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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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Member's Statement On Victim Impact Statements

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 25, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 45-12(2): Access To Government

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in December, I circulated a discussion paper on access to government to my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly. It contained suggestions for the development of a bill which would combine access to information legislation with a process for assisting the public. We are a small population, but a 'big' territory. We are looking to develop a model which will address the distinct needs of the people of the Northwest Territories.

In principle, access to information legislation takes people to the first step in the process of examining government actions; that is, it gives them a way to obtain the documents. Many, if not the majority of public concerns, however, go beyond getting copies of government papers. Getting the documents does not necessarily solve problems or answer questions.

As you will see from the discussion paper, it proposes that these next steps be within the powers of an 'access to government commissioner' or 'ombudsman,' appointed by and reporting directly to this Assembly. Broad powers of investigation and

access to government would be included. A network for intake of complaints or requests would be established, using existing resources wherever possible.

At a time when we are seeking ways of improving the process for government accountability and access, and, at the same time, working in an atmosphere of fiscal restraint, it is doubly important to find creative solutions.

Later today, I will be tabling the discussion paper. As a next step, I will be consulting on it. This way, members of the public as well as the government, will have an opportunity to consider and comment on the philosophy and direction of the initiative. With that assistance, we will be better able to shape the proposal before a more formal process begins. We will aim to introduce a bill in the fall. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a group of students in the gallery. The students are from Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada; and from Brazil, Japan and South Africa. They are visiting Yellowknife under the sponsorship of the Rotary northern experience program.

--- Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the limited availability of services that enable victims of crime to prepare a victim impact statement for court consideration. In 1988, Mr. Speaker, all Ministers responsible for criminal justice in Canada, including the Hon. Michael Ballantyne, signed a statement of basic principle of justice for victims of crime. I would like to quote from one of those principles to which we agreed: 'Where the personal interests of the victim are affected, the views or concerns of the victim should be brought to the attention of the court where appropriate and consistent with criminal law in procedure!

Presently, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice and the RCMP are making services available to residents of the Northwest Territories in nine selected communities through a pilot project announced on July 3, 1991. Victims of crime in these nine communities are assisted by the RCMP, working jointly with the Department of Justice, to make voluntary victim impact statements. These enable the

victim to tell the courts how a crime has affected them emotionally, physically or financially.

Persons who are victimized in other communities do not receive the same level of service. Frequently, the victim must endure the stress of giving evidence in person as their only recourse for advising the court about the impact of the crime. It does not make sense for an individual to have to endure additional personal hardship in order to appraise the courts of the hardship they have already suffered.

This hit home recently, Mr. Speaker, in a criminal matter which was widely reported in the local press. A Yellowknife woman, the alleged victim of a sexual assault, had information about the personal impact caused by the incident before the court. The only way she was able to make the evidence available to the court was to undergo the stressful and humiliating experience of taking the stand.

If she lived in Pond Inlet, Mr. Speaker, she would have had the option of making a victim impact statement. The same would be true if she was living in Norman Wells, Hay River, or in any of the other selected nine communities included in the pilot project. This is simply not fair.

Given that a large number of sentencing submissions are heard by the courts in Yellowknife and the other communities which are now excluded from the program, it makes little sense for residents of these communities to be excluded from the target group receiving these services. I would like to see the Department of Justice wrap up the evaluation phase of this pilot project, and move as quickly as possible toward full implementation of services aimed at the preparation of victim impact statements in Yellowknife and throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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Member's Statement On Book, "Journey Into An Emerging Land"

My personal experiences with the Kazan River, which is what the book is about, are limited to the Kazan Falls; however, I have had the experience of capsizing on the river in early summer. I do not think I

can begin to tell you how cold it is when you fall into that river.

I have known the author, Mr. Pelly, now for about 10 years, and get to see him every year when he has completed another of his trips down one of the many rivers which flow into Baker Lake.

The book, "Journey Into An Emerging Land", explores the natural and cultural history of the Kazan River. The story begins 7000 years ago when the last ice age ended and the ice retreated from what is now the Keewatin. Since then, a new landscape has formed; vegetation, birds and animals arrived, and both Inuit and Dene people came to live and hunt. These stages in the history of a Barren Lands' river are told by different scientists, each one of whom has travelled and studied the Kazan River. Much of the field work behind the book was done by Operation Raleigh which is an international expedition for youth. Never before has such a complete description of an Arctic river been published. Added to this are the thoughts, sketches and impressions of young people from all around the world who have paddled down the Kazan River. They visited Baker Lake for a week at the end of their trip, and built two playgrounds which the children of that community will be using for many years to come.

His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, wrote the foreword in which he explains the importance of this book...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arngna'naaq, your time has expired.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: I seek unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Referring to the mystery of the North and, specifically, the mystery of the Kazan River Valley, the Prince of Wales writes: "To seek solutions of that mystery is important both for the land and for its inhabitants. Only in the quest to understand, do people develop a respect. The more we understand the unique environment that has emerged in the Arctic Barren Lands, the more we will value that wilderness. Only in establishing a record of the human life that once depended on that environment, can we ensure the preservation of a

cultural heritage unlike any other in the world. The valley of the Kazan River today is a wilderness; no one lives there and few travel there. The mystery of the emerging land endures. Its natural and cultural heritage is rich. In an awareness of that heritage lies the key to its preservation." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to Question O268-12(2), asked by Mr. Pudlat on March 5, 1992. There are currently eight economic development officers serving 14 Baffin communities, of which three positions are serving the Baffin South riding. The department has an EDO stationed in Cape Dorset, and an officer serving Lake Harbour from Iqaluit.

The department has also entered into a contract with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq to hire a community business development officer. This officer will work for the hamlet on economic development projects and issues. Hiring for the Sanikiluaq community business development officer is under way. Sanikiluaq will participate in the hiring process.

Return To Question O264-12(2): Employment Officer, Fort Providence

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Question O264-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan on March 4, 1992. An economic development officer was hired in November 1991, for the community of Fort Providence. The EDO, Mr. Victor Sudermann, has been working out of Fort Smith and has been in Fort Providence on several occasions. Mr. Sudermann will be posted full time in Fort Providence as soon as office space is available.

Arrangements for office space have been made, and we anticipate that the EDO will move into the new DIGAA Enterprises building in Fort Providence by the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin,

Return To Question O339-12(2): Husky Rental Units

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O339-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 24, 1992. The lease for the Husky rental units expires on August 31, 1995.

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

I have a return to Question O97-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 20, 1992. The reasons for amending the business incentive policy were to:

a) provide for a better enforcement of the policy in order to ensure that the benefits of the policy are extended only to bona fide northern businesses and that "storefront" businesses do not benefit;

b) recognize the additional costs of operating in the smaller northern communities by providing a level of local preference;

c) ensure that all contracting organizations follow the GNWT preference policies so long as they receive the majority of their funding from the GNWT;

d) provide financial support, through the reinvestment of corporate earnings, to the northern economy.

Thank you

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

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Further Return To Question O333-12(2): GNWT Involvement In Kitty Reynolds Case Review

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O333-12(2), asked by Mr. Gargan yesterday. Mr. Gargan expressed his concern for the well-being of Ms. Kitty Nowdluk-Reynolds, whose complaint to the RCMP Public Complaints Commission is being heard in Iqaluit now. I have contacted the RCMP and have been informed that Ms. Reynolds' expenses for legal counsel are being covered by the commission.

Mr. Gargan asked specifically whether professional and personal assistance will be provided by my department to Ms. Reynolds, if she requests it. There are two specific victims' programs under the mandate of my department. One is the Victims' Assistance Committee. Money from a surcharge on fines is disbursed to organizations for training and other

initiatives, so that victims may be assisted at the community level. The other is under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, a program which allows victims of crime to make application for losses suffered by them as a result of a criminal action against them. This is a program in which we respect the wishes of victims to maintain a certain amount of confidentiality. Other than that, we do not have the mandate or resources to step in and lend assistance.

I do appreciate the honourable Member's concern for the well-being of Ms. Nowdluk-Reynolds. I share that concern, but it is now a matter for the commission to deal with, and it is not appropriate for me to say anything further on it at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O345-12(2): Access To Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Yesterday the Minister advised that if I were able to inform him of any reason for speeding up access to the pilot project victims' statements, that he would consider approving that. I think today I pointed out an incident that has happened within the last week in Yellowknife, and I was wondering if the Minister would advise me how many more cases like that he would like me to bring to his attention before proceeding.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O345-12(2): Access To Victim Impact Statement Pilot Project

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would not expect the Member to provide me with numerous examples of that kind to encourage me to pursue his request. I would note, though, that there was quite a lot of consultation that went into the development of this program among various agencies involved in the administration of justice, and I would feel obliged to consult again in order to complete an earlier evaluation, which would take a little bit of time. But I have taken careful note of the Member's eloquent statement today, and I can assure him that I will see what I can do to complete an earlier evaluation than had been planned initially. Thank you.

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

Question O346-12(2): Update On New Water Line For Arviat

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Earlier in this session the Minister assured me that the water line project for Arviat was going to go ahead. But I have not heard any definite confirmation on this. I know that the Minister has indicated that they will be reallocating funds to do this. I would like to know if he has any definite confirmation of this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O346-12(2): Update On New Water Line For Arviat

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it was just a few weeks ago that I made the commitment in this Legislature to do what I could to advance this project. That was, of course, a recommendation of the standing committee on finance, which this government and this department is taking very seriously. I would have to tell the Member that today I cannot provide any concrete information about this project, but I can tell him that the department has several very good and live possibilities for ways in which, through down-sizing or other reallocations within the departmental budget, moneys can be diverted to advancing this project as the committee recommended.

I do wish to point out that some survey work is required, which I am told will happen as soon as break-up occurs and as soon as we can get on the land and look at the Wolf Creek and the best place for putting in an intake. That will happen early in the summer. I will pursue that with diligence, and I think that perhaps by the time we next sit, I should have some very solid information for the honourable Member about our ability to complete that project this summer, and I am optimistic about that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O347-12(2): Polar Bear Quota, Pangnirtung

MS. MIKE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Last year the polar bear survey was completed. In the 11th Assembly the Minister of Renewable Resources went to Pangnirtung to inform the people of Pangnirtung of the results of the polar

bear survey. The hunters in Pangnirtung are looking forward to hear if the quota will be larger than last year. Could you give me an answer as soon as possible?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and answer later on.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Koe.

Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services about the lotteries policy that regulates the licensing of bingo operations for charitable purposes. It is my understanding that presently the government will only provide bingo licences for organizations considered as registered charities. In some circumstances, though, the charitable organizations have found it best to establish themselves as corporations without share capital. The profits do not go to the directors of the corporation but are reinvested to promote social and cultural objectives within the community.

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The Uqurmiut centre for arts and crafts in Pangnirtung is a good example of this sort of community venture. Is the Minister willing to re-evaluate eligibility requirements for the issuance of licences for bingos?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

MR. KOE: Under the general rules for lotteries in the lotteries information booklet, it states that licences can be issued for purposes beneficial to the community, including the promotion of cultural activities or the teaching of arts and crafts. Is the Minister aware that organizations like the Uqurmiut Inuit Artists' Association carry out those activities but may fall

outside the narrow definition of charitable organizations under the legislation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, I am aware now if I was not before, Mr. Speaker. I certainly heard the Member's submissions on that. I should note that during the previous year a lottery review was conducted which accepted input from a number of bodies that were concerned about the lottery regulations. That review could well result in changes to the regulations and could address the point that the honourable Member has raised. So I will take into account his advice and concern, and also the public input that was sought last year, and attempt to address the issue that has been brought to my attention today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is obviously an issue that affects the group in Pangnirtung. Would the Minister be willing to direct his officials involved with the licensing of bingos to travel to Pangnirtung and meet with the representatives of the community and the artists' association to explore the possible avenues for reconciling the differences and for them to get future bingo licences?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O348-12(2): Licensing Of Bingos

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, of course, Mr. Speaker, I would want to consult with the MLA for that community before making such an undertaking. But if that is a request that is coming from the community, I certainly would be open to have someone meet with the particular association.

I will point out that lottery licensing responsibility has been delegated to regional directors in the various regions, although there are people in headquarters responsible. So it might be possible to avoid sending someone all the way from

Yellowknife to meet with the group. It may be possible to have their concern dealt with within the region. At

any rate, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look at following up on that request in consultation with the MLA for that community.

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

**Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton
Yellowknife Hospital**

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. I have recently acquired a copy of the transcript of the CBC News this morning, Mackenzie Morning, done by the Minister of Health this morning with one of the reporters. It brings some concern to me, not only as an MLA but as a woman in the Territories. It is in regard to the issue of abortion. Can the Minister advise this House whether or not abortions that are being performed at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital are following the same procedures that are used in other parts of the country? Are the same medical procedures being used?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the procedures are in keeping with standards set.

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

Supplementary To Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Can the Minister indicate to me, where?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The standards are standards of care for therapeutic abortions and are established by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in Canada.

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

Supplementary To Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate to this House whether or not, when abortions are performed, there is anesthetic given to the patient, which is normal practice, apparently, in other parts of the country?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O349-12(2): Abortions At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that the procedures are standard. They may vary in some instances as to the type and amounts of medication given to a patient prior to, during and after the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

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**Question O350-12(2): Counselling Before
Performing Abortions**

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up with Mrs. Marie-Jewell's questions, I would like to ask the Minister whether the women being given the abortions are advised of the difficulty they may be experiencing and whether they are given the opportunity for medication if they do ask.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O350-12(2): Counselling Before Performing Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a procedure that takes place which involves counselling. All patients requiring and seeking an abortion at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital first receive counselling from the attending physicians and nursing staff in regard to the procedure. They are also informed by the physician and the nursing staff that the procedure is performed without a general anesthetic, and the reasons for these standards of care are explained to the patient so that they know, and also they have an opportunity to sign a consent form.

Further, Mr. Speaker, if a person is apprehensive, there is medication given to a patient. There is no patient receiving an abortion without their consent and without the care that is needed for that particular type of a procedure. There is no way that the hospital does this type of procedure against the will of an individual. They are informed first of all that it is not a practice

that will be done without an anesthetic, or if the patient requests an anesthetic, they will receive it.

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

Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health in respect to reviewing some of the comments that he had in his interview with CBC. He indicated, and I would like to quote, "I do not think people who seek abortions are forced into seeking an abortion, and they are not forced into having an abortion." I would like the Minister to clarify what he meant by this public statement in respect to abortions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had prepared a point of privilege to bring to the House under Rule 32(1) dealing with that very issue and I was waiting for the appropriate time to do this, according to the rules.

Point Of Privilege

Mr. Speaker, this morning CBC Radio carried an interview that I did yesterday concerning the matter of abortions. I am concerned that my comments did not come across the way that they should have. What I was trying to say to the reporter was that I had been advised that patients have a choice on whether or not they wish to have pain relief during an abortion procedure; I certainly did not want to suggest in any way that patients either have to have an abortion without pain killers, or they do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am advised by the hospital that standard procedures involving the administering of pain relieving medication, as required, before, during and after the procedure -- I am told that in some cases general anesthetic is used in specific circumstances, such as for young patients, severely emotional and distraught patients, when the pregnancy is in the latter part of the first trimester, or when another medical procedure is being performed at the same time.

I explained this to the reporter, That part of the interview did not make it on to the news. I regret, Mr.

Speaker, any misunderstanding that may have arisen out of that broadcast.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I know in accordance with the rules that any Member, at any time, can bring forth a point of privilege. I am sure that Mr. Whitford could have brought forth his point of privilege at any point in time.

Supplementary To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

But I would like to get back to the question that I asked the Minister. He did indicate in his comments that he did not think people seeking abortions are forced into seeking abortions and they are not forced into having abortions. What did he mean when he made such a statement? He did publicly make this type of statement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, on the point of privilege, I am supposed to give the House an hour's notice on something that was on a broadcast and not something that had been raised in the House. That was the delay; it had to be five minutes after 2:00 o'clock. It is in the book on page 12.

Further Return To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

But to the question. The comments that I made were perhaps in my words, but it is not my intention to pass judgment on anyone as to whether or not an abortion should take place. It has never been, never was, never will be, my position. I was simply stating that a patient was not forced to have an abortion without an anesthetic if they did not want to have an abortion without an anesthetic, and I had explained that to the reporter. Unfortunately, that did not come across as I had intended it.

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

Supplementary To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to ask if the Minister of Health is aware that many of the women who are recommended for, or request, such procedure, and appear at the Stanton Yellowknife

Hospital in respect to abortions are in fact women who have possibly miscarried and not really women that want to have abortions. They have no choice in seeking such elective surgery. Is the Minister aware of this?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not personally aware of what the Member is referring to, but I am advised that during the standard abortion procedure – by choice that is – a certain

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amount of counselling takes place between the physician and the patient. I am advised as well that there are female nursing staff present that are giving as good care as can be given under those trying circumstances. I, as a Member, am greatly concerned about what I have been hearing. As a result of this, Mr. Speaker, I have asked Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to do a full public review of the procedures at the hospital. When these findings are made known to me, I will make them known to the House.

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

Supplementary To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, obviously, the Minister has not understood my question, nor does he understand what I am speaking about. I have indicated to the Minister that these procedures with respect to abortions being performed are not only because of a woman wanting to have an abortion; they could be because of the result of a miscarriage that the same type of elective surgery is done to women. Earlier, I had asked the Minister if he is aware of this; that is, medical elective surgery is somewhat similar. Is he aware that similar procedures are used?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O351-12(2): Clarification Of Minister's Public Statement On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the delay. I am not a medical person, and I can only rely on the information that I obtain

from the medical profession. I am informed that the procedure for abortions is as I indicated. They are given counselling. They are given medication to relieve any pain or stress that may be caused by this traumatic experience. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, whether I can answer anything other than that. As the honourable Member indicated, they may be similar, and I am sure the procedures would be similar on the advice of the doctor.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. A new question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O352-12(2): Definition Of Abortion

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I did not realize I used all my supplementaries on my initial question, but I am thinking of how to develop a new question. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned now that the Minister's reply indicated that he is not a medical professional. I recognize that; however, I do know that he does have a lot of resources for medical professionals that are made available to him as a Minister through his department. I would like to know whether or not the Minister has had any types of briefings with respect to the issue of abortions, and the definition of abortion by medical officials.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O352-12(2): Definition Of Abortion

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have consulted with our assistant deputy minister, Dr. Kinloch, and others in our department as to the question of procedure. I, as any ordinary person, would be aware that an abortion is a very traumatic experience and something that may be seen in a category of its own. An induced abortion and a spontaneous abortion, I am sure are very traumatic and very painful to the individual, but that is something that is dealt with at the point of service when the person is in the hospital for care.

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

Supplementary To Question O352-12(2): Definition Of Abortion

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I do not know if I should make an attempt, Mr. Speaker, to try to educate the Minister, but can I ask the Minister if he realizes that a spontaneous abortion is another word for a miscarriage?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O352-12(2): Definition Of Abortion

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am aware now.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O353-12(2): Amalgamation Of Department Of Culture And Communications

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It has been about three years now, Mr. Speaker, since I lobbied the government to see whether or not an interpreter from Hay River could be moved to the Hay River Reserve. The reason for the delay is that they are considering the amalgamation of that department. I would like to know which department the Department of Culture and Communications would be moved to.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O353-12(2): Amalgamation Of Department Of Culture And Communications

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, no decisions have been made in that regard. I would be speculating if I said it was going to go here or there. I am aware of the problem Mr. Gargan is raising, and I will talk to the Government Leader as soon as she returns to see if we can straighten out the issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O353-12(2): Amalgamation Of Department Of Culture And Communications

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I understand the arrangement now is that anybody from Hay River that is working on the Hay River Reserve is being compensated for gasoline or travel. Anybody working on the Hay River Reserve and travelling to Hay River is not being given similar arrangements, and I would like to know why.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O353-12(2): Amalgamation Of Department Of Culture And Communications

HON. JOHN POLLARD: I am aware of that, as well, Mr. Speaker. At the same time as I am trying to find out why the position cannot be transferred to the Hay River Reserve, I will also try to find out why there is no compensation for travelling one way when there is when you are travelling the other way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

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Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he supports the requirement for anesthetic services to individuals requesting or having abortions performed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O354-12(2): Use of Anesthetic During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister instructed or given any instruction about financing or providing the necessary services at the Yellowknife Stanton Hospital for such services?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not specifically. I did not realize there was a problem dealing with the administration of anesthetics.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if any of his staff has met with the administration and management board of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to discuss this particular issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they have done so.

MR. SPEAKER: Last supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if there have been any resolutions to the concerns that have been raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O354-12(2): Use Of Anesthetic During Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I realize that a lot has happened in two days' time. This was brought to my attention yesterday morning. It was about 8:30 when I first heard this on the news, and like everyone else, I was shocked by the story that I heard about the woman in Iqaluit. At the earliest opportunity, which was about half an hour after I heard this, I directed the deputy minister to look into the matter, I have not been able to ascertain whether or not, at this point in time, there was any change in procedures or anything different than would normally be conducted.

Therefore I was not able to have anybody issue any specific instructions, other than to be assured that medication to relieve pain, either through general anesthetic or partial anesthetic or else through intravenous or pills to assist in the suppression of pain, prior to and after the procedure, was available. I was assured that this was part of it, and I have not issued any other instructions dealing with medication because I am assured that this is available, at the doctor's discretion. However, I learned subsequently from the news stories that there may be some discrepancies between what one comment is and what another is and that is why I have asked the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board to conduct this review to assure the public, that in fact, people are receiving quality treatment for this very traumatic procedure.

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

Question O355-12(2): Support For Complaints From Status Of Women

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I would like to advise him that it has been reported that the Status of Women Council has received as many as 14 complaints from women who have had abortions in Yellowknife. The executive director has indicated that she took these complaints to the Department of Health but got nowhere with them. I would like to know if the Minister supports the concerns raised by the council in respect to this issue of abortions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O355-12(2): Support For Complaints From Status Of Women

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in the process of having a meeting to talk about the issue. I do support the concern of the Status of Women Council.

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

Supplementary To Question O355-12(2): Support For Complaints From Status Of Women

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, besides meeting with the Status of Women Council, I would like to ask what role the Minister is prepared to play in responding to women who feel they have been violated as a result of surgical procedures carried out at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return To Question O355-12(2): Support For Complaints From Status Of Women

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am prepared to represent and speak for the Status of Women.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O356-12(2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, now that he has acknowledged that complaints have been raised with the Department of Health, why the department did not respond to the concerns that were raised by the Status of Women Council?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O356-12(2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, since I have been the Minister I have not received one complaint. No complaints have been brought to my attention through the department, dealing with the procedures of abortion at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. There have been three complaints raised about Stanton over the past two years, of which one was in writing and two were oral, and I have been advised that they have all been dealt with. There is a procedure that is in place for directing concerns about physicians and medical treatment to the department, and to my knowledge that procedure has not been used by the Status of Women or any other persons.

I stand here without any facts to present to the House about the 14 complaints. I have not heard one name. I have asked about it. I have not received anything that will indicate to me that there have been complaints, other than what I heard on the CBC, and that dealt specifically with one individual. I have not received one name. The Status of Women have never come forward to me to bring this to my attention over the months that I have been in office and, Mr. Speaker, I am very accessible.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O356-12(2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister going to address this matter with the department officials?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O356-12(2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have already met with the department officials and we are reviewing the procedures and the process to ensure that the public are made secure in any doubts they may have about the abortion procedures. I stand behind the process that we have. I have advised the department to revisit this and advise the Stanton board to look into this matter through a public

review. I have also instructed Dr. Kinloch to be the coordinator of any concerns that may come up on this issue, so we can co-ordinate these things and so people know who to contact. Being a doctor, he would probably be better to advise the public than I would.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O356-12 (2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I can get up and raise or criticize an official of government, but I am not necessarily certain that Dr. Kinloch is the right person to represent the interests of the people in the community.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: That is for sure

MR. NERYSOO: But I want to ask the Minister if he is prepared to consider an individual who has the respect and some integrity in dealing with communities, who have to use this particular hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O356-12(2): Acknowledgement Of Complaints By Department Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how I should answer this. I have every faith in Dr. Kinloch's ability to receive complaints or calls and explain concerns and be able to bring this to my attention and to the staff's attention. I have every faith in Dr. Kinloch's ability to be able to talk to people about medical matters. If the Member has some suggestions. I would certainly be open to hearing what those are.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O357-12(2): Minister's Interview On CBC

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on the question my colleague from Thebacha asked on the interview that was done at 7:30 this morning on CBC with the Minister of Health. What did he mean when he made the comment, "I do not think people seeking abortions are forced into seeking an abortion, and they are not forced into having an abortion"?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank my honourable colleague for raising this point. What I was directing my comments to was dealing with the anesthetics and pain relief medication that may be administered; that through the consultation process the doctor and patient discuss procedure; that if there is any apprehension, certain medications are given to relieve tension and stress -- if there is any hesitation on the patient's part. What I was referring to was to deal with the fact that no one is subjected to an operation against their will without an anesthetic. If a patient said, "I want an anesthetic; I cannot go through this," they are not forced physically.

Because judging by the story that I heard, that people were holding someone down -- people on the street mentioned the words, 'torture chamber.' This was said to assuage the fear that procedures were taking place in the hospital against people's will without any medication or anesthetic. We do not do those things these days, Mr. Speaker, and that was what I was alluding to, and for some reason that just did not come through clearly. I was not referring to a person's choice of 'take it or leave it,' so to speak; not at all. It was merely to say that if it was deemed that a great amount of pain was going to be experienced, anesthetic could be administered.

As I said, part of the procedure was to administer certain relaxants, certain pain killers, prior to the procedure, if requested and required, and in post-operative recovery.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O357-12(2): Minister's Interview On CBC

MS. MIKE: Mr. Speaker, the comment the Minister of Health made in the interview this morning seems to suggest that -the way I understand the answer he made, "I do not think those seeking abortions are forced into seeking an abortion. They are not forced into having an abortion." He is not talking about anesthetic; he is talking about abortion. I would like to know exactly what you meant, having said what you said during the interview.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O357-12(2): Minister's Interview On CBC

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is quite correct; that is what came out on the radio. I regret that that is the way it was said; but in the context it was said, I had said much more before that, as I explained the full procedure, and unfortunately the clip was 20 seconds of a two to three minute interview. I regret there are any misunderstandings of my intentions and my position on abortion. I have no intention whatsoever to pass judgment on anyone. I am merely pointing out that any medical procedure that requires the administration of an anesthetic, that in the doctor's opinion should be applied or should not be applied, depending on what it is, that if a patient requests it and it is medically suitable, it will be done. I was saying that no one is actually forced to undergo such a traumatic experience without some medication. That is what I was alluding to, and I apologize for any misunderstanding that may have been created by my actual words. The sentence was not long enough to include the word on anesthetic.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Mike

Supplementary To Question O357-12(2): Minister's Interview On CBC

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Health have any idea if a person chooses to have an abortion and has never had one before, would undergo something like that? If you never experienced it without anesthetic, how can a patient know? Is he aware of that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O357-12(2): Minister's Interview On CBC

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am perhaps one individual that will never experience that procedure. I do know from my days in social work that it is a traumatic experience under any conditions; whether it is something that a person chooses or something that is forced upon them through circumstances. I am very concerned that people may believe that we perform surgical procedures without anesthetic, and I want to assure the public that this is not the case. I also want to assure the Member that the information that I have, and my personal

experience as a social worker, is that counselling does take place. Patients are informed of a procedure, how it is going to be done, and what precedes it.

I have only been through a couple of operations in my life, and I have been told before hand what to expect; and I would assume from what I know, and from what I have heard and what I have been advised, that this does occur or is supposed to occur. If the advice that I am told is supposed to be given to patients prior to an abortion is not being given, 1, as well as Members of this House, want to know that there have been some shortcomings. This is why I have asked the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board to look into this matter, to see that the procedures are in keeping with what is outlined and ensure that the public is left confident that the procedures that we do here are the best that we can provide and that they are in keeping with the standards that have been set by the medical profession for all areas. And if this is not happening, then I want to know about it so I can inform the public that we have looked into it and taken those things into consideration and rectified a shortcoming, if it has happened.

MR. SPEAKER: I will just make one short comment. I have cautioned Members about their preambles to oral questions, but I would also like to caution Ministers about their long carrying on in answering a question. If you could be a little more concise. Mr. Gargan.

Question O358-12(2): Emergency Equipment For Floods, Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. The Minister wrote to me yesterday in regard to purchasing some emergency equipment in the event of a flood in Hay River. One of the things the Minister suggested is the emergency coordinator will be in Hay River from May 4th on, and that would be the time to acquisition emergency communication equipment if the need arises. Will any equipment that is ordered take weeks and months before you get it? What is the Minister suggesting? that we wait until the emergency coordinator gets there and then order the stuff? By then everything could be flooded. I would think that would be for the preparation of the equipment that is being requested.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O358-12(2): Emergency Equipment For Floods, Hay River Reserve

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think I stated earlier this session that there are arrangements in place to provide equipment for the forthcoming flood season on a temporary basis, as has been done in the past. It is for the long-term acquisition of equipment and permanent arrangements for the reserve that I suggested our emergency measures co-ordinator could meet in May. We have the situation in hand for the forthcoming season. It is not going to be possible to make long-term arrangements before the flood season, but I would hope that could be done in a proper fashion when that visit is planned in May. That is what I meant in my letter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O358-12(2): Emergency Equipment For Floods, Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The equipment required is not much. The reserve is asking for several walkie-talkies that they could use for dialogue with the Town of Hay River and the Hay River Reserve. The Minister wrote this letter before he saw that, but in here it suggests there is no money of any kind to assist the reserve. Perhaps the coordinator might be able to do something for equipment acquisition. What I am suggesting is that the equipment required is not very much. We are not asking for an exorbitant amount of capital allocation. We are asking for enough money to purchase the necessary small portable equipment that would assist the reserve.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O358-12(2): Emergency Equipment For Floods, Hay River Reserve

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I apologize if the letter was not clear. I can tell the honourable Member that I am informed that next week the emergency measures coordinator will be on the reserve and will deliver radios of the kind the Member is describing. They will be in the hands of his constituents next week. What I was trying to say in the letter is that there is a federal program the JEPS program, joint emergency preparedness program which will provide the funds necessary to purchase these units so that temporary arrangements do not have to be made each year. If this program exists,

and since we can access it, we would all agree we should use the federal program if it is available.

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Short-term needs are being met, as they have been in previous years, next week. We will assist to get money to the band to access this program so that this will not have to come up every year. They can purchase the necessary equipment and radios and have them in hand on a permanent basis from here on in. I hope this is satisfactory.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have noticed that the Government Leader has not left anyone in charge of the government. However, I have a very important question to ask. In the absence of a Government Leader or an acting Government Leader, I will ask Mr. Kakfwi, who is responsible for constitutional development, is there is any code of conduct that has been developed for the behaviour of cabinet Ministers as it relates to the upcoming plebiscite question, as to how they should behave with regard to the decision on the boundary line, on voting and so on? Has there been any protocol or anything at all developed to guide Ministers in their behaviour?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LEWIS: I would like to ask for unanimous consent to extend question period.

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

Supplementary To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

MR. LEWIS: To Mr. Kakfwi then, on this constitutional issue. Although he is not the acting Government Leader, and no one seems to be running

anything, could he indicate to the House what Mr. Allooloo is doing right now while we are sifting here dealing with very important business? Exactly what is he doing in relation to constitutional issues in Pond Inlet or wherever he is?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as I recall, the direction given by the last Legislative Assembly last summer indicated that we would provide some financial support for a public awareness campaign which would be co-ordinated through the Tungavik Federation office. It would include the involvement of MLAs in conducting and preparing communities for the vote on the plebiscite. It is in keeping with that motion that was made last summer that MLAs -- and I think properly -- are being involved in an exercise that involves public money as well as making sure their constituents are being approached properly with good, factual information. That is what Mr. Allooloo is doing. I suspect that other MLAs and Ministers will be involved in the public awareness campaign through the different Eastern Arctic communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Mr. Allooloo is playing a lead role, it seems, by being absent from the House this week in order to assist in the preparation for dealing with this vote on May 4th, who among cabinet has been given the responsibility to do similar work in the West'?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Titus Allooloo is not a lead Minister in any sense in this exercise. I expect that other MLAs, such as Rebecca Mike, John Ningark, Silas Arngna'naaq and John Todd, at cetera, will all be expected to be present when the TFN approaches their communities and their constituencies about the upcoming plebiscite vote to prepare community people to vote.

In the western part of the Territories, we, as Members may remember in the discussions last summer in the

last Legislature, said that we wanted moneys to go to the Western Constitutional Commission. This commission would address the long-standing requirement by the aboriginal people of the Western Arctic and the non-aboriginal people to be satisfied that sufficient political constitutional progress has been made toward having a draft constitution in hand, preferably before the plebiscite vote has taken place. That would be what is required in the West for people to feel comfortable in voting "Yes" or "No" in the upcoming plebiscite.

Other than that, the chief people involved in conducting the plebiscite vote will be ensuring that proper information is disseminated to the people in the Western Arctic.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister to confirm that each cabinet Minister -- at least the way he understands it -- is free to promote either a yes or no vote as ordinary MLAs. Is this the case?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O359-12(2): Ministers' Code Of Conduct Re Boundary Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, there are some better informed historians in this Legislature than I am. But I have been led to believe that it is one of the more controversial, emotional issues that has hit this Legislature since its infancy. Not that it is out of it, but we know that it is a very emotional issue that sometimes even threatens to split the seemingly rather solid Nunavut caucus. It certainly gets the ire of the western politicians up to a unseemingly high degree on certain occasions. I believe that the cabinet would still want an opportunity to see if we could forge at least a common position regarding what we do, whether we have a single united position with regard to the upcoming plebiscite or not. But as yet the cabinet has not taken an in-depth decision on the issue.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe.

Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

MR. KOE: A question to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. In his response to my colleague for Yellowknife Centre he mentioned that the Minister of Education is in his riding and has received factual information on the plebiscite issue and is currently in Pond Inlet disseminating this factual information. When will we other MLAs receive this factual information?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the main driving force for the plebiscite and division in the settlement of the Nunavut claim, in the creation of Nunavut, I think Members recognize, is the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut; and it was the Members' feeling, again, last July that the Legislative Assembly could not, in good conscience, just turn over an amount of money and ask the TFN to act as a public interest group to make sure that the public is made aware of all the facts and the information necessary to make a good decision on how to vote in the upcoming plebiscite.

It was the view that TFN has a very specific interest. It has been preoccupied with creating Nunavut; it has been preoccupied with settlement of the Nunavut land claim; and it has a very set, a very clear, solid objection; and to offset that a little bit and to assure the public that somebody will be in there acting in the public interest, so to speak, the Members of the Legislature served notice that they would be part of the exercise. That is the point I was trying to make. That is how we are trying to assure the public, and MLAs in their best judgment will try to make sure that to the best of their knowledge that only good solid information is used in preparing communities and constituents to vote in the upcoming plebiscite.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make note that many of us in this House today were not in the Assembly last year when the debates took place that the Minister keeps referring to, so we were not privy to a lot of the factual information that he continues to refer to. And the vote is going to be carried out throughout the NWT, not only in the East. When will we be privileged to receive a lot of this

factual information, so we have something to go home with to our constituents?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in committee of the whole we have a document on the plebiscite direction. I expect when committee gets into the debate we will have all the necessary time to sift through the mountains of information, documents and opinions, legal and otherwise, that would form, in our best political judgment, what would be good factual information. I think that is the way I thought we were going to approach this. I could not give a summary of what I think is even a small body of good factual information at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to welcome to the Assembly a group of grade 11 students from St. Patrick High School.

--Applause

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

MR. KOE: Can the Minister confirm that there is a plebiscite office in existence that is supposedly putting together information for people in the NWT that are eligible to vote to have such facts that they can vote knowledgeably?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O360-12(2): Factual Information On Plebiscite

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is such an office. It is being conducted through the staff of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Hamilton is the main staff person in charge of conducting the plebiscite.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O361-12(2): Expenses Of Minister Travelling To Pond Inlet

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, If I could ask the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development whether or not -- and

after his statement that each MLA will be part of this process of disseminating information -- the travel arrangements and expenses of the Minister are being paid by the Executive?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O361-12(2): Expenses Of Minister Travelling To Pond Inlet

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to the information. As I understand it, Mr. Allooloo had gone home as a Minister during the break, and how he is carrying out his work during the time he is home is unknown to me at this time. We could get that information and give it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O361-12(2): Expenses Of Minister Travelling To Pond Inlet

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, if the facts prove that the honourable Member is travelling as a Minister and is receiving funding from the Executive, will the cabinet consider providing other Members with financing appropriately?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O361-12(2): Expenses Of Minister Travelling To Pond Inlet

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, for those of us who are interested, we all have money to go home to our constituencies to do the work that the Legislature and our offices oblige us to carry out. My understanding, again, and apologies to new Members who were not here, but last July the understanding was pretty clear that in the West the big ticket item we had was to get money to set up the Western Constitutional Development Commission, and the money we got there was what was going to help us prepare for division and to take a positive approach to the upcoming plebiscite vote. And in the East they asked for a sum of money to carry out an information campaign. That is what the agreement was if the Members want to suggest that new money should be allocated -- they are in the driver's seat. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O361-12(2): Expenses Of Minister Travelling To Pond Inlet

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to get at is if you are intending to refer to all Members here as Members of the Assembly and that their task is that, then it should be recognized as being the case. If a Minister is now receiving other money, then all other Members should be treated equally. I ask the Member if he is prepared to consider that particular recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I think I will take the question as notice because I cannot confirm that in fact the Executive is not using money to allow Ministers to be involved in this campaign when there is already money allocated by this Legislature specifically for that purpose.

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

Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Was his department made aware of the fact that there were concerns brought forward by 14 individuals through the Status of Women Council in respect to the procedures of abortions being conducted at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the question of the department, and I have been advised that no, they have not received any formal complaints. They have never received 14 complaints or any complaints.

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

Supplementary To Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: So is the Minister indicating to this House and confirming that there have been no complaints by the executive director of the Status of Women Council in respect to the procedures used for abortions in the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, No, not to the department.

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

Supplementary To Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned with the

Minister's reply, basically implying that the Status of Women Council did not bring any of this information to the Department of Health. From my understanding the Status of Women Council did bring this information to the Department of Health's attention and the Minister just indicated that the department is not aware of any types of concerns brought forth. Will the Minister immediately review and determine whether or not concerns were brought to his department's attention in respect to the procedures used for abortions at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital by the Status of Women Council?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O362-12(2): Department's Awareness Of Abortion Concerns

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in an earlier answer to one of the honourable Members, I believe there is protocol and I will reaffirm that I have not been informed at all of any concerns dealing with abortions at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital from the Status of Women or the executive director of the Status of Women. I meet the executive director quite frequently in different social functions and this has never been addressed to me. But I will undertake to ask the question again of the department. I have been assured that this is not the case.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

Question O363-12(2): Complimentary Bingo Passes

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services regarding the operation of bingo events. The Minister will probably know that it has been the practice of some bingo licensees to thank community volunteers by providing them with complementary cards. I understand the Minister's department is attempting to

curtail this practice. Would the Minister direct his officials to recognize the spirit in which the complementary cards are offered and allow this practice to continue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I guess I am not willing to give that direction until I have a chance to look into the matter and find out what is behind the practice that the Member refers to. I would need to know more before I made a direction of that kind. I would need more background. However, I will take the question as notice and look into the matter and report back to the House as soon as possible.

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

Question O364-12(2): Standards And Procedures For Medical Professionals

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, the Minister of Health indicated to this House that surgical procedures were established by medical professionals. I want to know that that is the usual practice that medical professionals establish the procedures, or is it the government that establishes the procedures by which the medical professionals carry out surgery?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O364-12(2): Standards And Procedures For Medical Professionals

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on I touched on some of the procedures that are in practice by Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Those standards and procedures for medical professionals.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O365-12(2): Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health. Yesterday Dr. Andre Lalonde of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists commented on the procedures reported to be used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, and I understand that Dr. Lalonde has since forwarded two letters to the chief executive officer at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he can confirm that that

correspondence from Dr. Lalonde has now been received, clarifying his earlier comments to the radio reporters.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O365-12(2): Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, since I have been in the House, I have not had any information of the nature that the Member describes, but I understand that the department had been following up in trying to locate this Dr. Lalonde to ascertain certain information that may have been on a report, but I do not have a copy of it. The Member may have, but I do not.

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

Supplementary To Question O365-12(2): Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Will the Minister immediately, or in the near future, advise this House accordingly whether or not this correspondence from Dr. Lalonde had been received, clarifying his earlier comments to the radio reporters, through his assistant deputy minister, who is a medical doctor, who does give him advice at the departmental level?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O365-12(2): Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, yes I will.

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

Supplementary To Question O365-12(2): Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health -- I understand that Dr. Lalonde has also written to outline his subsequent review of abortion procedures used at Stanton Hospital, and make a statement that the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists agrees in principle with these standards. Is the Minister aware that these statements made by Dr. Lalonde were

edited at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and subsequently returned to him?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O365-12(2):
Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion
Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I am not aware of that. The Member may have information that I have yet to find out. I have been in the House since 1:30, and I have not had that information.

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

Supplementary To Question O365-12(2):
Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion
Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that possibly Dr. Kinloch may have this information available to him?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return Question O365-12(2):
Correspondence From Dr. Lalonde Re Abortion
Procedures At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: I will ascertain from my officials if this information, and what type of information, if indeed they have located Mr. Lalonde, and I will get back to the Member as soon as I can with R.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

**Question O366-12(2): Timing Of Complaints
Received From Status Of Women Council
Re Abortions**

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Did the Minister or his department officials receive any complaints from the Status of Women Council, the Minister related to the issue of abortions at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, prior to the 8:30 CBC News yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Return To Question O366-12(2): Timing Of
Complaints Received From Status Of Women Council
Re Abortions

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had not received any complaints from the Status of Women Council until I was told by my executive assistant of the bad news. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O366-12(2): Timing Of
Complaints Received From Status Of Women Council
Re Abortions

MR. KOE: Was this bad news received prior to 8:30 or after 8:30 a.m. yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ningark.

Further Return Question O366-12(2): Timing Of
Complaints Received From Status Of Women Council
Re Abortions

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was received after 8:30. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**Question O367-12(2):Government Employees
"Moonlighting"**

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister responsible for DPW. Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention, time and time again, that a lot of small contractors or small businesses in the communities, specifically, have a concern over what is called government employees 'moonlighting.' That is, employees are given certain small jobs or contracts -- I do not know what the arrangements are but the employees that work for the government take on other small jobs, for the government or other people, and this is taking away from small business or small contractors. Is the Minister aware of this, and if so, does he intend to do anything about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN: Thank you. As far as I am aware, if you are going to do business with government you have to have a business licence and residence, and most of the stuff is on tender and you would have to bid on it. But as far as an employee moonlighting, I am not fully aware of Personnel rules, so maybe my colleague, Mr. Kakfwi, can answer that part of it.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was directed to Mr. Morin. We cannot split responses. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN: I do not know about the moonlighting part. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan, new question.

Question O368-12(2): Government Employees Holding Business Licences

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Personnel. Is the Minister aware that people working in the public service hold business licences to operate other businesses?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would need to take this question and go back a couple of years to when this issue came up in the House, because I think there was a legal opinion given at that time about whether or not we have any power to restrict the activities of government employees' offhours, and what exactly we can do, aside from politely asking them to let us know what other type of activities they engage in after hours. I will take the question as notice.

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

Question O369-12(2): Terms Of Employment Legislation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Personnel. There are several groups of employees who are in the middle of collective bargaining. Is the Minister's department in the process of preparing legislation so that we legislate terms of employment, should collective bargaining fail to get the desired results? Is he working on legislation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O369-12(2): Terms Of Employment Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the other week we met with the teachers' union. The negotiators signed an agreement which would go to their members on a vote which would decide whether or not the teachers across the NWT would accept or

reject this particular agreement. Last week we met with the Union of Northern Workers. There were initial opening proposals made to the union, which does not give much of an indication where we may possibly end up in the negotiations, but this was shared by someone with CBC anyway, so we all know about that particular broadcast. In the discussions that we have had, we know that -- and I think all Members are aware of the serious financial situation that this government is in. I think we have to do everything we can to make sure that we are not pushed by groups such as, perhaps even arbitration, to give more than what we can financially to our employees. We are clearly asking all public government employees, teachers and government workers across the Territories, to understand and accept very clearly that this government does not have any money; that currently we are roughly overspent by \$50 million and over the next year we have to find ways to reduce our expenditures so that we recover that, plus cut out an additional \$50 million that will, if we do not do anything, raise us to \$100 million deficit position by next year.

So if you are asking me if the idea of legislating the settlement with the union is in the books, I would say, yes, it has to be a consideration. I think all the Members in this House are aware that if we do not have a deal that it may not be to our interest to leave it to arbitration to be resolved, because as a Legislature and as a government we have to be pretty clear fairly soon about exactly how much we are going to expend in all areas. We cannot leave this huge unanswered question floating out there. Is there going to be an increase of zero per cent or two per cent, what has it to do with benefits, what about pay equity? There is a wide range that is possible and I think as a Legislative Assembly we have to be fairly clear fairly soon, that if we do not come up with a deal something else has to be done.

This government is prepared to consider legislation if that is what is required to make sure that financially we are acting in a responsible way. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O369-12(2): Terms Of Employment Legislation

MR. LEWIS: For those people that are not covered by any collective bargaining group, is it the intention of the government that that group also that do not have a group to represent them but simply do their

deal directly with their employer, people on the Hay Plan and so on, are those people also going to be frozen or asked to take a zero per cent increase?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O369-12(2): Terms Of Employment Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the senior management in the Government of the NWT, which are covered under the Hay Plan, generally follow whatever is settled with the UNW; what the rest of the government employees get is generally what we try to follow, especially in regard to inflation and increases in salary.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O370-12(2): Average Pay Increase Of Senior Managers

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister of Personnel, what was the average increase of senior managers as compared to the increase that was given to the public service last year?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O370-12(2): Average Pay Increase Of Senior Managers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, you and I know that I do not have that kind of information in my head. I cannot answer that question.

MR. SPEAKER: You knew that; I did not know that. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O371-12(2): Editing Of Press Release On Assessment Of Hospital Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I did not think I used all my supplementaries earlier but I guess I did, with respect to Dr. Andre Lalonde of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. It is my understanding that initially Dr. Lalonde stated that the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has stated in its agreement in principle the procedures used at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, but the statement was later changed at the insistence of Dr. Pierre Lessard, to state that the procedures meet the standards of

care promoted by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Can the Minister comment on why Stanton Yellowknife Hospital personnel should be editing Dr. Lalonde's assessment of whether hospital procedures meet the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists standards?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O371-12(2): Editing Of Press Release On Assessment Of Hospital Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether I am in a position to comment on that item. I have no idea what took place between Dr. Lalonde and others.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O372-12(2): Decision To Edit Press Release On Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday a lengthy press release on Stanton Yellowknife Hospital was made available -- whether it was made available from the Department of Health -- and this was later collected by the Department of Personnel and replaced by a four sentence press release signed by the hospital's chief executive officer. I want to know from the Minister of Health, who made the decision to collect the initial press release and replace it with a less informative one?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know who pulled this. It may have been the Stanton board. I will ascertain that information for the honourable Member and get back to him as soon as I can on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O373-12(2): Tabling Of Press Release On Abortions

MR. NERYSOO: Can I ask the Minister of Health to table the initial press release that was issued on March 24th?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O373-12(2): Tabling Of Press Release On Abortions

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am only aware of one press release and that was the two-paragraph one. If there was another one I will ascertain where this is and I will table it.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, may I ask for clarification on my earlier question that I asked the Minister of Personnel. Did he take that question under notice?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Personnel did not say he took it as notice and for future clarity, unless a Minister from now on says those words, 'I take it as notice,' I will allow supplementary questions. Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O374-12(2): Pain Relieving Medication And Anesthetic Compounds

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. As the Minister indicated, today the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital issued a further press release with additional information about issues surrounding the reports and medical procedures used when performing abortions. The press release indicates that, "Patients are offered pain relieving medication prior to, during and following the procedure.* Will the Minister confirm that "pain relieving medication" is not the same procedure as anesthetic compounds?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O374-12(2): Pain Relieving Medication And Anesthetic Compounds

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will.

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

Supplementary To Question O374-12(2): Pain Relieving Medication And Anesthetic Compounds

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: My question is to the Minister of Health. I am just appalled; I just cannot believe the replies I am receiving from the Minister regarding this issue. I asked if the Minister would confirm that "pain relieving medication" is not the same as anesthetic compounds, and he said "Yes, I will.' Is he stating that he will confirm that it is not the same or does he know that it is not the same? Clarify it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O374-12(2): Pain Relieving Medication And Anesthetic Compounds

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should have been a doctor instead of a social worker. My knowledge of medicine is limited, I must assure this House, but the procedure that I understand takes place in reference to medication being given to relieve pain -- there is a variety of pain relievers, as we are well aware, and they deal with different types of

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application. As I understand it, in some cases they can be local, they can be given through injection and others are more general that can be given through either inhalants and/or intravenous. I understand that a variety of pain relief medication may be given, under proper conditions, at the same time. But I am not sure that I could answer any more than that at this point

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

Supplementary To Question O374-12(2): Pain Relieving Medication And Anesthetic Compounds

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a further question to the Minister of Health in respect to the same issue. The hospital press release states that general anesthesia is not part of the standard of care for therapeutic abortions as established by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Can the Minister very clearly tell the House whether or not patients undergoing abortions at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital can receive anesthesia if they request it, prior to the medical procedure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O375-12(2): Availability Of Abortion Questionnaire In Aboriginal Languages

MS. MIKE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital issued a press release which states that all the patients will be given a questionnaire. Can the Minister say if they are available in all the aboriginal languages?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I regret that I do not have that information available. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is taken as notice. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O376-12(2): Pay Increase To Hay Plan Employees

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Personnel did not really answer my question or take it as notice. Would the Minister of Personnel provide the percentage increase to all Hay Plan employees in 1991 to this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O376-12(2): Pay Increase To Hay Plan Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes.

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

Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Minister indicated earlier that he will...

MR. NERYSOO: He will not get away.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: ...that he will be conducting a public review of the surgical procedures used in abortions at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, and the review will be conducted by the assistant deputy minister of his department. Could the Minister inform this House when this public review will begin?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify, I did not say that a public review would be done by -- check the Hansard -- I merely referred to Dr. Kinloch as being the recipient of any concerns that might be expressed. He would be the person that the Status of Women Council have already met with from our staff. What I was referring to was that if anybody that wanted to express some concern, could get in

touch with the Department of Health through Dr. Kinloch. This is what I was referring to and I apologize if I may have caused some confusion, but that was only a contact point. What I was referring to was an independent outside agency that would conduct this review of the procedures, that we will get somebody not associated directly with Stanton Hospital, not associated directly with our department. And that person or persons will organize this review to ascertain what concerns there are, and individuals who are concerned will be asked for their input.

But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to assure the House and the public that there was somebody with a medical background, a knowledgeable person, that would receive these calls. If I received a concern I would listen very carefully to the concern but I would only have to refer it to the doctor. And I thought rather than have this two-step process, that I would simplify it by making available competent professional people to address any concerns that the public might have.

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

Supplementary To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether the Minister indicated that it was to be a public review or a review -- I recall vividly that it was to be a review to be coordinated by Dr. Kinloch and I will check Hansard for otherwise to pursue the issue tomorrow. However, Mr. Speaker, I do have a supplementary. Will the Minister advise this House as to when he does anticipate that this review will be completed, so he can inform the House as to the whole issue in respect to the elective procedures used for abortions at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is only day two of this dreadful affair and I am asking the department, or the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board, to expedite this as quickly as we can. I cannot give a definite date as to when this will be undertaken, but be assured that it will be done without unnecessary delay. The findings of this report will be made public, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, earlier, when the Minister had spoken, he indicated he wants an independent outside agency to conduct this review. However, the review is being co-ordinated by Dr. Kinloch. Is he indicating that Dr. Kinloch will be involved in the review?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make it clear that it is not Dr. Kinloch that is going to coordinate this. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to explain that what I am doing here is -- in the interim and until the independent, outside individual can be brought onto this matter -- explain that someone will be available. It does not have to be Dr. Kinloch -if the Member would like to give me some suggestions. I tried to assure the Member earlier that if there are other suggestions -- this is only to make it easier for the public to be able to -- while the information is news and while the information is of concern now -- have somebody to contact. Dr. Kinloch is not going to be co-ordinating the review. This is going to be done by an independent individual. It is merely to have a point of contact within the department that the public can get hold of to express a concern. They can do this through the Status of Women Council or through their ordinary Member. They can call me. But, I was only trying to be helpful in suggesting a name. If there is any disagreement by Members as to whom I have chosen, we could deal with that. I want to assure you that it is not Dr. Kinloch who is going to co-ordinate the review. He will cease to be involved in it as soon as the independent individual is selected to do the review. It is only as a contact point. The review by an outside agency will be totally independent of Stanton Hospital Board members and totally independent of all medical people here in the Territories, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I think this is your last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I recall -- and I am sure my recollection is fairly good -- that the Minister did indicate in this House earlier this afternoon that Dr. Kinloch would coordinate the review. Whether it was his intention that Dr. Kinloch would or would not, he did indicate that. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he would review Hansard to determine what he stated in this House. If he did indicate that Dr. Kinloch would co-ordinate this review, would he take measures to correct what he stated and admit whether or not he is being contradictory in his statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O377-12(2): Review Of Surgical Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake that. If I have been understood -- I thought my previous answer, as long as it may have been, was to explain what Dr. Kinloch's involvement would be. I will review Hansard, of course. If that is the impression that I have created, then I want it to be clear now that when I say independent, I mean independent. I was only trying to be helpful in having somebody there as a point of contact to keep this issue going and to restore public confidence that we are not going to delay unnecessarily, and that we have somebody there that will listen to the concerns until such time as an independent, outside agency has been contacted and is on to undertake this review. I wanted someone there to look after the public's concerns. That responsibility will cease soon thereafter.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O378-12(2): Meetings Between Executive Director Of Status Of Women Council And Department Of Health

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Earlier today, he indicated that he was not knowledgeable of any meetings that were held between the Status of Women Council and the executive director and staff. A few minutes ago, you indicated that such meetings took place. Could you confirm whether or not meetings took place previously to the media getting their attention on this particular subject?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O378-12(2): Meetings Between Executive Director Of Status Of Women Council And Department Of Health

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any meetings that have taken place were done within a few hours of this moment here. But, prior to yesterday, I am not aware of any meetings taking place between the executive director, the Status of Women Council and the department in any official capacity. There is no indication that any official complaints have been raised with our department by the executive director of the Status of Women Council, nor has that person contacted me. Any meetings that have taken place were done within the last five, six, seven or eight hours or something. A lot has been happening this very day, sir.

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

Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I know I have posed a lot of questions to the Minister of Health, but this is a critical issue. It is an issue that I am sure has been raising concerns right across the North and across Canada. I recall reading about it on the front page of the Edmonton Journal today. If I seem to take up a lot of time in the House with respect to it, I think it is an indication of the concern that Members on this side of the House have with regard to that particular issue.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, there have been reports that at least one woman who received an abortion in the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital had to be strapped down on the operating table and physically restrained by a male member of the medical staff because the patient was screaming from intensive pain. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if this is basically what the Minister's department means when they talk about the NWT health care way.

MR. SPEAKER: I have a moment of difficulty with the question. I think Mr. Whitford is aware of the difficulty. Mr. Whitford,

Return To Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have been asked a lot of questions today, and in all honesty and

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sincerity, and with great sympathy for the people that may have concerns with medical procedures that are taking place, I have answered truthfully, honestly and as best I could. I cannot, in all sincerity, answer the honourable Member's question.

MR. SPEAKER: As Speaker, I do not want to get in the way of a healthy debate and where possible, I would like them to ensure that their facts are verified or are within at least some knowledge of this House, before they pose them into questions. It is difficult, at times, to maintain some decorum in the debate and some fairness. I ask Members to try to do that. Thank you.

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the questions posed to the Minister, this whole issue has been quite lengthy and for quite some time has been reviewed by not only the Status of Women Council but by individuals that have been basically subjected to this type of medical procedure. It certainly is not my intention as a Member to bring forth these questions in a vicious manner. It is basically the concern of the procedures used when conducting and performing abortions at a hospital in the Territories. I am concerned about the way procedures are used and I want the Minister to be aware that the procedures that are used are not acceptable to women in the Territories, and not acceptable to many people in the Territories. There is a concern out there in the public.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can confirm that patients, whether they are given abortions or whatever medical procedures, are at times handled physically in a manner that is not appropriate and acceptable to society?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my experience, patients have been handled with all the care and tenderness that a medical profession can apply. From my own experience, the dentists ask far too many times, "Does this hurt?" When I was at the hospital, the doctor that cared for me when I had

kidney stones, asked more than once whether I was okay and made every effort to make me comfortable. I am assured by my own experience that the medical profession do everything to make the patient comfortable, to make the procedure as less traumatic as possible under those trying circumstances.

I can only assure the honourable Member that the medical profession go out of their way, in most cases, to ensure that the best quality of medical treatment is given to patients here in the NWT under our health care system. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to apply any techniques that are going to cause unnecessary comfort to somebody, knowingly and willingly doing that. I want to assure the public that in my experience, I am assured this is not the case. The patients are given, in most cases, a questionnaire to complete prior to and after any services that have been received at a hospital. They have avenues of presenting any concerns. It certainly should be first to their physician but failing that, to any other Member of this House. Surely the patients could have got a hold of any Member and given specifics and names and times and stuff like that and the Members would have brought this to my attention. They could have come to me; I would have dealt with it then or the department, through a process.

But I keep hearing of all of these cases and Mr. Speaker, I tell you I have not seen, and the department has not received, any formal complaints from the Status of Women Council or other member of the public that indicate there is a torturous procedure taking place in our hospitals and should not be condoned. I am asking that this be looked into and to assure the public and restore confidence in our medical practices here in the NWT, that they are not doing things here that are not standard and not in the best interests of the patient.

I know that it is a very delicate issue. It is something that I have absolutely no way of knowing, the discomfort and humiliation and anything else that goes with having an abortion. It is either by choice or else through some accident. But I am sure the doctors there, and I have been assured by the medical profession, that every effort is made to make the patient as comfortable as they can be under these trying and traumatic times.

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

Supplementary To Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I guess that is the whole point of this whole issue brought forth to the House today, the fact that the Minister indicates in this House that the best quality of medical care is given to people in the NWT, to avoid unnecessary discomfort, but the Department of Health, the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, under the auspices of the Department of Health, is not attempting to avoid unnecessary discomfort when abortions are being performed, that anesthesia is not given to women. So can the Minister indicate that he can stand up in this House today and state that the best quality of medical care is given to people in the NWT when I can basically state that the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital states as it states in all public reports, do not give anaesthesia to women when abortions are performed? That I am sure is a painful experience for women.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O379-12(2): The NWT Health Care Way And Abortion Procedures

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is what I hope the independent review will determine, the standard of treatment that patients receive through the Stanton Hospital. I, personally, have no knowledge of anybody, other than what I heard in the media, from that one report, speaking of this hideous treatment that they receive here. I have no evidence whatsoever of that and I hope that the independent review will help to clarify whether or not this procedure is being undertaken, that I have been assured that they have a standard of practice there that complies with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

I received this memo from Dr. Andre Lalonde, which I will table at the appropriate time, which outlines the procedure and he concurs with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike.

Question 380-12(2): Assurance That Current Abortion Practices Do Not Continue

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. As he stated a few minutes ago, this is a delicate issue, and I am sure it is also an emotional issue. Perhaps the reason why any of these women have not come to his department is because of that very fact. It is a delicate issue. If he is not aware of what has been happening, how can he assure us that this kind of method that is being used in the Stanton Hospital will not continue? Are you just

going to have the review and not have any recommendations made?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question 380-12(2): Assurance That Current Abortion Practices Do Not Continue

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the main purpose of this review is to get to the bottom of this matter. It is to be able to review and listen to anyone that has expressed concerns previously and privately to other folk, that yes there is a procedure that is taking place there that in their opinion may not be as sensitive as I would like to think and the Member would like to think, and as tenderly as possible under those trying and traumatic circumstances.

I am trying to assure the Member that we will get to the bottom of this, and that any recommendations that are made will be tabled here so that all Members are aware of what took place. These recommendations will be taken forward to the medical profession. If there are some inadequacies in the method of treatment or the level of pain suppression that is experienced by people under those trying and traumatic conditions, Mr. Speaker, these things will be rectified. But, at the present time, I have instructed my department through the medical people in the department to have a word of advice given to people that there are concerns.

The Member is right. It is a delicate thing that people may not want to come out and perhaps tell me because there is no possibility of my truly understanding what they have gone through. The honourable Member is a female, and they should certainly be able to confide in her, or some other member of the public that they trust, to let them know there are things going on that they have suffered under this procedure. Somehow or other they can remain anonymous. The information can come back so long as it is verified if there is, indeed, something there that we may not be aware of. We can take steps to correct it, but we only read in the newspaper and hear on the radio -- only yesterday at 8:30 in the morning, and today there is front page news. But, if they had gone to Members before and explained to them, this would be conveyed to my department through me. I would have ensured that this would have been looked at far sooner.

There is this number that is being given out. Fourteen is a lot of people. I am very concerned. I want to assure the Member that this is not being taken lightly by myself, and I have answered as honestly as I can. I want to assure the public that we are looking into this and that there will not be a cover-up. There will be a review of the procedures. This will be discussed, I am sure, with other informed people, Mr. Speaker, that are experts in this area as to whether or not what we are doing here is in keeping with the standards of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada for this particular type of procedure.

I want to assure you that we will get to the bottom of this. Any recommendations that are made will be tabled here in this House, or each Member will receive that if the House is not sifting, so that they can take this back to their constituents to assure them that, in fact, we are trying to deliver the best level of health care in the Territories that the public deserves.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if he is aware that there is no general surgeon, at this time, at the Inuvik Regional Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this moment, I do not know that.

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

Supplementary To Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if any of his officials have informed him, in any written or oral form, that there is no general surgeon at the Inuvik Regional Hospital at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, as I said, I do not know. I may have been informed that there is, in fact, no general surgeon at that hospital as I am aware that other hospitals may not have a full complement of staff, but it is not something that I realize is an issue at this particular point.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, could I have the Minister of Health inform me and my other colleagues from the Inuvik Region as to where patients are being flown to or evacuated to for surgical procedures, including minor surgical procedures?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O381-12(2): Absence Of General Surgeon At Inuvik Regional Hospital

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not have specific knowledge as to individual cases, but I would assume that we utilize whatever facility is nearest to the patient's home community. I would probably not be too far wrong if I were to suggest that the majority of patients that require elective surgery that can be performed here in the Territories are referred to Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Those that cannot be are referred to other hospitals, perhaps south to Edmonton or Calgary. It depends on the nature of the medical treatment that they are seeking. If it is not available here, we go somewhere else. If it is not available in the communities, I believe we use the expertise here at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W29-12(2): Tendering Process For Ice Roads From Inuvik To Aklavik/Tuktoyaktuk

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two questions to the Government Leader. One is a question in response to a written question that I asked earlier regarding tender calls or practices.

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1) Was a tender call requested for the ice roads between Inuvik and Aklavik, or between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk?

2) If not, what are the reasons for waiving the tendering process?

3) Are all the contractors provided with the same permits or documents necessary to carry out government contracts in which they were successful, or necessary in preparing their submissions to government tenders?

Question W30-12(2): Restructuring Of NWT Power Corporation

Mr. Speaker, I have another written question to the Government Leader.

1) Has the NWT Power Corporation restructured its administration for the takeover of the POL, petroleum, oil and lubricants, responsibility?

2) If this restructuring has occurred, who issued the instructions for such restructuring?

3) What are the costs for restructuring the NWT Power Corporation to assume the present responsibilities of Government Services for the POL administration and management?

4) Will the Government Leader provide the details of the restructuring and the instructions issued for such restructuring?

5) Will the NWT Power Corporation be subject to the goods and services tax on the construction of all required facilities and purchase of POL products presently under the administration of Government Services? If so, what will the additional cost be to the NWT Power Corporation? Could these costs be calculated on this year's capital infrastructure or POL purchases?

6) Does the Department of Government Services pay goods and services tax on the construction of its facilities or on the purchase of POL products?

7) Has cabinet made any final decisions or given any instructions about the amalgamation of the POL administration into the NWT Power Corporation?

8) Has the Government Leader, her cabinet colleagues or staff met with the NWT Power Corporation to discuss the transfer of the responsibility of the administration of POL to the NWT Power Corporation?

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W15-12(2), asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism concerning contributions by the NWT Development Corporation.

Return to Question W15-12(2): Contributions By The Northwest Territories Development Corporation

Hon. John Pollard's return to Question W15-12(2), asked by Mr. Dent on March 2, 1992: In response to your question regarding a listing of all contributions made by the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, I have distributed a copy of this information to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

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

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 8-12(2), Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is too bad the Minister of Education is not present because this report pertains to his portfolio, but I will proceed anyway.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, under the authority given to it by this House, has been reviewing matters related to Arctic College. Throughout the review process the standing committee has been focusing on the following aspects:

the mandate, composition, organizational structure and function of the board of governors of Arctic College and its various committees; working relationships between the board of governors and the Department of Education; the operation of Arctic College, particularly related to the administrative planning, the establishment of priorities, and the development of a framework for the delivery of educational services and programs; pertinent legislation, regulations and policy; the analysis and recommendations regarding Arctic College in the recent Strength at Two Levels document; and larger

issues surrounding the role of Arctic College and post-secondary education in the NWT.

The standing committee wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and thoughtful input received from representatives of the college and the Department of Education during public hearings in Fort Smith on January 22, 1992. The standing committee also took special note of the many comments and suggestions provided by students and faculty with whom Members discussed these issues during visits to the Thebacha College over the course of the Fort Smith hearings. This input, as well as a review of planned documents prepared by the board of governors in the existing legislation, has led the standing committee to establish a series of further priorities for the review of Arctic College. The committee will meet during the summer months to further examine issues related to the operation of Arctic College and the role and activities of the board of governors. The standing committee will provide a final report on the examination of these matters later in the fiscal year. At the present time, however, the standing committee did wish to place before the House some interim observations and an outline for its further work plan.

Interim Observations

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions has noted that it seems as though the early development of Arctic College was driven largely by political priorities and particularly by the desire to build a base of assets in Iqaluit and to protect the significant presence that the college has represented in Fort Smith.

As these political priorities have been achieved, the board appears to have found itself working in something of a vacuum, largely as a result of its relationship to the Department of Education. Although it is clear that the hardworking members of this board have been diligent in their commitment to their responsibilities, the fact remains that the Arctic College Act clearly establishes that it is the Minister of Education who is responsible for determining policy respecting operations, programs and priorities of the college. Further, the act also provides for the Minister to give direction regarding the exercise of the board's powers in the performance of its duties. In actual fact, it appears as though relatively little direction has been forthcoming from the cabinet with respect to college operations.

Particularly during the 11th Assembly, the board of governors responded to this vacuum in its policy framework by taking the ball and running with it. Decisions about operations, programs and priorities have tended to fall to the board to resolve within its mandate for administrative policy.

As a result, many of the activities undertaken by the board of governors have not been formally delegated as is required by statute. This has included, but is not limited to: the establishment of campuses (only one campus appears to have been properly established by statutory instrument); determination of policy respecting operations, programs and priorities of the college; and development of a mission statement.

Apparently the board of governors has enjoyed a certain sense of autonomy, even though it has no statutory authority to exercise it. The standing committee was concerned about this because it suggests that the development of Arctic College has proceeded outside the accountability framework provided by the act. The college has evolved, not as a result of cabinet-approved plans and initiatives subject to review by the Legislative Assembly, but rather through a series of unrelated decisions which the board has had to make in order to perform its administrative mandate.

The result has been an emerging college structure that has not seemed closely tied to long-range planning with other elements of the territorial educational system and has tended to place a priority on the appearance of regionalization through the establishment of a campus infrastructure in each region. This was perceived by the Strength at Two Levels team as "trying to be all things to all people."

The standing committee noted that the board of governors seems to have made an attempt, especially over the past two years, to fill this policy vacuum. The board has completed significant work on the development of a strategic plan and an information base and a proposed funding allocation system, which would provide a frame of reference for the ongoing development of the college. The board has also carried out a significant amount of work identifying criteria for selecting its own membership, has developed board orientation and skilled development processes, and completed an internal evaluation of its own dynamics.

Again, though much of the work has not had the intended effect because formal response has not been forthcoming from the Minister. While the board

of governors has a proposed direction for the development of Arctic College and its strategic plan and funding allocation system, it is left not knowing what elements are acceptable, which elements are priorities and which elements require further revision.

A need exists to develop a better understanding for the future direction to be followed by the board, and for that reason it is important for the Minister to provide a formal response to the college's strategic plan,

Also, an ongoing mechanism is needed where the priorities and interests of the Minister can be communicated to the board in a manner which makes the message quite clear. Once this message is received from the department, the board should be allowed the responsibility to operate within its administrative mandate in order to achieve the stated goals.

The funding allocation system proposed by the board of governors would provide the framework for that sort of accountability, particularly when combined with the newly developed student record system. The Minister needs to formally indicate whether, or which parts, of a funding allocation system are acceptable.

One area which should be prioritized quickly is the need to undertake independent fund-raising, through foundation resources, administrative allocations from research grants, alumni canvas or other means. The Minister and the board should work together on developing a framework for this.

The standing committee was of the definite opinion that the Strength at Two Levels report should only be seen as a discussion document with respect to Arctic College and should not automatically be assumed as the revision model. Indeed, committee Members were somewhat concerned that many of the students, faculty and community representatives encountered in Fort Smith were of the opinion that the Strength at Two Levels document presented an already approved plan for implementing organizational change in the college. This is, quite simply, not the case.

Given the importance of the critical issues now facing the Government of the NWT with respect to the continuing development of Arctic College, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions has extended the term for its current review and plans to provide a final report to the Legislative Assembly during the fall 1992 sitting.

Committee priorities for expanded review include, but are not limited to: a comprehensive review of the strategic plan and funding allocation system proposed by the board of governors; a consideration of the existing statutory relationship between the Minister and the college with consideration to potential areas for amendment; a review of board structures and frameworks used by post-secondary institutions across Canada with a view toward recommending the incorporation of successful organizational systems used elsewhere; an examination of problems which may exist with adult education programming at the community level, including a perceived lack of community involvement and co-ordination; a continuing consideration of whether the operation of Arctic College is fulfilling its statutory mandate for the delivery of adult and post-secondary education under the terms of the mission statement established by the board of governors; and a review of the structural framework and developmental directions best suited to ensure that Arctic College successfully meets the post-secondary and adult education needs of the NWT throughout the 1990s and beyond.

**Motion To Accept Committee Report 8-12(2),
Carried**

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that the report of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, be received by the Assembly and adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe, your motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 28-12(2), 1992 Arctic Winter Games Results, Ulu Count By Unit, Sport, and Athlete/Team. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

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

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

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 7:
Interim Appropriation Act**

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, March 27, 1992, I shall move that Bill 7, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motions for first reading of bills. We will take a short break before we get into Item 15, motions.

--- SHORT RECESS

The Assembly will come to order. Item 15, motions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

**Motion 7-12(2): Tabling Of "The NWT Way,"
Carried**

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the document titled "Strength at Two Levels" suggests changes to the way the Government of the Northwest Territories provides health services to the residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health is considering the implementation of The NWT Way;

AND WHEREAS any changes to the health system requires detailed review and discussion by the members of this Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the residents for whom any health system will serve should be aware of the changes being considered;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Minister of Health table in this House documents on The NWT Way and the Department of Health's planning for the future of the NWT health care system.

MR. SPEAKER: Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: Question.

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

--- Carried

Motions. Mr. Dent.

Motion 9-12(2): Annual Tabling Of Members' Expenditures, Carried

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act prescribes the indemnities and allowance to which a Member of the Legislative Assembly is entitled;

AND WHEREAS Members receive all indemnities and allowances according to this act;

AND WHEREAS all payments to Members of the Legislative Assembly come from the appropriations of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the salaries paid to a Minister are not contained in the act;

AND WHEREAS payments made to Members of the Legislative Assembly are not reported in the territorial public accounts;

AND WHEREAS the need for accountability and access to information were demands made by the voters during the general election;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly are committed to an open and accountable form of government;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly wish to be responsible and accountable to the electorate;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that this House recommends that the Speaker develop and prepare a method of annually tabling a statement that would show the amounts paid to each Member of the Legislative Assembly in the preceding year by way of indemnities, salaries, allowances and any such expenses paid in accordance with the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND FURTHER, that the salaries and the method of providing for any increase, of Members of the

Executive Council be provided for in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND FURTHER, that the appropriate amendments to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to implement the above recommendations be prepared and presented to this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. DENT: Question.

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

--- Carried

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

ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 26: Liquor Act

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the first time.

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

--- Carried

Bill 26 has had first reading. Item 16, first reading of bills. Mr. Ningark.

First Reading Of Bill 27: Wildlife Conservation Act

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 27, Wildlife Conservation Act, be read for the first time.

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MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? the motion is carried.

--- Carried

Bill 27 has had first reading.

Item 17, 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), SCOF Review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1990-91 and Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1991-92, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with Bill 14. What is the committee's wish? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

I will rise and report progress,

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: I am impressed with the skill of the chairman. Is there a seconder to the motion? The motion is seconded by Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

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

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to return to Item 12, tabling of documents.

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

REVERT TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TONY WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. I would like to table: Tabled Document 29-12(2), a memorandum/note de correspondance from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada that outlines the abortion procedures for Stanton Yellowknife Hospital; Tabled Document 30-12(2), Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Press Release of yesterday, a two-paragraph document; Tabled Document 31-12(2), the draft of the press release for yesterday's Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Press Release, outlining eight points that were going to be accompanying the press release. I will table that document as well to avoid any confusion as to what the procedures are; Tabled Document 32-12(2), Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Press Release, the final draft that was released on March 25, 1992, today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Whitford. Tabling of documents.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on finance immediately after adjournment this evening. Meetings for tomorrow: at 8:30, the standing committee on legislation; at 10:30, the ordinary Members' caucus; at 12:00 noon, the Management and Services Board.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, March 26, 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: Bill 26 and Bill 27
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; CR 3-12(2); Motion 6-12(2); Bill 21 and Bill 25
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This house stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT