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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Monday, March 9, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 33-12(2): Teachers' Collective Bargaining

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the bargaining committees for this government and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association have signed a memorandum of agreement. Before a new collective agreement is signed, the memorandum must be accepted by the Financial Management Board and the membership of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

Over the past few weeks, in this House, we have talked about the challenges facing us. I believe there are three main themes: 1) We need to reshape northern government; 2) we need to improve our financial situation as there are serious financial problems. The Minister of Finance said in his Budget Address that we could have an accumulated deficit of close to \$100 million by the end of the next fiscal year; and 3) we need to maintain a stable and professional public service. This is essential. As I stated to this House on February 19, 1992, our staff's abilities, contributions, and ideas are needed.

The memorandum of agreement that was signed this morning will help us achieve each of the three goals. The teachers' association must be congratulated for the leadership role it is taking. The agreement is for two years. This will provide stability and certainty.

The economic increase is zero per cent in September 1992, and 1.8 per cent in September 1993. I believe this is fair and fiscally responsible. The agreement provides a mechanism for rewriting the collective agreement to clean up outdated and unclear language.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I do not think we have ever been confronted with more serious problems in collective bargaining. I am pleased with the memorandum that was signed. It shows a balance between our commitment to fiscal responsibility and our commitment to our employees. It provides a valuable mechanism for teachers to participate in the reshaping of our education system. Again, I would like to congratulate the teachers' association on the leadership role it has taken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members will join me in welcoming the grade six French immersion class from St. Joseph School.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Opposition To May Survey Of Peary Caribou

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to express the concerns of our fellow Canadians, especially the people in High Arctic, on the decreasing population of the Peary caribou in Arctic communities, on Queen Elizabeth Island. We have known about the decreasing population of the Peary caribou. Without being told by government, the people in the High Arctic started using a conservation method and decided they would not kill a lot of caribou. In the 1960s the caribou were migrating from those islands to other parts. For many years the populations were decreasing, and now they seem to be increasing again in the Arctic Islands. We do not want these caribou to be depleted, so we have agreed up in the northern communities to conserve these caribou.

There have been some surveys done, and now they want to do a survey this spring, in May. I believe May is not an appropriate month to do a survey because the new calves will be born in and around May. They will be using airplanes and helicopters when they are

conducting their survey, and they will be affecting these caribou, especially during the birthing periods. We, as Canadians, and the High Arctic people, have agreed to not have this survey conducted during the month of May. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not done but my two minutes are up.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you asking for unanimous consent to proceed, Mr. Pudluk?

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, if it is okay, I would like unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, fellow MLAs. This has been a question, especially from the community of Resolute. We are totally against the survey going on in the month of May, because of the conditions when these caribou calves are born. It is quite cold still in the month of May up in the Arctic Islands, and at night some of these calves get very weak. If there was to be a survey done with the airplanes and the helicopters, a lot of calves would go through a hard time with these disturbances.

The people doing the surveys would have to abide by the rules of our people in the communities about the Peary caribou, if we want to protect them and conserve them. If they are just going to be disturbing

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them, especially at the early stages of their young lives, it will not help with the conservation or increasing their population. I do not want the survey to be done in May. Either before May or after May would be an ideal time.

They have not exactly spoken about their opposition, but they have stated that the month of May is not an appropriate time to do these surveys. This is a big concern today, and we would like to work with these people who will be conducting the surveys and the conservation organizations of these Peary caribou. We would like to work with them and support them so we can reach a common goal. We have not totally opposed them, but I just want to let them know that the time they have stated for the survey is not appropriate. Mr. Speaker, that is the end of my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Clean-Up Of PCBs, Coral Harbour

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has been carrying out research to find out whether dump sites and other materials left by US military during the post-war are contaminated with PCBs and other chemicals. They have found no PCB contaminants, and for that reason they may place the Coral Harbour clean-up as a low priority.

One can notice that if the federal government is stating that it will take three millions dollars to clean it up, then I can tell you there is a lot of garbage out there. There are barrels on the shoreline. There are old buildings that they have tried to collapse and they are still standing there; in fact, the old dump site is still very much present.

UMA Engineering Ltd., engineering planners and surveyors of Edmonton, have recommended that since there have been no PCBs found there, the clean-up should be done with the local workers with the available equipment. The community of Coral Harbour has commented that since there is a local contractor with heavy equipment, with qualified operators, the clean-up should be done by them, provided it is done over a five-year period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to strongly recommend to their federal counterparts to initiate the co-ordination and funding for this project as soon as is practical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On Uqqurmiut Centre, Pangnirtung

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, May 31st will mark the first anniversary of the opening of the Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts and Crafts in Pangnirtung. This centre is owned and operated by the Uqqurmiut Inuit Artists Association, of which I have the pleasure of being a volunteer board member. Other volunteer board members are: Rose Okpik, the chairperson; Lazalusie Ishulutaq; Josea Maniapik; Ipeelee Alivaktuk; Judy Anililiak; Geela Keenainak; Joeline Maniapik; Jamasie Mike; and Simon Shaimaiyuk.

The Uqqurmiut Inuit Artists Association was originally founded in 1987 when the community became concerned about the potential closure of our print shop. The association established itself as a

corporation without share capital on April 27, 1988, thereby opening the door to accessing government assistance as a not-for-profit community venture. Membership in this unique organization is open to all Inuit artists of Pangnirtung for a nominal fee. The company is owned in common by the artists of Pangnirtung and all proceeds are used to benefit the arts community.

But, Mr. Speaker, Uqqurmiut is far more than just an arts and crafts enterprise. The association's mission is aimed at keeping the traditional and contemporary art of the Eastern Arctic alive. Emphasis is placed on allowing artists not only to participate in, but also to control, the development and marketing of their products.

The association also works to keep our heritage alive through educational programming. This will be the third year that high school students in Pangnirtung will be invited to participate in special programs which teach basic weaving skills.

The association offers regular Saturday workshops for any members of our community who wish to learn traditional artistic techniques, and it has sponsored our young artists to attend Arctic College workshops throughout the Baffin Region.

Ms. Okpik has also represented the North as a delegate to the federal task force on museums and First Peoples. Uqqurmiut has exciting plans for the development of carving, print making and archive facilities within its already successful arts centre...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike, you have exceeded your time limit.

MS. MIKE: I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MS. MIKE: Uqqurmiut has exciting plans for the development of carving, print making and archive facilities within its already successful arts centre. The board will continue to take an active approach to fund-raising to support these new developments. It is my hope that the Government of the Northwest Territories will be able to assume an enabling role in assisting these fund-raising initiatives, rather than hindering the development of this unique organization with bureaucratic regulations. The people of Pangnirtung need and support Uqqurmiut. I trust that the

government of the Northwest Territories realizes this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past three weeks there has been a great deal of debate in this House regarding the Workers' Compensation Board. Members on this side of the House, myself included, are seriously concerned about that organization and its operation. We have raised many different issues and concerns; issues and concerns that have not been answered satisfactorily.

As most of the Members are aware, I served for eight years on this board before I was elected to the Legislative Assembly. It has recently been brought to my attention that members of this board and staff have been putting together a record of the time I spent travelling on that board, how I voted, what I said, when and where I travelled. I am not sure this information is true, but frankly, it does not surprise me the least bit. I do not know what purpose it serves to do this. Perhaps they hope that I will back off from holding them accountable in decision-making.

However, I want to assure the board, and more importantly, injured workers and Members of this

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House, I have no intention of refraining from performing my duties in this House. I will continue to question this board to ensure it lives up to its obligations to serve all injured workers in the Northwest Territories. I should think that the board has much better things to do than to dig up my old records. If not, they should perhaps read Hansard for the past three weeks and be reminded of the issues that it could begin working with. I am sure that Members and committees of this House will continue to examine the board and its operations in detail over the next two or three months. Thank you.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O172-12(2): Secretary/Manager For Jean Marie River

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Antoine on February 27, 1992, about the community secretary's position in Jean Marie River. The community secretary position in Jean Marie River is a GNWT staff position. Unfortunately, we have not found a qualified candidate in Jean Marie River. As there is no accommodation in Jean Marie River, this position has not been staffed by an outside candidate. The Department of Public Works has been working with the community to construct a duplex on a lease-back basis for staff housing. It is likely that the unit would be available in the summer of 1993.

The department asked Public Works that consideration be given to temporary accommodation. Economic Development and Tourism officials met with the community March 3, 1992, to put together a proposal for the community's development corporation to purchase a trailer unit and lease it to the government for a staff unit. Depending on approval dates, a trailer could be delivered on the winter road or on the barge. Subject to approval of temporary accommodation, the department could staff the community secretary position in July 1992. In the meantime, the department is assisting the community by funding a works co-ordinator, part-time, in the community, and has hired a clerk in Fort Simpson to maintain their financial records. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a definite need to review the existing Workers' Compensation Act, particularly with respect to the provision which grants exclusive jurisdiction to the board. I wrote to the Minister before the beginning of this session with regard to these concerns. It is unfortunate that information from or about the Workers' Compensation Act has still not come. I have no choice but to ask the Minister about the matter today. Could the Minister responsible for

the Worker's Compensation Board advise the House whether or not an internal review has been initiated on the Workers' Compensation Act?

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

Return To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have met several times now with the Workers' Compensation Board and the chairman, and it has been brought to my attention that in the view of the board and the chairman, the act needs updating. One obvious issue that has been discussed in this House is the year's maximum insurable remuneration, YMIR, which I have asked for advice on from the board. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Member means by internal review, but to answer his question, yes, I am working with the board and also on my own, looking at the act with a view to improving it, updating it, to cover the YMIR and other issues that have been brought to my attention. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the problem with the Workers' Compensation Board is that the legislation states that the board has exclusive jurisdiction over the workers' compensation matters. Is it the Minister's position that this precludes the board from any sort of accountability to the Legislative Assembly or to the people of the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board chairman reports to the Legislature through me, and therefore I would certainly answer the honourable Member that there is an accountability to this Legislature. I would also say that there are policies of this government which can give the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board authority to direct the board in certain matters. So there are several ways which the WCB is accountable to this Legislature through the Minister responsible.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

MR. GARGAN: I am not too clear on what the Minister is saying. In which ways is the Workers' Compensation Board accountable to this Legislative Assembly? The act says they do have exclusive jurisdiction over workers' compensation matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think the first obvious element of accountability is that it is the Minister who is appointed through this Legislature and assigned responsibilities by the Government Leader, who appoints the chairperson and the Workers' Compensation Board members. So in that sense they are creatures, indirectly, of this House. There is an accountability there.

I would say in response to the honourable Member's specific question about exclusive jurisdiction that it is certainly true that with regard to actual compensation cases and appeals of those cases, it is not possible for the Minister to overrule the board on a case or appeal. So in situations like that, I would agree with

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the honourable Member that they do have exclusive jurisdiction, which does put them beyond reach of the Minister of this Legislature. But I would also say that there are many ways by which they are accountable to this Legislature, one being the need to approve their budget, for example, which must be placed before this House in the usual fashion.

So it is not a simple question to answer, Mr. Speaker, but there are some ways in which they are certainly accountable, and I am open to responding as best I can in areas of concern that Members may have about the actions of the board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your last supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was under the impression that the only way the Minister is

involved with the Workers' Compensation Board was with regard to the appointments. I was not too sure if he is also responsible for the implementation of policies that have been developed by the WCB. Is the Minister involved with the policies that are being developed by the Workers' Compensation Board, and does it require his approval prior to it being a policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O283-12(2): Internal Review Of Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think section 8 of the Workers' Compensation Act does make it fairly clear that with regard to the settling of claims, determining the degree of disability, determining whether earning capacity has or has not been impaired by reason of an accident, determining the amount of remuneration, questions like that, I think it is quite clear, Mr. Speaker, that the board has an exclusive jurisdiction that gives them the final say apart from the possibility of a court reviewing for an error of law or failure to exercise natural justice.

So those kinds of policies, policies with respect to issues like the lump sum payment issue which I know is of concern to Members, I believe that the act gives the board, as the Member says, exclusive jurisdiction. Having said that though, Mr. Speaker, being a creature of this Legislature and the board and its chairman being appointed by a Minister accountable to this Legislature, I would hope that there would also be such a good working relationship that the Minister responding to concerns of MLAs in this House, can at least have an influence on policies relating to claims. I certainly am attempting to do that, to raise concerns of Members, to have an impact on the policies that are made with respect to cases and claims.

I am not trying to be evasive, Mr. Speaker, but I think that there is no clear answer to this complicated question, although the board does have an exclusive jurisdiction by virtue of section 8. I think there are other sections, including the responsibility for the very appointment of the board, that mean that the Minister and this Legislature through the Minister, can and should have a good deal of influence on how the board formulates its policies with respect to workers.

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

Question O284-12(2): Workers' Compensation Lump Sum Payments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Since he has basically indicated in this House that section 8 of the Workers' Compensation Act gives the board exclusive jurisdiction, can the Minister indicate to this House how he intends to address the area of the lump sum payment policy, where basically now the act allows that policy to only be developed by the board in isolation, without participation from the Minister? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O284-12(2): Workers' Compensation Lump Sum Payments

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board reports to me, I intend to influence the board's policy and attitude on the lump sum payment issue, by discussions and advice to the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O285-12(2): Local Input In Study Of Peary Caribou

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Earlier in my Member's statement I stated my concern over the decrease in the number of Peary caribou. There have been two teams, RNEW, Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife; and the committee on the status of endangered wildlife in Canada. There is a team being formed to work with the local people. I would like to ask the Minister where those teams are from. I would also like to know if there are local people on those teams. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One mandate in my department is to inform the communities whenever a survey of that kind is being done around the community. One of the things that we like to do is get the communities involved in the surveys and studies. The main purpose of this is to protect the wildlife. As the Member stated in his Member's statement, May is the wrong time of the year. At this time I am not aware of the group that is going over to that area, but I will get back to the Member and take this part of the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: My question is to the Minister responsible for the WCB. In my statement, today, I told the House of the information I had received from the Workers' Compensation Board; that they have been putting together a record of positions I have taken while travelling on that board, how I voted, where and when I travelled. Could the Minister inform this House whether he instructed anyone in the Workers' Compensation Board to search the minutes of the meetings, when I was a member of the board, to see what positions I took on the issues at that time?

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

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Return To Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, emphatically, no.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Could the Minister, therefore, confirm that someone else in the Workers' Compensation Board has done exactly that. Has anyone in the board taken these steps? Does he know?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member did ask a question about board travel, for which I have put together a return. I think that was a written question.

I should also say that, to be candid, the chairman of the board has told me or my staff of several motions

or debates that the honourable Member had been involved in when he was on the board, and it has been brought to my attention, respecting certain positions which the Member took on certain issues while he was a member. That was brought to my attention by the chairman. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

MR. TODD: Would the Minister therefore give any statement to investigate this matter and find out if, in fact, the staff were looking into my position, and if so, would he be prepared to report back?

Further Return To Question O286-12(2): Record Of Positions Taken By Mr. Todd During Tenure On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, I will be prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, we all know in this House that there is a workers' advisor position which addresses concerns by or of injured workers respecting WCB claims. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister does support the workers' advisor position as presently established.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Certainly, yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister advise this House as to whether or not there

is a process currently in place of reviewing the workers' advisor position?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, when I was given this responsibility, I was curious to learn that the workers' advisor has been with the board for about two years, I believe, and has been paid on a contractual basis, on an hourly basis, for some two years. Initially the job began, as I understand it, as one that was intended to be a part-time job. It has now become a full-time job by virtue of the number of requests for assistance that the workers' advisor has been given. So, Mr. Speaker, I told the board when I first met with them that the rather ad hoc arrangement that I found in place should, in my opinion, be reviewed with a view to giving that person more stability and giving the position more recognition, and perhaps permanence, since it seems to be well used.

So, Mr. Speaker, to get to the point, I have asked the board for advice on how this job should be made more regular, and I expect any day now to receive the result of the board's deliberations on that position. Once I get that advice, Mr. Speaker, I will want to do something to make this job less of an ad hoc position. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, it seems ironic that the Minister would go only to the board to review this particular position that is supposed to be reviewing WCB or working in an advisory capacity for clients who have been treated unfairly by WCB. Therefore, seeing that there is a review, I would like to ask the Minister, why did he only ask the board to review the position, with no input from the public or from the MLAs or injured workers that were helped by this particular workers' advisor position?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the board itself set the position up, and it is funded by the Workers' Compensation Board. When I looked into it,

I found that the position had been set up with the proviso that it be reviewed after one year. That review never did take place. So I felt that it should be done and so it is being done. I would like to assure the honourable Member that advice from the board will be only one factor in my review of this position. I am well aware that it is intended to operate at some arm's length and some independence from the board, as it occurs in other jurisdictions. Therefore I want to assure the honourable Member I am not just going to blindly accept advice from the board and I am open

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to advice from MLAs. A number of them have already spoken to me, and a number of workers have already spoken to me, about the utility of this position. So I am going to approach it in a balanced manner.

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

Supplementary To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has there been a policy that has been directed to the workers' advisor in respect to the workers' advisor's office refraining from speaking to MLAs in this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O287-12(2): Workers' Advisor Position On Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, not that I am aware of. I believe the workers' advisor does speak to MLAs, and I believe there should be no reason why the workers' advisor should not. So if the particular incumbent is not talking to MLAs, it is not because of any directions coming from me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O288-12(2): Clean-Up Of Military Sites

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of my Member's statement regarding a need to clean up military sites and surrounding areas near Coral Harbour, will the Government Leader assure this House that she will be vigorously pursuing this request to the Government of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O288-12(2): Clean-Up Of Military Sites

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes, we can assure the Member we are vigorously pursuing this. As a matter of fact, there has been a number of meetings with the Department of National Defence where they have had their people up here. As well, on that initiative as well and some of the concerns that have been raised in this House, in the past and today, there will be a full briefing on caucus on Thursday at 11:45, at which time specific questions can be asked of the military contingent that will be here. As well, they will have the opportunity to outline what is planned for the phased in clean-up approach they have.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

Question O289-12(2): Use Of Affirmative Action Policy In Workers' Compensation Board

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. During the last session I questioned the Minister and his honourable colleague for Sahtu about the board's record of hiring aboriginal employees under this government's affirmative action policy. I understand there has been a five per cent growth in the number of aboriginal Northerners working at the board since December of 1988. Right now over 80 per cent of the board's staff is non-aboriginal, and there are no managers of aboriginal descent. I am also interested in other aspects of the boards' affirmative action record as well. Can the Minister advise the House what percentage of the staff at the Workers' Compensation Board qualify under the Government of the NWT affirmative action policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O289-12(2): Use Of Affirmative Action Policy In Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am advised that 79 per cent of the staff qualify under the Government of the NWT affirmative action guideline. That does not mean that 79 per cent of the staff are aboriginal persons. Our affirmative action guidelines also include non-aboriginal people who have spent more than half their lives in the Territories, in certain cases women, and in certain cases people who are handicapped.

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

Supplementary To Question O289-12(2): Use Of Affirmative Action Policy In Workers' Compensation Board

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that the purpose of the board is to provide services to injured workers, and recognizing that the needs of injured workers can probably best be understood by people who have endured similar hardships, what efforts has the board being making to hire persons who qualify for affirmative action consideration under the priority classification of resident disabled persons?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to take that question on notice. I am not exactly sure whether there are any people in that category employed by the WCB at present.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O290-12(2): Regional Advisory Boards Under NWT Business Credit Corporation Act

MR. TODD: My question is to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. The importance of regional input was recognized when the former Minister of Economic Development brought forward a bill establishing the NWT Business Credit Corporation. This legislation included provisions which allow the establishment of regional boards that would advise the corporation's board of directors. I am concerned about centralization and that no regional boards have been appointed, and I am wondering, could the Minister please advise the House as to his plans for the development of regional advisory boards under the NWT Business Credit Corporation Act?

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Workers' Compensation Board. Does he have any knowledge of the Workers' Compensation Board members approaching the workers' advisor in respect to long

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distance calls made to my MLA office? Does he have any knowledge of what those calls were for?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of discussions about that issue between the board and the workers' advisor. I am not aware of what might have taken place.

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

Supplementary To Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Maybe my question was not clear, but the Minister basically indicated he is not aware of these calls taking place. I would like to know, has he any knowledge of board members requesting what types of calls are made from the workers' advisor's office, and to whom they are made and for what purpose? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the workers' advisor is paid wages, by the hour, and expenses by the Workers' Compensation Board. The payments and the billing, therefore, are the responsibility of the Workers' Compensation Board. Since I have been Minister, I have been asked to approve a monthly invoice sent by the workers' advisor, but I cannot tell the Member about what might have happened after that. The payment is between the workers' advisor and the

WCB. I am just not aware of discussions of the kind she refers to.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, that I was asked earlier today about a review of the workers' advisor position. I do know that the workers' advisor was invited to meet with a small panel of board members to discuss the position that the particular incumbent holds, but I was not a part of those discussions and I, frankly, do not know what might or might not have been discussed. I do not know whether telephone calls or whatever else might have been discussed in those interviews. I was not there, and I was not involved. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister did indicate that the workers' advisor was to sit down and discuss issues with a small panel of board members, will the Minister take it upon himself to determine what the discussions were between the small panel of board members and the workers' advisor?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O291-12(2): Telephone Calls Made From Workers' Advisor's Office, Workers' Compensation Board

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, certainly, Mr. Speaker. I am expecting to get the recommendations of the WCB on the workers' advisor position any day now. I will go further and, as the Member asks, inquire about what discussions might have taken place when the workers' advisor was interviewed. I will do that, yes. Thank you.

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

Question O292-12(2): GNWT Employees At Expo

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In an effort to promote the NWT at Expo in Seville there are likely to be employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories who will be going. I would like to know how many and who will be going.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I will get a list prepared and provide it to the House. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O293-12(2): Number Of Trees Required To Make One Million Board Feet

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the NWT Development Corporation. Mr. Speaker, last week the NWT Development Corporation announced that Patterson Sawmill was purchased for a figure between \$1.4 million and \$1.7 million. The Minister indicated last week that the plan is to cut between six million to eight million board feet this year. Can the Minister inform the House how many trees are required to make one million board feet?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure if this is within the general knowledge of the Minister. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but I will endeavour to find out for the Member. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. New question, Mr. Antoine.

Question O294-12(2): Area Logs Will Be Harvested For Patterson Sawmill

MR. ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, a new question on the same subject. I need to know that because the Minister responsible also indicated that Patterson Sawmill is going to be in operation for three to five years. My concern is that six per cent of the timber resources is in my region and the people of this region have established an interim committee to prepare a long-range land management plan for the Liard/Nahanni Valley region. The establishment of a viable forest harvesting industry may very well be one of the long-range objectives of this land management plan. Could the Minister tell this House where the logs for this sawmill will be harvested? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O294-12(2): Area Logs Will Be Harvested For Patterson Sawmill

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, if the Member is talking about Patterson Sawmill, it presently has a timber birth in the Cameron Hills. The number that I quoted was five million board feet per year. The one million board feet, to bring it up to six, I was hoping to get from the Resolution area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O294-12(2): Area Logs Will Be Harvested For Patterson Sawmill

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned that logging will occur in the Liard/Nahanni Valley region without proper consultation with the interim Liard/Nahanni Valley resource management committee and the communities in that region. Would the Minister assure me that no logging will take place in this region without the proper consultation with this committee, and the people of this region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O294-12(2): Area Logs Will Be Harvested For Patterson Sawmill

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I said at the last session, the very same thing; there is no intention of this government to go into that particular area of the Northwest Territories unless the communities and the people of that area are in agreement and in full co-operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O295-12(2): Review Of Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration A Priority

MR. TODD: My question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. The Minister stated he is willing to review the YMIR, the year's maximum insurable remuneration, and may bring amendments to legislation before the House before the next session. My question to the Minister is, what priorities of the Workers' Compensation Board are so important that it cannot complete an immediate review of the inadequate YMIR levels now and bring amendments before this House during the current session? What is so important that they cannot get to the heart of the problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O295-12(2): Review Of Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration A Priority

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since I got this job there are days when I have certain thoughts about this job -- responsibility for the WCB. I discovered that the YMIR was an important issue, that it had not been reviewed for years, that it was out of date, and therefore I urged the board to make it a priority to give me direction on the appropriate level. Mr. Speaker, I understand that this question is not as simple as it might seem. It involves actuaries doing studies. It involved significant financial implications, and I understand that professionals were engaged to do that work, and that very shortly their advice will come forward to me. When that happens, Mr. Speaker, I will make it a priority to be dealt with on our legislative agenda, but I have to wait for the expert advice, Mr. Speaker. I cannot just come up with a number on my own. It is a priority, the work has been done I understand, and as soon as I get that formal recommendation I will take it to the House. I think that is all I can tell the Member at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O295-12(2): Review Of Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration A Priority

MR. TODD: Mr. Speaker, the WCB would like us to think it is complicated. It is not complicated. It is in the computer. It requires a number of equations that can be done quickly, but in the meantime injured workers cannot make ends meet. Is the Minister aware that many injured and disabled workers in the Northwest Territories are presently facing extreme financial difficulty as a result of the inadequate levels of the YMIR? It is not complicated. They make it complicated.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O295-12(2): Review Of Years' Maximum Insurable Remuneration A Priority

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I am glad to hear that, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that it is a matter of concern with workers and with workers' representatives on the WCB. That is why I have requested recommendations on a priority basis. Mr. Speaker, let me assure the honourable Member that I

will do my best to see whether the YMIR amendment can be dealt with before the end of this session, with the co-operation of this House. Thank you.

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

Question O296-12(2): GNWT Contributions To Workers' Compensation Board

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the NWT pays a significant amount of dollars to the Workers' Compensation Board on behalf of their workers. Can the Minister of the Workers' Compensation Board indicate to this House how much funding the WCB receives on behalf of GNWT workers?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I do not have that figure at hand, but I can assure the honourable Member that our government is one of the sizeable contributors to the WCB. I will have to take the question as notice, and get back probably tomorrow on that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O297-12(2): Changes To Workers' Compensation Act Re "Exclusive Jurisdiction"

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is to the Workers' Compensation Board Minister. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that in order to change policy or to address any type of policy that the board has developed, the only way it appears he can do this is by influencing the board, by talking to them and giving them advice on issues. Whether the board wants to listen or not is another matter, but recognizing that section 8 of the WCB does not allow for ministerial ability to override a policy or even be part of policy development, and recognizing that section 8 allows for exclusive jurisdiction of the board members to operate the Workers' Compensation Board, I would like to know whether the Minister is considering reviewing the act to amend it so that the board does not have exclusive jurisdiction on WCB matters. Can the Minister include that to this House?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O297-12(2): Changes To Workers' Compensation Act Re "Exclusive Jurisdiction"

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, there have been two fairly extensive reviews of the Workers' Compensation Act, in 1986 and 1988, which did indicate that the act needs substantial rewriting. Mr. Speaker, I believe I should be guided by the advice given to the government and previous Ministers by these rather extensive reviews. Mr. Speaker, off the top of my head, I do not believe that either of those reviews have recommended that the section with regard to exclusive jurisdiction of the board with regard to workers' claims should be revised. Neither do I believe it is the practice anywhere else in the country to have a body other than an arm's length board have this responsibility.

So, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the matter of workers' claims, I have to honestly tell the honourable Member that I am not sure how we could do it differently, and at this moment it is not a priority with me to change that particular section of the act. I may have another opinion on further reviewing legislative amendments, but at the moment I am not convinced there is a better way of doing it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O297-12(2): Changes to Workers' Compensation Act Re "Exclusive Jurisdiction"

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, at no point in time in my questioning did I talk about claims or whatever. I basically indicated the act now states that the WCB board has exclusive jurisdiction. The Minister, in technicality and legally, does not have any say over the board's development of policies or decisions, and the Minister indicated to this House that he basically can do this by talking to the board or influencing the board. I am asking him whether or not he is going to consider amendments to the act where that board can be run under the direction of a Minister, and not by influencing. Can the Minister advise this House whether he is considering that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O297-12(2): Changes To Workers' Compensation Act Re "Exclusive Jurisdiction"

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it perfectly clear that according to my understanding of the act, the words "exclusive jurisdiction," which are contained in section 8 of the act, refer to the powers of the board to deal with accidents and claims, and the degree of disability and whether a person should be declared to be eligible for compensation. It was with reference to that section, Mr. Speaker, that I told the honourable Member I am not sure there is a better way of doing it. If the Member is asking about the other broader responsibilities of the board, with regard to workers' compensation; such matters as safety education, for example, then I would agree with the honourable Member that it is important that the Minister has the authority to, if necessary, require co-operation and accountability to this government. I am very open to reviewing sections of the act relating to those broader powers. On the narrow question of workers' claims, Mr. Speaker, section 8, I am not convinced that a Minister should have the power to intervene. Thank you.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W22-12(2): Workers' Compensation Board Affirmative Action Hiring Record

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several written questions, Mr. Speaker. The first written question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Would the Minister please table in this House:

- 1) a listing of all positions within the Workers' Compensation Board that have been classified as management occupations;
- 2) a management occupations who qualify as i) indigenous aboriginal persons, ii) resident women, iii) indigenous non-aboriginal persons, or iv) resident disabled persons;
- 3) a listing of all positions within the Workers' Compensation Board that have been classified as non-traditional occupations;
- 4) a summary of the number of board employees in non-traditional occupations who qualify as i) indigenous aboriginal persons, ii) resident women, iii) indigenous non-aboriginal persons, or iv) resident disabled persons; and

5) a summary of the number of board employees in all other positions who qualify as i) indigenous aboriginal persons, ii) indigenous non-aboriginal persons, or iii) resident disabled persons.

Question W23-12(2): GNWT 1991-92 Financial Situation

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, before the recent election the government's financial situation was known to be serious, but not as serious as the press has alleged. Normally, it takes several months after the end of the fiscal year before the public accounts are completed and the true financial position of the Government is known, and then the information is some six months old.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance to provide this Assembly with an interim unaudited financial report to the end of February 1992, with estimates for the balance of the 1991-92 year, showing the spending by departments compared to their approved budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I am also requesting that this Assembly be provided with an explanation of any overexpenditures by departments in this current fiscal year.

Question W24-12(2): Government Of The Northwest Territories' Deficit

Mr. Speaker, this question is to the Minister of Finance: A recent article in News North suggests that the Government's deficit could be more than \$300 million within the next two to three years. Can the Minister of Finance and the Government Leader inform this Assembly what concrete plans the Government is proposing to bring the deficit under control?

Question W25-12(2): Non-Recovery Of Aboriginal Health Care Expenses From DIAND

My final question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Health. Can the Minister of Health inform the Assembly how much of the money billed to DIAND for Indian and Inuit health care will not be recovered? How much is the government planning to write off, and when will this be done? When will this Assembly be provided with full details for a debate on the issue? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W26-12(2): Aboriginal Employment Statistics With GNWT

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Minister of Personnel. Would the Minister of Personnel provide the following information:

1) What is the number and percentage of aboriginal people presently employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories?

2) How many aboriginal people has this government recruited since the affirmative action policy was implemented?

Would the Minister provide this information in the following formats: a) by department; b) by regions, headquarters, and communities; c) the percentage of present public service and total number increase since 1987?

3) How many aboriginal people has this government recruited into the public service since the present government assumed their responsibility?

4) Would the Minister provide this information since 1987 for the following positions: deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, regional directors, assistant regional directors, and any other senior management positions?

Would the Minister indicate by department, region, and community, this particular information?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W27-12(2): Community Employment Officers

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education:

1) What is the present status of the community employment officers?

2) Has the government determined that these positions will no longer be funded?

3) Has the government consulted the communities about the role or need for these employment officers to their communities?

4) Has the Minister consulted with this House about the need or value of those employment officers? Thank you.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W11-12(2), asked by Mr. Pudluk to the Government Leader, concerning a meeting of Canadian Coast Guard officials.

W11-12(2): Meeting Of Canadian Coast Guard Officials

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W11-12(2), asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 27, 1992: The annual pre-season shipping meeting between Nanisivik Mines Ltd., Canarctic Shipping Company Limited and interested community groups from Arctic Bay is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 1992 in Nanisivik. The Arctic Bay Hunters' and Trappers' Association as well as the Arctic Bay lost equipment committee have been invited to attend the proceedings.

These meetings between the mining company, the ore carrier and the community groups have been held every year now for the past several years. The parties discuss the details of the upcoming shipping season and resolve matters of mutual interest. The proceedings do not involve either the Canadian Coast Guard or the Government of the Northwest Territories.

I am given to understand that if either the Arctic Bay Hunters' and Trappers' Association or the Arctic Bay lost equipment committee wishes to extend an invitation to the shipper and the carrier to meet together in Arctic Bay, there is no reason to believe the invitation would not be well received.

Invitations could be extended to: Mr. Bill McNeil, Mine Manager, Nanisivik Mines Ltd., Nanisivik, NWT, phone (819) 436-7531; Mr. Robert Gorman, Manager, Arctic Operations, Canarctic Shipping Co. Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, phone (613) 234-8414.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

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

**Speaker's Ruling On Point Of Order Raised By
Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, On Friday, March 6th**

The Hon. Government Leader raised a point of order on Friday, March 6th, after the chairman of the standing committee on finance had presented his committee's report on their "Creative Planning Session."

The Government Leader indicated that the chairman of the standing committee had read words that were different from that contained in the written report presented to the House. I have reviewed the matter and find that there were two words that were different from those contained in the report.

The chairman read, and I quote from page 1134 of the unedited Hansard: "Government spending and financial management must first respond to the fundamental needs of Northerners." The wording contained in the report is, and I quote: "Government spending and financial management must respond first to fundamental human needs."

Members will see that there is no difference between the meaning of what was spoken by the chairman and what is contained in the report. By the authority given me by the rules, I have by this ruling instructed that the edited Hansard will reflect the wording as contained in the report. I am sure that with this point of order, all Members will see that every Member reads and listens to everything that is presented.

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

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 21-12(2), Commission for Constitutional Development, Interim Report, February 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. In accordance with provisions of section 30 of the Northwest Territories Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 22-12(2), Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly on other matters for the year ended March 31, 1991. Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

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**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST
READING OF BILLS**

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 24:
Financial Administration Act, No. 2**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 11, 1992, I shall move that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, No. 2, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

**First Reading Of Bill 19: Real Estate Agents
Licensing Act**

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Real Estate Agents Licensing Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**First Reading Of Bill 22: Write-Off Of Assets And
Debts Act, 1992**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 22, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1992, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 22 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**First Reading Of Bill 23: Loan Authorization Act,
1992-93**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Bill 23, Loan Authorization Act, 1992-93, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 23 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

**Second Reading Of Bill 20: Nursing
Profession Act**

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Nursing Profession Act to repeal subsection 4(2); to authorize the board of directors to grant temporary certificates of exemption from registration to a newly recruited nurse for up to 24 months; and to authorize the board of directors to attach terms and conditions to a temporary certificate of exemption.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order, Mr. Whitford. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**Second Reading Of Bill 21: Supplementary
Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91, be read for the

second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1991. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 21 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; Tabled Document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; Tabled Document 12-12(2), Plebiscite Direction; Bill 14, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93; Committee Report 3-12(2), standing committee on finance Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates; Motion 6-12(2), Discussions on Sobriety Clause Contribution Agreements; and Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1990-91, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Will the committee come to order? On Friday when we left off we were dealing with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. We were on general comments. Before we go on to dealing with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, we will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

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

Department Of Economic Development

The committee will come to order. Would the Minister of Economic Development like to bring in his witnesses?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: With the permission of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed, Mr. Minister. For the record, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Mr. Dwight Noseworthy, who is the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism; and on my right is Mr. Alan Vaughan, who is assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We are still on general comments. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I wonder if we could move two general recommendations prior to going line by line.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Go ahead, Mr. Todd.

Motion To Re-Examine Priorities Of Department Of Economic Development And Tourism, Carried

MR. TODD: I move that this committee recommends that cabinet re-examine Economic Development and Tourism's priorities from a cost and benefit basis and in light of other fundamental needs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: One of the concerns we had with Economic Development and with other departments was that in the presentations there was some difficulty in quantifying the expenditure and the net impact on the NWT. I think we alluded to it the other day when we were making some general comments, that nobody is opposed to parks; nobody is opposed to visitors' centres; however, in these tough difficult times when we are making some really difficult choices and changes, particularly with this current climate that the Minister of Finance keeps telling us about -- what we are saying or trying to say is there has to be a way to determine what the net impact is to Northerners. Is it building buildings or building people? It may be that in some cases there is a desire to put in infrastructure that may not necessarily have a net impact on the public at large. We feel that in the future there has to be some way for this

department and others -- Education is one that comes to mind -- where the success of the program was defined by enrolment rather than attainment. It appears the Department of Economic Development was, in polite terms, a little weak in terms of its ability to justify the net impact to Northerners in these expenditures.

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

Mr. Todd.

Motion That NWT Development Corporation Ensure Value For Its Capital Investments, Carried

MR. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends, in keeping with the previous standing committee on finance, that the NWT Development Corporation develop more detailed and suitable policies and procedures to ensure value for its capital investments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Just a question of clarification on the motion -- "to ensure value for its capital investments." Can the mover explain that to me, whether it means to break even or making money, or if the project is good for the community or the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: No, that is not what we mean. What we are trying to imply here is that in certain cases there is a requirement for government intervention and the NWT Development Corporation does exactly that. For example, the Fort McPherson canvas shop, it is my understanding it employs 12 to 14 people. What we are saying is, there is an eight million dollar budget for the NWT Development Corporation, and we want to be ensured that when they invest and the policy is in place, that they are going to ensure there is value for that. If we are going to invest in a mill, that there be jobs related to it. If we are going to invest in a fish plant, that there is going to be product related to it. There has to be clearer guidelines as to

why we are investing in these kinds of funds. Are you with me? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any further general comments from this committee? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister, what are his plans in developing federal parks in the NWT or in assisting the federal government in developing parks in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working very closely with Parks Canada. Their Minister, Pauline Browes, was here some two weeks ago and there was considerable discussion on further collaboration between the two governments. As I mentioned before, one of the areas that we have been working closely together on is visitors' centres, and Parks Canada has been paying their share of the displays that go into the visitors' centres. I think the most priority we are placing right now is on the dedication of national historic sites in the Northwest Territories, and we will be working with Parks Canada in that regard this year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Just for further clarification, Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Minister if he is further deciding to develop any parks in conjunction with

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the federal government to be designated as federal parks? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the next park that will be officially signed or officially dedicated will be Banks Island, and

that will be done in Inuvik in July, I believe. Myself and Mr. Ningark will attend with the federal Minister, and as far as other parks are concerned it will be done on a case-by-case issue, and obviously there has to be community and regional support if we are going to do any more national parks or any more parks in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate to me whether or not there are plans to develop any more parks south of the lake where, in my opinion, we have enough?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, there are no present plans to develop any more parks south of the lake, although I would indicate to the committee that there has been an approach from people in Hay River for this department to take over the campground at Polar Lake. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: In respect to the takeover of the campground at Polar Lake, that would be a territorial park, though, not a federal park.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I just want the Minister to know that as a Member of this Assembly, I am totally opposed to the development of any federal parks, particularly any additional federal parks around my area. My constituents have been living by national parks, and it really limits our ability to harvest resources, or it limits our ability to hunt or trap around that particular area, considering the restrictions that national parks impose on individuals, and I would caution other Members to take this into consideration when federal parks are being considered for development in their area. But I do want the Minister to know that I am totally opposed to any type of development of federal parks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point is taken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee wish to go page by page?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We are on page 17-9, Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Detail of capital, tourism and parks, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$375,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Fort Smith, total region, \$1,394,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Is that the new name that is going to be there, or is it still the old name, Trout Lake or Trout River? It has not been changed. I know Nick was concerned about that. Has the sign been changed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Saamba Deh is the name for what was formerly known as Whittaker Falls, Mr. Chairman, and the sign will be changed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Total region, \$1,394,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I still have some problems with regard to tourism in my area, and that is with regard to seeing whether or not it is possible to maybe create a small park on that winter access road, so that people are not going to use the roads as places for camping and making a mess on the winter crossings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: We will certainly sit down and talk to the community about that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$1,394,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Inuvik, buildings and works, total region, \$610,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Baffin, buildings and works, total region, \$441,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Keewatin, buildings and works, total region, \$433,000. Mr. Arvaluk

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MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Coral Harbour area, we built sites at the native points where the Thule culture sites are, and we have received two cruise ships in the last five years. They have been very successful visits, and in fact, when they came back the following year almost 50 per cent of the previous visitors came too, and also, they were very, very interested in seeing Christopher Falls, which is very close to Coral Harbour. You have concentrated on a visitors' centre at Rankin, a visitors' centre at Arviat, and although I am happy that Thule sites and that kind of tourist attractions have been developed, I was wondering why there are none of that nature at the historic sites in the Coral Harbour area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the visitors that have been coming in by cruise ship, although it has been sporadic, have been pleased with those particular points of interest, and there has not been a need identified yet to do anything further at those locations. If the community and the Member feel that there is a need to address that issue, then we will be glad to look at that too, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$433,000. Agreed

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Kitikmeot, total region, \$204,000. Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I would like to know what is coming home that is worth \$90,000 to Coppermine? What have we been missing all of these years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the project calls for the development of a major exhibit which will interpret the heritage of the Copper Inuit, and show the links between the people and the environment.

The exhibit is to be located at various buildings around the community; for example, the co-op and the airport. A site will be determined to act as the focal point for the exhibit. The display will feature a full-scale reconstruction of a Thule stone and wood house. Reproductions of native copper tools and articles of daily life will surround and fill the house. A display of crafts will also be included in the exhibit. It is anticipated that this will serve as a major attraction in the region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT: Mr. Minister, I like this idea, but where are all these artifacts coming from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, in all probability they will be reproductions, so if there is any loss we will not be losing some part of the Thule heritage. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question for the Minister. Mount Pelly Park, in Cambridge Bay, I would like to know what is going to be happening on Mount Pelly? What do you plan to do up there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mount Pelly, Mr. Chairman, is an area of natural scenic beauty with historical significance. Development in this area will provide an attraction which will entice visitors to extend their visit. We hope there is going to be a lot of use made by the local people, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Kitikmeot, total region, \$204,000. Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The region that I come from, Mr. Minister, has just as much to offer as the region of Yellowknife, if I can compare, your \$375,000 for Reid Lake, Fred Henne, and Prelude Lake. You have \$375,000, and for my region you only have \$204,000. If you take off the Copper Inuit exhibit -- it is dismantled after a while -- why do you not just build a permanent visitors' centre or a little museum for our community --that will attract the tourists -- not dismantle it and use it only for the summer months?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: The Member is correct, there may not have been as much done there, in that particular region, as for other regions; however, we are working in that region now, Mr. Chairman. If the community, whatever community we are working with, decides that it would need an interpretive centre, as opposed to a display here and there, then we are prepared to talk to them about that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region, \$204,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total buildings and works, \$3,457,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$35,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 17-13

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Inuvik, total region, \$18,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total equipment acquisition, \$53,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total activity, \$3,510,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Page 17-15. Business development, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$8,000,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns of the standing committee on finance was that last year a significant amount more than what was budgeted, approved in the initial budget for the development corporation, was actually spent. We were concerned that there did not appear to be a system of financial controls set up to ensure that things were actually going to be -- the money was going to be spent wisely. I think this is the reason for the motion which we brought in earlier.

I am just wondering if the Minister can assure us -- we have eight million dollars in here for this year -- are you going to stick to that or are we going to be a million and a half over this year again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$1.28 million that the Member is talking about is a carry-over from the year before. It was appropriated by this House and it was carried over, along with the \$10 million that was budgeted last year. I can assure the Member that although we have some \$27 million in projects that we have been asked to be interested in, through the Development Corporation, no more than eight million dollars will be spent this year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: It is my understanding that \$11.8 million was spent; \$1.8 million and \$10 million were spent last year, and eight million dollars this year. There are no future years' anticipated. Are we anticipating that this thing is just going to come to an end this year, or are we anticipating -- what are our long-term budgetary objectives of this development corporation? Have you any idea or inclination of where it is heading?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is not classed as a multi-year project, although there was indication, when this corporation was formed, that it would require some \$10 million per year. This year it is eight million dollars, and the capital target for next year will probably be in the region of six million dollars. As far as where this thing is going to go, I think, personally, I have a concern that it may end up with a huge portfolio and not be spinning some of those businesses back to the private sector. I think it is something that we will have to look at year by year.

Right now the possibility is that next year it will be six million dollars, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total region, \$8,000,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know about the retail outlet in the Toronto airport. Does the Development Corporation have any other business investments outside of the Northwest Territories? Is it considering any further investments outside of the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Nothing specific, Mr. Chairman, although I would advise the committee that if the kiosk at the Toronto airport was successful we would consider another venture such as that. If we were able to move a lot of products from the Northwest Territories through a retail outlet in the South and it proved up for us, we would be interested in expanding that market. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

Investments By NWT Development Corporation

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister if he intends to provide me with a list of the investments the NWT Development Corporation has made, and the joint venture companies or individuals that have been involved. The Minister indicated he would provide me with a list, and I wonder if he could provide it as soon as possible.

And secondly, I would like to ask if the Minister is going to consider reviewing whether or not there is another vehicle other than a Development Corporation that could be established to address the matter of providing what this is intended to do, which is to provide some low interest or non-repayable loans to individual businesses and whether or not the department has even considered that option.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I think the list the Member is talking about has been supplied to the standing committee on finance. I will make sure the Member gets the same list and, secondly, we are not giving any consideration to another organization similar to this, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, the Minister just indicated that he was going to review whether there was a review for a long-term program and whether or not this program would exist beyond next year. I am just wondering if there is another option to be considered, other than the NWT Development Corporation, to assist existing businesses or to deal with matters such as marketing studies, expansion or start-up costs for new businesses. I believe that is the intention of this particular fund, and he indicated that that may not continue beyond next year and that he does not, at least at this particular juncture, anticipate a continuation. So I am curious as to what considerations the department has given to other options, not the establishment of new ones but others to replace this particular one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, as I said, the funding next year will probably be around the six million dollar mark for the corporation. I suggested that we would review how it is going. That is not to say it might close down, and even if we were not to

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fund it for one year, we would still have a number of businesses, a number of ventures, that it was involved in. What I am saying is that we would review it to see whether there was a funding requirement for that particular year.

The other avenue, of course, to address some of the things that Mr. Nerysoo pointed out, would be the Business Credit Corporation which is fast coming on stream.

Marketing Initiatives

With regard to marketing, there are a number of initiatives right now being taken by the private sector, being taken by Arctic Co-operatives, being taken by ourselves, and we are attempting to make sure that all of those things are interlocking. Mr. Nerysoo raises a good point, and that is, should there be a marketing corporation for the NWT? I think that is a distinct possibility. It may be through the private sector with some assistance from ourselves, it may be through Arctic Co-operatives, it may be a joint venture, but certainly part of the problem that we see in the NWT right now is the aspect of marketing.

As I say, there are a number of things going on right now. We are trying to co-ordinate all of those things,

and there may be a proposal coming back to the House with regard to some kind of marketing initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Could the Minister and his department determine whether a marketing aspect or program could be considered as part of a future economic development agreement? Could the department review what other jurisdictions have been able to address in that particular matter with the Government of Canada?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, certainly one of the things raised by a number of the provinces at the last Finance Ministers' meeting was a more aggressive Canada, a more aggressive trade area in Canada, and some co-operation between the federal government, and the provincial and territorial governments, with a view to marketing overseas.

I think the Member raises a good point, and that is, if the federal government were to recognize that part of our problem up here is marketing, it may be able to be included in a new economic development agreement with Canada in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Has the department conducted any assessment or marketing capacity, first of all to include communities in the marketing process as well as to include private business in marketing the product that they are selling or the service they are selling in southern trade shows or southern events that could create a situation where others across Canada or in the United States might be able to see firsthand individuals that are actually involved in the delivery of service?

I raise this matter, not only in terms of Canada and the United States, but I would ask that the Minister could review this whole issue of marketing in terms of the European market and the Pacific Rim countries and that particular market. Because I think you will find that the experience of other provinces has been that the Government of Canada has not been very interested or that successful in promoting the interest of one particular jurisdiction versus another. I think that has been one of the problems in many respects in the marketing process, because governments are not in the business of promoting one jurisdiction over

another; rather, they are trying to promote Canada in its total community, and it makes it very difficult. I think you will find that one of the reasons British Columbia has become very interested in the Pacific Rim countries and established their own embassy or BC house -- and the same thing with Alberta, it is for the very reason of trying to promote their interest, rather than BC's interest or Ontario's interest. They are looking at their interest and that is the basis on which they market that particular jurisdiction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Todd): Mr. Todd.

NWT Development Corporation To Serve Have-Not Areas

MR. TODD: I know I have asked the Minister this before, but every time he talks about this NWT Development Corporation I get an uneasy feeling. My interpretation of this NWT Development Corporation is that it was set up specifically to look at the have-not areas, at least that was my interpretation. But, in fact, it is an instrument of economic development, and the profit, at least on the front end, may not necessarily be the motivation. The fact is that we want to make sure that if it provides 12 or 13 jobs in Fort McPherson and people are not going to be on welfare or social assistance, they are going to be productive members of that community, then the government should invest in it.

We are in a unique situation in this country where we are all, in some ways, wards of the state in one way or another, and I am a strong supporter of this NWT Development Corporation. I think it is doing a reasonable job. It can obviously do better. It is essential that it stay in place so that we can organize some of the operations that provide jobs and opportunities for our people, where it may not necessarily be profit oriented, whether it is a fish plant in Whale Cove or an arts and crafts store in Coral Harbour, et cetera. The fact of the matter is, we have got to get our people to work, and some of our people need the assistance of this type of operation. I am somewhat concerned that the Minister is implying that we would be looking at less money, not more money, considering, I believe, there are \$27 million worth of applications on the deck now; so I would have thought he would have come forward or implied that he was looking for more money next year, not less money.

Most of those applications, I suspect, are for areas where it would be difficult in any circumstance for an operation to be profitable. So on the one hand I am encouraged by it, and on the other hand I need to get

assurances once again. I asked it last week, and I am going to ask it again. Is it certain in the department that there is a requirement in certain circumstances for government intervention to ensure that certain projects go forward that provide employment opportunities for people? Does the Minister agree with that statement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: It is certainly not my place to tell the Minister what to do, but I would encourage him to look for more money next year, not less money, in this particular instance. Again, I say I am a strong supporter of the NWT Development Corporation. I think its mandate is clear. It will provide opportunities for some of the small operations in the communities. We have just to make sure we keep vigilant, and should there be a situation where it can be sold off and be successful, then more power to it. But the focus, I would hope, would be the development of projects that are employment-oriented, making

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people feel good about themselves. That is, after all, what we are all about here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Vigilance In Marketing Of Products

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just do want to make a couple of points. One, I am not personally opposed to the idea of the Development Corporation. I think the task that it set for itself is one that is valuable in terms of creating employment, but I do want to say one thing with respect to that, and that is, if you have a product that is capable of even creating a situation where you break even or create a profit for that particular company or that particular venture, I think we should be vigilant about marketing of those products.

I say that, I guess, because I know this government has invested a great deal of money in a project that is located in my home community, and I would challenge anybody in any other bag-making company in this country to make the kind of quality that is made in Fort McPherson, because I think we have a great deal to be proud of in terms of the product that is

produced there. The only problem I have is that -- and the Minister knows I have been speaking to him on a number of occasions -- I do not think we do a very good job at marketing that particular product. All I want to have is some assurance that when we deal with the marketing aspect, you not only promote the product but also promote the people that are involved in that product. They themselves have to sell the product. You can send a lot of officials to marketing events, but the simple fact is that people want to see who makes the product, and they take a greater interest in the product because it is made by a particular group of people. I think that is important, and we should use that as an advantage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This eight million dollars for the NWT Development Corporation does not have actual programs set up for it. Does that mean that this would include looking into newly discovered potential markets? for example, limestone on Southampton Island -- exporting and marketing of limestone from Southampton Island? Would some of these new discoveries qualify under that new program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if we were approached by a community or if we were approached by a group of people who wanted to do something with that particular product, and it looked reasonable, and it was going to employ people, and there was an end result, certainly I think the board of the Development Corporation would take a look at it. Thank you.

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We are the business development, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$8,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total contributions, \$8,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Total activity, \$8,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Now we go back to page 17-7. Program summary. Capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$11,510,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses at this time. What does the committee wish to do now? Do you wish to go on to Health? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Okay. The committee agrees that we are going to go on to the Department of Health. The Department of Health is page 14. Order, please. I wonder if Mr. Minister would like to make opening remarks at this time. You can make opening remarks now, and if you want to call a witness after your opening remarks, it will be appreciated very much.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, the Department of Health's capital budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year reflects a commitment to improved service planning. Increased emphasis will be placed on renovating health facilities to extend their useful life

span. Better use of the existing health centres will also be sought through periodic reassessment of service use and service requirements. Redesignation of all or parts of facilities will be made on the basis of these assessments. This approach continues the direction taken by the department in recent years.

During the fiscal year 1991-92, renovation projects were completed at the Inuvik Regional Hospital, Iqaluit public health unit, and H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital. Renovation projects were also initiated for the Baffin Regional Hospital and the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, with a completion target for 1992-93.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister of Health I am recommending the funding which is necessary to continue a sound capital program for the NWT health services system. Key elements in the 1992-93

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budget provide for: 1) the completion of essential renovation projects; 2) improved computerized financial and health information management systems; 3) improved health technology assessment; 4) improved facilities for school-based dental services; and 5) the development of a strategic plan for health service delivery, with specific attention to the future role of health facilities serving regional populations. I am requesting capital funding in the amount of \$5.699 million, which includes the carry-over from 1991-92 of \$1.591 million.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present my first capital budget for the year 1992-93. I would like, at this time, to seek your permission to have a briefing on the Department of Health, as the House had sought earlier, which includes a glimpse of the past initiatives, of the present, and some of the direction that the department is taking. This may be done through the support of the deputy minister and the assistant deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The Minister is asking permission to bring his witnesses in now. Is this agreed? Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I just want to get clarification, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister asking for us to hear a briefing now, or does he want us to deal with the budget? I just need clarification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, the department had prepared a presentation which would explain some of the concerns that were expressed in this House, and elsewhere, about the department. It was felt that in order to assist the Members, we would put together a presentation that would explain some of the concerns that may have been expressed. I was under the impression that it would best be done in committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, there have been many questions that have been asked of the Department of Health and the government, as a section that was referenced in Strength at Two Levels, called the "NWT Way on Health." There were a number of questions asked as to what the NWT Way was, exactly. When we discussed it, the Department of Health was willing to make a presentation so that the questions could be answered in a presentation which would last about half an hour, in terms of taking us through the NWT Way. When it was offered for presentation in the separate time and space, outside of the committee of the whole, it was suggested by the ordinary Members who were present at that particular meeting that it should come into the committee of the whole in the Legislative Assembly. I just thought I would take the time to explain why the Department of Health was offering it at this time. It was suggested to offer at this time an outline of what health, the NWT Way, was. However, Mr. Chairman, it would be up to the committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Does the committee wish this briefing before the budget, or after? Mr. Gargan.

Debate On Presentation Of Health Department Briefing

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with what Mr. Todd said. I believe this June, I think, we will be dealing with the main estimates of operations and maintenance. I would think that would be the appropriate time to deal with the NWT Way. I do not know if it is appropriate to be discussing this while we are dealing with capital projects. I have limited myself, Mr. Chairman, in speaking to the capital estimates. I have not really questioned the operation or maintenance of the government. Mr. Chairman, you may have a position on whether or not you feel this is the appropriate time to address this particular issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Todd, tell us what to do.

MR. TODD: I am the last person to say that we should not get a briefing on the NWT Way model of health care, but we are dealing with a very minor, if I can say, part of the total Health budget. I would have felt, given the amount of debate that has taken place with respect to health care, and the diversity of opinions, that it required a full debate outside of this small capital budget. However, I will stand down to the will of the majority. If you want to incorporate it in here, that would not preclude us from debating it later on. Whatever everybody else wants. I did not expect it, to be quite honest with you. I do not, at the same time, wish to suggest for one minute that it would not be a valuable exercise, particularly as we debate the capital budget. I would have hoped to give it merit and to give it the kind of debate that is required, and given the fact that there is significant diversity of opinion which requires a full debate, I think, outside of this \$5 million-plus budget. It depends on what the majority says.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, we are willing to concede on what time the presentation should be, but the only reason that the department is ready at this time is because there is some feeling that it should be presented. If it is at a later time, we can do that and give handouts if necessary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I recognize it is not currently the practice to address issues of O and M under capital, but basically, in my opinion, I certainly would like to see a briefing on the NWT Way model of health care because of a couple of factors. One is that probably some of the decisions in the NWT Way probably affect the capital budget. It was my understanding that they wanted to give us a briefing in caucus, and it was our intention to bring this briefing out into the public forum, and this is probably the only time we could look at such a briefing. So I have no problem with the Minister's intention of presenting such a briefing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Does that mean, then, that the matter is a matter for debate at this particular

junction? Because I do not agree with the presentation if we cannot challenge or question the direction of the NWT Way in this House at this particular time. I am not opposed to the briefing, but I would like to be able to debate the direction because I do not agree, on principle, with the matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Government Leader.

Timing Of Health Briefing A House Decision

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I certainly feel that this is up to the will of the House, and we are prepared to give that information. Whether you debate it today, tomorrow or the next day, that would be entirely up to the will of the House -- also including the decision of whether you want to hear it now or later or at another time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Members still have the opportunity to deal with Tabled Document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels, if they would like to deal with the NWT Way,

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that would be the forum to do it. If it is not, then perhaps the other thing is that the capital estimates for this year were based on last year's estimates, which I think were done before the Strength at Two Levels Report was ever implemented. I am not too sure it has any effect on the report itself. So I would like to hear what the briefing is about, but I do not know if it is appropriate to be dealing with it under capital expenditures. If it is, Mr. Chairman, you would be willing to be flexible as to whether we are identifying or addressing a certain capital project and still be able to refer in general to the operation and maintenance of Health.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think it will be quite difficult to deal with those issues at the same time. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Could we proceed with the briefing and hold the discussion until a later date in terms of debate? I am not prepared to sit here at 25 minutes to 5:00 when we are closing at 6:00 and discuss the health of the NWT. So in a sense of trying to reach compromise, perhaps the briefing would be of value; however, the debate should be left until we have an opportunity to do it. I am not about to spend half an hour and debate the NWT Way. I have some serious problems with it and the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): What we can do is we can hear the briefing and after that briefing just leave it until we start discussing Tabled Document 9-12(2). Is the House agreed? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Can I ask for clarification from the Minister in respect to the NWT Way briefing? Some of the decisions in regard to the NWT Way, the way it has been developed -- does it have an effect on the capital expenditures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, I believe it will. I think to assuage any fears you may have of what the briefing will consist of, it probably will answer a lot of the concerns that the Members might have and, of course, it will generate questions, but at least they will know what some of the things are that we were talking about, when we talk about assessments and the facility renovations and things of that nature, that probably will come out during the questioning that goes along. But what it will do is it will set the stage for the presentation of the capital budget, and it will explain some of the direction that the department hopes to go in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, could you tell me under the rules in committee of the whole that speeches must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration? I am wondering if discussing capital also means discussing the operation and maintenance policy. I would think that under Rule 3, where the chairman shall maintain order in deciding all questions, but it says that this order in the committee can only be censored by the Assembly upon receiving a report there of. I thought the Strength at Two Levels report was tabled for discussion. Can you make a ruling with regard to section 79(2), Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The matter at issue is capital. If you want to get away from the capital issue, the committee has to agree. Let us take a five-minute break to resolve this problem.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): We have a quorum. The committee is back to order. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the ordinary Members caucus and the standing committee on finance, we would at this time extend

our appreciation for Mr. Whitford's comments with respect to Health. Given the differences of opinion and the fact that there is the need for considerable debate both within our own group and in the House, we would like to defer this budget to a later date and proceed with Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Todd. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. We will now go to the Department of Social Services. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if you will bear with me, I was caught by surprise. The Department of Social Services, although they are on standby, they are going to be called and will be here forthwith with the support that I will need, in addition to my capital book where I have my opening remarks. With your indulgence, I will go ahead with my opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You may proceed with your opening remarks while you are waiting for your witnesses.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will proceed with my opening remarks. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the Department of Social Services 1992-93 capital estimates. The department is requesting the 1992-93 capital budget allocation of \$8,272,000 which is comprised of \$4,481,000 for new and continuing projects with an additional \$3,791,000 carry-over from 1991-92.

The major thrusts of the department for the coming year are in family and children's services: to build a group home for children in care at Baker Lake; in the alcohol and drug and community mental health: to build a Hay River Reserve alcohol treatment centre and an alcohol treatment centre in Iqaluit for the Baffin; in community and family support services: to complete a senior citizens' facility in Fort Smith and in Fort Franklin. The remainder of the budget is for renovations to existing facilities, purchase of minor equipment and planning for new facilities.

In closing, I would like to provide you with an overview of the capital estimates, the 1992-93 capital estimates. The 1992-93 capital estimates overview are: The department is requesting the approval for 23 projects in 1992-93, which total \$8.272 million. Of this total, \$3.791 million is carry-over from six projects in the 1991-92 capital budget. Through federal funding agreements, for corrections and alcohol and drug facilities, the department will receive \$1.668 million, so that the net funding impact to the GNWT will be \$2.813 million after deducting carry-overs.

I hope that the committee will support these requests and will agree that the total budget cost is very reasonable in light of the size of the operating programs and the need to maintain and build facilities to support this department's mandate. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I have no general comments, other than what we made earlier last week, with respect to Social Services. Some other Members may have, but at this time I do not have any.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister, do you wish to bring in your witnesses?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, the witnesses have been called and I understand that they are proceeding here forthwith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. In the meantime, are there any general comments? Mr. Lewis.

Importance Of Volunteers And Fund Raising

MR. LEWIS: I would not want us to leave the Chamber now that we have a quorum, Mr. Chairman. My remarks are very brief. One of the concerns that many people have expressed over the last while is that, because of the downturn in the economy, and due to the fact that the government has had to realign its budget and look very carefully at every dollar, the voluntary agencies have been pressed, more and more, to do things that in the past have been done by government. They have been squeezed more and more. I would like all Members to know that the voluntary agencies have been very involved for a long time in assisting with social programs and services. If we cannot supply the modest capital dollars that

these agencies have asked for from time to time, then there is going to have to be a far better organized voluntary sector in order to supplement whatever we can supply.

I will not go into great detail in these general opening remarks, but I would like Members to note that if we did not have a very strong voluntary sector to do fund raising all over the place, the demands on the government purse would be very high. We should be doing as much as we can to make sure that the pressure on the public to keep digging, and digging, to come up with more money to provide essential services is not going to be frustrated because these essential things are no longer going to be available to people.

I know the Minister is very well aware of this. Fund raising throughout the Territories has been quite extensive for many years now, and we want to make sure that people are continuing to do that with the proper generosity of spirit and will not be frustrated because of the initiatives that government takes that could drive that up somewhat, as people get a little bit more anxious about the future of Social Services. I am not doing this just to fill in time and to use up the minutes on the clock, Mr. Chairman, but I would like you to be aware that that is a concern that many Members have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Any other general comments? Are you ready to go to the details, page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. On the capital estimates, page by page, it starts at 15-7. I apologize for that. I made a mistake. It is 15-10. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, before we go into the capital estimates page by page, can I get clarification from the Minister in respect to the comment he made on a senior citizens' home in Fort Smith that was being built? Can I get clarification from the Minister on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is to complete the senior citizens' facility at Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister stating that the Department of Social Services is building a senior citizens' facility in Fort Smith?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would ask your indulgence on this. We are waiting for Mr. Doyle to come. I believe this was an error. It should have been Hay River.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, for the record I would like the Minister to get it corrected, because the Department of Social Services is not building a senior citizens' facility in Fort Smith. I know the Town of Fort Smith has taken the initiative to build one in conjunction with CMHC, but not with funding from the Department of Social Services, so that should be corrected for the record.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Before you answer, would you like to invite your witness?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): You may proceed, Mr. Minister. Would you like to introduce your witness to the committee?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I would like to introduce Bernard Doyle, the deputy minister for the Department of Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Welcome to the committee. Would you like to answer Mrs. Marie-Jewell's question.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, the completion of the senior citizens' facility is in the Fort Smith Region at Hay River. I would like to extend my apologies to the honourable Member for that and correct that for the record.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I think at this time we should proceed line by line on the budget, if it is okay with everybody.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Before we proceed line by line, Mr. Chairman, at the standing committee on finance we

discussed one item and there is a motion I would like to present. We discussed an item regarding the handicapped adult group home, which is shown for "various" Fort Smith. We knew this was for repatriating residents from the Michener Centre in Red Deer and thought it was about time that the location was finalized for this and we started moving toward repatriating the people back to the NWT, especially in light of the fact that Alberta appears to be heading toward trying to close down most of their centres.

Motion To Proceed With Handicapped Adults Group Home In The Fort Smith Region, Carried

I move, that the committee recommends that the planning proceed and a specific location be committed for the handicapped adults group home in the Fort Smith Region.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. The motion is in order. I think it has also been circulated. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, we were concerned that it did not appear that this project was moving forward with the sort of speed that we thought it should move forward at, and thought that one step, in order to help it proceed, would be to push the department to try and decide on the actual location for it. Because -- although it is shown in the Fort Smith Region -- to date, that has not been physically sited and they have not decided which municipality it should go to.

As I said earlier, it appears that the Province of Alberta is pushing to close down their facilities, of the sort like the Michener Centre. We do not know when that might be. Not that there is an immediate danger, but it is thought to be a good idea in the province to be able to move people into the community. So what they are doing is shutting down their facilities like this one. So for us to be prepared we thought it was about time for that department determined where the majority of these residents might be from and take a look at that in terms of determining the site for this home. So if the majority of the residents in the Michener Centre were from Fort Smith, then that is the area in which the group home should be built, or if they are from Hay River or Simpson. In any case, we thought the department should start to take a really hard look at where this building should be sited. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The Member is quite correct with the outline he has given. One of the problems in the past is that the Michener Centre is considering closing down, but it has been an on and off suggestion on their part. They want to close down, but they certainly have not set plans in motion to do it. That was one of the problems. We are working to identify the individuals and where they are from. Once we get this information it will give us a better idea of a suitable location. In addition to that, we are looking at utilizing existing facilities in some area -- either Fort Smith, Hay River or any location where there may be existing facilities that could be use or adapted to repatriate NWT patients.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

General comments. Does the committee wish to go line by line? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services

Building And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Page 15-10. Capital estimates for the Department of Social Services. Details of capital. Family and children's services, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$130,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Building And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Baffin, total region, \$89,000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Can the Minister advise me as to whether this extension is for the home for battered women?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, since the Minister's department has made a commitment to build a home for battered women and is now placing an extension in Iqaluit, is there any intention to build homes for battered women in other regions, other than Iqaluit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in one instance we are looking at a proposal that has been submitted to us for a similar request.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is the only region in the Territories that has a facility built for battered women with government money. No other region has that luxury or opportunity. I think, in fairness to other regions, if a request is sent into the department by other regions for consideration of the same type of facility, will the same consideration be given to those other regions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it would be wrong of me to give a yes or no answer to the question because it will depend on a number of different factors such as need which will be of prime consideration as will the availability of resources. When the Iqaluit project was being undertaken, the financial climate was a little different. In other areas, they were able to access other types of funding. In Rankin Inlet, for example, it was done under a different project haven with totally federal dollars in it, you see, so I think any new proposals that come, we will have to examine the resources available and weigh the needs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask if the Minister has given directions to his department to develop a policy to address the matter that was raised by Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are going to be looking at the overall way we do things in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. I wonder if I could ask the question again. Is he going to review the matter of policy directly associated to providing infrastructure shelters for the purpose of dealing with battered spouses or women and families?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be examining this through the availability of several things, certainly any federal funding that is available to us, and existing territorial funding that may be available to us, and in addition to that, the needs and also the necessary group in the area to sponsor it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to know how the department is able to find financing for a capital project of this type, a new project that will require future O and M, and does not have the financial capacity at this time to maintain programs in present facilities of this type. I can give you an example of an Inuvik shelter that is to be closed down because there is no financing for O and M costs, so I want to know how we were able to get money for a capital project of this type, find O and M money for a new facility, and not maintain the one in Inuvik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, Nutaraq's Place was already in place and it had certain O and M dollars to run the existing facility. It was found very shortly after the facility became operational, that the need was greater than the facility could meet, and through a very ambitious fund-raising program the committee was able to raise a lot of private money to offset the additional costs that were incurred by moving this project forward. Some territorial dollars were accessed, but I think the O and M of it is basically the same. You know, the Member is right, that facilities and projects should not go ahead unless the operating dollars are secure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask again how we could possibly justify new buildings, additional funding, and consider closing down shelters that are presently in existence, by indicating to them there is no possible way we could find the O and M. I just want to know how the additional cost could be justified? I think it is very difficult for people in the Inuvik Region to be able to justify a project of this type, knowing that their facility is going to close down. I do not dispute the possibility of additional need because of the number of people who need this service, but if they are now being told -- that is probably the reason why the Inuvik situation has requested and required the additional requirement for this service. They are not only providing this service to Inuvik, they are providing it to communities like Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River and Aklavik, even some people from Tuk. I am kind of curious as to how we are able to justify the closing of those facilities and the building of new ones. It is a matter that the Minister is going to have to deal with, but I do not think he is going to find that Members will accept the idea of building facilities when you are closing other ones down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe we are closing facilities down at this point, at least not women's shelters. I think that there was limited funding in Inuvik for O and M, and although they are finding it tough to maintain full operation with that amount of money the department has not shut them down. What we are doing is attempting to find additional moneys for that operation. I hope I did not convey the idea that we would be simply building a facility without looking at the operating and maintenance arrangements and ensuring that was securely in place. That was not my intention. I think I was only addressing whether we would continue to look at needs and continue to look at new capital moneys to go along with a response to a need.

It is my intention to ensure that the O and M is secured for facilities, before groups are encouraged to go ahead and undertake a project like this. In the Inuvik situation, we are still looking to see where we can access funds to keep them operating.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister and his officials whether or not he could also look into the matter of -- in determining the priority of

a project -- whether or not they can indicate the number of communities that particular facility is intended to serve? With great respect, if the idea of a capital project is based on the amount of community support, the amount of community fund raising then I think that should be a criteria placed on all facilities. I do not think that is a basis on which you approve a capital project. It is based on need. I would ask to the Minister, if that is the criteria, that he should make that quite publicly clear to people so that everyone understands that that is the requirement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in looking at last year's capital budget and this year's capital budget, this Nutaraq's Place extension in Iqaluit for \$89,000, requesting approval of the Assembly for the day, indicates in this year's capital budget that there was an expenditure of \$446,000. Checking back to last year's capital budget there was no funding identified for it. For the record, I would like the House to be advised as to how this funding was identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister, would you like to answer that question?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the honourable Member to clarify for me, if it was to identify where the \$446,000 came from, or to identify where the \$89,000 came from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: The question I am asking is; there is \$446,000 identified in the current capital budget under Nutaraq's, Place and that has been expended, but if you go back to last year's capital budget there is no funding identified for Nutaraq's for \$446,000. So where did these funds come from, and how were they expended? That is what I am asking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through a variety of surpluses in other projects, renovations, the purchase of furniture, and a variety of things, the amount of money was found.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I believe Mrs. Marie-Jewell might have had some supplementaries. I have another question which is related to this particular item, but

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the Minister just a few minutes ago said there was no money available. The request that was made, for instance, from the Inuvik group was made during the year, last year in fact, so I am even more curious now as to why their capital requirements were not addressed prior to a new project of this type. It does not make any sense to me. They were in existence before this particular project was even approved, so it does not make any sense why we should not be addressing previously organized shelters before we build new ones. I am just kind of curious as to why we did not address that matter. I would think most other Members here would also be concerned if we were expending new capital money on new projects when their projects have not been addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the requests for funding certainly came earlier than did the Inuvik request, as far as I understand, and Nutaraq's Place, the society that operates it, undertook a very aggressive fund-raising project to offset the additional costs that it would take to build the extension. They have clearly demonstrated an awful lot of involvement in this project. This project has been a very successful project; it has operated well within its budget for the period of time that they have been operating, have kept staff and have excellent training. It had a good record, and I understand that the project was identified earlier than the Inuvik project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, if I am able to get an indication from the Inuvik group that their proposals were submitted prior to the Iqaluit submission, is the Minister prepared to find the capital funding? It does not make any sense because I think it is unfair to them to make the suggestion that their proposal was in before Inuvik's, because I do not think that was necessarily the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Can I have a little bit of order here, please. I am having a hard time. Some of the microphones are picking up the conversation which is getting a bit loud, and we cannot recognize the speaker any more. Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was difficult to understand what the Member was asking because of the other background noises. Could I ask Mr. Nerysoo to repeat the question for me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, in last year's estimates there was an approval of \$145,000 for a group home in Igloodik. There is nothing in this year's estimates. What happened to that money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, some of the money from that project went to the Nutaraq project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Well, then it is obvious that the project in Igloodik was cancelled. What was the reason for it being cancelled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I believe it has been deferred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: It is not reflected in this year's capital, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: It has not been reinstated in this year's budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I know it is not my constituency, Mr. Chairman, but when is it going to be built then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I will re-examine that and I believe that we will review it and put it back in future years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Nerysoo, you were not yet finished with your question.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to get at earlier was simply that the Minister indicated that the proposal that was made for the Iqaluit shelter was based on the fact that a submission had gone in

prior to the Inuvik submission. Now that was the reasoning and the rationale. I want to ask the Minister, if the facts prove that the Inuvik proposal was in before Iqaluit, is he prepared to address that and find the appropriate financing? It does not make any sense to me but that is his rationale.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I said that we are looking to assist Inuvik, and I will continue to look at that project and assist them in every way that we can, given the resources, if we can find the money and the need is there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I had a couple of questions. The Minister, when we asked where the \$446,000 in the budget came from said, "through a variety of other projects." I was going to ask, and Mr. Gargan picked it up; was one of the projects from the intention of the unit to be built in Igloodik -- was the funding taken from that project? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, some money was taken from that project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: The Minister indicated that this funding was cost-shared with the group that runs Nutaraq's Place. How much of the funding was cost-shared? How much was GNWT funding? How much was from the society that runs Nutaraq's Place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was in the neighbourhood of \$45,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: In the event other groups in the Territories decide to raise money to the tune of about \$45,000 or 50,000, recognizing that they need

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shelter for battered women, is the Minister's department willing to assist those groups in ensuring that they build a home for battered women? Would

the same consideration be granted and would the same funds be available?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I think that all factors will be considered very carefully. I think that if a need is identified, we need to move fairly quickly on something given sets of circumstances at the time; I think the department would look very carefully at any proposal that would come, including participation by the lead group to raise portions of the money themselves, depending on the availability of capital funding through surpluses or things of that nature. Certainly based on the need at the time, given the circumstances.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: With regard to that \$446,000 that was spent this summer; there was a motion passed and I am sure that the justification for this expenditure must have been evaluated before -- this was not approved by the House, Mr. Chairman, so in order to justify this expenditure there must have been some statistics done, some studies done, some planning, some design, because last year there was no allocation for this amount, nor was there any money for the planning or design. So I would like to ask the Minister, how was it determined that a shelter should be built in Iqaluit. It came without any preliminary plans whatsoever, or design. Perhaps the Minister might be able to enlighten me about that. Mr. Chairman, we do have in the Deh Cho region 10 communities, and I do not think the need for a shelter is any less in that region as opposed to any other region, so perhaps the Minister might enlighten me. I know this has been an ongoing problem in my own constituency as well, but it has never been addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably get away with answering that I was not there at the time the initial decision was made, so I will ask Mr. Doyle if he would please respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Doyle.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, it is important to recognize that this is an extension, not a new building. The shelter was running at between 110 per cent and 115 per cent for some time. It was crowded. We had

some real concerns in regard to the number of people we were turning away under very serious circumstances, so we did look at where we could find the money to deal with this emergency. We did take \$45,000 from the \$145,000 that was put in for the Igloodik group home. We based our decision to do that on the fact that we were going to use the same design for the Igloodik group home as we were using for the Baker Lake group home, which was going to go ahead, so that would save us in design money in future years. We also wanted to save some money in our capital budget, so we did take the \$100,000 out. We also were able to come up with some surplus funds of \$320,000 from renovations and furniture and equipment in various locations within the family and children's services budget; \$30,000 from project No. 3020800, renovations, department facilities, under group homes, and \$51,000 from project 3050440, handicapped group home in Keewatin Region, which was delayed, so we made up the \$446,000 from those particular funds to deal with this emergency.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you, Mr. Doyle. Total region. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: So the moneys that were identified for the group homes were taken from all the different regions. It was not specifically deleting from Baffin and then placing it in a different area in the same region. It was basically taken from all the other facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, primarily from the Baffin and the Keewatin and headquarters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask Mr. Doyle, at what point in time did you decide to build a new facility in Iqaluit and delete all the other allocations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question was directed to Mr. Doyle. I will ask Mr. Doyle if he would respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. Mr. Doyle.

MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a new facility. This is an extension to the existing facility. The existing facility, as I mentioned earlier, was running over capacity for some period of time,

and we were having to turn away a number of women who were having a great deal of difficulty in their home community, so it was last winter -- I think it was last winter. I would have to confirm the date, but I believe it was last winter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thanks, Mr. Doyle. Why was it not identified, then, last year, if the need was there a year ago?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Mr. Minister.

MR. DOYLE: We just became aware of how overcrowded the facility was and the demand on the facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arvaluk): Thank you. I will recognize the time. It is 6:00 o'clock. I will rise to report progress, and thank the Minister and his witness for appearing before us. Thank you.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Secunder to the motion. Mr. Nerysoo. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to go back to Item 2, Ministers' Statements.

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MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? I am afraid there are nays.

AN HON. MEMBER: There was only one nay.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all it takes.

Item 20, third reading of bills. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to go back to Ministers' Statements to make a correction on a statement made by Mr. Kakfwi. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a technical point. Unanimous consent was asked for once. It was denied. There has been no intervening business, so I have to deny the request. Third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the standing committee on finance immediately after adjournment, which will be followed by a meeting of the management and services board. Meetings at 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning of the full caucus, and at 10:30 of the ordinary Members' caucus.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 10, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motions
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills: Bills 19, 22 and 23.

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), Motion 6- 12(2), and Bill 21.

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 1992.