 million on community airports. We must replace or rehabilitate worn out maintenance equipment. The department will finish the runway rehabilitation projects at Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay and begin runway work in Sanikiluaq and Repulse Bay. There is work to be done on the air terminal buildings at Arviat, Igloodik, Rankin Inlet and Coppermine. A garage will be built in Holman, and the runway extension will be completed in Chesterfield Inlet. Work will continue on the new airport at Snare Lakes.

The department will complete the new airport in Rae Lakes and continue with the new airports in Paulatuk, Snowdrift and Lac Ja Martre. Through a contributions agreement with Transport Canada, the NWT recovers from the federal government 50 cents of every dollar the department spends on these projects.

We will be spending over \$22 million on the highway system, including the ferries. Funds must be set aside for the replacement and rehabilitation of maintenance equipment and facilities. The new ferry at Fort Simpson will be launched this summer. Work will continue on a major upgrading program of the arterial highways between Enterprise and Fort Providence and north to Rae-Edzo. Work is also planned on the Dempster Highway, the Fort Smith Highway near Hay River and the highway near Yellowknife.

Just over \$300,000 will be spent on new roads in the new year. Between Fort Simpson and Wrigley, work will start on the Willowlake River bridge. Once the bridge is ready, the ferry in service at Fort Simpson, the M.V. Johnny Berens, will move to Camsell Bend. This will open the Mackenzie Highway as far as Wrigley for year-round, all-weather use. The Mackenzie Highway extension is scheduled for opening in the summer of 1994.

The responsibility for any more new road projects remains with the Government of Canada. The department will continue to pursue negotiations with the federal government to win its long-term commitment to new northern roads.

Five hundred thousand dollars is scheduled for the construction of the community access roads. Plans for the new year includes completion of the Swan Lakes road in Gjoa Haven. The department will also continue bringing the winter road at Jean Marie River up to fair weather status.

Community marine facilities may support sealift, commercial fisheries or local small aircraft activities.



The community wharves program aims at giving shelter to small boats in the communities. Facilities for sealift and commercial fisheries are federal responsibilities. The proposed estimates include almost one million dollars for community wharves. This year, the department will finish the breakwaters in Arctic Bay and Sanikiluaq and continue with the breakwater projects in Broughton Island, Gjoa Haven and Igloolik.

The Department of Transportation is working with the federal government departments that have marine

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responsibilities in the Arctic. We are pushing the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to proceed with a major harbour development at Pangnirtung. The department is working with Fisheries and Oceans and the Coast Guard to establish the possibility of bringing the sealift to Pelly Bay. It will continue to show both Fisheries and Oceans and the Coast Guard where communities are in need of improved sealift landings, harbours and wharves.

In brief, Mr. Chairman, these are the highlights of the Department of Transportation's proposed 1992-93 capital program. In delivering its programs, the Department of Transportation uses its expenditures as opportunities to stimulate and to promote northern and local training, employment and business ventures.

In the first 11 months of the past fiscal year, the department awarded 490 contracts with a value of \$46 million. The northern content value of these contracts was \$39.5 million, representing 86 per cent of the total project expenditures. Almost half the northern content component, \$18.8 million, went to local contractors and subcontractors. Next year the department will strive to do even better in advancing local training, employment and business opportunities. We will also carry on next year with our efforts to remind the federal government of its responsibilities for northern transportation.

Mr. Chairman, as the Minister of Transportation, I think this is a worthwhile and important capital program for the future of the Northwest Territories. I hope the Members will agree and give their support for our proposal. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before I ask you to bring in your witnesses, we will have a five minute break.

**--- SHORT RECESS**

Will this committee come to order? I wonder if the Minister would like to bring in witnesses. Mr. Minister?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to bring in some witnesses.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does this committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--- Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Agreed. Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the acting deputy minister of Transportation, Mr. Andrew Gamble.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. I wonder if the chairman of the finance committee would like to make an opening remark. Mr. Todd.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are only a few remarks with respect to Transportation. The Minister of Transportation indicated that the transportation planning activity for 1992-93, which is approximately \$26,000,000, was entirely comprised of enhancements. One of the problems we had with this was the difficulty in justification for the expenditures. In other words, how do you quantify some of the reconstruction of highways in Yellowknife, the Jean Marie access road, and things of that nature? Our concern was not that transportation is not a critical component to the northern economy but that at this

difficult time these enhancements, adding to existing infrastructure, given some of the financial difficulties we have -- maybe that money should be put somewhere else. We believe, as we said, with the capital budget, that Transportation is potentially, as is MACA and other departments, a significant economic instrument, but we had some difficulties in seeing where the department linked their expenditures and their financial instruments together. While, as the Minister said, the department boasts a high degree of northern content in its projects, we did observe some major contracts going to southern suppliers. For example, there was a \$2.3 million contract that went to Carmacks Construction for asphaltic surfacing of Highway No. 1. Although the department did maintain that the company used northern labour, we still believe there must have been a significant leakage of dollars, whether it was in tax dollars, et cetera, to the South.

With respect to Transportation's budget, we are going to recommend in general resolutions that cabinet re-examine priorities from a cost-benefit analysis in light of other fundamental needs. Do you pave a highway, or put water and sewer into a place? Those are the kinds of issues that we talked about. We think the department should use its capital budget to ensure that there is maximum benefits to Northerners -- employment and training we have all talked about -- but I think the department has a responsibility, not just to develop a transportation infrastructure, but to ensure that transportation infrastructure and policies clearly meet the needs of the training and employment components of Northerners.

The other concern was that the Transportation infrastructure be approved, where it can be substantiated that it is conducive to the development of industry. What we mean by that is, the Pangnirtung situation where you have got a fisheries industry, yet we understand the runway does not have the capacity to haul out a 748 loaded with fish. Do you know what I am saying? There have to be some linkages, I guess, between some of the developments that are taking place in the country, whether it is fisheries or logging or whatever, with the Department of Transportation. I guess that is what we are trying to say here. If, for example, the Pangnirtung fishery is a significant economic instrument that provides long-term jobs to Northerners, then when the Department of Transportation looks at its capital budget it should keep that in mind if there is a requirement, for example, for expanding the runway, whether or not it can be done, et cetera. Right now, what is happening

is, in that particular example, they are not able to haul full loads of fish out.

The last point we would like to make is, the department re-evaluated standards to ensure they are reasonable in light of what this government can afford. This is consistent with what we said to all departments. If all you can afford is a Ford, let us make sure you buy a Ford and not a Cadillac. I do not think our position is any different here than it has been with MACA or any other departments.

Enhancements should be justified on their return. There has to be some way to quantify why we are hard-topping a highway, why we are building a road, et cetera. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My constituency is fortunate to have one of the highways available to them. Our highway has been in place for well over 20 years, and even though I recognize it is a fairly good gravelled highway, I believe it has been overlooked by the Department of Transportation in their planning. We have recognized that many highways, particularly

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from the border into Hay River, into Pine Point, have all had the opportunity of paving. The highway to Providence and along into Yellowknife is getting the opportunity of being totally reconstructed and paved, in order to formulate a good baseline. The Highway No. 5 that I am speaking of, in respect to the Pine Point junction, Buffalo River junction where there is a highway camp there, into Fort Smith, has had some pavement, very little pavement. However there is gravel from Sandy Lake into Fort Smith.

In question period in this House I have asked the Minister about Highway No. 5. It been a gravel highway with some hard-top pavement from Bell Rock to Fort Smith, which is only about eight miles out of the community. I asked if there was any intention to further pave the highway because they have paved in all other parts of the Territories.

I think the concern I have here -- and I recognize the fiscal dilemma and the environment we are in -- however, at the same time there are many highways

being paved with no actual plan by the department. I believe the department is basically saying they are being paved because of the demand. Well, you can argue that point because generally a paved highway will warrant more usage, would like more usage, but it appears that this is being overlooked. There are plans in the department's budget, except for \$900,000 which states Highway No. 5, kilometre zero to 60 for actual overlay on the cold mix or hard-top that they have now. But that is not even toward the Fort Smith highway, it is from Hay River to the Pine Point junction. And there are no future plans for addressing this particular highway from the Buffalo River junction to Fort Smith.

I am concerned that not only are there no plans to address this particular highway with hard-top paving, but I am also concerned whether or not the maintenance of that particular highway and possibly even the highway from Pine Point into Resolution will even be maintained in future years.

So I would like to know, in respect to the department's plans, whether they have reconsidered at all whether or not they can address the concern on Highway No. 5, from the Pine Point junction into Fort Smith.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our plan at the current time for Highway No. 5 is to pave it at some point in the future, but our immediate plan, as the Member stated, does not take into account paving in the near future. We plan to do some paving starting in 1997.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the concern and recognizing that the highways have been paved, basically, to address the issue of safety and to address the issue of ensuring that we try to place forth proper highways in the Territories, and recognizing that Highway No. 5 does have a good solid base, it is not like many of the other highways where the base has to be dug up and re-formed. I would like to know if the Minister would reconsider and look at the highway needs in respect to paving, prior to 1997.

The concern I have is that this highway has been partially paved away back in 1984 and nothing has been done since then. You travel from the Pine Point turnoff into Fort Smith and you go 30 miles of pavement, and all of a sudden by Sandy Lake it comes to a dead halt and you go onto gravel. I do not think that is proper planning. Would the Minister reconsider finishing up what they started to do in 1984, prior to 1997?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could review our projections for paving Highway No. 5 but based on the cost and benefit analysis point of view.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I got an answer that he would like to but because it is based on the cost and benefit or will he reconsider looking at that item?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been told by the standing committee on finance throughout this capital budget review that we have to quantify or justify the projects, and also show some sort of a balance for the money we are spending on the projects, we have to justify it; and in our information at this point, the areas where we need to spend our money, is to maintain what we have in terms of capital projects, replacing the maintenance equipment, and also improving and maintaining roads where the traffic is the greatest. Our figures show that the area that we need to work on the most is the Mackenzie Highway from Enterprise and up Highway No. 3 arterial highways, and what I am saying to the Member is that, yes, we will look at Highway No. 5, but if we are going to pave it we will have to look at the cost and benefit factors of paving the highway. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am cognizant of the fact that the SCOF did ask them to quantify their projects, but the point I am trying to make to the Minister is the fact that Highway No. 5 has been partially paved for the past six years, if not more -- seven years. All of a sudden, in the middle of nowhere along that highway, you have the pavement come to a dead end and you go back onto gravel, and there does not seem to be any planning to address the remaining portion of that paving. It is not as if I am talking about a highway cost when you compare it to the Yellowknife highway, or the Providence highway, where you have to fix up a whole new base. The base on Highway No. 5 is an excellent base, and the cost to place the paving and complete the project they started would not be comparable to those other highways. I want the Minister to be conscious of that.

The other concern I have is in respect to basically saying, "depending on the demand on the highway." Well, everyone knows that you prefer to drive on a paved highway rather than on a gravel highway, so there is no doubt the demand on the highway between the border and Hay River, or the border and the old Pine Point road, or the border and Providence or Yellowknife will be a lot greater, because people would prefer to go on a paved highway rather than a gravel highway. So how can you get the demand up if you just have a gravel highway to drive on? But I guess what I am concerned about is that there is no indication of this department completing the job they started seven years ago, even though I recognize they were not a department then, but the government had placed paving on that highway and they have not completed it, and there is no indication that they are even going to make attempts to complete it. Initially, why did they pave it if they decided they were not going to finish it? This is why I would like to get some indication as to how the Minister is going to address it.

I do not feel it is fair that as residents we should have to wait until 1997 to ask the department to try to

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finish up the job they started away back in the middle of 1980. I think it is only fair that we can ask them to complete the job that they started. So I can get some indication as to the Minister's viewpoints on this, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, when paving was started on this highway seven years ago, the department never intended to pave the highway right through at that point, but to pave it at some point in the future. What we will have to do, if we are going to pave the highway, is to do some construction in areas where we would have to widen where it is too narrow to pave, and also we will prioritize our projects based on benefit and cost analysis.

Mr. Chairman, we do have a plan but unfortunately the plan, or the expenditure that is given to our department, does not allow us to address all of the requests that are coming into our department, such as reconstruction of the highways, maintenance of the highways or even paving the highways. We could only address these in some areas.

Mr. Chairman, we are willing to sit down and see if the costs and benefits in paving the highway override other priorities, and then we will probably change some of the projects. If the Legislative Assembly wants us to do that. At the moment, our information tells us that the work that is needed the most is on Highway 3, where the need is the greatest, and the usage of the highway is the greatest. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that is one of the things that concerns me with the way the government plans. The Minister just stated that in order to address this highway, or any other highway in the Territories, they try to address where the need is the greatest. Does that mean that the communities where they do not feel the need is the greatest get overlooked? I look at the government and I think, look at the thousands, probably millions, of dollars they spent to pave toward Pine Point because the need was the greatest.

Now you have a highway paved into nowhere, where there was a community and there is nothing now. You then started to take the Pine Point junction highway and pave it toward Fort Smith. Thirty miles of that highway was pavement because there were people in

Pine Point who had cottages out at Sandy Lake, and they probably do not use them now. You stopped right there without any future plans for paving. That is the irritating part, that you go where the need is the greatest. Where is Pine Point today?

All I am asking you is to continue with the plan that your Department officials started seven years ago. I seem to get the same redundant response of cost and benefit. Is it fair that because there is no demand and you do not have a cost analysis with respect to how much it is going to cost for that highway that they have to maintain the gravel highway that they have? I am really getting irritated by receiving the response of "on cost benefit" when there was never any consideration to even do a cost benefit analysis. I am really irritated by the fact that you paved -- and spent thousands of tax dollars -- to a community where you do not even have a community anymore, to an area where you had to service these elite cottages, and never continued completing your plan. You are not even going to consider completing your plan. I would like to know if you would reconsider looking at that highway and finish what you started to do?

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, once again, will he consider my request in completing the highway that they started to pave back in the middle 1980s, and complete the work that his department took on? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, yes we have plans in place that will complete the paving of Highway No. 5. We have it in our plans to complete that paving, but that is some time in the future, unfortunately. My department has done cost and benefit studies on all of the highways in the NWT. We have priorities that are higher priorities than Highway No. 5. Our plan is to complete the paving of that highway, but I cannot give a definite answer and commitment of when that will be. But our tentative plan tells me that we will start paving it in 1997. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the way the department plans? They start off a project in 1985 and then they attempt to complete the project 12 years later? That is exactly what is happening with this particular highway. Is that the way the Minister plans?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, at the time when the project started there was no plan, I am told, to pave Highway No. 5 right through. I would like to ask my deputy minister to answer part of the question, if you will allow me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Gamble. Thebacha.

**MR. GAMBLE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time that that paving on the Fort Smith highway was done, it was not in the plan to pave all the way to Fort Smith. We did an area near Fort Smith; we did the area between Pine Point and Hay River and between the junction and that access road. Those are the areas with the highest traffic at the time. We did not stop the plan to pave the Fort Smith highway. We did not have a plan to pave the whole thing at that time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I guess this is the point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, and it is unfortunate I have to take up so much time, but I am going to dwell on this point until I seem to get it across to the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, they started this paving because they said the demand was basically there, and it was an access road that they paved, from Pine Point to this access road. At no point in time was that an access road that they paved. They paved the highway and they paved from Sandy Lake to Pine Point junction. And because of the demand there -- it was because people used these cottages on the weekend to go to Sandy Lake -- so they decided to take this Pine Point junction highway and pave it to Sandy Lake so people could make use of their cottages, just like they do

here in Yellowknife where they go out to their cottages on Ingraham Trail.

All I am stating is that there was no consideration at that time to complete their plan from Sandy lake to Fort Smith. I think that is totally poor planning on the department's part and I do not agree with it. Why did they even pave that portion of the highway for people to go to their cottages on the weekend, without any consideration toward completing the paving of the total highway?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am told that when we

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paved the highway from Pine Point to Sandy Lake, there was a considerable amount of traffic. At the time when the paving was done, the department's paving program was driven by where the need was greatest, where the traffic was the greatest, and at the time when the paving was done seven years ago, there was considerable traffic going into that particular area. We also did some paving from Fort Smith to Bell Rock. As the Member stated, there is paving there in the Fort Smith area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, my question still has not been answered. I guess if I take the rest of the day to dwell on this, I am going to have to. You know, Highway No. 5 was paved from the Pine Point junction toward the Sandy Lake turnoff where people could access their cottages back in 1985, and the Minister is trying to indicate to me that there was a considerable amount of traffic on that highway. Well, I know that there has still been a considerable amount of traffic on that highway, and I know that there has been a considerable number of accidents on that highway also, and that the accidents have been on the gravel portion of that highway. It upsets me that the Minister has not given any consideration toward finishing off the paving that his department started back in 1985. I know he stated that he tries to address the need where it is greatest, but the point I am trying to make

is that the community of Fort Smith has been there for well over 100 years, and we are still there, and it is totally unfair that I, as a Member, have to sit here and tolerate the answer, "where the need is greatest" knowing we have spent millions of dollars as a government. This government has spent millions of dollars to pave a highway toward Pine Point, which is no longer there. I do not know how many residents live in Pine Point, and our highway is not given any consideration for future paving. Now where is the department's planning? How do they plan? I want to know if they are going to consider paving and completing the job they started back in 1985, prior to 1997, because I will not tolerate your department completing the work 12 years later than when you began.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you. Currently, our plan tells us that we do not plan to completely pave Highway No. 5 before 1997. We have no plans to pave it before 1997.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Can the Minister advise this House as to how his department developed their plan?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department establishes the priorities based on the Northwest Territories transportation strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 1990. It identifies four strategic objectives which link transportation priorities to our economic, social and political needs and aspirations. This strategy includes, in addition to GNWT priorities, priorities for federal and provincial and private sector expenditure in the North. It also encompasses O and M well as capital expenditures.

In reviewing the 1992-93 departmental capital it must be noted that our plan only includes capital, and it only includes those program areas for which the NWT

has a responsibility. Most of the transportation capital for 1992-93 falls within objective one, improving and maintaining what we have. Given these qualifications the capital plan is entirely consistent with the transportation strategy, and based upon the usage of the highway and also the cost-benefit analysis that the department has done, our priorities are set. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

In their analysis when they developed their plan, Mr. Chairman, do they take into consideration the existence of communities that have been in the Territories? Do they take into consideration the needs of the communities? That particular highway from Fort Smith to the Pine Point junction was probably there longer than the Pine Point highway itself, and it seems like the Pine Point highway got paving and ours has only been ad hoc, if I can use the word, partially paved. What seems to be some of the points here is that this government addresses areas and the way they spend their money, areas of pavement or areas of highways; I think the Minister is trying to say to me that the demand is not as great. How do we anticipate the demand to be great if people know they have to travel on this highway which is a gravel highway? In regard to safety, why has he not taken that into consideration, the number of people who have got into accidents on the gravel highway. It would be interesting to know what the Minister's plans are from the Pine Point turnoff to Fort Resolution. There is probably no consideration on paving on that highway until after the year 2000, by the way their department officials seem to plan.

As for the Minister stating that they have to do construction in areas where it is too narrow to pave, there are very few parts, if any, where construction needs to be done, because that highway base has been there for so long. To state that it is too narrow to pave, I do not agree with that. Because it is not too narrow to pave.

But what I do want to obtain from the Minister is whether the Minister will make a commitment to review his departmental plans, his transportation strategy which I know he has in place, which even has a highway from here to the Keewatin, which I do not know if they will achieve. But I want to know if he will make a commitment to review his departmental

plan and determine whether his department can finish the paving that he started back in 1985, before 1997?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will review the plans for paving and reconstruction of Highway No. 5. As for the Fort Resolution highway, our tentative plan tells us that the paving and reconstruction of the highway would be the same as that of Fort Smith.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker. Did the Minister indicate that he will review the plans to look at that highway prior to its being considered for paving in 1997?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

We will look at our plans again, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Member for Nahendeh.

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**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments on Transportation. My constituency is fortunate to have highways, and it is very important for us to have them. We also have airports, but I will speak on the highways first. Presently, we have all-weather highways connecting us into BC and to Enterprise. My main concern on the highways is that I would like to see the highway completed into Wrigley. I am also very interested in having this government pursue completing the highway into Fort Norman, Norman Wells and eventually all the way down the Mackenzie Valley.

I know that there is highway going into the Delta from the Yukon, but I think if a highway is eventually built down the valley it will greatly benefit the whole valley, especially the communities of Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Fort Franklin and, course, Wrigley as well. They would greatly benefit from such an infrastructure because it would open up the country. The tourists would like to come into our area and that would be good for the tourist industry. It would be an infrastructure that would generate economic development by utilizing the resources that are in the valley. My main concern is mainly a long-range kind of thing that I would like to see eventually.

I know that people in the past have raised this issue many times. I want to put on record that I am very supportive of such a highway being built. I heard from the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Economic Development when I mentioned that, and their answer was, "That highway along the valley is included with a highway to the Kitikmeotarea and also the Keewatin area." Realistically, the most realistic approach to it is to complete that highway down the valley first, and that is the point that I want to make.

I would like to see some initiative from the government to eventually complete this highway, but we do it a little bit at a time, and the little bit I am talking about is completing that bridge at Willowlake River. It was planned, from what I understand, for some time, and the people in Wrigley told me as soon as I got elected that that bridge was supposed to be going in this year. I am told it was bumped back by one year and that there are some funds in there to do developmental work on it. It is a positive thing that it is going to happen, because they have been planning to put a bridge in, and it is like inching along up the valley. At least it is initiative, but I would like to see a bigger approach than that. I know there is money in the budget this year to do some developmental work at the Willowlake River, but it would be very positive for us if it was more than what it is, in there.

For the highway north of Wrigley to Fort Norman, years ago when the highway was put into my region it was built through a Hire North project of the federal government, and the local people worked and built the roads there. The right-of-way clearing, all the big trees, have been cleared all the way to Fort Norman from Wrigley already. I have travelled on that winter road, and it is obvious that some money was spent to clear the right of way many years ago. Of course, it was so long ago that willows have grown on this right-of-way and it needs to be cleared again, but all the

bigger trees have been cut down, so there has been a start in that direction.

My point is that there was some money spent on the beginning of the highway from Wrigley to Fort Norman already, because the right of way has already been cleared, and it is just a matter of doing some more work.

I have got a letter here from 1985. I think that was the last time I could find out that there were some figures on how much it would cost at that time to build a highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells, and the figure for different sized roads -- I think the widest one is 10.4 meters wide, and it is \$156,172,000. The second widest is 8,5 meters wide. It is 18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and \$145,569,000. For 7.3 meters wide, it is \$136,912,000. These are the figures I have been able to find, but they are 1985 figures and since that time, with inflation, it has probably jumped quite a bit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

The hour is now 6:00 o' clock and the Chair will rise and report progress.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 5-12(2), Bill 14, and Committee Report 3-12(2), and wishes to report that Committee Report 5-of 12(2) is concluded and seven motions have been adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**--- Carried**

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



**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation after adjournment this evening and of the ordinary Members' caucus at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

**ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Friday, March 6, 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: Motion 6-12(2)
16. First Reading of Bills: Bill 20 and Bill 21
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)

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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 adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 6, 1992.

**--- ADJOURNMENT**