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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

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SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne): Good afternoon. I wish to inform the House that I have received the following communication from Her Honour, the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories: "Dear Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Bill 28, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31st, 1993, No. 2; and Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, during the second session of the 12th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Helen Maksagak, Deputy Commissioner."

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 17, 1992. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 64-12(2): Minister's Absence From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I would like to advise that the Hon. Don Morin will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend meetings in Ottawa with the federal Minister of Housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Ministers' Statement 65-12(2): RCMP Reinforcements For Mine Strike

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the House on the 58-member RCMP tactical unit and emergency

response teams brought into Yellowknife on May 25 as a result of the strike at the Royal Oak mine.

On May 24th I was advised on an urgent basis by the commanding officer of G Division RCMP that tensions and the threat of violence at the mine site were well beyond the capacity of the local detachment to respond to and deal with. It was their recommendation that the only available option was to request additional resources from outside the Territories, and according, that request was made to the commissioner of the RCMP on May 24, with an immediate, positive response.

The decision was made after careful consideration of the only other option, which was to draw police resources from the other communities and regions of the Northwest Territories and to retain them in Yellowknife for an undetermined period of time. This is the option usually chosen in the provinces, but it would have been totally unacceptable to reduce, and in some cases eliminate altogether, police services in our communities for this purpose.

Members have expressed concern about costs of the RCMP reinforcements which have been in Yellowknife for three weeks now and were first deployed in full force during a serious incident last Sunday. Estimates provided by the RCMP indicate that as of last Friday, June 12, costs reached one million dollars. However, they caution us that these do not yet include actual salary and overtime calculations and that they have estimated on the high side rather than underestimating.

Our government takes the firm position that these costs must be borne by the federal government for a number of reasons. Essentially, as we have advised the Solicitor General and his colleagues, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, this labour-management dispute is exclusively within an area of federal responsibility, both in law and under the policing agreement we have with Canada.

The Minister of Labour has full responsibility for private sector labour relations in the Territories and is in that sense the territorial Minister of Labour. Later today I will circulate a letter that I sent yesterday to the Hon. Marcel Danis, the federal Minister of Labour, concerning the strike. The RCMP reinforcements are here exclusively to deal with the fallout from this strike and are not required in any normal role of preserving the peace and enforcing the criminal laws within the city of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wonder if I could get the attention of the people in the gallery. This is the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, representative of all the people of the Northwest Territories. The public is invited here with full courtesy and warmth. I would ask you, please, not to show your placards here in the Assembly. If you feel you must show your placards, I would ask that you do it outside the building. You are very, very welcome to stay here, but I would ask you to extend to us the same courtesy that we extend to the public in this Assembly. Thank you very much.

Ministers' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Ministers' Statement 66-12(2): Meeting With Daishowa In Japan

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in early May the Hon. Titus Allooooloo travelled to Japan and met with officials from Daishowa and Mitsubishi. These two companies own the Daishowa and ALPAC pulp mills in northern Alberta. Mr. Allooooloo outlined the traditional lifestyle of territorial residents and people's concerns for the quality of the water and fish they depend upon. Mr. Allooooloo discussed a letter I sent which invited officials from these companies to visit the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that representatives from Daishowa Canada have accepted my invitation. They will make a presentation to interested Members of the Legislative Assembly on June 25 at 8:00 a.m. Later that day they will meet with government officials and native organizations.

Mr. Speaker, our Government wants to make sure that our waters are not adversely affected by upstream activities. I am pleased that Daishowa Canada has taken this step to learn more about our lifestyles and discuss what must be done so we can protect our environment and live together. Thank you

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Ministers' Statement 67-12(2): United Nations Conference On Environment And Development

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the first week of June, I attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. My primary

purpose was to speak at a forum on Indigenous Peoples' Use and Management of Resources. This forum was organized by our government and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Comite Intertribal do Brasil.

Over 200 delegates from many countries attended the forum. They heard people from northern Canada, Greenland, Brazil, Panama and eastern Siberia speak about the importance of maintaining their traditional lifestyles and cultures.

As a speaker, I explained that the use of resources by Northerners has always reflected the modern concept of 'sustainable development.' I described how actions against hunting and trapping in other countries can have an impact on our lifestyles. I asked people to recognize that cultural needs vary among regions. What is right for New York City or Paris may not be right for Gjoa Haven or Fort Liard. Economic development needs to be based on healthy resources and must suit the lifestyles of the people who live there. This was stressed again by the Hon. Ove-Rosing Olsen, Minister of Environment, Greenland Home Rule Government.

Les Carpenter from Sachs Harbour also spoke at the forum. He highlighted Inuvialuit involvement in resource management through their land claim agreement. Mr. Carpenter pointed out that by blending traditional and scientific knowledge, better decisions can be made and the environment will be respected.

The Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Environment Canada, also attended our forum and spoke of the importance of recognizing indigenous peoples' needs and interests in resource use management. Mr. Charest, on behalf of our government, presented a final report on the forum to the chairman of the United Nations Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that our government continue to participate at international forums that relate to the environment and development. If people are to respect our lifestyles, they must know who we are. The Government of Canada will continue to support our efforts in this area.

In comparison to the situation of many other indigenous peoples, our residents are fortunate to be blessed with a wealth of resources. Through the policies of our government and the federal government, our residents participate in renewable

resource management. In Rio, I heard again and again of the excellence of our renewable resource management programs and how we are leading the way for many other indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to represent our people and our government at the United Nations Conference. I will continue to work hard to protect our resources and our rights to harvest those resources. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Continuing Giant Mine Strike

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this city miners are engaged in a bitter strike that threatens to damage the fabric of this community. It is the toughest strike that Yellowknife has ever seen. As an elected person in this Legislative Assembly, I am a very frustrated man. I see people suffering but I have no power to resolve that suffering or to resolve the issue that causes it.

Responsibility for labour, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, lies with the federal government. Only the federal government and the two parties to the dispute have any method whatsoever available to them to resolve this issue. The House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, shuts down for the summer this Friday, June 19.

Later, Mr. Speaker, I shall table a petition signed by 320 citizens, urging this government to press the federal government to urge its powers and to use them to resolve this labour dispute. Later on I shall also be asking the Minister responsible for safety to at least answer some questions in that area for which we do have responsibility, and that relates to the whole issue of mine safety.

In connection, too, with this strike, if I may, I would like to read a letter for Members, so they can get a flavour of what this city is like as a result of this strike. It is a letter from a group of three young people who have written to all Members, and I would like to share it with you:

"We are a group of concerned teenagers who dislike what is occurring in our town. As you know, our little city of Yellowknife is in the middle of a very intense

and violent strike. There is a lot of hurt, anger, and hatred being spread through the people around us because of this strike. It is in the middle of its fourth week and has been carried on for way too long. We have sat around watching and listening, helplessly. There has been nothing we could do to stop it. So we formed our little group, trying to open the eyes of the public of the city, hoping that they would listen to us.

We do not like being affected by the strike. We are..."

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, your allotted time has expired. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

MR. LEWIS: "We are being told to take sides and then in turn lose friends. We choose not to take sides. All we want is a resolution to be found. It seems to us there is no end in sight until the talks resume and the violence ends. The disputes are being ignored; the adults seems to view it as something that we have to tolerate. We can't tolerate it. It's tearing the community apart.

It seems they are doing nothing about the strike, so if they choose not to, the rest of us have to. We will no longer stand by and watch the adults of our society act this way. We will fight to end this strike; it may not seem like much but we are trying to open the eyes of the management, the strikers, the public, the entire town, to tell them that we have had enough; it has to end. It will tear the town apart if we don't end it soon. We need to show this little city that we care. This is our home. We need to keep the people together as a community.

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One of us is a daughter of a striker. One of us is the daughter of a staff member. One of us is the daughter of someone who shouldn't be affected by the strike, but is. We can stand together in unison. Can the city?"

It is signed by three young people of this community: Laura Howden; Crystal Gaudry-Bouchard and Candice Keenan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

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

Member's Statement On New Directions Initiative

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commend the Government Leader for the bold and very significant step she took with the June 16 announcement of a New Directions initiative. This is the sort of thing that has been needed and should have been done years ago. Mr. Speaker, the benefits will be experienced throughout the Northwest Territories from the stimulation of local and regional economies. But that is only half of it. Program delivery decisions will also be made closer to the people who need to be served. On an economic development rationale and a service delivery rationale, the New Directions initiatives have both.

Recipient communities throughout the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, are ready. Local governments and the private sector are poised to take on the task of supporting the infrastructure needed for decentralization. You will find they are willing, devoted, and have the energy and commitment for the planning process. But there is much that must be done, in partnership with the government, with this initiative. So today I am calling on the Government Leader and her cabinet colleagues to keep the momentum building.

First, we all need to begin to work on identifying the housing and office space requirements in the communities targeted for decentralization. Second, joint planning should begin now with the Departments of Public Works and MACA to develop a sound process through which the capital asset base will eventually be accrued to regional and local ownership. Third, there is a need to prepare regional residents for employment in the decentralization programs and services. Mr. Speaker, this is important. There is no sense in a decentralization initiative if it is not accompanied by administrative, and especially management, training that will enable our people to take advantage of this initiative. Fourth, we must support those public servants who accept the challenge of taking new direction in their careers and who agree to move to new communities with a view to making this initiative work.

As a final note, I would like to address a personal comment to those civil servants that will move. To the members of our public civil service who will be faced with a decision about workplace transfer and relocation of their next careers, I would say, do it.

Make the decision to accompany the program. Be part of, and contribute to, this new initiative. In return for their commitment, we will have an opportunity, and they will have an opportunity, to experience the warmth of an emerging northern community, a sense of professional renewal, and a personal satisfaction that goes hand in hand with working in the regional setting. I know from my own experience of 20 years in the Keewatin, I would not change it for anything. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to welcome students from the management and public administration course at Arctic College. They are here with Alice Legatt.

--- Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Field-Based Teacher Education Projects

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are three field-based teacher education projects operating right now within the Northwest Territories. These projects offer an alternative to attending college for two years in Iqaluit or Fort Smith or taking correspondence courses over a significant period of time. The teacher education projects offer two-year programs in the Keewatin Region, in Arviat, Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet, and in Hay River and Rae-Edzo.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the intention of these two-year projects was to attract aboriginal students, especially those with experience in the schools, to teach education while offering training within their home communities. There is a high teacher turnover in the Northwest Territories and not enough aboriginal teachers, but many people who would like to become teachers simply cannot leave their homes, families and jobs for the time it takes to attend college in Fort Smith or Iqaluit, and it is not acceptable for the children of the Northwest Territories to be forced to wait until aboriginal people who would be good teachers take all of their correspondence courses after hours.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that 10 students have graduated from the Rae-Edzo project and that two are presently attending at Hay River. I am pleased to inform the House that the teacher education program within the Keewatin communities has been certainly the most successful ever in the Territories in terms of

training the most aboriginal people to teach within their communities. The project has been greeted with enthusiasm, and there has been a great demand for courses. At present, there are 25 students attending the program full time, and approximately 10 take courses on a part-time basis. There are also 12 more students who are eligible to join the program for its second year.

But, Mr. Speaker, this brings me to an area of great concern. Many of the students who have enrolled in the community teacher education projects were already employed as assistants within the school system and so would bring valuable experience to a teaching position. These students have been eligible for...

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

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, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. These students have been eligible for an education leave benefit so that they can attend teacher training without their families suffering the full loss of their income. The benefit was added to their student financial assistance so that they received about 80 per cent of what they earned in the schools. This allowed them to train to be teachers and still continue to feed their families.

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Mr. Speaker, it now turns out that the Department of Education has decided that it will not provide this benefit to any more students who want to take teacher education. In the Keewatin, there are 12 students who could join the teacher education project in its second year to get their diploma. The reason why they are eligible to join the second year is they had begun to study to become teachers before the project even started. The department now tells them that they will not receive the benefit to help support their families that the other students in the project receive. This decision defeats the purpose of the projects. These are obviously motivated people with experience who want to teach, and they are being penalized for their initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the department must change its position and allow these students to train to be teachers; to deny them the benefit is a short-term answer. We will all lose in the long run. The Northwest Territories will have to continue to import teachers, and the students, who need aboriginal teachers who care about their culture, language and community, will take second place again.

The department must reconsider its plans to terminate the Keewatin project after its second year. The department has tried field projects before to involve more aboriginal people in teacher training. In 1981 and 1986 both attempts failed. This is a project that is working and will save the department money in the long run. The government has announced that it is committed to decentralization, allowing programs to be delivered closer to the people they serve. This is a chance to achieve what the government says it wants by holding on to something that works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Certified Management Accountants

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform this House as to what a CMA is. Many of you know that I use the designation CMA after my name, and I have had many enquiries asking what a CMA is. A CMA is a professional designation which signifies that I am a certified management accountant. What is management accounting? Management accounting is the use of people's skills, accounting skills and analytical skills, to improve the decisions and profitability of an organization. Most management accountants work as employees of a single organization whether in industry, business or government. They help that organization achieve its goals and objectives.

Two thirds of all opportunities in today's accounting profession are in management accounting. The CMA designation proves the individual has a combination of skills and current knowledge to function as an important member of the management team. A CMA's choice of career opportunities is flexible and unlimited. This is because every kind of organization needs professionals who are able to manage money, people, technology and information.

CMAs are in demand in all sectors of enterprise, and many are not restricted to traditional accounting roles. Many are presidents, general managers, comptrollers

and now even politicians. The CMA designation is the mark of an achiever. It means public recognition and a chance to meet stimulating people while performing interesting and important work as a respected professional. The CMA designation is awarded to those who have successfully completed the academic examination and practical experience requirement established by the Society of Management Accountants.

What is the Society of Management Accountants? It is a nationally-based professional organization responsible for the training, accreditation and continual professional development of CMAs. The federation of self-governing national, provincial and territorial organizations is a society...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Koe, your time has expired.

MR. KOE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

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

MR. KOE: The society is a national organization, and the Northwest Territories is registered as one of the societies of this organization. There are approximately 48 professional members, 28 student members and 10 associate members in the Northwest Territories. I am currently the president of this society.

--- Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Framework For Future
Implementation Of Nunavut Programs
And Services**

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the results of the historic plebiscite on May 4th has brought the Inuit dream of Nunavut closer to reality than ever before. People throughout the Northwest Territories are realizing that within the next decade we will be witnessing unprecedented political and economic changes in all regions of our homeland. Yet, I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that there seems to be little recognition in the government's planning for the delivery of programs and services. Honourable Members will note, for instance, the almost complete absence of any reference to Nunavut in the Strength at Two Levels document, which purports to provide a blueprint for the role of government in the Northwest Territories, and it is not even mentioned in the

Government Leader's statement yesterday, called New Directions. They will also note that the current capital planning does not reflect the needs of independent Nunavut. Long-range planning for the delivery of health services, children's mental health and addiction treatment all continue to focus on the model which views the western part of the Territories as the source of institutional programming and circuit travel by teams of non-Inuit professionals. This must change, Mr. Speaker.

Departmental officials are going to have to recognize the reality of division and begin to plan for the day when public government in Nunavut assumes authority for the delivery of programs and services. Members of this cabinet must ensure that departmental planning from here on in gives due consideration to program transfer, to create division, decentralization and training of eastern personnel for new administrative responsibilities. While this will be essential for departmental services, I believe it is even more vital when it comes to government-created boards and agencies, especially the larger, corporate-styled organizations which have been established at an arm's length from government. I will be raising questions with the Government Leader and her Ministers over the course of this current sitting, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that...

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MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Mike your allotted time has expired.

MS. MIKE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

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

MS. MIKE: Mr. Speaker, I will be raising questions with the Government Leader and her Ministers over the course of this current sitting. I am sure that honourable Members will agree with me that the time to begin building a framework for the future implementation of Nunavut programs and services is now. Thank you.

--- Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Support For Minister Of
Social Services**

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, I have thought long and hard about the comments made regarding the performance of the Minister of Social Services shortly before the second session recessed in April. I rise today to indicate my confidence in and support for the honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

I will tell the House, Mr. Speaker, that I did not vote for Mr. Whitford when we were originally selecting our Executive Council. I have always believed, however, that Ministers should be selected on the basis of whether their abilities are best suited to carry out the ministerial duties inherent to their portfolio assignment. I believe that every new Minister must be given an opportunity to prove those abilities. Over the past few months in his new portfolio, I have come to respect the way Mr. Whitford's personal approach and positive attitude has assisted me. I have been impressed with the Minister's willingness to listen to the opinions and aspirations of community leaders during his frequent constituency visits. When he visited Fort Providence on April 21, his open style of communicating resulted in a clear understanding of the issues surrounding Social Service deliveries.

I also believe that the Minister has demonstrated continued support and strong leadership in resolving long-standing issues surrounding the location of the handicapped adult group home in the Keewatin, bringing in critically needed amendments to the Child Day Care Act, fostering an unprecedented level of training in suicide prevention and addiction counselling, and solidifying an effective SARS program for social assistance recipients.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services will never be faced with a lack of client concerns, process complaints, program needs, or new challenges. What has been lacking so far, however, has been any apparent support from the Minister's cabinet colleagues. I have been repeatedly dismayed by the way other Ministers have remained silent in the...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has elapsed.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, thank you, colleagues. I have been repeatedly dismayed by the way other Ministers have remained silent in this House when their support should have brought additional balance and understanding to debates on social or health issues. I also find it inexcusable that important initiatives such as the harvesters support program in Renewable Resources and the family law review in the Department of Justice have been allowed to stall and leave the Minister of Social Services in a compromised position. Clearly the lack of interdepartmental co-ordination and the apparent failure of Ministers to support each other signal deep problems within the Executive Council. I would call on the Government Leader to address herself immediately to the issue of cabinet disunity. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Decentralization

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the ordinary Members' caucus to speak about the decentralization initiatives announced by the Government Leader yesterday. Mr. Speaker, Members on this side of the House fully support the principle of decentralization. We feel that the decentralization to all regions of the Northwest Territories will enhance regional decision-making powers, enhance program deliveries, and assist in developing viable economies in our smaller communities.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, we also believe that decentralization should occur in a fair and equitable manner. Decentralization has to be properly planned and managed, following clear policy guidelines to maximize the benefits to the affected communities and to enhance program delivery. It must not be perceived as a band-aid solution to political and budgetary problems. The initiatives announced yesterday certainly do not address the needs of all the regions in the Northwest Territories. In addition, we have yet to see a global decentralization plan and how it will fit into the overall restructuring of northern government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Point of privilege, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Point Of Privilege

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of privilege to correct a factual error contained within the article of today's Yellowknifer newspaper. The article, developed by Ronna Bremer, which appears under the headline, "Whitford Gets Temporary Reprieve," states that I indicated on April 3rd that I would be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion to revoke the appointment of the Hon. Tony Whitford as a Member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, the Hansard for Friday, April 3rd clearly shows that I made no such statement and I would be appreciative if reporters would have the courtesy to accurately reflect the proceedings of the business of this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell is exercising her rights under the rules of this House. Members' statements, Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Exclusion Of North Slave Region In Decentralization Programs

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on a question I put to the Minister of Finance concerning the government's decentralization programs and the exclusion of the North Slave region in this program. The government has focused their decentralization program on those communities that are or have been mostly negatively impacted by the general recession in Canada, and secondly, those communities that have lost positions due to budget cutbacks.

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Let me turn to the budget cutbacks first, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is true, as the Minister of Finance indicated yesterday, that the North Slave did not lose PYs due to cutbacks. In fact the North Slave has gained PYs. However, as the Minister indicated, these additional PYs were as a result of forced growth. If we impact these PYs as identified by the Minister of Finance, we find that most of these went to the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education as a result of: 1) increasing enrolment; 2) increased student attendance; and 3) addition of the grade 10 program at the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School.

Mr. Speaker, let us be clear here. None of these positions given to the divisional boards were for decentralization program purposes, but for forced growth purposes only. Let me turn to what I believe to be the most peculiar part of the government

decentralization program, that being the communities chosen to benefit from decentralization are communities more severely impacted by the sluggish economy,

I cannot for the life of me figure out how the communities chosen here have been more severely impacted by the recession than other communities in the North. In fact, if we look at a few socio-economic indicators, such as unemployment rates, social assistance dependency or per capita income, we find that communities chosen by this government to benefit from decentralization, with the exclusion of maybe Baker Lake and Igloodik, are the economically best off communities in the North, outside of Yellowknife. Surely the government cannot really be serious here. They must come up with a rationale that fits with reality, at least. Mahsi cho.

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

Member's Statement On Aircraft Maintenance Facility

MR. ANTOINE: Mahsi. Mr. Speaker. I must say that I am disappointed because of the announcement yesterday that the aircraft maintenance facility is to go to Fort Smith rather than to Fort Simpson. The reason I say that is because I was hoping to be given an opportunity to try to get this facility located in Fort Simpson. All I was asking for was a fair chance.

The reason for that is that I think the study the decision was based on is shallow and it does not give Fort Simpson fair consideration. I say this because the value of such a facility is \$7.3 million and 15 permanent jobs which are not government positions, and it does not exist in the government system at all at this present time. The spinoff and net effect would greatly revive any regional economy. There are numerous economic benefits that would greatly benefit any community.

I think Fort Simpson is a prime location. I have talked to many government officials who travel to Simpson, and they think it is a very good place. I think it was a prime location since six per cent of the marketable forest in the NWT is right in our back yard, and an aircraft maintenance facility services aircraft that fight fires.

The policy to decentralize, I think, is to spread economic benefits to communities known as emerging market communities. I think Fort Smith already has a lot of things like Arctic College,

women's corrections, youth facilities and fire operations. The emerging market communities need permanent government programs to ensure a sound economic base. It is like building any facility in the North and trying to find an anchor tenant that would guarantee that you would

meet your mortgage, a long-term guarantee. It is the same thing on a larger scale in the communities. I am saying that on behalf of most of the smaller communities that aspire to develop their economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Antoine, your time has elapsed.

MR. ANTOINE: I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? I will ask again. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a nay. The request has been denied. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O488-12(2): Relocation Of Fort Smith Municipal Planning Engineer Position

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on April 2, concerning the relocation of the Fort Smith municipal planning engineer. I have further advised the honourable Member on this matter in a letter dated April 16, 1992. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS Question O540-12(2): Letter To Federal Minister Of Labour Re Giant Mine Strike

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, in a statement earlier today, the Minister referred to a letter he had sent to the Hon. Marcel Danis, the federal Minister of Labour, regarding the labour dispute at Giant Mine. I note that this letter calls on the federal Minister of Labour to take immediate action to resolve the dispute by bringing both parties together in binding

arbitration, since the federal Minister refuses to consider legislation dealing with replacement workers. Can the Minister advise this House if he has had any reply yet to his letter to the Hon. Marcel Danis?

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

Return To Question O540-12(2): Letter To Federal Minister Of Labour Re Giant Mine Strike

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been in continual contact with the Minister of Labour or his office since this labour situation began, considering that the jurisdiction is with the federal government and our government does not have the power to act to resolve this matter. To answer the Member's question, Mr. Speaker, I spoke to Mr. Danis late yesterday. He told me that the letter had resulted in a lot of effort on the part of his office; that he was going to be consulting with Cabinet colleagues and with the other political parties about our request since, as the Member is aware, if legislative action is to take place before the summer adjournment, it would require all-party consent. Mr. Danis assured me I would have an answer by late today, or tomorrow morning at the latest. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for mine safety. I would like to ask him whether he is aware that, as a result of a call from Giant Mine in the early hours today, the Fire Marshal, an officer, and Mr. Gould from mine safety visited the site and were refused entrance. Was he aware of that fact?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since this Minister has a responsibility for mine safety, and since the call originated at the mine because there was a concern about mine safety, what does he intend to do to discharge his responsibility to make sure there is a safe working place out there for those people who are working?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the prevention of the Fire Marshal or of an officer in the Fire Marshal's department from exercising his authorities and doing his duties is a serious offence under the Fire Prevention Act. It is also serious in that it could jeopardize safety, as the Member has indicated. Mr. Speaker, the incident the Member refers to is being taken very seriously by my officials. I understand that following their denial of entry to the mine property by mine management this morning, the three members of my staff, after 40 minutes, left and returned to their offices. They are making another attempt to discharge their duties and to respond to the call from the mine management this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. If they are obstructed or hindered again in doing their duties, then my officials inform me they will certainly consider laying charges of obstruction under the Fire Prevention Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, that is not a very good answer. What the Minister is telling me is that there may be something very serious at that mine site of which he has no knowledge simply because the people who have the responsibility are not allowed to go in there to determine whether it is a safe place or not; so I would like to ask him, what is he prepared to do right at this minute to make sure he has the information so he can discharge his responsibility?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have told the honourable Member that right now, at this very minute, three of my officials who have a lawful right under the Fire

Prevention Act to obtain access to the property are attempting to exercise that right. If they are once again obstructed, they will use all legal remedies available to gain access; that is, the provisions of the Fire Prevention Act which provide for serious penalties for anyone who disturbs them in the execution of their duties.

Mr. Speaker, we have some information about the nature of the concern. It has to do with the disruption of phone lines and other communications flowing from a power outage and concern over the operation of fire pumps. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

MR. LEWIS: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if he will make a commitment to get an answer to this question, before 6:00 p.m. today, as to whether or not he is convinced that what is going on out there does not constitute a breach of safety for the people who are working there.

MR. SPEAKER: A commitment like that might be out of the responsibility of the Minister. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O541-12(2): Fire Marshal Refused Entry At Giant Mine

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are now making all efforts to respond to the numerous calls that the Yellowknife Fire Department received on this matter. If we are obstructed and prevented from exercising our responsibility for public safety, then there are measures to be taken, Mr. Speaker. I have yet to receive advice from my department about what measures should be taken, but I know that since the acting chief mining inspector was also one of the persons who was denied entry to the mine this morning, along with the Fire Marshal, the Mining Safety Act also gives the acting chief mine inspector significant powers to deal with a situation where he has reason to believe the safety of miners is affected. Those powers are as drastic as the closure of the mine.

Mr. Speaker, it is too early for me at this point in time to say whether that remedy will have to be employed, but I have every expectation that my officials will exercise the powers and deal with the issue of safety as seriously as it should be dealt with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O542-12(2): Criteria Used By Public Utilities Board To Grant Interim Power Increases

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board. Mr. Koe, yesterday, told the House that the Public Utilities Board granted the Power Commission a six per cent interim increase to power rates effective April 1. This increase is an interim increase until the board has the opportunity to hold full hearings on the Power Corporation's application to increase the rates. Given the current economic climate from the agreements that are in place, it astounds me that the Public Utilities Board would give the Power Corporation an increase of six per cent. Can the Minister please tell me what, if any, criteria the PUB uses to grant interim increases in the absence of submissions from the general public and other interested parties to the NWT Power Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

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

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

Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice with regard to the statement he made today. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's statement he indicated that the RCMP costs have reached one million dollars; however, he does not know the actual cost of the salary and overtime calculations. He believes that the territorial government has taken the firm position that the federal government will bear the cost of providing RCMP. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice why he did not ask the Solicitor General of Canada to provide the RCMP since this is out of our jurisdiction. Why did the Minister not ask the Solicitor General of Canada to provide RCMP to ensure that the cost is borne by the federal government?

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

Return To Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the request for RCMP reinforcements on May 24 was actually made to the Commissioner for the RCMP, who reports to the Solicitor General for Canada. In that sense, Mr. Speaker, the request was made through the Commissioner of the RCMP to the Solicitor General for Canada. I discussed that request with the Solicitor General for Canada shortly after the decision was made to provide RCMP reinforcements. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, since he has taken that route to ask for provision of RCMP enforcement in Yellowknife, can he confirm for this House that the cost of providing the RCMP will be borne by the federal government and not the territorial government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, before I answer the latter question, I would like to clarify that rather than having asked for RCMP reinforcements or initiating the request, requests for reinforcements were actually made by the RCMP commanding officer in the Northwest Territories. It was not initiated by this government; however, once that request was made to our government and to the Commissioner of the RCMP, as I said in my statement today, I determined that there was no alternative but to endorse that request.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the honourable Member today that the Government of Canada has agreed to underwrite those expenses, but we have a strong case, we believe, based on the wording of the Police Services Agreement which governs these matters, that this is a federal undertaking. It is a matter of federal jurisdiction and labour relations, and, therefore, as per the police agreement, expenses should be borne by the federal government. I have presented that view forcefully to the Solicitor General. He disputes that view. At the moment,

it is not clear that the federal government has agreed. However, Mr. Speaker, our government is taking the

firm position that these expenses are not our responsibility and will not be borne by us. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, Members are concerned about the cost our government may have to absorb in providing RCMP reinforcements. I want to ask the Minister if he can provide this House with an estimation, at least, of the salary and overtime calculations that have been estimated by providing the RCMP in respect to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O543-12(2): Cost Of RCMP Reinforcements Re Giant Mine Strike

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can provide an estimate; I have one in hand, and perhaps I can circulate it to Members. The expenses that are being incurred include travel costs, per them meals and accommodation, federal redeployment, administrative redeployment and the salary expenses, and the total is up to as high as \$56,180 per day and as low as \$51,800 per day.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O544-12(2): Recruitment Of Manager Of Medical Travel

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Honourable Members may recall that on February 14, 1992, I asked some questions about the department's plan to recruit a manager of medical travel position that was recommended in the Beatty Report before the consultation process that has been promised. The Government Leader responded herself and stated that this position was needed so badly that she had no alternative but to waive the hiring freeze and proceed immediately to recruit new staff.

I have since learned that the competition was held months ago and that only one candidate was interviewed. The candidate subsequently refused the position, and since that time there has been no attempt to have further recruitment for this position. Can the Minister please explain what is going on in the Department of Health? If this position was so crucial and urgent in February, why has the whole

idea been shelved after one unsuccessful attempt at recruitment?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

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

Question O545-12(2): Future Plans For Fort Simpson Hospital

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health, but I just want to say I have a difficult time operating in this kind of environment. My question deals with future plans for the hospital in Fort Simpson. **During the last session, the Minister of Health informed the House that the department was conducting a**

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MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O545-12(2): Future Plans For Fort Simpson Hospital

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O545-12(2): Future Plans For Fort Simpson Hospital

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated in this House before, the people of my region see the hospital as providing an essential service. If anything, they believe the services provided by the hospital should be enhanced rather than reduced. Could the Minister advise me whether any decision has been reached concerning changes to the level of service presently being provided by the Fort Simpson Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O545-12(2): Future Plans For Fort Simpson Hospital

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, no decision has been made. There will be no decision made until the community has been consulted. The report has gone back to them, and further input has

been received. No decision will be made without the input of the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Todd.

Question O546-12(2): Study On Benefits For Privatization Of Power Corporation

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Government Leader in her capacity as Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. In April, the Government Leader told this House that a comprehensive study on the benefits of privatizing the Power Corporation would be initiated by the government. Could the Government Leader please inform this House of what steps have been taken to initiate this privatization study?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that as notice because I do not know exactly what stage that is at today.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dent.

Question O547-12(2): Assessment Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Prior to the opening of Expo '92 in Spain, the Minister tabled a report which recommended that NWT involvement in Expo be stopped or radically restructured if a positive cash flow could not be achieved within 30 days of opening. Since Expo has now been open for more than 30 days, will the Minister advise the House on how the NWT portion of the Canada Pavilion is performing?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O547-12(2): Assessment Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not as well as I would like. On a daily basis, it is probably losing between \$300 and \$400, but when you factor in the capital costs, the start-up costs and the sunk costs, then we stand to lose in excess of three million dollars with the continuation of the exposition. Members will remember, Mr. Speaker, that at the time that report came forward, the projection was a minimum of \$2.5 million for not proceeding because of contracts and other promises that had

been made. So it is not performing as well as I would like.

I would point out that as much as the report mentioned that it maybe should be shut down after 30 days if it is not a positive cash flow, I did not adopt that position and said so in this House. I will be reporting to this House next week in more detail on the performance of the exposition to date.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O547-12(2): Assessment Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question on Expo '92, perhaps soon to be known as "Shortfall in Seville." When I questioned the Minister about this issue in March, he indicated that also after the initial 30 days he would receive an assessment of the situation from Mr. Ward and other on-site supervisors. Could the Minister inform us of Mr. Ward's assessment of the situation of Aurorales after the initial 30-day operating period?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O547-12(2): Assessment Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a couple of assessments done by Mr. Ward. He has sent them to my office. There are some logistical problems with the supply company that has the contract to supply all pavilions. I am fairly satisfied that almost everybody over there is having those kinds of difficulties. Mr. Ward is also concerned about the access to our portion of the pavilion. He is concerned about during the Imax performance not mentioning that we are part of that pavilion. He is concerned with the intense security that sometimes causes him problems. He is concerned with the fact that pulses through the Canadian pavilion are three and not four, which provides us with less business than we would have liked. He is concerned that the Spanish people, who are attending the fair at the present time, in the majority, do not have the disposable income that one would like to see in a visitor to that exposition, simply because we expect people who are on site to buy services and buy products.

There is a belief that when northern Europeans go on vacation, which is expected to start in the latter part of this month, Mr. Speaker, that business will increase

because those people will have more disposable income.

I could go on with some other concerns, but I think we anticipated that it was going to be difficult to operate from this vast distance, and I am anxiously awaiting another assessment by Mr. Nerysoo; I understand that he is going to provide it to me in writing this week. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O547-12(2):
Assessment Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

MR. DENT: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. I recognize the Minister indicated that a more detailed report would be provided to the House next week, but given the fact that Mr. Abbot, in his report, recommended significant change or closure if a positive cash flow could not be achieved in the first 30 days, can the Minister give this House some indication if the report that we receive next week will have an indication of significant change that is going to be made to the operation there in order to try to achieve a positive cash flow?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard,

Further Return To Question O547-12(2): Assessment
Of NWT Portion Of Canada Pavilion

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I knew going in that we were not going to make a profit, so our intention was to try to break even. Mr. Speaker, we stood to lose some \$2.5 million if we did not start the exposition, so I would be happy to maintain just a \$2.5 million loss or less. Indications are, right now, that we are going to be short by another \$500,000 or \$600,000. I will provide more financial details to the House next week. Some of the verbal reports that have been provided by Mr. Nerysoo have already been put into place at the exposition right now. We have already decided that, having lost at least three or four staff members now, we will not be sending replacements over there. So there are some things taking place right now. Whether or not we will be able to suggest some drastic things next week, I do not know; but I will report back to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O548-12(2): Amount Paid To Truckers For Hauling Gravel, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. It is with regard to independent truckers in my area. They are hauling gravel right now for reconstruction of the roads in my constituency, but what they are getting per ton, or metric ton, is 10 cents, per kilometre for hauling. It used to be, Mr. Speaker, that truckers were given 14 cents for per metric ton. At the same time, they are asked to sustain local facilities and, at least on two occasions when I met with two truckers, they said that during the last summer's construction period, they lost between \$10,000 to \$30,000. So they have lost a substantial amount of money because they are not being paid enough to operate. So I would like to ask if the Minister has any plans to increase the amount for hauling a load of a metric ton from 10 cents to maybe higher. I believe it is 12 cents in Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Could we ask all Members to try to make their preamble as short and succinct as possible? Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O548-12(2): Amount Paid To
Truckers For Hauling Gravel, Fort Providence

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that because of the downturn of the economy, bids on the contracts have been lower for the trucking industry. This job was publicly tendered. I am not too sure at this point, Mr. Speaker, about the level of detail that the Member is asking me. I will get back to him as soon as I can on the rates that companies bid under. But I am sure that the accommodation allowance for the job was included as a part of the contract for that particular job. Thank you.

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

Question O549-12(2): Education Leave Benefit For Keewatin Teacher Trainees

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I have grave concerns about the decision of the Department of Education to refuse the education leave benefit to students who are eligible to join the Keewatin teacher education project in its second year. These students are eligible because they have obtained courses toward their teaching diplomas before the projects start. Yet now they are being

refused a benefit that the other students in the program receive and that would allow them to train to be teachers without causing their families to suffer significant loss of income. Surely they are the exact type of students that this project was intended to attract.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, was the Minister aware that 12 students in the Keewatin, who may join the Keewatin teacher education project in its second year, are being refused the education leave benefit that is received by other students in the same program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O549-12(2): Education Leave Benefit For Keewatin Teacher Trainees

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you Mr. Speaker. This situation was brought to my attention about a month ago. Since then, I have instructed my officials to work with the divisional board to work out something for those students who might want to take second year teacher training. This year, our budget was \$2.7 million for a teacher education program, and an addition \$1.4 million was provided by the department for student financial support. Out of that, we had 97 full-time students and 305 part-time students. In particular, there were no cuts this year in the Keewatin, as was announced on the radio. In fact, the department's contribution to the Keewatin teacher training was enhanced by \$100,000 for this year. It went from \$166,000 to \$266,000. An additional \$300,000, or three quarters of the department's budget for education leave benefit for classroom assistants studying to be teachers, is dedicated to students in the Keewatin Region.

Since the department has no more resources to take on additional trainees, I have asked the department to find ways in which we will be able to take those students who want to enrol in the teacher training program. As yet, the department has not come back to me with a detailed work plan, which they are working on with the divisional board, for the Keewatin area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Could I also ask Ministers, when responding to an oral question, to be as succinct, brief and to the point as possible?

--- Applause

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question O549-12(2): Education Leave Benefit For Keewatin Teacher Trainees

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask, as a supplementary to the Minister, if he will be able to give a response to this House before the end of the session.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O549-12(2): Education Leave Benefit For Keewatin Teacher Trainees

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I will try my best, but I would like to let the Member know that I may have to go back to my cabinet colleagues for additional resources. As the Member is aware, the government is short of funding this year so I cannot, at this point, without the proper assessment done by the department and the divisional board, tell the Member when I will be able to respond to the Member with a concrete plan of whether we will be able to take on those students or not. Without going into student financial support, these students the Member is talking about are eligible, without going through educational leave, to request student financial assistance, which the Member knows is substantially lower than educational leave benefits. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O550-12(2): Recent Activities Of Round Table On Sustainable Development Policy

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judgments are very often made about governments, not only on what they do but also on what they do not do. In the last Assembly, this government adopted a policy of sustainable development because, in our concerns about the economy, we wanted to be sure that it would be balanced with the concern for the environment. I would like to ask the Government Leader, as chairperson of the round table on the environment and the economy, if she could please update the Assembly on the activities of the round table and what has been done toward further work on implementing the sustainable development policy which was adopted by this government.

MR. SPEAKER: Government Leader, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O550-12(2): Recent Activities Of Round Table On Sustainable Development Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, there has been no further work done by the members of the round table. There have been instructions to all departments and all agencies to practise, within their means and within their decision-making, sustainable development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O550-12(2): Recent Activities Of Round Table On Sustainable Development Policy

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the round table on the environment and the economy last met in April 1991, and that there was to have been another meeting on November 23, 1991, but it was cancelled by the Government Leader. I would like to ask the Government Leader to explain why this meeting of the round table was cancelled. Does that mean it does not exist any more; that she has disbanded it?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O550-12(2): Recent Activities Of Round Table On Sustainable Development Policy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, given the agenda that everyone has had, there was not proper planning or the ability to put an agenda on the table. I did not feel it was right, efficient, appropriate or responsible to call a meeting for the sake of having a meeting.

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

Supplementary To Question O550-12(2): Recent Activities Of Round Table On Sustainable Development Policy

MR. LEWIS: Since this is a matter of great concern for our future economic development, Mr. Speaker, could the Government Leader commit to this House that this round table on the environment and the economy is still a body to which this government is committed, and would she give some indication as to when it will meet next?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea. That is two questions really. Feel free to answer one or the other.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I take two questions as notice.

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

Question O551-12(2): Release For Public Disclosure Of Bid Prices From Tenders

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. I would like to ask the Minister of Government Services, in respect to tendering procedures, at the time sealed tenders are opened, is it standard practice to release for public disclosure the bid price from all tenders received? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice. I would like to be able to respond to that in detail. Thank you.

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

Question O552-12(2): Status Of NWT Power Corporation Franchise Agreements

MR. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. On December 17, 1991, I asked the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation for an update on the status of a franchise agreement between the Power Corporation and communities across the Territories. It is six months later now. I am wondering what the current status of the franchise agreements is between the communities in the NWT and the NWT Power Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered that question. I would like an opportunity to check the question again, and I will take it as notice.

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

Question O553-12(2): Powers Of Public Utilities Board To Rescind Increases In Rates

MR. KOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, and the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board responded, so my question is for the Minister

responsible for the Public Utilities Board regarding the six per cent interim increase in power rates. I was not satisfied with the response, and I still have not received the information. I am wondering whether or not the Power Corporation can substantiate the interim increase, and that leads me to believe there is probably another increase that may occur. I know that they are going to hold hearings, and these take time. My question is, can the Minister tell me what powers the Public Utilities Board has in place to rescind these increases should they not be fully justified by the Power Corporation, and how will consumers be reimbursed for payments they have made in the interim?

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O553-12(2): Powers Of Public Utilities Board To Rescind Increases In Rates

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, there is a letter on its way to Mr. Koe in this regard. I reviewed the draft of it this morning. The Public Utilities Board can roll back any increases. It can roll back those increases retroactively, and it has the ability to make sure that those overpayments, as they would be called then, are refunded to those people who had paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I would caution Members that when they are posing a question that is hypothetical in nature, it is counter to our rules and practices in this House. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O554-12(2): Funding For Teacher Training Students In Keewatin

MR. ARVALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. As he is aware, there are 12 students that are training to become teachers and they have completed a year. My question is, how can he tell us they need people in the Keewatin, if he wants to allocate funding? Because the government is in a deficit, how can he reserve more money if we were just to seek social assistance? Can the Minister answer my question? If his answer is "Yes, the funding is available", it is discouraging to see the teacher training come to a halt. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O554-12(2): Funding For Teacher Training Students In Keewatin

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the department is not trying to hold back on the resources that are dedicated for this program. Currently, the department has expanded its budget for this program for this year. I recognize the importance of this program for the Keewatin Region as well as throughout the Northwest Territories. I have asked my officials to work with the region to find ways so that these teacher trainees could be put into the program with the innovation of the budget or resources that are available to us. If I have to, I will go back to my cabinet colleagues to ask for additional resources. At this time, I have asked my department to find ways to put these people on the program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Todd.

Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

MR. TODD: This question is to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. As the Minister knows, I have expressed on a number of occasions my concern about the way in which the NWT Power Corporation operates. The people in the Keewatin need the assurance of a cost-effective and dependable supply of electrical power. My question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is, would the Minister consider contacting her counterpart in Winnipeg, the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, to initiate discussions of the feasibility of extending Manitoba's hydro power line northward into the Keewatin communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I did mention the meeting that took place at the Western Premiers' Conference. At that time, there was a great deal of discussion about potential for interlocking agreements. I would like to express, as well, that the chairman of the board of the Power Corporation has had discussions. He has already stated that if there is a possibility of extending a line that would be more cost effective and provide reliable power to the Keewatin, that we would be working with the provinces to support that development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

MR. TODD: Would the Minister, then, be prepared to state that before any additional capital expenditure is required for an expansion of power plants within the Keewatin Region, that at least some initial discussions would take place to determine the feasibility of an extension of the hydro grid from Manitoba Hydro into the Keewatin communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that is, yes. I would like to give credit to the people who are working in that those discussions have already begun. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

MR. TODD: If these discussions are under way, will the Minister provide this House or myself with a copy of these discussions?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O555-12(2): Possible Extension Of Manitoba Hydro's Power Line Into Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I can give the time and place when the discussions have taken place at the Western Premiers' Conference and the initial discussions that the chairman of the board has had with certain officials. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O556-12(2): Procedure For Flood Damage Claims

MR. GARGAN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I want to ask the Minister of Justice about the flood waters from Fort Providence to Horn River. Some houses were severely damaged. These cabins are used by people who go there for fishing and hunting. I

would like to ask the Minister if there is any way he could help the people whose cabins were damaged.

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MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O556-12(2): Procedure For Flood Damage Claims

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs responsible for emergency measures, there is a procedure whereby people can claim for the consequences of flood and flood damage. I will immediately provide the Member with information as to how his constituents can claim for damages from the flooding he described. I will provide this information directly to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat

Question O557-12(2): Funding For Baffin Divisional Board Of Education

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education. The Baffin Divisional Board of Education had a meeting recently regarding funding that was to be provided monthly. Since he has met with officials, have they agreed on any other ways of dealing with this? The chairman of the divisional board of education has indicated he will not sign this. Has he thought about dealing with this in another way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O557-12(2): Funding For Baffin Divisional Board Of Education

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The MLA for Baffin South is aware that all the divisional boards of education recently had a meeting. The executive directors and chairmen had a meeting in Yellowknife, The Department of Education has not come up with an agreement on the estimate of funding they will be losing for this year. This has not been decided. The divisional board chairmen who do not agree to sign are still provided with monthly funding. Thank you.

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

Question O558-12(2): Proposed Termination Of Keewatin Teacher Education Program

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education regarding a concern about the Minister's apparent plan to terminate the Keewatin teacher education project after its second year. This is the most successful program ever to involve aboriginal people in the teacher education program. It does not make sense to terminate the program if the government is really committed to decentralization. The first priority should be to hold on to what works. My question is, can the Minister assure the House that the Keewatin teacher education project will not be terminated without a full evaluation of the project and of the demand for further community-based teacher education in the Keewatin? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O558-12(2): Proposed Termination Of Keewatin Teacher Education Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is yes, but my understanding is that when the program was started, there was an agreement made that this program would continue for only two years. But I could assure the Member that my department and the divisional board will make a full assessment of the program. If it needs to be continued, I would have to request from my colleagues that this program be continued, along with the resources for it. But at this point, I cannot make that assumption without the proper assessment that will be made by the department, the divisional board and the people who are affected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question O559-12(2): Making Keewatin Teacher Education Program Permanent

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education must remember that when Mr. Kakfwi was the Minister of Education, he initiated an affirmative action program -- or at least the government did -- to allow that aboriginal people to become qualified teachers and qualified for other positions within the government. Now he is the Minister of Personnel. My question is to the Minister of Education. With that government commitment, will he make the teacher education program permanent rather than a three-year program when they are re-evaluating that three-year project?

Also, it has been reported that Baffin is bound to lose approximately one million dollars; Keewatin probably a similar portion, maybe smaller, but a similar portion; that had allowed the divisional boards to produce Inuktitut programs and hire cultural inclusion programs from that quarterly contribution from the government. Would he then make it a permanent program rather than just a two-year program, because everyone recognizes that they are essential?

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is a problem for all Members when two questions are asked. I ask the honourable Member if he could pose the question that he would like answered, please. Mr. Arvaluk, you asked two questions. Could you pose the question that you want the Minister to answer?

MR. ARVALUK: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I had so many questions. I did not mean to put two of them at the same time, but yes, that is what I meant. That probably would have to be a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I take it that the first question, whether or not it should be extended, is the question that the Minister could respond to.

Return To Question O559-12(2): Making Keewatin Teacher Education Program Permanent

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I answered to the Member for Kivallivik, before the program is terminated, I have asked my department and also the divisional board to look at the program and to make an assessment of the program. If it is required to continue it, then ultimately the department would have to come up with enough resources so that the program will continue.

With respect to your other question, interest revenues that were derived from the quarterly contributions by the divisional boards, the initial meeting took place between the directors of the divisional boards and the chairmen of all divisional boards here in Yellowknife about two weeks ago. I asked them to report to me as to to what degree the divisional boards would be losing interest revenue from the previous years. That information has not come back to me yet. I think the department is making some assessment on the interest revenue that was going to the communities because of the quarterly funding. I am hoping that the assessment will be done very soon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: In an ideal parliamentary world, Members will ask one question and Ministers will

respond to one question. The time for question period has expired.

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Item 6, written questions, Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, you are a bit too fast for me. I would like to table this petition signed by 320 people in this community. It really asks that the appropriate government take steps to try to resolve the strike at...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, are you requesting a return to another item? Because we are not on that item, Mr. Lewis. We are on reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation On Bills 2, 3, 6, 18, 19 And 20

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the standing committee on legislation has reviewed Bills 2, 3, 6, 18, 19 and 20 and wishes to report that Bills 2, 6, 19 and 20 are now ready for committee of the whole and that Bill 3 and Bill 18 are ready for committee of the whole as reprinted and amended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 66(3), Bills 2, 3, 6, 18, 19 and 20 are ordered into committee of the whole.

Reports of committees on the review of bills. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Rule 66(1) requires that a bill referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the

Assembly receives a report of the committee or 120 days have passed since second reading. Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation has not completed its review of Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act. I therefore request the unanimous consent of the House to recommit Bill 4 to the standing committee on legislation under Rule 66(1).

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 4 will go to the standing committee on legislation under Rule 66(1).

Reports of committees on the review of bills.

Item 12, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motions. 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 28: Interim Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 19, 1992, I shall move that Bill 28, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the NWT for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1993, No. 2, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 29: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, June 19, 1992, I shall move that Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1992-93, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. I have to call Motion 16-12(2). The mover of the motion is not in the House; therefore this motion is struck from the order paper. Motions, Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion To Move Ministers' Statement 61-12(2): To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Pursuant to Rule 21(5), I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, be moved into committee of the whole.

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

--- Carried

Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, is moved into committee of the whole. Motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills. 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; Motion 6-12(2), Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; Committee Report 10-12(2), Special Committee on Constitutional Reform Report on the Multilateral Conferences on the Constitution; Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, with Mr. Nerysoo in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The committee will come to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Koe.

MR. TODD: The committee wishes to discuss Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, after a break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Is it the wish of the committee that we begin with Ministers' Statement 61-12(2)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We will take a short break.

--SHORT RECESS

Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Ministers' Statement

61-12(2), New Directions. Any general comments? Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: I would like to commend the Government Leader for this decentralization initiative. I think we have to ensure in this decentralization that the benefits that come about, whether it is with respect to the potential new assets that may be required or employment opportunities, are given to the systems in place so that Northerners can take full advantage of the situation. I would hope with respect to this, particularly in the employment opportunities that may be available, that there will be some co-ordination between the decentralization thrust and Arctic College to ensure that our regional people, where those from Yellowknife do not wish to transfer, be given first opportunity to apply for and be successful in these jobs. So there is a requirement for some co-ordination with respect to this decentralization thrust.

I am one of those that believe that if we hesitate we will be lost because there will be 20 reasons why the bureaucracy will say we cannot do it, rather than, as I frequently say, "One reason why we should do it." There is a difference of opinion with respect to the fairness of decentralization. The principle of it, we all support; and I am sure other Members will talk to the fairness of it. But I want to say in terms of the principle that I am a strong advocate of decentralization. It will bring about not only economic benefits; it will also bring about, hopefully, government closer to the people, something many of us have been arguing for God knows how long -- 20 years, some of us. But I do want to say that if we do not move quickly, if we do not take advantage of this initiative, I am of the opinion that the bureaucracy will find some reason why we should not do it.

So I think timing, the commitment to it and our ability to put the infrastructure and put our people to work are important. So I think we have to move quickly to get a process in place which will ensure that there are maximum benefits to the regions that are affected; that we get training programs in place that are going to ensure that our people in the regions, where the positions of the people who do not wish to transfer, where there are opportunities available, that they are trained and placed in them. We take some risks if some of our people are not training. I am one of these people who believe that we should be hiring North first. It should be the rule, and anything else should be the exception.

If there is concern -- and this was expressed earlier -- about some inequity in what has taken place here, then that is probably a legitimate debate. However, the principle of decentralization has my full support, and I would like to commend the government for it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, agree in principle on decentralizing the government to the regions and the communities, but the paper that is before us does not seriously address the question of decentralization. As I indicated in my Member's statement this afternoon, I am not happy about how the government is anticipating to go. I have been pursuing decentralization of government since I was elected in 1987, and I have always pursued it, but the direction the government is taking today does not reflect

Decentralizing to North Slave And Kitikmeot Regions Not Addressed

The decentralization program that is outlined in the paper is basically catering to the regional centres, not the small communities within the regions, and that is where I think decentralization should occur. I do not know what method the government used to arrive at the conclusion that these targeted communities are severely impacted by the sluggish economy. What I do not understand is, what method did they use to determine that those regional centres were the poorest? I am having a difficult time with the paper entitled New Directions that has been put forward by the government. Although I am totally in favour of the principle of decentralization, there has got to be some explanation here, or a rationale that fits the reality. Until that is answered, Mr. Chairman, I am having difficulty with the paper they put forward.

With regard to the cutbacks and how they anticipate they are going to deal with the effects of certain cutbacks to various communities, I think that initiative is adequate at this time. In regard to amalgamating various departments, I totally agree with this, but until these various questions are answered, Mr. Chairman, I am having difficulty dealing with this paper entitled New Directions. Mahsi.

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

MR. ARVALUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my concern or general comment is very much similar to Mr. Zoe's, especially on page three. I fail to

understand the clear direction in that document, New Directions. It says, 'However, this has meant that we had to reduce expenditures in other areas to a greater degree. Unfortunately, that is the choice we face in sustaining our most important social programs and continuing to offer our rapidly growing numbers of youth the best possible education. We must be prepared to invest in our young people and meet our obligations to our elders.' This sounds great, but how do you say that and take away 12 of the Keewatin teacher education program at the same time? I cannot understand how those two are supposed to fit together as logic. The action and the document New Direction conflict.

A paragraph after that also talks about more independent or real economic development. In other words, something independent from the government. Now, I want to believe the document has a general interest to develop more economic development that can be self-sustaining; yet we are not seeing this in the small communities. I understand "Communities such as Fort Simpson and Rankin Inlet are stranded in a never-never land by being too small to be big, but too big to be small." I understand that, but still this particular program does not reflect the small communities. Mr. Chairman, I will need some clarification of those particular paragraphs, using examples of what they mean with those statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

MLA Input Lacking In Decentralizing

MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document that we are talking about, New Directions, I guess you all know my concerns about one particular part of the direction, but on the whole, on principle, I agree with decentralization, and some of the government positions should be moved to some of the communities. I totally agree with that. However, when I first heard about it, it was a surprise, because as an MLA I was not involved in the decision of what should go into communities. I think the communities that will be receiving some of these services and PYs are pleased with the announcement. However, there again it is a good surprise.

I want to know what the time frame would be to move some of these positions. Are we talking about immediately, one month, two months, the next fiscal

year? I guess the question in everybody's mind is that we will be receiving some of these positions. My general comment is strictly that I think it is a good move on the government's part. Unfortunately, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly we were not involved in the decision, and we are expected to live with that decision. As I said, I was hoping to be given a fair opportunity to represent my constituency -- and one of the communities is Fort Simpson -- in a democratic and fair way, and I have been impeded. I will conclude my statement tomorrow.

In the community of Simpson, on the aircraft maintenance facility, we did not receive the document until the latter part of the last session. I was hoping to get the community to do it, and we did do it. It takes a little time, but I did have a meeting with the business community as well as the village representative, the band council and Metis representatives. We tried to approach this as a community development opportunity. I come here and find out that the decision is already made. I found it unfair in a way. I think the intentions of the government here are good, but things have to be done in a more democratic and fair way. I think we will all benefit from it if things like this are done in that manner, so we do not have situations where there are conflict and hard feelings. I always want to work with everybody, and with my background as a Dene, we have always worked in an environment where we respect each other's views and even though it is opposing, we listen. That is why I find it difficult sometimes to be in this environment and try to represent my people and try to get things done in a fair and democratic manner.

Once again, the principle of the transfer is good. If we could have more dialogue between the MLAs and the government in some of the key areas -- because it is a big decision to move some of the headquarters personnel into the communities; you are looking at long-range changes. Is this for a number of years, or for a trial period, or is it permanent? These are some of the questions floating around. I am trying to see how it is going to work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am of the same opinion as my colleague for North Slave. For many years we have sort of been poor cousins to the government. The Kitikmeot needs a lot of work at ground level to get things going, as does the Keewatin. We cannot rely solely on the mining industry as the Minister stated, for this whole reason that the mining industry and the growth of a

community depends on the market value of your lead, nickel, and gold. That is dictated by the world market and how good the price is. From what I understand, gold is on its way down. What we really need is infrastructure in our community. We will be going into a new territory, and we need new things to develop with, like other regions in the Territories.

Kitikmeot Region Neglected

I am beginning to wonder if this Legislative Assembly looks beyond their own constituency needs and their interests. My region exists; we are part of the NWT; we will always be; because we are right in the dead smack centre of the Territories. I feel Rankin and Fort Simpson are not nevernever land; that should be us fellows. They are well established. Mr. Todd has all his infrastructure there, yet he is getting more PYs and we are getting nothing.

You have to look at decentralization on a territorial level and not on the region that you want to promote and develop and leave the two regions, which are already neglected, behind. We need this government infrastructure. We need many things that I wish we could get within my four years in this House or even after seven years. It will be pretty difficult to do. I am only one in 24; I am only a rookie. I sit back and listen to all the luxuries these guys are getting, and we are getting only sparerib extras with no meat on them.

I think the government has to seriously consider going back to the drawing board and see what they can come up with for the region that I represent. Because it is disheartening to go out of here during the day knowing that you are not getting anything and the decision has already been made without even consulting the hamlet councils and myself. Who made these decisions to move these person years to the region. In principle I agree with decentralization, but I have to say it is not being done on an equal basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, appreciate the work, New Directions, that cabinet has provided us in this document. I am pleased to see cabinet is finally making some decisions and giving people in the North some direction. I am also pleased to see that, if adopted, some of the principles that I operate under -- we have to be able to change and adjust with the times.

I assume that this document and the changes that are in it are part of or a first phase of a larger plan. If it is, it would be nice sometime shortly to see the larger plan. I am also concerned about some of the net impacts on regions and communities. We are getting part of the picture here, but we will not see a lot of the details until we get the fiscal budget of this government. That leads to the question: What impacts will these new directions have on the overall budget of the NWT?

We will not be seeing the total O and M or capital budgets until September, and I wonder, in the overall picture, what programs and projects are being added. What is being deleted? There is mention of 160 PYs being eliminated. I guess the question is, then, where, specifically, are they being eliminated from? What communities? What areas? And what changes have been made?

They are also concerned about some of the logic utilized in making some of these decentralization decisions. That begs the question, are some of these decisions being made to get ready for an eastern government and a western government?

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Also, in the document there are two initiatives that are mentioned: the business incentive policy and the Housing Corporation projects; that the business incentive policy would be utilized before the federal government will accept it. I think that we have to also ensure that all our agencies, boards and commissions adopt and utilize the new business incentive policy. It just cannot work for part of our Territories. Everyone that receives and uses government money has to accept and adopt these policies.

The one issue that Mr. Todd mentioned is the hiring and utilizing of northern people. It is very, very central that somewhere soon we adopt new policies and directions to hire North and hire North only. That means training and upgrading our training. We have to do it. We have to utilize our people. That is what creates the jobs. The jobs stay here. It enhances the revenue side of our budgets. These are some of the initial comments I had, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am personally very glad to see that there is this initial step toward decentralization. I fully support it, as I

have indicated before. I would say, though, that there are some concerns that are being raised not just from the smaller communities but from the centre of the Territories itself, which is Yellowknife; and, as Mr. Lewis indicated yesterday, there is an economic downturn in Yellowknife as well. But aside from that, I think my major concern is that in the steps taken by the government toward decentralization, there was no consultation, prior to the decisions made by the cabinet, with the ordinary Members; and it may be that there was some consultation with the standing committee on finance, but I am not a Member of that committee. Therefore, I am left in the dark until the O and M budget comes out.

I think with regard to decentralization, there will always be concern by some Member of the Territories as to the way any step is taken. I think the communities that I represent are no exception, because the communities that are mentioned in this report are Fort Simpson and Rankin Inlet, being stranded in the never-never land. I am sure that it was not meant to say that those are the only communities which are in never-never land, because there are more. My communities of Baker Lake and Arviat are among them because they have the higher unemployment rates in the Keewatin.

I can see from the number of Members that are in here and the people who are concerned and are speaking out about the direction of this report, New Directions, that the smaller communities or the people who represent smaller communities are speaking out and are being very critical. But in order to get to where I think all of us as the Legislative Assembly want to see our Territories go, there has to be consultation before decisions are made. There was an example before, where the government had made moves and had not consulted with Members. I do not want to see any consequences of decentralization as a result of not consulting with other Members of the Assembly because I think all Members are in support of decentralization, I guess what I am trying to say is that I know cabinet is trying to consult with Members, but I think there should be more, especially when it comes to major issues like decentralization. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have looked at the Government Leader's statement on the direction we would be going in in the

next while. It was based on Reshaping Northern Government, and it had a

working group in which three of the Members were ordinary Members. But one of the things that I wanted to tell the government, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to the reorganization -- reorganizing the predominance of transportation and utility companies. In Hay River, the Highway Transport Board and the Public Utilities Board - we have now, Mr. Chairman, the Power Corporation that is in Hay River, and we also have Northland Utilities in Hay River, Alberta Power -- but why do you want to have the Public Utilities Board in the same place where those corporations are operating? I could see these people becoming pretty good buddies, eventually, and start determining the rates; or they could be manipulated by those corporations in convincing them to increase rates. But I have no difficulty with wherever it goes. I realize that my constituency has not been mentioned in this document, but I am not interested in that at the moment. I am more interested in finding out what the rationale is behind the utilities board being relocated to Hay River.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We are on general comments. I wonder if the Government Leader would like to respond to that question.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear all the comments. We are noting the questions that have been posed and, once we hear from everyone, I will be making an overview. Then the respective Ministers will be dealing with some of the specific questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to jump at the idea of supporting the remarks in the document without being clear about the rationale. I do not want to have to continue to pick on Members or particular constituencies, but I will deal with that a little later on. What is interesting is that part of the introductory remarks read, and this is a recommendation, I guess, from a standing committee that recommends that: "the Legislative Assembly as a whole work together to change the future course of the Northwest Territories." I think that is an important principle by which we must work. I wonder, really, if that is the case, and whether or not some of the decisions that are being made are purely political. I hope not. I hope they are based on some logical rationale, some advantages in terms of the economic

opportunities, and certainly other benefits that might accrue generally to people of the Northwest Territories, because our task in this Assembly is to run government in the best way we know and to the advantage of improving services and programs to the people we represent.

I am still uncertain, and maybe the Government Leader, when she decides to respond, will clarify some of the rationale and some of the reasons why certain decisions have been made with regard to decentralization.

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For me, some of the decisions beginning on April 1, 1993, and ending April 1994 -- I am still not certain why they were done. I may be convinced to support the decisions, but I am not convinced at this particular time. I do not want to pick on Mr. Antoine's constituency, but I always assumed that the whole matter of delivery of POL products -- and that deals with petroleum, oils and lubricants -- would be placed in a location that was involved in that kind of delivery. Having reviewed the information here, it would have almost made more sense, at least from my perspective, to have placed -- maybe Mr. Gargan raised one location -- but it would have made better sense to me, to be in a place like Norman Wells, because that community is already involved in that business. In fact, a great deal of the purchases we make for petroleum, oils and lubricants is from that refinery and delivered to the coast and to the Western Arctic. So it does not make sense. Maybe I can be convinced that Fort Simpson is the place to put it, but I have not heard the logical reasons. I say that not to suggest that we should take it away from one community or from Fort Simpson. I am just trying to find, from my perspective, why the decision was made.

Secondly, I am not certain, and this may be a policy decision that has to be made overall, but I have not heard yet in this Assembly whether or not Fort Smith or Iqaluit will actually become the educational centres for Nunavut and the Western Arctic. If we are going to make that decision, let us make it. For once and for all, let us get on with building the infrastructure for an Arctic College system properly. You cannot choose to continue to have the Arctic College system as diverse as it is, if we are going to run good programs. I think it is a clear mistake. But again, in my view, the major policy question has not been answered, and I would be more comfortable supporting our government if there were a policy decision that says we are going to

get on with developing an educational centre. Let us get on with it.

The other point I was going to make was from a transportation perspective, and again maybe the Minister will have to respond to this, but I was not clear as to why the airport or the transportation programs were located at the sites that were chosen. I may be able to be convinced of it, but I was not clear as to why. Maybe it is because I think there are other locations that are more involved in the area of transportation than those communities; actually centres for transportation. Again, I am not totally certain as to why they were chosen, and perhaps the government will be able to articulate that. I see the whole matter of transportation programs as addressing highways, airports, and water transportation. For me, it does not make any sense as to why those locations were selected. I think there are other more logical locations for it, but maybe I can be convinced by our government.

Maybe this other phase I am concerned about is not clear to me, but what are we doing about other overall economic development in the North when we are dealing with decentralization? Surely it is not simply a matter of moving headquarters positions from Yellowknife to the regional centres or the area centres. Surely it is taking, from regional centres and headquarters, positions that actually serve other communities other than the regional centres.

Maybe on that point I would like to point out a couple of positions. First of all, in the marine division side, it still does not make any sense to me why marine division positions are located in communities that do not have any ferries in them or near them and have to drive away from the communities. Why are highway safety officers placed in locations at the end of the highway rather than at the centre of the highway system? You have to rationalize why the positions are located there. I have not been convinced of the reasons why decisions have not been made to proceed to go beyond just the decentralization from Yellowknife to the regional and areas centres,

There is a comment here that says a great deal about maximizing benefits associated for mineral development in the North Slave region and in the Kitikmeot Region. I know that from my own review and reading of the material from Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, that you are making efforts to resolve the question of the Northern Accord and the legislation that is being developed, but that still has not resolved some of the more immediate questions.

There is an indication, for instance, from the Dogrib group that they are interested in setting aside or protecting land for their interest. Nothing has been done with that. I do not know how much guarantee you can give to the people in the Kitikmeot or North Slave that they are ever going to receive economic benefits from lands that they will not have an opportunity to select.

I also want to ask our government, in dealing with this whole matter of New Directions, when you are talking about highway development, to look at the locations where they are going to almost immediately bring some return to the people of the North. We just cannot say for the sake of building highways that it is a nice project for taking people off social assistance and into the work force when we already have people who are capable of working that cannot get a job, simply because there are no jobs available. There has to be more motivation behind the idea of local involvement and training. We cannot simply say there are trained and qualified people out there; the question is, can we get them to work?

I know some Members may not be happy with what I have said, but I want to make it quite clear that the remarks that were made by my colleague, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, earlier today in a Member's statement, remain my position. But it is not without having clarity and justification and consideration for all Members of this Assembly and whether we can walk out of this Assembly and convince our colleagues and the people of the North that what we are doing is right and correct, and we can justify it.

Other than that, I do not have a problem with the overall direction that has been taken with regard to decentralization. But I want some logical rationale as to what it is we are trying to accomplish. Otherwise, it makes no sense to me. It makes no sense for the people out in the communities, and I think that is important. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have been able to go over the report. I am happy to see decentralization in that there are more services in the communities, because this has been long in the planning, and the services given to the communities will create jobs.

With regard to decentralizing Arctic College and centres for educational programs to Iqaluit and Fort Smith, I have further questions on this issue. Perhaps this was agreed to prior to our becoming MLAs. We represent the people of the North, and we have to be well informed of the issues. Often we hear the communities seeking information and communication regarding services and jobs being moved into communities. I have no problem with this, however, I think there has to be more consultation and that a community has to agree on decentralizing things such as Arctic College. We always want to be well informed so that we just do not agree without consulting with our communities.

I feel very strongly that communities have to be consulted. I feel we have to be well informed of how to have input from the MLAs so that they can consult their communities. I feel that there is a need for more input. I know we are consulted often, but sometimes they miss the opportunity. For this reason, I wanted to voice my concern that before decentralizing, communities are to be well consulted.

The deficit is the reason that these 160 people are losing their jobs. Are we in a deficit because of the 160 jobs that are being lost? We will have to plan through the reports and through the acts. We will have to be very careful that it will be well planned, as to where headquarters should be and how our government will be run. During our plebiscite, we decided how our government is going to be, and that our communities are to be consulted in the reports that are being documented and in drawing up our plans for Nunavut in the communities in the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Are there any other general comments? Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very happy when our Government Leader stated this about decentralizing services to the communities. However, in this statement, there is not very much said regarding Nunavut. Where is the headquarters, for example? Where, in the Northwest Territories, would headquarters be located -- Inuvik, Igloolik or Iqaluit -- if Nunavut were to become reality? It is uncertain right now that it will be agreed upon by all our people. I know there is a research place in Igloolik. We will not have to pay for the capital, and there are only nine years. I would like to see that Nunavut people agree on this.

The Government Leader has indicated in her statement, New Directions, that MLAs, mayors,

bands, and chiefs will be consulted during this new direction, and that these guidelines for the new directions are always in place. I feel we are left behind, I have not been asked whether, if we transfer services, it will be appropriate and accepted by the community prior to planning. I previously wanted to say more, but my colleague, Mr. Nerysoo, stated it already, so this is the end of my comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD: If I may, I would like to just make a short comment. I think we would be remiss in this whole debate if we did not recognize and appreciate the support of those who have got the most to lose, and those are Mr. Lewis and Mr. Dent, who have both expressed support for decentralization even though it may appear to be that some positions will be moved out of Yellowknife. Both these gentlemen recognize the need for it and the value of it, and we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any other general comments? Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments Members have made, and I would like to try to capsulize the general concerns. Then I will ask the Minister of Finance to go back to the more detailed rationale or the areas that we had considered.

In the last while and in taking over this new government, there were several components that were looked at not only by us but also by ordinary MLAs and the committees. Certainly questions about how the communities grow, how the regional centres take on responsibilities, and what we do about the strong central agencies, by and large have been questioned about the desirability of always placing more and more government support systems in that central location.

We attempted to look at what people had said in the past and where people's feelings have come from in discussions at communities and regional councils. One of the concerns was that the communities really have the ability to take on more of their own responsibilities provided that adequate resources were made available. The regional centres could do more, and the central agency, perhaps, was out of touch; and the government really could, practically, decentralize some of the responsibilities to the

regions, not for political reasons but more to show to the people of the Northwest Territories that the other parts of the Northwest Territories rather than the central agency have capability and could be given the respect of taking on the responsibility without being in one capital city.

Now the concern is that we did not give enough credence to Nunavut. In the discussions that we had, we realize that the commission has to be set up so that we have an agency to work with in terms of getting the establishment of Nunavut in place. As well, we are still working with the document from the Western Constitutional Commission that was formed. So all these areas are areas which have been looked at, but each time we attempt to address them in detail, more and more questions come out on how, where and what the possibilities are of reaching some of those expectations.

The decisions that were made in this paper were mainly for us to show, as a government, that we were willing to bite the bullet, willing to do something and willing to take that risk -if you want to call it that -- not wait until we had every stone overturned and every little detail considered. As many Members of the Legislative Assembly will know from their experience, we oftentimes want to do something or give a direction, but when it gets set into place where every stone has to be turned and every angle looked at, we do nothing. We are not prepared to take the chance and say, given the information we have, given the resources we have, given some of the concerns, we have and given the risk as well, that we cannot accommodate everybody. Some decisions we make now can take place. Some of the people will have concerns about the decisions made because they feel they were not considered equally.

I want to say again, that not every stone was turned, not every little avenue was looked at. We did not research every decentralization to the nth because if we had done that, we probably would never have come to this stage today.

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In dealing with the areas of economic development other than government, 1, as Government Leader and having the overall responsibility, have been trying to take advantage and trying to lead the development of the NWT to complement what we are doing as a government, and it is a difficult task because in some areas we do not have the jurisdiction. But if we wait until we have the jurisdiction, we do nothing.

I think one of the areas we took on between the government and the community showed that people in the community want to get involved in economic development, in the development of the Colomac Mine with the Dogrib Nation. Those people took the responsibility, took the initiative, and took the risk. What they had for the time was good, and people were proud of what they did, and they intended to do more. Unfortunately, the price of gold went down and that was a risk we took. But, at the same time, there are people now who have certain skills. They have a positive attitude, and I believe that there are opportunities where they can get another chance. We should try to take those chances as well.

If I had a choice in my constituency to depend on either government or on an economic opportunity like a long-term mine, I would take the opportunity of the long-term mine. We never know from time to time what the total global financial problems of Canada are going to be and, whether we like it or not, when the crunch comes, we will be squeezed as well. If we can diversify and support the communities, whether it is with diamonds -- maybe gold did not go but maybe diamonds will -- I hope that the Dogrib Nation will look at that opportunity and see where they can fit into that development because it looks good and it does not even have the questions of marginal viability as the Colomac Mine did. But just because that did not succeed -- not because of the people but because of other risks that were taken, the people went in there and gained experience. So we have a core of people that know what they are doing. So it is not lost, and those opportunities are there.

The opportunities to become less dependent on government are more stable, more long-term, more real and provide more innovation for people to grab on to a business opportunity that they can control because they are part of the action. Government, government expenditures and the dependency on them oftentimes do not show much stability, and all we are trying to do is redefine and reappropriate. In doing that, I hope that the risk we took is one that will pay out in the end by bringing more people, collectively, and an experience in running government processes, so that, eventually even though there will be central agencies, whether in Nunavut or here, those will begin to bring forward people from the experience they retained at this time.

In terms of the mineral industry, I want to say we are proactive; we want to work with the communities and we want to find a way of again involving the Dogrib Nation or south of the lake. I want to see us promote

the involvement of the Central Arctic in that operation. I believe we can do it, but it takes work, and it takes initiative. I think it has been proven before, and we can do it again. Since the relationship between the Dogrib and Colomac, Lupin Mine has increased its activity in working with the community because they saw a trend, it is not like it used to be 10 years ago. The mining industry up there is interested, and the people are interested. They are employed, and they are taking that initiative. We cannot deny it by not recognizing that fact. I think it can be better. I believe it can be better when people are ready to take that step.

So overall, I know we did not meet the expectations of every constituency but, at the same time, I think we have to try and look at it in the global sense because we can only stretch the government dollar so much, and we try to do our best at that time.

I hope that very soon the Nunavut commission will get in place so that can deal with that. I believe the mandate which has been briefly outlined states that they are the people that will want to work with this government to develop where certain structures will go, and I do not believe that the determination of a central capital is decision of this Legislative Assembly but will have to come through the commission or through the people from the Nunavut area.

I believe that besides decentralization and what we have outlined for you now, there are a number of other initiatives that have been put forward to this government and which we will be acting upon. We would like to take a couple of more weeks or months to decide upon some of the areas that we would like to finalize with the government; in particular, the housing area. Therefore, some of the decisions cannot be made, but there are other areas we are addressing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. We are still on general comments. Are there any other general comments or questions? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I thought I was going to leave it at what I had said earlier, but I guess I have no choice but to deal with some of the issues that have been raised and which have caused me even more concern. Number one, I do not really mind the idea of decentralization, and I do not want every stone unturned in terms of making a policy decision. The question I want to have dealt with is whether or not an overall policy decision has been made and what that means. If you are talking about decentralization, does

it only stop at the region? If not, then let us say that. But that is not what is coming out in the documentation before us.

Maybe I can be more specific about Inuvik. Let us deal with Inuvik for a few minutes. It is not a matter of my particular constituency. One question I would like to ask is, what is the transportation centre in Inuvik Region? Is it Inuvik? That is an assumption that people have made, but the fact is that it is not the community which is serviced first by road transportation. It is the last. So the question I have to address is, how do I view that in terms of decentralization? It does not fit. That is all I am trying to get at.

The other point I want to make is simply this. If there is an attempt on our part to deal with decentralization and moving people into the communities or into the regional centres, then surely we are going to address the matter of ensuring that services are provided to communities first. If not, then how are we addressing that particular question? The document does not deal with that.

I can be more specific about it. Arctic Red River has no nurse, has no social worker, and has no police services. It is very fundamental, but nothing is done with it. So when I talk about decentralization, I look at that and I say the intention in the document is that we are going to improve services. How? For the people in that community, it does not make any sense. For me to go back there to argue a case and support this government's direction, to them it does not make any sense if they are not receiving what they think are basic services. To some, maybe it is more of a constituency matter, but the fact is that it is basic services, and if people here in this Assembly do not agree that every community should have some basic services, then what is the logic of moving people out of Yellowknife? It does not make sense.

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I do not know what I have to do to convince people that this is the view of the people out there, but I know that politically, if I look at this document and if I were involved in one of these particular constituencies, I would be a happy man. The simple fact is that I will support everything that has been proposed if: 1) there is some logical reason why we are doing it; and 2) if it means improving services to the community or making some basic decisions about those basic services and programs. If not, there is no rationale to it. There is no reason why people in the communities

should support it, because it is not helping them. Maybe to some it is, but I know to a lot of others it is not. There has to be some logic to it, so I can go out there and defend the policy of this government.

I do agree with decentralization, but decentralization at the expense of services to people in the communities does not make any sense. Just for the sake of saying there will be a few more jobs does not make sense. There has to be some movement of government, but if you talk about this matter of economic growth based on non-renewable resources, the group that is from the Inuvik Region, including Kitikmeot, knows that there is no absolute future in the oil and gas industry. We have had that experience.

I look at this, and people say we are going to maximize those benefits. Yes, when it happens, but what happens before then? I am not going to be convinced by people arguing all is well. It is not all well. I think that if you want to say that it is all well, say it publicly. Do not say all is well because we made the statement. If it is not well, then say it is not well, but do not tell me that people in Yellowknife or the Northwest Territories are happy about the amount of employment they have in Echo Bay Mine. Every one of you here has heard criticism about the lack of employment at Echo Bay Mine. Every one of us. So do not tell me that things are all well and good, and that this New Directions is the answer. It is part of the answer, but it is not the total answer. I do not like to be told by Ministers in this government that my comments and my concerns are not valid, because they are valid. Address the other issues while addressing these, because I think it is wrong to try to fool people.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I think I began my statement by thanking him for the comments. Not all is well. You hear the statement about the South Mackenzie and unemployment. You can hear that statement all across the Northwest Territories. But we have to give credit where credit is due. We have to recognize improvement when improvement is made. Not all is well. There is a lot of work to do, but we have to get out there and do it. I also said that what we have on the table is not the answer. We have to do a lot of other things, for the record.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. There is an old story, Mr. Chairman, about a king. It is a very old story, but anyway the king was getting old and feeble. He was very grey and he felt weak. He wanted to be sure that his sons would prosper and do well. He thought, "Well, I do not want somebody else to read my will after I am dead. I am going to do the right thing today, and I am going to bring all my family together and tell them exactly what I am going to do so that they will all be happy and they will prosper and have a wonderful future together." So he brought everybody into the room and told everybody what they were going to get. I will not make this a long story, Mr. Chairman, because I could tell you in detail what he gave every one of those offspring. However, the king outlived all of his daughters and sons because within a year they were all fighting. They all got killed, and that poor old king who thought he had done the right thing lived to be a sad and lonely old man. That is the only comment I am going to make.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister's comments on the comments I made earlier on make some sense, but I would just like to remind her that she quoted on page four that 'decentralization will also provide the opportunity for staff to live, work and make decisions closer to the people they serve.' Currently, the plan that you have to decentralize the government does not include the North Slave region or, in fact, the Kitikmeot Region. All these other regions that are being decentralized to can do other things. You just indicated the private sector stuff for the North Slave region. Sure, we are willing to go that route, too, but at the same time these other communities are being decentralized to, and they are also looking at the private sector to do all these other good things to enhance the economy of the Territories. So all we are suggesting is, why do you not try to decentralize so that the staff can live, work, and make decisions closer to the people they serve? That is all we are asking, we, in the North Slave region. This has not been addressed by this paper. So, to a certain extent, I sort of agree with my colleague from the Delta and the comments you have made. I agree, but every other region is also waiting for those types of opportunities.

I would just like to re-emphasize that the two regions I just mentioned are being totally ignored at this point in time. Just for the record, there is a letter that was sent to the Government Leader's office from my region pertaining to decentralization. I am hoping she will

respond positively to the letter-that was sent to her office. Thank you.

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

HON. JOHN NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak briefly to the issue that is being discussed in this House around the table by the Members. I am an extremely sensitive person. I find it extremely hard to function in this particular government when the decisions that are made are not satisfactory to the people and to the Members on this side of the House, when I do not make a decision, and then I get criticized for it. If I make the decision, then I get criticized for it. Mr. Chairman, I find it extremely difficult to be allowed by the Ministers and the Members of the Executive Council of this particular government, to hold a job when I cannot even function properly. I find it very difficult to sleep, knowing that whatever I do, the next day it is going to be criticized. I do not want to lose friends on the other side of the table.

At the appropriate time, soon, I will be talking to the Government Leader and asking her to relieve me of my position as a Minister. I went to the hospital about a week ago. I have to use sleeping pills in order to sleep and go to work the next day. Mr. Chairman, I find it very, very difficult to be on this side of the table at this particular time. I find a very good friend of mine, Jim Antoine, having heard the news about the hangar to be located in Fort Smith, and I feel sorry for them. At the same time, I am glad Fort Smith was able to get it, but I would also have wanted to see that Fort Simpson gets a hangar.

As I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, I am a very sensitive person and I do not want to lose friends from the other side of the table. As I mentioned earlier, I will be seeking to be relieved of my position as a Minister from the Government Leader at the appropriate time. I am serious. When I decide, I do not go back and say I was just joking. I do not play games. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any more general comments? Mr. Arngna'naaq, did you put your hand up? Does this committee agree that Ministers' Statement 61-12(2) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 61-12(2), New Directions, and wishes to report that discussion on Ministers' Statement 61-12(2) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Secunder to the motion. Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried,

--- Carried

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 13, notices of motions.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 13, notices of motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 19-12(2): Introduction Of Binding Arbitration Legislation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Members. I give notice that on Friday, June 19th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly request the federal Minister of Labour to immediately take the necessary steps to introduce and secure passage of binding arbitration legislation concerning the Royal Oak mine strike in Yellowknife; and further, that the Speaker transmit

this resolution to the federal Minister of Labour, the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to return to motions to proceed with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 15, motions and to proceed with Motion 19-12(2) today.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being requested. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Dent.

REVERT TO ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 19-12(2): Introduction Of Binding Arbitration Legislation

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Members.

WHEREAS the situation at the Royal Oak mine in Yellowknife has worsened considerably since the strike commenced on May 22nd;

AND WHEREAS the 50-member RCMP tactical unit and the eight member emergency response team were used on June 14th;

AND WHEREAS several injuries, damage to property and additional criminal charges resulted;

AND WHEREAS there is no reason to believe that the tension, threats of violence and actual violence will lessen over the coming days and weeks in light of the continuing impasse and the use of replacement workers;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has legal jurisdiction and obligation over labour in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS our government has strongly urged the federal Minister of Labour to introduce legislation mandating arbitration in the event of the failure of the efforts of the mediator;

AND WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada is due to recess for the summer on Friday, June 19th;

AND WHEREAS with an all-party agreement, the Government of Canada could draft and secure passage of binding arbitration and legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly request the federal Minister of Labour to immediately take the necessary steps to introduce and secure passage of binding arbitration legislation concerning the Royal Oak mine strike in Yellowknife;

AND FURTHER, that the Speaker transmit this resolution to the federal Minister of Labour, the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada and the Parliament of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Speaker, I know that all Members appreciate how volatile the situation has become in the labour dispute between Royal Oak and CASAW. We are all aware of the danger of violence, and it is not diminishing as frustrations continue to build, and it will only get worse as this dispute drags on. Unfortunately, it appears that the parties in dispute are deadlocked, with no plans to resume bargaining.

This dispute is tearing up the community, and if the federal government continues to refuse to accept their financial responsibility for the RCMP tactical unit, it could eat a huge hole in the NWT budget.

I am aware the responsibility for dealing with this dispute is entirely a responsibility of the federal government. But perhaps, because of our distance from Ottawa, the federal government is not recognizing how important this situation is to us in the North. They are obviously dragging their feet when it comes to dealing with this strike. They are dragging their feet and running out of time, with Parliament set to prorogue this Friday. This must be pressed to act quickly.

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Mr. Speaker, with this motion we can send a strong message to Ottawa that they must accept their responsibility to deal with this strike immediately. We cannot afford to have it drag on any longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The seconder of the motion, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion speaks for itself. We are now at the 11th hour, and there is very little time left when we can use the good offices of our federal Parliament to deal with the issue. I take great pleasure in seconding the motion and urge all Members to vote for it.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has being called. Mr. Dent, you have the opportunity to conclude debate.

MR. DENT: Question.

Motion 19-12(2), Carried

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

--- Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: (Mr. Hamilton) Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of all Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association immediately after adjournment this evening. Meetings for tomorrow morning: at 9:00 of the standing committee on public accounts; at 10:30 of the ordinary Members' caucus; and at 12:00 noon of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions,

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, June 18, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 1992.

--- ADJOURNMENT