



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**2nd Session**

**Day 4'**

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

## **HANSARD**

**H-1 F G85M SEPTEMBER 8, 1992**

Pages 8) +!, +\*  
Pagination reflects print edition

**The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker**

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1992 DAY 43

Pages 857 - 876

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Hon. James Arvaluk, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford

### ITEM 1: PRAYER

#### ---Prayer

**SPEAKER** (Mr. Pudluk): Good afternoon. Now this House will come to order. Item 2, budget address. Minister of Finance.

### ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker before presenting the first O & M budget of the 12th Assembly, I want to thank my Cabinet colleagues and Members of the Legislature, and in particular the Standing Committee on Finance for their advice and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, many of the items dealt with in the budget either originate from, or were improved by the input we received during the past few months.

As you know this has not been a normal budget year. Our 1992-93 main estimates are being tabled much later than usual. The extra time was needed in order to include fundamental changes in the budget. Changes that could not be made without careful consideration, consultation and extensive analysis.

We had to be sure of returning to a balanced budget within two years without seriously compromising existing social obligations. We did not want to unduly restrict future initiatives that may be needed to help the territories adjust to rapidly changing social, political and economic circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after we were elected last November it became very clear that our expenditure growth was much higher than our expected revenue growth, largely because of the reductions in the growth of our formula financing grant. Faced with a projected deficit of over \$50 million, we had to find ways to put our books in order and return to a balanced budget by 1993-94.

Mr. Speaker, we have done that. The budget that I am presenting today totals \$1.14 billion, it meets the government's deficit target of \$25 million for 1992-93 and the framework for a balanced budget for 1993-94.

#### ---Applause

Mr. Speaker, over the last nine months this Assembly has come to grips with a difficult fiscal situation. With continued cooperation and resourcefulness we stand an excellent chance of regaining a good degree of financial stability.

The early focus of this government has been on reducing the costs of doing business, while maintaining essential programs and services to those most in need, particularly in the smaller, more vulnerable communities that we represent.

Collective agreements with both major unions have played a large role in helping us to meet our objectives. Negotiated collective agreements allowing for no salary increases in 1992-93 and for a 1.8 percent increase in 1993-94 are presently in the ratification process. They demonstrate the responsible and cooperative approach of the unions and government employees in the face of our difficult fiscal position.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve our budget target in 1992-93, 160 positions were eliminated, 137 of which were vacant as a result of hiring freezes. The reduction is expected to save an estimated \$8 million.

In addition to reductions in positions, other measures have been necessary. We have carefully examined government expenditures to determine where we can save money without unduly affecting services to the public. Some examples of measures we have taken include, the introduction of a published fee schedule listing what government will pay to moving companies for relocating government staff. This step is similar to procedures in other jurisdictions and is expected to save us more than \$1 million annually.

Reorganizing and down-sizing the Department of Public Works to achieve greater efficiency and a savings of \$1.4 million annually. We have also significantly reduced the number of phone lines in use and implemented a requirement to use less expensive telephone equipment for an expected savings of \$400,000 per year, and reduced expenditures in buildings and works maintenance without affecting the health and safety of clients, the public and employees for an estimated savings of \$1.8 million.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, government spending has been reduced by close to \$30 million. However difficult these expenditure reductions have been, they have allowed us to continue to support service levels in other vital areas.

Mr. Speaker, we are determined to continue our examination of government and programs for cost saving measures and all Members are encouraged to continue identifying areas that might lead to future reductions in government spending.

An example is the motion by Mr. Ludy Pudluk, a person whom I am sure you know very well, Mr. Speaker, to regulate expeditions in the Northwest Territories. Legislation and regulations are now being examined to see what can be done to reduce search and rescue costs paid by the Northwest Territories for expedition members who are lost or find themselves in trouble. As you know, it is presently impossible to recover those costs.

Despite efforts to reduce government expenditures, Mr. Speaker, some funding increases are absolutely necessary. Budget increases in the following areas demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting key social, educational and community programs.

Page 858

In the area of social services, Mr. Speaker, as a result of a recent food price survey across the Northwest Territories, social assistance rates for food allowances will be increased by five percent at a cost of \$1 million.

**---Applause**

Funding increases are also included to raise the rates paid to foster parents by 20 percent. Foster care rates, Mr. Speaker, have not changed since 1987, yet costs associated with caring for children have been increasing steadily. A funding increase of more than \$1.2 million will provide more support to foster parents for a very demanding task as well as other increases necessary for the well-being of children in care.

The budget also includes a base adjustment of \$200,000 to fund an inflationary increase in the senior citizens' supplementary benefit from \$107.50 per month to \$125.00 per month. Mr. Speaker, I should explain there is a typographical error here, that in fact was handled by supplementary appropriation last year, September 1, retroactive to the first of

April 1991. The line that is really important and that is missing is this, after \$125.00 per month last year, there will be a further base adjustment to increase the rate from \$125.00 to \$135.00 effective April 1, 1992, and that will be retroactive, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize to the House for that typo.

**---Applause**

Mr. Speaker, an additional \$1 million has been allocated to help fund the operations of new senior facilities across the Northwest Territories, in Fort Smith, Fort Franklin, Arviat, Iqaluit and on the Hay River Reserve.

More than \$200,000 will be used to operate three new safe houses for battered women in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Inuvik, and over \$700,000 has been budgeted for the operation of the new Hay River Reserve Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of health, it is no secret that the demand for health services throughout Canada and the Northwest Territories continues to grow at a phenomenal rate and health care costs are increasing at a similar pace.

Our costs, Mr. Speaker, are being driven by a number of factors. They include increased rates at provincial hospitals and increases in the volume of services provided to NWT residents in those institutions; increases for the cost of airfare for patients travelling from their home community to the nearest treatment centre; physician fee increases and an increase in the number of physicians practising in the Northwest Territories; and increases in the cost of operation of regional health and hospital facilities mainly due to negotiated collective agreement adjustments.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, this budget includes an increase of about \$25.3 million for the Department of Health, which is offset by departmental reductions of \$1.4 million over last year's Main Estimates. About \$18.9 million of this growth was reflected in Supplementary Estimates in 1991-92.

Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to address escalating health costs, the Department has undertaken a number of initiatives such as enhancing existing and implementing additional specialist programs and services at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in an attempt to reduce the cost of health services being provided to territorial residents in the provinces; establishing a medicare monitoring and review capability; and

implementing strategies for the improved management of medical transportation.

At the same time, we are attempting to respond to community recommendations in the health care field. For instance, a birthing project will be undertaken in Rankin Inlet on a trial basis. Nurses trained in midwifery will work with traditional nurses from the community. They will provide birthing services locally for low-risk maternity cases as an alternative to medical evacuations. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to the recommendations from the Special Committee on Health and Social Services.

In the area of education, funding to Northwest Territories school boards will increase by more than \$3 million dollars in 1992-93. Maintaining service levels in the face of increasing enrolments is essential.

This budget also includes an increase of more than \$750,000 in funding for the student financial assistance program, in order to provide financial support for the growing number of students who are going on to post-secondary education. As well, \$800,000 has been budgeted to provide grade extensions in Sanikiluaq, Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Broughton Island and Rae Edzo.

Grade extensions, however, are not enough. Young people in the Northwest Territories are our most valuable resource. Not only do we have to extend grade levels, we must make sure that the quality and standards of education are maintained and are consistent throughout the Territories.

In order to do this, we are reviewing, revising and upgrading a number of curricula. We are also participating in a national program that will indicate where our students stand in relation to students across the country and provide us with a basis for improvement. The Minister of Education will be outlining his plans in these areas later in this session.

Mr. Speaker, in June the Premier announced our commitment to making fundamental changes in how government is structured and how it delivers services. These changes are needed so that less money is spent on administration, so that more of the benefits of government spending reach the regions outside of headquarters and so that the residents of the Northwest Territories are provided with adequate levels of service.

We intend to achieve these changes through consolidation of government departments and decentralization of government programs. By consolidating the Department of Public Works and Government Services, we will achieve an initial savings of eight headquarters person years, four regional person years and over \$800,000 in the 1993-94 fiscal year. Savings in the 1992/93 year will be lower, since there will be one-time transitional costs.

Consolidating the Department of Culture and Communications and Education will result in initial savings of three headquarters person years and \$300,000 in 1993-94. More savings will be achieved following a functional review of all combined operations which will take place over the next several months.

Mr. Speaker, since the movement of the Corrections Division from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Justice is a transfer, and not a consolidation, it is not expected to yield immediate savings. However, substantial long-term cost reductions are expected from improved coordination between the police, the courts and the corrections system. In particular, the investment in, and development of, a viable community justice and corrections system should keep more offenders out of jail and return them more quickly to a constructive place in our communities.

Page 859

Mr. Speaker, these consolidations took place after the Standing Committee on Finance began its review of the 1992-93 budget. As a result, departmental consolidations will be reflected in the 1993-94 Main Estimates documents. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the Ministers responsible and the new management of the consolidated departments will be able to speak to all components of the combined departmental budgets during Committee of the Whole review of the 1992-93 operations and maintenance estimates.

Decentralization, Mr. Speaker, will have a price tag. I would like to point out that we do not expect to decentralize without some upfront costs. Regardless, Mr. Speaker, we are committed to this course of action and expect that the boost to the local economies of the communities involved will be a worthwhile investment in the long-term.

The decentralization initiatives will involve the movement of about eighty positions from Yellowknife to other communities. Specifically, positions will be

relocated to Rankin Inlet, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, and Iqaluit.

The operations targeted for decentralization include P.O.L., the Public Utilities Board, the Liquor Licensing Board, Marine Operations, Arctic College Administration, the Science Institute, the Highway Transport Board and Health Insurance Services.

In addition to decentralization of existing government operation, Mr. Speaker, a territorial airports program training centre in Baker Lake will involve the creation of four permanent jobs in the community and the enrolment of about ten students, and the required number of instructors, on a year-round basis.

Planning is also well under way for two large projects in Wrigley and Fort Smith that have significant regional training and employment potential.

Five million dollars has been allocated in 1993-94 to the Wrigley Highway Extension Project. The extension will combine special training and employment measures with large-scale highway construction projects. The Chief and Band Council at Wrigley have been active throughout the summer months, meeting with government to identify training needs, employment opportunities and local benefits from this construction activity.

Considerable progress has also been made in planning the Aircraft Maintenance Facility in Fort Smith. The Community of Fort Smith has been very supportive of this project. The maintenance facility will provide significant employment, training and business opportunities and these opportunities are currently being investigated and developed.

Mr. Speaker, almost \$8.5 million will be spent under the new Economic Development Agreement in 1992-93 and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation will be investing the more than \$8 million dollars which was previously approved in the 1992-93 Capital Budget.

In the Keewatin, research is being carried out on the development of a fishery. Fish stocks are being identified and the existing char fishery expanded. The Northwest Territories Development Corporation is establishing a fish/meat processing facility in Rankin Inlet to serve the region. The plant will improve employment in outlying Keewatin communities as well.

In the Baffin fishery, a five year exploratory program is currently under way at 25 sites to identify fish species and to determine commercial possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to make a few comments on federal-territorial fiscal relations.

Members are well aware of the fact that our deteriorating fiscal position was caused by severe reductions in the growth of federal transfers under the Formula Financing Agreement. These reductions were the result of changes and to formula financing agreement. These reductions were the result of changes imposed on the formula by the federal government. I met with both the federal Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, over the summer, and outlined key problems we are facing because of changes to the formula financing agreement. Officials of the Department of Finance have also met with federal officials to discuss all areas of the formula that are having a negative effect on the growth of our funding. Disputed billings for Indian and Inuit hospital services and federal funding cuts in the new social housing continue to cause us great concern. The health billing dispute centres on the terms of the health transfer and related funding agreements. The amounts owing to the government under these agreements continue to increase, and early resolution of the dispute is important to our fiscal integrity. We are making every effort to settle this matter by negotiation, at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would say that there has been a development in this area since the budget speech was printed, and I would advise the House that last week we were told by Mr. Richard Van Loon, the Assistant Deputy Minister of D.I.A.N.D., that he would not move off his position on the health billings dispute. Consequently, I have written a letter to Mr. Siddon telling him that we will file the necessary court papers by October the first of this year.

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

Federal funding cuts and new social housing announced in the 1992 federal budget would mean a reduction of almost 60 percent in the number of jointly funded new social housing units in the Northwest Territories by 1993. Since that announcement, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has been actively, and I might say aggressively, assuming the reinstatement of federal funding for new social housing units. It is my understanding that the Federal Minister of Housing will be requesting a reinstatement of funding to 1991 levels because of the unique housing needs of

territorial residents. Failure on the part of the Federal Government to resolve these issues satisfactorily will force the Northwest Territories into a precarious fiscal situation. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of revenue initiatives contained in this budget. Earlier this year, I introduced a ten percent increase in property taxes in those areas where the territorial government collects the tax. The rates in these areas are still significantly lower than those in the seven municipalities with their own taxing power. In addition, this Legislature is aware of the planned increase in the Insurance premiums Tax. This change has already been placed before this House as part of the amendment the Insurance Act tabled in February. Once approved, the tax paid annually on fire insurance premiums by insurance companies licensed in the Northwest Territories will increase from one half percent to one percent. The tax on all other insurance premiums will increase from two percent to three percent. Changes to the Insurance Act scheduled to come into effect January 1, 1993, will result in an expected increase of \$250,000.00 to government revenues. In addition, liquor commission mark-ups of wine, beer, and other alcoholic beverages, will be increased by ten percent. This change...

**--Applause**

...effective midnight tonight should result in an additional \$1.3 million dollars per year in annual revenue, or about \$830,000.00 in the current fiscal year. Higher prices for alcoholic beverages will help in our battle to lower consumption rates in the Northwest Territories, will hopefully help to reduce some of the damage done to our society, and the needless drain on our social and health budgets directly related to alcohol abuse. Mr. Speaker, I am also announcing the introduction of a payroll tax of one percent of all employment income earned in the Northwest Territories. Legislation to implement this tax effective July 1, 1993 will be introduced in the next session. A payroll tax to be collected by employers is an advantage over the existing personal income tax regime because it will be paid by all employees working in the Northwest Territories. It will correct the situation of having many individuals who work in isolated work sights, or take seasonal construction jobs in the north, but who do not pay Northwest Territories income tax.

Page 860

**---Applause**

Mr. Speaker, I am also announcing a one percentage point increase in our personal income tax rate, effective January the 1, 1993. The increase is the first since 1990. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the cost of living in the Northwest Territories is very high. In order to provide taxpayers in the north with some relief, I am announcing a new territorial tax credit which will become effective July 1, 1993. When it is fully implemented, individuals who live in the Northwest Territories will receive a tax credit of up to \$645.00, depending on income. The credit will be fully refundable. In other words, taxpayers who report income as residents of the Northwest Territories on their tax returns will be eligible to receive it, even if they have no income tax payable. Legislation to implement this change will be tabled in the next session of the Legislative Assembly. The combined effect of the new payroll tax, the increase in personal income tax, and the new tax credit, will produce a revenue increase estimated at \$3.5 million dollars per year once they are completely in place. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet and ordinary Members and Public Servants have spent many hours and much energy in the past year to develop solutions to avoid a fiscal crisis. We have had to make a number of difficult decisions, and there are more that are going to have to be made if we expect to meet our target of a balanced budget in 1993-94. I believe we will be successful. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we cannot lose sight of the exciting investment opportunities that exist in the Northwest Territories. The Northwest Territories offers unique opportunities. In mining, Mr. Speaker, its huge land mass has barely begun to be explored. Even in the current and favourable environment created by low prices and strong international competition, firms are continuing to explore, and some new properties may be reaching the development stage. Gold, lead, zinc, oil and gas continue to attract investors. The discovery of diamonds in the vast area between Rae-Edzo and Coppermine has unleashed the greatest staking rush in the history of Canada. We must continue to encourage all forms of investment, such as mining in the North Slave region, the Keewatin and Kitikmeot; fisheries in the Keewatin and Baffin; world class diamond prospects near Yellowknife; hydro plants in the Rae/ Lac la Martre area; development of the Cameron Hills oil and gas fields; and the marketing of arts and crafts products domestically and internationally. In the renewable resource sector, there are rich opportunities for improving employment, fur harvesting, fishing, the lumber industry, and tourism. The opportunities in these areas have barely been touched, and they are of particular importance

to aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories who form a majority of our population. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to be standing still. Governments are supposed to help create strong economies. Strong economies mean jobs and income, and that is what people want. Our goal, Mr. Speaker, is a territorial government that will be in a much better financial position to respond to the needs of our developing economy once Canada achieves a more progressive economic growth. As you know, steps have already been taken to insure that more of our capital spending directly benefits northern residents, businesses, and is distributed in a fair and equitable manner across the Northwest Territories. The steps include increased programs for training. We need to train people, and assist them in seeking out jobs, rather than paying them to stay at home. The steps also include new approaches to construction management, and improved planning for construction businesses by dealing with our capital budget in the fall session of the Legislature. All of us must continue to send a clear signal to the investment community that the Northwest Territories is open for business. We have to let people know that we are interested in joint venturing, and that we are taking every step possible to develop the kinds of transportation infrastructure required to access the resources that all of us know will be the key to the economic future of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, with shared vision, and cooperation, I am confident that we will be successful in reshaping the way government does business in the north. With confidence and resourcefulness, we will solve our financial difficulties, and with determination and creativity, we will find ways to get people back to work, or into the work force for the first time. Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to thank the people in the Department of Finance, in particular, Lew Voytilla, and his crew who had the job of putting this budget together. I think it would be remiss if I did not thank them. I would also like to thank all those Deputy Ministers and department heads who have contributed, spent many, many hours going back over the letters that I sent them, of rejection, and I would like to say that with that kind of cooperation, I think we can improve the finances of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you Mr. Pollard, the Minister of Finance. Item 3, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

### **ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

#### **Minister's Statement 84-12(2): Nunavut Political Accord Ratification**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that the Nunavut Political Accord, as initialled by the negotiators, was approved by Cabinet on July 9, 1992. I am tabling in the Assembly today a copy of the Accord. I understand that the federal government, with the involvement of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and possibly the Prime Minister, have expressed an interest to officially sign the Nunavut Political Accord in the eastern Arctic this October. I would be pleased to advise the Legislative Assembly as these plans are clarified by federal officials.

The Political Accord outlines the main principles for the establishment and implementation of the new Nunavut territory as agreed to by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tungviviq Federation of Nunavut and the Government of Canada. It was negotiated in accordance with Article 4 of the proposed T.F.N. land claims final agreement. It deals with the powers of the Nunavut government, its institutions and administrative capacity of the proposed Nunavut government and its financing.

The Accord also provides for the appointment of a ten member Nunavut implementation commission to oversee the transition process for the establishment of Nunavut and to provide advice on matters such as service delivery in Nunavut, training plans and other transition requirements leading to the formal creation of the Nunavut government in 1999. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that the costs of the implementation commission will be borne by the federal government.

Page 861

The Nunavut Political Accord is evidence of the cooperation and desire on the part of the parties, and particularly the Government of the Northwest Territories, to plan the establishment of Nunavut in an orderly and effective manner taking into consideration the requirements, goals and interests of eastern and western residents.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Minister's Statement 85-12(2): International Literacy Day**

**HON. JAMES ARVALUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Inuvik, where I participated in celebrations recognizing international literacy day, September 8. That event gave us all an opportunity to think about the importance of literacy in our everyday lives, and the role it plays in drawing us together as a society. With eight official languages, the Northwest Territories is in a unique position in Canada.

Literacy plays an important part in the day-to-day life of many people, and is vital as we take our place in society. The ability to read and write is essential to prepare for a job in any field and is the first step in lifelong learning and education.

Language is also one of the keys to maintaining culture. Literacy in our aboriginal languages is critical if we are going to revitalize our languages, and if they are to flourish. When we wrote our languages, we reach from the past into the present.

By recording and utilizing the voices of the elders into writing, we make sure that their wisdom, knowledge, belief and values are carried into a changing world, and passed on to a new generation. When we write in our aboriginal languages at work, we ensure that they hold a valid place in the world of business and government. When we develop literature, poems, songs, short stories, novels in our own languages, we say that they are as important in our world as any other language.

Peter Gzowski, well known author and host of C.B.C. radio's Morningside, has been a good friend of literacy in the NWT. Since 1990, he has held three of his invitation gold tournaments for literacy in the Northwest Territories, and raised \$170,000 for the NWT Literacy Council.

**---Applause**

While in Inuvik I was pleased to announce that the 1993 golf tournament will be held in that community next April.

Each year, the Minister Responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs, presents literacy recognition awards to residents whose dedication to literacy makes them role models for their communities. Sometimes those honoured are students, sometimes they are teachers. All of them are people we admire. On international literacy day, I recognized three women who have made significant contributions to literacy in the Northwest Territories.

Ms. Susie Nakoolak and Mrs. Pootoogook Adamie were nominated by the Coral Harbour Community Education Council for their work in developing and teaching an Inuktitut literacy project in the community.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council nominated Mabel English for a literacy recognition award because she is both a student and a teacher. She developed and taught Gwich'in language and literacy classes for adults in Inuvik. She also returned to learning to upgrade her own English literacy skills so that she can go to Arctic College after thirty nine years away from formal school.

**---Applause**

Mr. Speaker, I have with me today some very special t-shirts which promote literacy in all the languages of the NWT. These t-shirts are presented to students and teachers in communities across the territories. To mark international literacy day, I am pleased to present each Member of this Assembly with one. I hope you will wear them with pride, thereby promoting literacy in all our languages. Qujannamiik.

**---Applause**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' Statements. Mr. Gargan.

#### **ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

##### **Member's Statement on Double Standard in Capital Planning Process for Communities Across the NWT**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about what I see as a double standard that is being applied in the capital planning process for communities across the Northwest Territories.

The double standard applies to what I call, have and have not communities. Have not communities are smaller, remote and are usually traditional communities. People in these communities do not have the same opportunity to lobby government for community infrastructures as do the larger, more sophisticated communities.

Far too often I have heard in this House that the smaller community is getting a scaled-down version of a recreational, or health centre, or other types of infrastructure because of its population.



Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is wrong. All communities, whether they are large or small, have similar needs for the basic infrastructure services and programs. These essential services are necessary to enhance the physical, spiritual, and mental well being of all residents. I believe the residents should receive similar services, whether it is in such communities as Whale Cove, Hay River, Trout Lake or Iqaluit. This should be a priority of this government.

I was happy to hear the Minister of Finance state in his budget address today that it is necessary to maintain essential programs and services to those most in need, particularly in the smaller more vulnerable communities that we represent. I trust the government will remember this when it does its community capital planning over the next three years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

#### **Member's Statement on Recreational Facility for Lake Harbour**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make and I am going to be directing my comments to the Minister of M.A.C.A. They were trying to get a recreational facility in Lake Harbour and I have just attended a B.R.C. meeting, and this was also brought up in that meeting. They have been requesting this recreational facility since last year and they are not in the 1992-93 budget, so I have been approached by the residents of Lake Harbour to set this as a priority.

Page 862

They have been telling me that they need this skating rink in Lake Harbour, so I wanted to bring this up under Members' statements so that the Ministers can think about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. Member for Thebacha.

#### **Member's Statement on Public Inquiry into the Administration and Quality of Medical Services in Fort Smith**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members will recall that, yesterday, I raised an issue before this House that is of critical importance to the people of Fort Smith. I am referring to the need for a public inquiry under Section 2 of the

Public Inquiries Act into the administration and quality of medical services provided to the residents of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed in Hansard the comments made by our new Minister of Health and frankly, again, I am dismayed. The Minister has commented, and I am aware that this is from the unofficial transcript that I looked over, and I quote: "I do not know where anyone is getting the impression that there is something to hide. I do not know how a Board of Inquiry, under the Medical Profession Act, would give the impression of secrecy." Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell him where.

The terms of reference, established for the Saskatchewan-based report he has now referred to the Board of Inquiry, states that any information to which a Member of the review committee becomes privy shall be treated as confidential, both during the review and after submission of the final report. At the very least, Mr. Speaker, I certainly think that this could be an influential argument that the doctors on the Board of Inquiry will use to their meetings in private. The Minister has stated, in response to my Honourable colleague from the Mackenzie Delta, that the Board of Inquiry will also have the ability to look at other issues raised by the Saskatchewan report about broader issues.

Let us not forget what these people from Saskatchewan felt were the broader issues. Let us remember what the issues that residents of Fort Smith think are important. We do not even know what broader issues the Saskatchewan doctors identified because, of course, the report is confidential. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have two questions and two comments for honourable Members to think about.

The first one is, how many answers did the general public in Yellowknife...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Member for Thebacha, your time is up. If you want to ask for unanimous consent. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** I seek unanimous consent to continue with my Member's statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Member for Thebacha is asking for unanimous consent to continue on her statement. Are there any nays? Proceed, Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, I have two comments that I would like to leave in mind for my honourable colleagues to think about.

How many answers did the general public in Yellowknife receive, with respect to the very legitimate questions and concerns, when allegations concerning Dr. Robert Clemmy of Stanton Hospital were dealt with by a board of inquiry? If I recall correctly, everything was kept confidential.

How many times, in all of our constituencies, have we seen the Department of Health insisting on doing things its own way, regardless of what the people who are served by the health system want?

**---Applause**

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have told me that, unequivocally, they want a public inquiry. Not a review, under the Medical Profession Act. If this Minister fails to listen to my constituents, I can be rest assured that he will not listen to other constituents. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

**Member's Statement On Importance Of Fluency In Aboriginal Languages, The 1992-93 Budget, And The Need For Government Officials To Visit Communities More Often**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I want to say a few things today. My honourable colleague, the Minister of Education, mentioned something about literacy and I think that one of the most important things is having the ability to learn your own language, or speak in your own language.

When I was a child I only spoke in my first language and learned how to speak English only after attending school. So what he mentioned today about literacy I really understood. Another comment that was made today was about the Minister's Financial Budget Report. This Monday we are going to start addressing certain things concerning the financial budget and I wanted to say a few things that are concerning my constituency then.

A while ago, in Fort Simpson, August 17 of this year, there was a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance. Whoever was sitting on this committee had visited me in Fort Simpson to discuss this, and we

also went to the village of Nahanni Butte. It seems like the residents of that community are not hurt by the government. They never see government officials flying over to their community, so it was quite a surprise for them when we showed up in Nahanni.

However, we met with them for a while and we did home visits. This is why I think that the government officials should visit communities more often. Also, what Sam...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Mr. Antoine, your time is up. You must seek unanimous consent to continue. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:** Yes, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Antoine is asking for unanimous consent to continue on his statement. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:** (Translation) Thank you. What I am saying is that I think that what Sam had mentioned before, the smaller communities should be on the priority list.

Page 863

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

**Member's Statement On Inadequate Salaries For Drug And Alcohol Workers**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members will already know that there is a great deal of concern among the communities about the totally inadequate salaries and benefits being received by alcohol and drug workers across the Northwest Territories. Mr Speaker, these individuals who play a vital role in the health of our communities need our support. They have to work long hours, and deal with issues surrounding denial, resistance, family violence, and hopelessness with some of our people. Frequently, they find themselves called on in life and death situations, and also to intervene in suicidal behaviour. Drug and alcohol workers are people who, in my opinion, have almost uniformly made an extraordinary commitment, not only to their respected communities and its values, but to the extent of professional training, and personal growth. Yet, the community based organizations for which they work...local governments, friendship centres, public committees, receive such limited financial support from the Department of Social Services that they can

not afford to pay these alcohol and drug workers anything close to a decent salary. I find it unbelievable that, according to social services wage parity guidelines, someone entering the counsel profession can receive as little as a starting salary of \$19,924.00. Even the project coordinators who must have a minimum of four years experience, extensive training, in order to reach the top of their salary range, receive less than a data entry clerk, or a secretary with the NWT Housing Corporation in Iqaluit. The situation is nothing short of an embarrassment for this government, and for the department. I am sure that many Members in this House will be looking to the Minister of Social Services to take some immediate action, and to insure that the talented, hard working individuals employed in the difficult task of alcohol and drug projects, receive the fair level of compensation that is sadly, and badly, due to them. Thank you.

**--Applause**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 4, Member's statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

#### **ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Return to Question O713-12(2): GNWT. Construction Dollars Awarded in NWT Versus South**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on September 9, 1992. GNWT. construction dollars awarded in the N.W.T versus the south. For the NWT Housing Corporation the following statistics are for contracts awarded until July 30, 1992. Of the 98 total contracts awarded, 96 contracts went to northern firms, at a total value of \$23,397,172.00. 99 percent of the value went to northern companies. For the Department of Public Works, the following statistics cover the period from April 1992 until June 30, 1992, which is the first quarter of the fiscal year. Of the total contracts awarded to northern firms received 94 percent, or 116 contracts. Southern firms received six percent, or 12 contracts. Of the total contract value of \$24,203,409.00, northern firms received \$17,020,244.00, or 70 percent of the total value. Southern firms received \$7,183,165.00, or 30 percent of the total value. The above summary represents only the general contractor who was awarded the contract. It is also important to analyze the northern subcontract value of the contracts that were awarded to southern firms. Of the 12 contracts awarded to the

southern firms, just three of those contracts make up 91 percent of those dollars. The three large contracts were for the Fort Liard school addition, the Rankin Inlet D.N.D. F.O.L. Fuel Storage Facility, and the Gjoa Haven Tank Farm. On the Fort Liard project, northern subcontractors received 77 percent of the total value of the work. On the Rankin Inlet project, northern companies received 70 percent. On the Gjoa Haven project, northern firms received 37 percent. Taking the subcontract portion of these three jobs into account, the value of contracts going to northern firms is \$20,275,331.00, or 84 percent. The value going to southern firms is \$3,928,078.00, or 16 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

##### **Return to Question O674-12(2): Cost To GNWT. For Participation In The Inuvik Political Accord Implementation Commission**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, this is in response to an oral question by Mr. Dent on June the 26. It is in regard to the Inuvik political accord, and the implementation commission. The accord provides for the appointment of the 10 member commission to oversee the transition process for the establishment in Inuvik, and to provide advice on matters such as service delivery, training programs, and other conditions, leading to the formal creation of Inuvik government in 1999. In response to Mr. Dent's question, and concerns raised on June 26, regarding the cost of GNWT. participation in this commission, I am advised that costs will be borne by the federal government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

##### **Return to Question 599-12(2): Search For Johnny Tonka**

**MR. ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Antoine on June 22, 1992, regarding a search for Johnny Tonka. My predecessor, the Honourable Dennis Patterson, wrote to the Member on July 7, 1992, with the information requested on the involvement of Government of the Northwest Territories, and the R.C.M.P., in search for Mr. Tonka. The R.C.M.P. are primarily responsible for searches for missing persons in the Northwest Territories. The search coordinated by the R.C.M.P. is called a Public Search, and this is separate from community organized searches, which is conducted

prior to, or after, the public search. The community organized search is coordinated by a Council of Municipalities under the authority of Civil Emergency Measures Act. Through the Emergency Measures Organization, my primary role is to assist communities develop emergency response plans, and maintain the capability to respond to any emergency, including a search.

**Return to Question O671-12(2): Upgrading Water Reservoir, Lake Harbour**

**MR. ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, I have another return, if I may, to Mr. Pudlat, asked on June 26, 1992, regarding the upgrading of the water reservoir in Lake Harbour. Municipal and Community Affairs has commenced the planning for a selection of a new location for a truck fill station at Lake Harbour Reservoir. The new location should address the problems of sediment in the water, as well as grader problems on the access road. The new location of a truck fill station, and the improvements to the access road, will be discussed with the Hamlet Council this fall. Pending budgetary approvals, the design of the truck fill station and the improvements to the access road should be completed in 1993, with construction taking place in 1994. Thank you.

Page 864

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On Awarding Contracts**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Government Services. The Education and training, and subsequently, the employment and business opportunities, are the most important components for maintaining social well being among the young people. In other words, hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Mr. Speaker, the government plays a major role in inspiring the hopes and aspirations of our young people and businesses in today's world. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Mr. Minister about the contracts and what the government policy is in awarding government contracts within our jurisdiction. Are there any conditions, or certain areas, when awarding these contracts. By that I mean, do we have conditions when a southern contractor is awarded the contract that specifically

states the contractor shall hire local labour, and the contractor shall utilize the local hotel? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin.

Return to Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On Awarding Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many contracts are tendered in a different way, and there are different specs for different contracts. The conditions vary from contract to contract. Normally, in all contracts, when the contractor bids on a job he specifies how much local labour he will be hiring, how much northern labour he will be hiring, how much local materials he will be using, what type of accommodation he will be using, and those conditions are then part of the contract, so he would have to follow those. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary to Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On Awarding Contracts

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I understand the conditions and criteria as stated by the Minister. I feel that the contractors from the outside are not complying with these conditions. I wonder if the Minister will insure that these conditions are complied with in the future. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Return to Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On Awarding Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have personnel on staff that continue to monitor the contractors to assure that they are complying to the conditions of the contract that they received the contract under. If the Member has any specifics, I would like to know, and I will guarantee him that we will follow them up and straighten them up. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary to Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On Awarding Contracts

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In relation to the same question, as a supplementary I would like

to know what the Minister means by "considered northern firms." Are these northern firms 100 percent owned by northern businesses? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return to Question O726-12(2): GNWT.  
Policy On Awarding Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A northern company is a company that is registered in the Northwest Territories, has a business place of office in the Northwest Territories, and a local northern company is a company that has a business place of office in the community that the contract is in. They would be considered local northern, otherwise they would be considered northern. If you have your office in the south, other than a few major companies: PCL and Clarke Bowler that have the grandfather clause, they would be considered southern. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question O726-12(2): GNWT.  
Policy On Awarding Contracts

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The northern firm which is considered formally in the NWT, I guess I was not being specific about it. If the company was owned by the local community, say about 80 percent, and 20 percent is owned by a southern firm, would that be considered a northern firm because a local business owns the majority of the business? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Return to Question O726-12(2): GNWT. Policy On  
Awarding Contracts

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, we have introduced a new Business Incentive Policy to address any loopholes or a plug-in of money going south, within the last few months. A northern business that carries out business in the Northwest Territories, and has their office in the Northwest Territories is then a northern business. The ownership should be in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions.  
Member for Thebacha.

**Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding  
Fort Smith Health Centre**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I posed questions to the Minister of Health in respect to looking at the issue of considering a public inquiry as opposed to a board of inquiry. The Minister of Health indicated that under this legislation that we passed in this House, he will not consider it because of the board of inquiry addressing many of the similarities in a public inquiry. Mr. Speaker, I have taken the liberty to look at both the Medical Profession Act and the Public Inquiries Act, and did a comparison. I know the Minister is doing the same, but I do not believe he has his information yet from his department. However, my concern, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask the Minister again, is that under the Medical Profession Act, under the board of inquiry there is a provision that there is no requirement that the board must report its findings under that particular act. The act is silent about giving other general recommendations, and the act does not state that the board must give reasons for its decisions. Whereas, the public inquiry, the board is to report on the inquiry to the Commissioner. The public has the opportunity to hear what is happening in respect to the Fort Smith Health Centre. My question to the Minister of Health is, because the board of inquiry is mandated only to look at the College of Physicians report from Saskatchewan, will he reconsider the request for a public inquiry into the whole Fort Smith Health Centre? Thank you.

Page 865

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry  
Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I too, have been reviewing the differences between a board of inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act, and a board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. Mr. Speaker, I think we are really talking about the same kind of process. The Member was concerned about, as I understood it yesterday, the public having access to the process and being able to participate and hear what is going on. In fact, on reviewing the provisions in both the Public Inquiries Act and the Medical Profession Act about taking evidence, they are virtually the same. There is a possibility of in camera evidence being taken where privileged matters are being discussed, such as a patient's treatment. Both inquiries can take evidence in a public manner, Mr. Speaker. From the Member's concern, yesterday, about her constituents being able to know what is

going on, I believe that the Medical Profession Act Board of Inquiry would provide the same kind of public process, at the discretion of the president, as you would find in a person heading a public inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act. Mr. Speaker, from the point of view of the public being able to see what is going on, we are really talking about the same kind of process, albeit under the Medical Profession Act and not the Public Inquiries Act. I believe that the Member's concern about public input and public involvement in the process may well be dealt with as easily under the Medical Profession Act as under the Public Inquiries Act. Therefore, I think we are dealing with the same kind of process under a different name. The powers are different and the results are different, but the process, I believe, is substantially the same under both forms of inquiry. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister said, himself, the powers are different. That is exactly the difference in the public inquiry versus the board of inquiry. Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister again, and I think the Minister is missing the key fundamental principle. The board of inquiry is mandated to look at the College of Physicians report that was developed by the College of Saskatchewan. The public inquiry that I am seeking is to look at the whole Fort Smith Health Centre, which assisted in developing that report. I would like to ask the Minister, again, will he reconsider my request in conducting a public inquiry, taking into account that he stated that the powers are different and the results are different. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, one important matter at issue in the Fort Smith Health Centre is medical practice, the practice of a particular physician in working in that centre. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the powers of the board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act are different. I would submit to the honourable Member that they are different because they are very appropriate to an inquiry into a medical professional's practice. The board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act has the power to remove a physician's license or practising privileges, or put

qualifications on that physician's license or practising privileges following a hearing which follows the principles of natural justice and respects all the rights of that particular physician, or that board could find, after listening to all evidence, that there is no reason to be concerned about that particular doctor's practice. I am aware many of that doctor's patients feel there is no reason to be concerned, exonerate the physician, and put no restrictions whatsoever on the practice. That is appropriate to this kind of hearing, Mr. Speaker. That is a power that would not be available under the Public Inquiries Act. That is why I said, yesterday, this legislation is tailor-made for this particular situation.

To the Member's other point, Mr. Speaker, which was that there may be other issues arising out of the operation of the Fort Smith Health Centre that the public inquiry could look into that would not be available under the board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. I would like to assure the Member, and restate what I believe I said yesterday, in response to Mr. Nerysoo's question, that, in fact, and without getting into detail of the Saskatchewan College report, because the physician in question has, in fact, initiated court proceedings, I think the Member is aware, seeking an injunction to restrain release of that report. I must be careful about discussing its details to protect his interest. Mr. Speaker, without getting into the detail, the Saskatchewan College report raises a number of broad issues about the operation of the Fort Smith Health Centre, unrelated to a particular doctor's medical practice. These, I think I called them "broad issues", yesterday, cover all aspects of the operation of the Fort Smith Health Centre. Therefore, I would like to insure the honourable Member that Dr. Covert does have the authority in looking into the matters raised by the Saskatchewan College with regard to the Fort Smith Health Centre, and does have the authority to give advice and recommendations on all those other matters that may be concerning the Member. It is not just focused on medical practice, Mr. Speaker, it is focused on many wide aspects of the operation of the Fort Smith Health Centre, therefore, it will be, I believe, the very thorough and comprehensive review that the Member is seeking. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In respect to the Minister's response on broader issues, I would like to ask the Minister, according to his press release, issued last Thursday, which I found out from C.B.C., did not even have the courtesy to advise me as a Member that he was considering a board of inquiry. I quote from the press release, "he has a further report from the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons to the board of inquiry, established under the Medical Profession Act. The report deals with medical procedures at the Fort Smith Health Centre, and it was commissioned by the health centre's board of management." Is the Minister telling me, now, that board of inquiry is going to look at broader issues other than the College of Physicians report?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Page 866

Further Return to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge to the honourable Member that, as I believe she knows, I was leaving to go on the land, last Thursday. I told you earlier today. She did not know at the time, she knows now, I hope.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, please. Order. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to explain that I was leaving to go down the bay, last Thursday, and I had asked my staff to get hold of the honourable Member and let her know of the decision that was about to be taken. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, my staff was unable to get a hold of Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I guess they should have known she was in Yellowknife. They were looking for her in Fort Smith. I do apologize to the honourable Member that she was not informed of this action, and had to hear it through the media. Mr. Speaker, to answer the honourable Member's question, the short answer is "no", but I would like to clarify, again, that the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons review of the operations of the Fort Smith Health Centre, which was a broad-based review, did deal with broader issues than the medical practice of a certain doctor. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this board of inquiry will be able to look at many other

issues than the particular issue of the particular practice of a particular physician. I would assure the honourable Member, that if there are matters that come up in the course of that inquiry that are matters of concern and should be looked into, then, at that time, I will look at all possible means to pursue those matters. In may, indeed, be that a further inquiry, and, perhaps, even a public inquiry, may emerge as an appropriate method of dealing with issues that arise from this board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Minister has not read this act. The Medical Profession Act, Mr. Speaker, indicates that the only appeal process, as a result of the board of inquiry is through the courts, through the Supreme Court of Canada. So how can he tell me in this House today that he would consider looking at maybe a public inquiry after, if the results were to be looked at? Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, as I stated in this House earlier, the Medical Profession Act indicates that a Board of Inquiry does not have to justify their reasons for their decisions. They do not have to do that. However, a public inquiry does.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister also stated that he cannot look at broader issues because the report looked at the broader issues. What I am asking for is the total issue to be looked at under the Fort Smith Health Centre in respect to a public inquiry. So therefore, recognizing that there is a total difference between public inquiry and Board of Inquiry, will the Minister reconsider his decision?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return to Question O727-12(2): Public Inquiry Regarding Fort Smith Health Centre

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I have read the Medical Profession Act. My understanding of it may not be as great as that of the honourable Member, but I have read the Act, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I am gathering from the honourable Member's questions, and those of Mr. Nerysoo yesterday, is that they believe that in addition to the concern about the practice of a particular physician,

there may well be other issues of concern about the operation of the Fort Smith Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, what I have tried to clarify today is that those broader issues are, in fact, referred to in the Saskatchewan College Report which Dr. Covert will be responding to in the inquiry he is going to head. This Board of Inquiry will be able to deal with those broad issues.

As far as the Right of Appeal is concerned, Mr. Speaker, as I understand the Act, the section the Member refers to, deals with a physician's appeal to a decision of the majority of a Board of Inquiry about whether or not that physician may continue to practise medicine. And that decision, indeed, can only be appealed to the Supreme Court. However, Mr. Speaker, if there are matters that arise in the Board of Inquiry that should be dealt with, that are issues of concern to the people of Fort Smith and issues of health care of concern in that community, then obviously I will give the Member my undertaking to do everything in my power to see that those matters are addressed.

I want to assure the Honourable Member that I am as concerned about the quality of health care in that community as she is. I believe that I have a responsibility to safeguard the quality of health care and I am willing to take whatever steps that are required once the Board of Inquiry is concluded.

I have not examined the matter of how it reports, and what reasons might be given, I would have to take that part of her questions as notice. I think that it is a matter that will have to be reviewed by lawyers. But I will assure the Honourable Member that if there are matters that arise out of that inquiry that merit further attention, I will give it that attention, by whatever means are appropriate.

I think we should take the first step, have the review that is required by legislation designed for that purpose and designed for this situation and once the results are evident, then I will take whatever steps that are appropriate, relying on advice from the Honourable Member and her constituents. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

**Question O728-12(2): Delay In Implementing Initiatives**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Fourteen months ago the Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell tabled in the 11th Assembly a comprehensive strategy plan for the delivery of alcohol and drug services. The document stated that it was important that the wage and benefit structure of the counselling profession at the community level makes it attractive for a good many trainees to remain in the counselling careers so that good people are not lost as a result of real, or perceived, low wages.

Can the Minister of Social Services advise the House why the Department is being so slow to follow the advice of its own consultants and address the deficient salary schedule for the addiction counsellors before we lose too many good people at the field level.

Page 867

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question O728-12(2): Delay In Implementing Initiatives

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Well, a short answer, Mr. Speaker, is that the Department has been unable to identify the resources in this difficult financial climate. But I do want to assure the Honourable Member that I am well aware of the issue. I have discussed it with the Minister of Finance and the Financial Management Board. It is under active consideration at this moment and I believe that, even though we are in a period of restraint, this government will place a priority on addressing that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O729-12(2): Challenge Of Public Inquiry**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether or not the Board of Inquiry that he has established to address the Report of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Saskatchewan on the matter of medical services and, in particular, the specific Doctor, if evidence is given from either board members or members of the Government that might, in fact, be libel, as can be used in the Court of Law to, in fact, challenge those individuals.



**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me. Asking the Minister's legal opinion is not a proper question to the Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary to Question O729-12(2): Challenge of Public Inquiry

**MR. NERYSOO:** Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for the honourable Member's opinion. In fact, the legislation says that section 30, of the Act clearly says that the witness may be examined under oath on all matters relevant to the investigation and shall not be excused from answering any questions on the grounds that the answer may: a) tend to incriminate the witness; b) subject the witness to punishment under this, Act or; c) tend to establish the liability of the witness. Under c(i), to a civil proceeding at the instance of the commissioner of any person to the prosecution, but any incriminating evidence so given might not be used to incriminate that person in any other proceedings.

Now, I am not asking for a legal opinion, the law says that, in fact, evidence can not be used for libellous charges and I wanted to clarify that because in a public inquiry, an individual could not hide behind that kind of libellous evidence. So, even though I am ruled out of order, the fact is that the law is there and I am not sure how to deal with it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I believe there is no question in the last remarks. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

#### **Question O730-12(2): Evidence To Challenge Public Inquiry**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister of Health how he could assure the public that witness appearing before the board of inquiry, in fact, are liable for their evidence.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question O730-12(2): Evidence To Challenge Public Inquiry

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** That is a rather sophisticated legal question, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Thebacha.

#### **Question O731-12(2): Number of Doctors From Saskatchewan**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has established a board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act to review a report that was completed earlier by representatives of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons.

I have reviewed the terms of references that were established for the Saskatchewan doctors who went through the health centre. The terms of reference stated that the committee will be comprised of at least four to five members as selected by the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Will the Ministers confirm in this House, that there were not four or five Saskatchewan doctors involved in this review, but rather only two doctors. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question O731-12(2): Number of Doctors From Saskatchewan

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, that Mr. Patterson will take that question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

#### **Question O732-12(2): List of Deputy Ministers For Past Five Years**

**MR. TODD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. Can the Government Leader provide this House with a full listing of employees at the D.M. and A.D.M. level who over the last five years have been given early retirement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Madam Premier.

Return to Question O732-12(2): List of Deputy Ministers For Past Five Years

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

Supplementary to Question O732-12(2): List of Deputy Ministers For Past Five Years

**MR. TODD:** Thank you. Can the Government Leader provide this House with what our full financial obligation is associated with the special settlement arrangements.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Madam Premier.

Page 868

Further Return to Question O732-12(2): List of Deputy Ministers For Past Five Years

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, if I have no legal obligations and it is clear to provide that information, I will do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

**Question O733-12(2): Pilot Project on Victims of Crime**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. The Minister may recall that on March 24 and 25 of this year, I asked his predecessor a number of questions about a Department of Justice and R.C.M.P. pilot project, which assists victims of crime to make a victims' impact statement for the courts.

This pilot project was announced on July 3, 1991 and was to be tested in nine NWT communities. I am concerned, because of the lengthy evaluation period established by the previous Minister, that residents of communities not targeted to participate in the pilot project are being denied access to a very valuable victims service.

Mr. Speaker, the question is, recognizing that the former Minister of Justice made a commitment on March 25 of this year to complete an earlier evaluation than had been planned initially, can the new Minister of Justice indicate whether his departmental officials have now completed their assessment of this program?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question O733-12(2): Pilot Project On Victims Of Crime

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Minister will take that question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

**Question O734-12(2): Saskatchewan Board Of Inquiry**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the honourable Member, the Minister responsible for Health, whether or not he could table the report of Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, since he referred it to that particular matter. We do not as Members have that particular document.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Return to Question O734-12(2): Saskatchewan Board Of Inquiry

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, on July 15 of this year, Dr. Uma Viswalingam requested an injunction to prevent release of the college's report. That matter was dealt with by the court, and an appeal from the lower court's decision was heard in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories on August 10, 1992.

The appeal has been adjourned without a certain date of return and the Supreme Court file has been sealed. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that since the matter is before the courts and since the issue is before the courts, I must not release it. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I should forthrightly tell the Honourable Member that the report contains information about the treatment of certain patients and also other sensitive matters. I would also believe that it is not in the public interest to reveal such sensitive matters relating to patient physician privilege. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question O734-12(2): Saskatchewan Board Of Inquiry

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that normal practices and rules of this House, in fact, require a Member to table a particular document if he refers to that particular document. I will ask again Mr. Speaker, upon referencing a number of issues in this House, whether or not the Minister will in fact provide to all Members the privilege of in fact reviewing that document, since he has been discussing it in this House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return to Question O734-12(2): Saskatchewan Board Of Inquiry

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I would cite the sub-judice rules of the House and say that this sensitive matter is before the courts, and I do not

believe that there is a compulsion for me to table the report, merely because it has been mentioned in the House.

With great respect to the Member, no, I am not willing to table that report for the reasons stated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gargan.

**Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, then could I ask the honourable Member why is he referring to the particular report, items in that particular report, and recommendations and issues in that report. I asked the Minister a question. Mr. Speaker, I remember the date, because my birthday was the day before...

**---Laughter**

It has been eight months now since I last asked this question with regard to the export of eggs from a production facility here in the Northwest Territories. I am sure that the Minister has had eight months to think about it, perhaps to do a bit of work on it, and have his staff, do all the necessary research in order to respond to that question at a later date, so I will ask it again, eight months later. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that in order for markets to market eggs outside the Northwest Territories, it is necessary to secure marketing quotas under the National Farm Products Marketing Act. I would like to ask the Minister, can the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism advise the House regarding this progress in securing this marketing quota?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Return to Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not much has changed in the last eight months. There is a requirement for the Northwest Territories to obtain a quota from C.E.M.A. in order to export eggs out of the Northwest Territories. There have been a number of occasions where the Northwest Territories has requested a quota from S.E.M.A. It has even gone as far as the federal Minister of Agriculture, but it is not the federal government's decision. It is the participants of S.E.M.A., and that means all of the provinces who are presently in that organization. In effect, what you need is 32 signatures, Mr. Speaker, to allow a newcomer into the old boy's club, we have not been successful in negotiating a quota with S.E.M.A., and

getting all those people to sign. One of the things, Mr. Speaker, that has been a problem is that they have been unwilling to give us the size of quota that our producers would have liked, so we have not made very much progress in that area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Page 869

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

Supplementary to Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only do I remember February the 20 because of my birthday before, but I also remember that the Minister did make that similar, or same, response. One of the things that happened, four years ago, perhaps, was that, I believe the Department was going to take, I believe, S.E.M.A. to court, based on a constitutional issue of quality, or something to that effect. I understood, even at that time, Mr. Noseworthy was the D.M., and because of this threat of court action, S.E.M.A. was willing to provide the quotas. I even understood that there was, enough people to sign the deal, but it might have changed since. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he has looked at other avenues during the last eight months since I have asked the question, on what other possibilities there are with regard to getting an egg quota, or a court challenge.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return to Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of the things that have been happening this year is the whole question of the inter-provincial trade, and the reduction of trade barriers within Canada. There has been the G.A.T. negotiations in Europe, and there is the new Free Trade Agreement that is being discussed at the present time between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. We have been anxious to see what the impacts of those agreements would be upon us, because as everybody knows, those kinds of organizations may fall by the wayside, and there may be free trade within Canada. So, that is one of the things that is happening at the present time. My understanding is that Mr. Richardson, who is an egg producer in Hay River, has a case at the present time

in southern Canada before the courts. I will not comment on the courts, Mr. Speaker, but I will tell you that the Department of Justice for the GNWT. offered to become involved in that case as well, and Mr. Richard's declined our assistance at this time. So, there are two things that are happening right now that we are closely monitoring, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 6, oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary to Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, during the 11th Assembly, the House was advised that in order to receive an allocation of the egg marketing quota, it would be necessary to establish an agricultural council, or an agricultural marketing board. Based on this advice, the 11th Assembly passed an Agricultural Products Marketing Act of the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister advise the House whether he has now established this marketing agency?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return to Question O735-12(2): Progress In Marketing Eggs

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, I will take that part of the question as notice, and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Minister has taken the question as notice. Oral question, Mr. Pudlat.

#### **Question O736-12(2): Feasibility Study Update On Parks**

**MR. PUDLAT:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Economic Development. In July, he informed me that in Lake Harbour, they requested a visitor's centre. He had informed me that this will be revealed during the summer. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of the review, and at what stage this review is at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Return to Question O736-12(2): Feasibility Study Update On Parks

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That request is still under active consideration, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral question. Mr. Zoe.

#### **Question O737-12(2): Results Of Meeting With NorthwesTel**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in June, a number of Members on this side of the House raised an issue of telephone services to small communities. The Minister, after session, has written to a number of us, indicating that he has written to NorthwesTel in regards to telephone services, and he also indicated that he will be meeting directly with the president of NorthwesTel, Mr. Dunbar. I would like to ask the Minister, what was the outcome of that particular meeting that he had on August the 5, because to date we have not received any response from the Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Arvaluk. I am sorry. Mr. Morin.

Return to Question O737-12(2): Results Of Meeting With NorthwesTel

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we did have a meeting with Mr. Dunbar in August, and from that meeting we wanted to find out exactly what NorthwesTel had planned to do about adjusting the concerns of the smaller communities to get telephone service. He basically told us at that time what their capital plan was, which I have given to the Member already. I have instructed my officials to work with NorthwesTel to see what the communities would have to do, otherwise this government has to come up with some capital money to ensure that the telephone systems get put in sooner than what they are planned for in the capital plan. I have not heard back from them yet, from my officials or Mr. Dunbar. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary to Question O737-12(2): Results Of Meeting With NorthwesTel

**MR. ZOE:** Supplementary. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that his officials are working on this plan. Could he advise the House as to what stage they are at, and when we anticipate this plan to be completed?

Page 870

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return to Question O737-12(2): Results Of Meeting With NorthwesTel

**HON. DON MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials are still reviewing the situation, and they have formed a committee within Government Services and D.P.W. to work with NorthwTel. I will give the Member a further update next week. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Dent.

**Question O738-12(2): Accuracy On Forecast For Expo '92**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism concerning the shortfall in Seville, otherwise known as Expo '92. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 1991, the former Minister of Economic Development and Tourism tabled the preliminary business plan for the NWT facility in the Canadian pavilion at Expo '92. This plan forecasts sales of over \$5.4 million, including \$3 million of this for the sale of food and beverages. In rough calculations this would have translated to sales of approximately \$16,000 per day at the restaurant. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please inform this House how accurate his department was in forecasting the levels of food and beverages to be sold at our facility in Seville? In fact, have we even reached 50 percent of our original projections?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Return to Question O738-12(2): Accuracy On Forecast For Expo '92

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** No, we have not, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the average, prior to and just after the Olympic games, was running around \$7,000 or \$8,000 a day. I can tell the Member that last week we averaged some \$12,400 a day. Yesterday's and the previous day's total were a little bit above that average, so business has picked up, but we have not obtained those targets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question O738-12(2): Accuracy On Forecast For Expo '92

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister, again, Mr. Speaker, the department's original projections forecasts arts and crafts sales of \$2.4 million, or approximately \$13,000 a day. Would the Minister please advise the House

how accurate his department was in forecasting the level of sales for arts and crafts at our facility in Seville?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return to Question O738-12(2): Accuracy On Forecast For Expo '92

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Mr. Speaker, once again, we have not attained those numbers.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

**Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River**

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to say this in Slavey. Yesterday N.T.C.L.'s barge, there was an oil spill and yesterday I mentioned something about that. I would like to direct my question to the Renewable Resources Minister. The amount of oil that was spilled in the Mackenzie River, and I believe, this is probably not going to be the only time we are going to have an oil spill. The amount of things that are happening in Alberta with pulp mills etc., all the stuff gets into the river here. Because of this oil spill in Fort Providence, is there going to be a fine to whoever caused this oil spill? Thank you.

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

Return to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The representative of the Canadian Transportation Safety Board announced that the board will initiative an investigation into all aspects of the oil spill. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if he heard me well. The water is very important to us here. If there are future oil spills, whoever caused the oil spill, is there going to be a fine given to them? Is this going to be straightened out in court in the future?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the oil spills that take place, depending on where they land: rivers; lands; Commissioner's land; crown land; there are responsible agencies which have legislation that charges the polluters. Depending on the outcome of this investigation of the Canadian Transportation Safety Board, there could very well be charges laid. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**MR. ANTOINE:** Mahsi. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding, if there are companies that pollute the environment here, my understanding is that there is supposed to be a fine given to these people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, companies that are polluting are responsible to clean whatever pollution they have caused. If there are any spills of pollutants, the company is responsible to clean up the spill, and as well they could be taken to court by responsible agencies. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Page 871

Supplementary to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**MR. ANTOINE:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of questions that I still want to ask. The reason I am raising these questions is because of this oil spill. Is there strong legislation to handle things such as this nature? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return to Question O739-12(2): Fine For Oil Spill In Mackenzie River

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fisheries and Oceans have legislation, as well as the Government of the NWT The Coastguard and also Environment Canada can take anyone to court if there is pollution caused, under their respective legislation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your time has expired. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

#### **ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

##### **Return To Written Question 35-12(2): Provision of Legal Counsel to Municipal Councils**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE** (Mr. Hamilton): Return to written question 35-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, concerning the provision of legal counsel to municipal councils.

Return to written question 50 asked by Mr. Lewis to the Minister of Personnel concerning the dismissal of Norman Meek.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, return to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Patterson.

#### **ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, due to assuming new portfolios recently and the need to pay attention to them, I have not been able to spend the time I would have liked to have spent in my riding this summer. However, I was able to visit Iqaluit for about a week in each of the last two months, and I would like to take this opportunity to report several very positive and exciting developments.

Before I do that, I would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Department of Transportation, its present and previous Minister and officials. I refer to the beach improvement project which has been under way in Iqaluit for the past several years. Mr. Speaker, compared to some others this capital project is not so large. However, it is spent in such a manner that every cent is maximized.

At a public meeting in August, members of the Amarok H.T.A. discussed what the priorities should be for beach improvements this summer. At one point in the meeting it was decided that we should all

go down to the beach to see exactly what we were talking about, and we did. Once a plan was agreed on, the Town of Iqaluit agreed to become the general contractor for the project and members of the H.T.A. were assigned responsibility for overseeing the work at each stage. This has worked very well. When I left Iqaluit earlier this week, three new small breakwaters had been constructed at key points on the beach. The material gathered for the breakwaters also helped to clean the beach to make it much easier for people to land their vessels. Before this summer's work is complete another small breakwater may be constructed.

Mr. Speaker, in a community with a population which makes extensive use of marine resources including clams, where the tide is over 40 feet at times, and south winds can easily smash unprotected small vessels on to the rocks, especially this time of year, this project will save equipment and peace of mind for the many active hunters and boaters in my constituency.

I want to thank the Amarak H.T.A. and the Town of Iqaluit, which has also assisted with some of its equipment, and again the Minister and officials of the department for their ready help and consultative cooperative approach in making this project a success this summer.

The H.T.A. does have hopes to continue improving access to the beach in the coming years. There is still a great deal of work required to make approaches safer and more sheltered, including the community of Apex. However, members of the H.T.A. and the owners of longliners in Iqaluit are also becoming increasingly concerned about the deterioration of the causeway in the harbour. This structure, which was built by the American military almost 50 years ago, is the only available means to load and supply larger vessels, at least those without a flat bottom. It is the only deep water sheltered loading point for these larger vessels. The causeway is also a critical departure point for ski-doo's and dog teams when the ice starts to deteriorate around the beach in spring time. The deterioration of this sizeable rock structure, which once had a paved road to the end, now makes it very difficult for people to load and unload supplies and people.

It is rather discomfoting to see elderly tourists trying to scramble around huge rocks to reach our vessels or dog teams. People who are manoeuvring fuel barrels and supplies over the rough rock surface also have a very difficult time. Therefore, I will be

approaching the Department of Transportation to see whether they could advise on how at least part of the causeway, could be repaired to as to provide a much safer and easier access for passengers and cargo.

Now for the new developments. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the establishment and incorporation of the Immarnisilirijit Historical Society of Apex and Iqaluit with subscribers like Ben Ell, Joe and Martha Tikivik, Napatchie Noah, Akaka Sataa, Joanase Aningmiut, Anuga Arnaquq, Shoatie Shoo, Getaloo Kakkee, Jaiko Pitseolak, Pudloo Nowdlak, Siporah Nowdlak, Jimmy and Oleeppeeka Nooshoota, among others and a residency requirement of 20 years. This society is very representative of long time community leaders in Iqaluit and Apex and they are serious. The objects of this society include gathering and providing genealogical information for interested families, gathering and providing historical information about buildings and places in the communities of Apex and Iqaluit and other sites on the shores of Frobisher Bay. This promotes community awareness of people, places and traditions that have influenced the development of Apex and Iqaluit, assisting municipal and territorial councils in avoiding the inadvertent destruction of historical sites, records and traditions in the course of future development, and among other objects, to actively inject a historical perspective into public, business and government decisions affecting the ongoing development of our communities.

The society has made interesting discoveries about the history and especially the architectural history of our community. I would like to share a few of those with you today. Although Major John Crowel led an advanced scouting party, guided by an Inuk named Pauloosie, which began surveying and building the air base site in August 1942, "Crystal Two", as it was called, was only declared to be fully operational at the site of the present community of Iqaluit on December 31, 1943. This means that 1993-94 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of our community. The society proposes that events be planned to mark this important anniversary and to recognize the contributions of prominent Inuit elders, leaders and other Canadians who have made significant contributions to, or have lived in Apex and Iqaluit since its foundation, and you may be hearing more from me about these plans later in the term of this Legislature.

The society has identified several historic buildings, I expect sympathy from Mr. Gargan on this issue Mr. Speaker.

### **--Laughter**

The original two room school was one of three buildings erected in Apex during the first summer of construction in 1955. It was the first school in the region and was attended by many local residents and some prominent people, including the Honourable Titus Allooloo. The main structure has recently been assessed and found to be framed entirely of rough sized timber, extraordinarily strong and of unique construction. Though partially damaged by recent unsuccessful attempts to demolish it, the building has been recently purchased on behalf of the historical society by a local Apex residents with a view to saving it.

The nursing station is the second historic building erected in Apex during the first summer of construction. Beginning with the completion of the road from Iqaluit in 1956, the U.S. airforce ambulance ferried transient patients to the air base for medical evacuation. It was the first civilian hospital in the region and was both attended and staffed by many local residents.

The so-called D.N.A. garage was the third historic building erected in the summer of 1955. It served for many years as a recreation centre (badminton, volleyball, etc.) and as the community hall (bingo, dances and Christmas celebrations). It is also sound in structural shape and has dimensions adequate for the most popular indoor sports in our region: volleyball, basketball and indoor soccer.

Nanook School is currently the oldest operating school in the Baffin Region and, I am sure, one of the oldest in the Northwest Territories. This former federal day school was built in the late 1950's to serve children from Apex and Iqaluit. Some residents remember walking to school along the sea-ice from Iqaluit, or then Frobisher Bay, as Apex had the only schooling. There have been plans announced on several occasions to replace the school with a newer building but these have been resisted by Apex residents.

Other historic structures still remaining include some of the seven original "512" housing units built entirely by the eventual Inuit residents and one visiting master carpenter. Another building, completed that first summer, was the power generating plant, which is

now Mary Peter's Tikiq store. The D.N.A. offices and staff quarters is still standing and the D.N.A. Rehabilitation Centre has been incorporated into a private residence. The rehabilitation offices are now building 3144 and the rehabilitation Carpentry and Craft Shop is now building 3141.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Apex Hill, perhaps more than almost any other institution in Canadian Arctic history was created as a bridge between the new and the old ways. The Department of Northern Affairs began constructing the community in June, 1955 with the intention of smoothing the transition between camp and settlement life, between southern T.B. sanatoriums and rapidly altering home communities and between well-intentioned officials and their increasingly wary subjects, between the young who were learning and the old who could not forget.

The Society has recently provided me with a draft copy of a proposal they have carefully developed. And this proposal sets out what I think are positive solutions to a number of long-standing GNWT. and municipal concerns in Apex and Iqaluit. In addition to solving some of these issues, I believe it has the potential to be a very positive step for the communities involved. After all, there have been several development-related conflicts involving Apex over the last few years. I can remember one of these very vividly in 1975 before I was active in politics when the GNWT. proposed to close down the community of Apex.

This proposal being developed represents the determination of the people of Niaqunnguut, as it is known locally, to establish some control over their own future and to retain its unique character. Among other things, the proposal calls for the preservation and renovation of the original two-room school; the transfer of the 1955 nursing station to the Immarnisaliirijit Historical Society for a nominal sum for restoration for community functions as in the old days.

Further, the Town of Iqaluit will be asked to revise the zoning by-laws for Apex to preserve and rehabilitate the original north Apex area. This would include the original two-room school, the old nursing station and the D.N.A. now a municipal garage which the Society would like designated as Apex Hill Heritage Buildings, as well as making provision for the preservation of Nanook School.



The Society has also indicated that they would welcome the siting of the new Baffin Regional Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre in that area. Mr. Speaker, these are the basic elements of the proposal. In light of his responsibilities both for Education and Culture, I would like to take this opportunity to formally invite the Honourable James Arvaluk to meet with the residents of Niaquunguut and Iqaluit, preferably in Apex, to hear their views and receive their presentation. I understand the Honourable Minister may already have some plans to visit the Baffin region later this fall and I would hope that some time could, therefore, be made available for such a meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the other exciting development I wish to refer to is that I have learned recently, from two very well-respected constituents, that they will be preparing a proposal from an all-Inuit consortium to revive the highly successful wilderness camp for young offenders at Mingutuq outpost camp, about 85 nautical miles southeast of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, there is already a camp there. It is equipped with an airstrip and can be reached by boat or skidoo. The camp can comfortably house up to twelve young people and it is located at the Mingutuq outpost camp of Inookie and family and Lucassie Nowdluk and family. Kujait outpost camp as well, is only eight miles away and there are other camps in the area.

These two very well-respected elders, Inookie and Lucassie have lived and travelled in that area all of their lives. Their proposal is simply to revive this very successful wilderness camp aimed at engendering pride and self-confidence in youths experiencing difficult family and community relations which have led to minor crimes.

Page 873

There is abundant wildlife in the area, Mr. Speaker, which will allow opportunities for the youths to learn winter hunting and survival techniques while supplementing store-bought provisions with arctic char, caribou, seals and small mammals. Living an outdoor lifestyle in winter conditions, the youths will be isolated from the influences and distractions of town life.

They will be given opportunities on a daily basis to learn useful skills through traditional activities in an outdoor setting under the direction of experienced Inuit who will provide very positive role models. Mr. Speaker, this camp did operate for two years in 1987 and 1988 and I believe that all concerned, including

appropriate government departments, agreed it was a great success.

The young people who went there came away healthy and strong. Some of these young Inuit experienced their first hunt at the camp. They worked hard, they were always busy, they lived a healthy life and came away with a sense of pride in themselves and their culture. Their parents were very happy with the results, by and large, and I believe that the records will show that most of the young offenders who went to the camp adjusted successfully to community life. Many of them, in fact, were able to get jobs after learning how to work hard at the camp.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do know that we have some need of institutions to house young offenders in the Northwest Territories. Some of them must be in secure, closed custody facilities because otherwise they would be a danger to themselves or the public. I believe many of the young people who are in several institutions in the NWT, however, could be even better looked after in a much more culturally sensitive way, in a much more effective way, by their own people and on the land.

I know that there are some young offender camps currently operating in the NWT and this is good news. Wilfred Jackson has a camp out of Fort Good Hope. Jimmy Maring has a camp in the Aklavik area, I believe, and David Etchinelle runs a camp in Fort Norman. There are also several homes and one of them I know of is Elijah Erkloo's in Pond Inlet which provide some on-the-land component while looking after these young offenders.

However, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of our young offenders are housed, and some would say warehoused, in institutions, in buildings, in towns. These are expensive places, and for example, the Isumaqsunnngittukkuvik Youth Facility, in my own constituency of Iqaluit, with a capacity of twelve beds, has a staff of over twenty full time persons on twenty four hour shifts, and there is a sizeable casual staff as well. Last time I checked, there were eight people in that facility. There are two other secure facilities in the Northwest Territories which I understand are operating at much less than full capacity. Mr. Speaker, I know full well that we are operating in times of restraint, that it is difficult, that it is always difficult, to find so called new money for projects like this. However, I will be urging the Minister of Justice to examine the potential for reallocating existing financial resources, so that we can support qualified native people who are willing to

help troubled young people by giving them a valuable experience on the land. I submit that it would cost less than we are paying to house young people in institutions that we are not utilizing to capacity, and I think that all Members would agree that if we have the choice to put them on the land, they will get a far better, more fulfilling, and a more rewarding experience.

I am sure all Honourable Members would welcome reallocation of existing budgets to on the land programs, especially where we are not utilizing existing twenty four hour heavily staffed institutions. The approach followed at Minqutuq has already been proven successful over two years. I am delighted that solid, self reliant, and very well respected people like Inookie, and Lucassie are willing to put together a proposal to take on this responsibility. So, I do look forward to receiving their proposal, presenting it to the Honourable Mr. Kakfwi, and perhaps having the opportunity to give him the chance to meet these very fine people, and see for himself who we are dealing with.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the chance to inform the House of these two, I think, positive developments in my constituency. There are, of course, many other issues, and many other problems, but I am pleased that my constituents are looking at these problems and issues in a positive way, and have positive solutions to bring forward, which I feel is my duty to bring to the attention of this House. I will be making those two issues a priority in the coming months and years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Qujannamiik.

**---Applause**

Thank you, Tony.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I will call Item 9, replies to opening address again when we come back from our fifteen minute break.

**---SHORT RECESS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

#### **ITEM 11: PETITIONS**

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wish to table a petition on behalf of the residents of Baker Lake. The petition is from concerned parents of the children of Baker Lake, who

are requesting that funding be made available so that the Baker Lake community education council can purchase and operate a school bus in Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, this petition contains the signatures of 274 concerned residents of Baker Lake.

The community education council of Baker Lake has sought a school bus, or a vehicle which could be used for transporting students to and from the school. As chairman of the education society in 1982, I was approached by many parents who were asking for any form of transportation for their children.

When I was re-elected chairman of the education society nearly a decade later, the community still did not have any type of vehicle for transporting children to the school. When I reviewed the criteria for accessing funds for a school bus I found that Baker Lake did indeed qualify under the existing policy.

The Keewatin divisional board of education has previously given its support for a school bus by recommending that it be funded. The community of Baker Lake is situated along the northwest shore of the lake and is growing length wise to the east. This means that the distance that the children have to walk far exceeds the criteria outlined in the present policy.

Mr. Speaker, to put things in perspective, I would like to compare Baker Lake's climate with other communities which currently enjoy bussing services. In comparison to most other NWT communities with school bus service, Baker Lake gets colder much sooner, stays colder longer, has lower temperatures throughout the winter months, and has higher wind speeds during the school months. In short, Mr. Speaker,

Page 874

Baker Lake has the highest wind chill factors throughout the winter months, this is due to the fact that Baker Lake is the only community in Canada that is without trees and is inland. There are no oceans or open water to raise the temperature a few degrees higher, as is the case with other communities which lie above the treeline.

One way of comparing the weather related difficulties experienced by students, is to look at the number of times that schools are closed due to storms or other inclement weather. The only communities in which schools are closed more often are Chesterfield Inlet, which already has student transportation, and

Repulse Bay and Arviat, both of which will also require student transportation in the near future.

The petition from the community of Baker Lake, with the 274 names, is requesting a school bus for the community. With this petition I have, I will be tabling a copy of the mean daily temperatures for the school year, mean temperatures in January, and the mean wind speeds in kilometres per hour for the communities of Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a petition from the community of Rae Edzo. The petition comprises of 142 signatures, Mr. Speaker. The petition is in regards to the concerns about the possibility of awarding a contract to an outside supplier of heating oil to the Rae Edzo Housing Authority. Their concern is that the local supplier, F.C. Services, a local family business will be put out of business and that the customers not in government housing will end up paying a substantial increase in their home heating oil. They are also concerned that without a local truck available, they will be paying a surcharge for emergency deliveries. They therefore urge the NWT Housing Authority to reconsider their position on this tender and award the contract for supplying heating oil to F.C. Services of Rae Edzo. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Member for Thebacha.

#### **ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Tabled Document 76-12(2), a copy of the terms of reference established for the review undertaken by the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. Mr. Speaker, I have two more documents that I would like to table, Tabled Document 77-12(2), correspondence dated September 4, 1992 to the Minister of Health from me regarding his decision to establish a board of inquiry under the Medical Professions Act, and correspondence, Tabled Document 78-12(2), dated September 4, 1992 to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from

myself requesting consideration of the need to establish an inquiry under the Territorial Public Inquiries Act. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 79-12(2) which indicates mean daily temperatures for the school year, mean temperatures in January and the mean wind speed in kilometres per hour for the communities of Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife, all of which presently enjoy a bussing service. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion.

Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

#### **ITEM 16: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

##### **Notice Of Motion For First Reading of Bill 33: Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93**

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, September 14, 1992 I shall move that Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93, be read for the first time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration of committee of the whole of bills and other matters, tabled document 9-12(2), tabled document 10-12(2), motion 6, committee report 10-12(2), tabled document 62-12(2), Minister's statement 82-12(2). Mr. Ningark is in the chair.

#### **ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Ningark): Thank you for your attention. The committee will now come to order. Mr. Nerysoo.

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

**CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Ningark): The motion is not debatable. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

**--Carried**

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now this House will come back to order. Item 21, reports of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

**ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee reported progress and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. You heard the report. Is there a seconder? Mr. Nerysoo. All those in favour. Down. Opposed. Motion is carried. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could seek unanimous consent to return to Item 7, Written Questions, please.

**REVERT BACK TO ITEM 7: WRITTEN  
QUESTIONS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Written Questions. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Nerysoo.

Page 875

**Written Question 53-12(2): Report of the College  
of Physicians and Surgeons**

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. It is a written question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health. Could the Minister of Health indicate and advise this House if the sealed court documents pertaining to Dr. Viswalingam's suit against the Fort Smith Health Centre Board of Management includes a report of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, to which he has referred, when responding to questions from Members of this House.

Second, did the Government of the Northwest Territories have legal representation or make application on the matter of sealing all of the court documents relating to the above matter. Thirdly, did the legal advisor, on behalf of the Government of the

Northwest Territories, consent to the sealing of all court documents relating to the above matter and suit.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE** (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance immediately after adjournment in the Caucus Room. There will also be a meeting of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform in the Committee Room immediately after adjournment. At 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the Day for Friday, September 11, 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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions - Motion 30
17. First Reading of Bills - Bills 31 and 32
18. Second Reading of Bills.
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters - Tabled Documents

9-12(2) and 10-12(2) - Motion 6 - Committee  
Report 10-12(2) - Tabled Document 62-12(2)  
- Ministers' Statement 82-12(2)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House will stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 11, 1992.

**---ADJOURNMENT**