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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23,
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The Honourable Michael Ballantyne, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 95-12(2): Rankin Inlet Surveyor Training Course

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Training is essential if northerners are to learn the skills required to take advantage of many job opportunities in the construction industry. Last spring in Rankin Inlet, the Department of Government Services and Public Works, with the assistance of the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, Education, Arctic College and Maani Ulujuk School, organized a basic surveyor training course. The department knew that there was going to be some survey work for a large upcoming project, and that there were not enough local people trained in surveying.

An engineer from the regional office instructed the course, which ran for 18 nights from April to June. Eight long-term residents participated in the course. Two graduates are now working as surveyor helpers, for the next three years, on the Rankin Inlet mine tailings pond cleanup project.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Minister's Statement 96-12(2): Books Produced By Divisional Boards Of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had a visit from Mr. Joe Enook, the Chairman of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education. One of the reasons he came to see me was to show me copies of the latest books produced by the Baffin Divisional Board. I was very impressed by what I saw. These books are well written, beautifully decorated and illustrated. I believe that students will find them very appealing and will thoroughly enjoy reading them.

The books published by the boards of education have many benefits. They encourage students to read in their own languages. They have given parents their first opportunity to read to their children in their own language. They play an important role in involving parents in the education of their children, and help strengthen the partnership between the school system and the parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the work done by the divisional boards of education and the teaching and learning centres in producing attractive, well written books. I would like to express my appreciation for this excellent work, and look forward to seeing new materials in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Government Of Canada To Act In Yellowknife Mine Dispute

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been asked by three of my constituents, why yesterday, when there was a motion in this House, requesting the Prime Minister to send Marcel Danis to Yellowknife, this motion was not made by a Yellowknife M.L.A.

I should explain, Mr. Speaker, that yesterday morning all ordinary Members met, as we always do, and it was agreed that on behalf of all Members, the Chairman of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, Mr.

Nerysoo, would make that motion, and that we would get somebody from the eastern Arctic to second it.

In order to illustrate that this issue is of interest to more Members of this Assembly, it goes far beyond the borders of our city, because of the immensity of the things that have happened over the last several weeks.

Related to this, also, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that yesterday, although I am the Member for the centre of this city, I was not in the House when the recorded vote was taken. Mr. Speaker, I was part of the decision that morning to construct that motion, and urged every Member to support it. While the vote was being taken, I was busily engaged helping a very distraught individual, from my constituency, who was very upset, and was not able to get back into the House in order to record my vote.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I should like to record, and give my absolute unequivocal support to the motion that was passed yesterday, in my absence.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Work Of Mrs. Jean Dube

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take the opportunity, today, to thank my colleagues who attend the luncheon that I hosted.

Mr. Speaker, last month I invited Mrs. Jean Dube, who is an elder in our community. Mrs. Dube is well known for the work that she has done, not only

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with muskox, but with wild meat, and particularly, the work that she has done with spices.

Mrs. Dube had a display for the Members to see how we can use muskox to its fullest potential, with no waste whatsoever. There was a display of soap, which is used from the fat. There was a display of canned muskox, along with muskox to eat. In addition, she had a variety of spices that she has worked on for fish, fowl, and wild meat.

I want to particularly thank the Honourable John Pollard for attending the luncheon to recognize the economic potential of such development for one of our resources. It is unfortunate that the Minister of Renewable Resources was unable to attend.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of Mrs. Dube, to provide each of the Members with a can of muskox, and also a small package of some of the spices that she has developed. I am sure Members will enjoy it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On G.N.W.T. Approach To Aboriginal Youth's Cultural Education

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I continue to be concerned about this government's approach to what has been called a cultural education of our aboriginal youth. I do not agree with the current trends, that give the school system primary responsibility for transmitting our traditional knowledge to the youth of our communities.

I must state clearly here, that I am not being critical of the very special efforts that have been made by the talented Dene and Inuit teachers, who have accomplished a lot in this area, often with limited resources.

My problem, is the principle, that the young persons discovery of our aboriginal way of life, should be assimilated within the school system, that is based on an entirely different set of beliefs about how children learn.

Here is what I mean, the school system we have in the Northwest Territories is based on values, principles that reflect the best way to teach the children about things that are important to the European culture.

Highly developed teaching technologies are used to help children master mathematical concepts, making scientific frame work, and expressing themselves through written word.

That may be the best way to teach youth the knowledge that has been accumulated by the non-

native culture, but it is not the best way to show a young person how to live in a way our Dene and our Inuit have lived.

I think I am talking too fast for the interpreter. I would ask the honourable Members who are of aboriginal descent to think about their own childhoods. Where did they learn to make a camp that can withstand the cold and the wind? How did they learn how to set a snare?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) How did they gain that understanding of snow and ice textures that my honourable colleague from Natilikmiot spoke about yesterday. I will guarantee that they did not learn these things by watching educational videos, or reading textbooks, or writing an essay about them, or going on a field trip. They learned them like I did, Mr. Speaker, from the elders and the hunters of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, aboriginal wisdom is best learned by becoming a part of our surroundings, and by relying on the uncles, parents, grandparents, or others, who know about our way of life. Mr. Speaker, I should oppose the assimilation of our traditional way of teaching youth within the educational system of another culture. I am also concerned about the possibility that the effectiveness of the standard curriculum, the math, the geography, and the spelling, is being diluted by the artificial focus our schools are putting on the notion of cultural education.

I would like to see the Northwest Territories educational system reflect the fact that we do have several cultures, each with different learning styles. Cultural values and knowledge should be taught to our youth by the leaders and elders in our communities, not by teachers and principals who look

at them as just another element of the school curriculum.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the only way to ensure that we retain active living aboriginal cultures in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Federal Government Transfer Of Programs And Funding To G.N.W.T.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an issue that has been of some concern to me for some time, the transfer of programs and services from the federal government to the Northwest Territories government.

Since I was first elected in the House, I am fast becoming used to disagreements with the federal government over funding matters. First it was the health billings dispute, which has been ongoing for some time now, and last week we received news from the Minister responsible for Housing about the devastating reduction in social housing programs.

Mr. Speaker, although the circumstances in these cases are different, I believe, ultimately, they will lead to the same conclusion. The federal government is off-loading programs and services on the Government of the Northwest Territories. Like other Members of this House I am concerned about the strategy we have taken to deal with these disputes with the federal government.

As the honourable Member from Mackenzie Delta has pointed out many times, the federal government has a constitutional and moral responsibility to provide these programs and services to aboriginal people. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the honourable Member and believe that we should be aggressively pursuing this with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this leads to the larger question of how we handle negotiations with the federal government. I am not satisfied that the agreements we have negotiated in the past have been as good as they should have been. Often, I believe, we have

accepted agreements in the past because of our zest to transfer more power to the Northwest Territories. This has been done despite serious shortfalls in the fiscal terms of these agreements.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, this is a serious miscalculation. As a good friend of mine recently pointed out, responsibility should not be confused with power. Money is power. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion we should establish a moratorium on any further accords with the federal government until a negotiating framework and a mechanism for analysing any other agreements, is established and reviewed by this House.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say about the power sharing arrangements with the federal government, under the new Constitution, in my statement tomorrow. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Requirement Of Rescue Vessels For Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This winter, in February, I went to Sanikiluaq, and then in April, I went down there again, and I understood more clearly what they are planning to do with the boat. They have been asking to get rescue vessels in that community. Since they are located in the Hudson Bay, I think it would be more appropriate if I redirect this question to the Minister of Renewable Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to raise this concern on how the people of Sanikiluaq can obtain a vessel, because they do not have any large vessels within that area for their own use. Many problems arise, and it can come in very handy for use in obtaining food, and for other things, such as places that need to be attended to when the weather is bad.

When the Minister is present, I can give him further details, and a picture of this particular vessel that I am talking about. I made a mistake before when I posed this question, and I got the wrong information, and I directed it to Dennis Patterson in error at the time, I apologize for that. Once I present the information to the Minister responsible, I will be putting forth a further question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Preservation Of The Dene Language

MR. ANTOINE:

Merci, Mr. Speaker. I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, in the preservation of my mother tongue, either Dene, moola kedih, or South Slavey. According to a census taken between 1986 and 1991, there was a slight downturn in English, it dropped to 60.5 percent, and there was a steady downturn in French, to about 23.8 percent. This is according to the Canadian population. Next largest language is Italian, followed by Chinese, and then by German.

An interesting point is that the Chinese language grew the most between 1986 and 1991, an increase of 59 percent, and according to Statistics Canada, mother tongue is defined as the first language a person learns at home in childhood, and still understands at the time of the census.

The next largest group following Chinese is Spanish, followed by Punjabi, and Arabic. Three native languages that are largest are Cree, Inuktitut, and Ojibway. I guess my main concern is, as a Dene, once my language goes, I do not have any other mother country to go back to, and learn my language again, such as these other languages. If they lose it in Canada, they always can go back to their mother country, and it is preserved there. Whereas in my particular case, we are on the endangered species list, and we are getting close to extinction. The only place to preserve our language is through this government here, and I think I would like to say, that on behalf of a lot of people in my constituency, there is concern over the standardization of the language of the Dene.

There are so many different dialects up here, that if you are going to standardize it, there is a real danger of taking the uniqueness of each distinct dialect away, and I have a very big concern about that. I would just like to say mahsi for that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O832-12(2): Training Program For By-law Officers

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, by-law enforcement officers in a community are a very important part of the municipal government operation, especially in a small community such as Pelly Bay and Spence Bay and other communities, I am sure, across the territories. A by-law enforcement officer has to be able to make the distinction between the Criminal Code of Canada, and the local by-law in the local municipalities. The by-law enforcement officer requires a solo training within the field that he has chosen to do within the community.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, does the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs have a policy, or program, in place to oversee that by-law enforcement officers in the small communities are properly trained to do the job? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O832-12(2): Training Program For By-law Officers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of enforcement officers in the communities, the department itself does not have training programs, but, I believe, the Minister of Justice is reviewing the training for by-law officers. The motion was passed in this House to that effect, and I think the Minister of Justice will be dealing with this sometime in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question O832-12(2): Training Program For By-law Officers

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. M.A.C.A. is directly involved with the municipalities within the territories. I am sure M.A.C.A. is very responsive to the communities within

the territories. Would the Minister tell me, and inform the House, that he will do everything he can on this request, which has been requested by a number of communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

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Further Return To Question O832-12(2): Training Program For By-law Officers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Gargan.

Question O833-12(2): Status Of Policy For Hunters

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Welcome back, Dennis.

On a previous occasion, I have commented in this House about the policy that has been established by the Workers' Compensation Board to define who is, and who is not, a hunter for the purposes of section 10-1 of the Act. On June 23, I reminded the Minister that this policy had been ruled as contrary to the spirit of the legislation by the board's own appeal committee. The Minister assured me that he would have a new policy in place by the end of this summer. He also took my supplementary as notice when I asked him what the board was using in place of the policy.

Since the Minister, and the board, have had the summer to work over the new policy, could I ask the Minister today, what action he has taken to replace the previous definition of who is principally engaged as a traditional hunter, trapper or fisherman?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O833-12(2): Status Of Policy For Hunters

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, since this issue was last discussed in this Legislature, there have been some other major issues and problems that have occurred at the Workers' Compensation Board, and I must inform the Member that my expectations that we would have a new policy in place by the end of the summer may have been a bit optimistic.

I can tell the Member, however, that the matter has been worked on intensively by the Workers' Compensation Board. Our government, principally the Department of Renewable Resources, and I do believe they are close to a solution, but it has not yet been finalized. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O833-12(2): Status Of Policy For Hunters

MR. GARGAN:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what guidelines has the board had, to make its decision on which hunter and trapper claims should be compensated?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O833-12(2): Status Of Policy For Hunters

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, as I understand the work that is being done, the criteria for measuring injury will be the same as is applied to any other accident in any other work place. There will be no special definitions of injury, and disability, for hunters. They will be treated the same as any other person that comes to the W.C.B. for coverage.

Secondly, the board is working on a definition of hunter, which is done locally at the community level, and not be some distant claims adjudicator or other remote person.

Thirdly, the committee working on this issue has agreed that it will be necessary to expand the

coverage criteria, to make it easier for more hunters to be covered, than were covered under the previous policy.

Having said all that, the setting of an appropriate income level for determining awards for injured persons may well have to be adjusted for hunters, and may well have to be special for hunters, as compared to other workers.

That is what I can tell the Member about the directions that are being taken. I am told that the work is close to being concluded, within weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O834-12(2): Honorarium For Social Services Committee Members

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I want to ask the Minister of Social Services. I am not sure what the policies are, as an M.L.A. here in the territories or across Canada, there are committees under social services. Many of them have fallen, this could be due to shortage of funding, or perhaps there is a new policy in place. They used to have committees, and they would get \$25, they have been reduced to receiving \$5.

I wonder if the Minister of Social Services can respond to whether this is a new policy for Social Services Committee Members. We understand that they now receive \$5, and I was asked to bring this forward to the Minister of Social Services. Is this a new policy, to reduce the honorarium? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If he is unable to respond today, I hope that he will be able to do so during the sitting of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I will note the Member's desire to have an answer before the end of this session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister had put forth his Minister's statement regarding the meeting of the Committee of Political Leaders, in respect to the working document that he presented to the House, tabled in the House, last June, regarding the commissions report, and Working Towards a Common Future.

He indicated in this House, that I.R.C. was going to develop a work plan and interim budget for consideration of the Members. At the time, he also indicated that he tabled the report, and he would like to take time to discuss it in committee of the whole, during this session.

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I would like to ask the Minister, when does he intend to bring this document into committee of the whole and discuss it further, to get the Members' viewpoints on that particular document? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, when the Committee of Political Leaders met it was their wish that at some time, this Session, or the November session, if it has to be then, they wanted an opportunity to speak directly to the Members of the Legislature, on their views of the commission report, to submit a work plan, perhaps an interim budget, and where do we go from here, following the completion of the first phase of the work that Mr. Bourque, and the other commissioners, were tasked with.

It is my view, that once we have the document that all Members of that committee agreed with, in terms of a work plan and an interim budget on what they require to continue proceeding with the work, that we could, perhaps, tie that in with a recommendation to the Legislature on when would be the best possible date for discussion on that commission report.

I do not have a specific date, but once we have a plan, then it would seem to make sense to me that we would try to set a certain day for discussions on the commission report, and moving it into committee of the whole, inviting representatives of the Inuvialuit, the regions of the Dene and the Metis, and other members of the committee, so that they can address the Members directly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister indicated to this House, this work plan is to be developed, and is being developed by I.R.C. on the recommendation of the political leaders, without consultation of the M.L.A.s.

Can I ask the Minister, whether or not he is waiting for a work plan, the draft work plan, that they have requested, before he considers bringing forth the document Working Towards a Common Future for our discussion, and our viewpoints. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the commission report has been discussed by some of the aboriginal organizations, and I know at least the Dene Nation, which did not have a duly constituted assembly this summer. I cannot say that they have had an in-depth discussion

of the commission report, stating item by item. I do not know if any of the groups can say that.

It was the view of the leaders that gathered, the other week, that generally the report was well received. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation was asked to take the first shot at drafting what could be summarized as the initial thoughts of the group, on where we should go from here. That is, phase two of the commission was contemplated to be of the same magnitude as what just finished this spring. To get a final blueprint on what a constitution for a western territory should be, and how everybody would fit into that.

The draft work plan is going to look at how the different regions see the different work being done. It may not necessarily be another commission requiring the kind of money that the last commission used. It is going to be looked at, I guess we will be asked to consider it, as well. If the Members want to initiate discussion earlier on it, I would welcome suggestions.

It is not a difficulty, it is just that, in my view, I had suggested I did not think it would be proper for this Legislature to take a position on the commission report until after the aboriginal people, and the people of the communities, have had a chance to look at the report and respond. I thought not to upstage the other Members, and come to a position that would...

So, that is the offer that I had made, and that is why there is no rush on my part to get into a discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat concerned of the process that we developed. Basically, what has happened is that we have had a report tabled in this House, that the Legislative Assembly, and the government, has spent probably a million dollars on. It has been tabled, and never brought forth to committee of the whole.

Political leaders have taken it upon themselves to develop a work plan, with the input of M.L.A.'s comments, or concerns, in regards to the initial document. Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of the initial

draft work plan, and I am concerned that there is nothing in respect to Metis people in the territories, and I know that it is only a draft. So, I would like ask the Minister, again, Mr. Speaker, when does he intend to bring forth the document Working Towards a Common Future for Members' discussions, and comments, in this House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the view that has been taken historically with regard to constitutional development in the north, is that in respect to specific aboriginal groups, it is those aboriginal groups that are mandated to represent those people in claims negotiations and constitutional negotiations, that we speak for them. In the case of the Metis, it is a bit overlapped right now in that the Metis Association has historically taken that role.

I do not think they are lax in their diligence at all, but the Gwich'in Tribal Council has taken the view that they represent all descendants of the Gwich'in, regardless of whether they are of treaty or Metis status. The Sahtu Tribal Council also represents the Metis locals of that region, and have motions endorsing the view that the Sahtu Tribal Council speaks for all Dene and Metis, in the region, in

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regards to claims negotiations, political, and constitutional issues.

As far as this Legislature is concerned, we have, at least I have, taken the view that we should give the aboriginal groups the comfort of trying to take some lead in these discussions, and not try to pressure them or suggest that we should have a larger say in it at all. We should take some comfort that it is community leaders, it is regional leaders, and it is duly elected leaders specifically mandated to represent aboriginal groups that are giving us some suggestions. That is what this draft work plan is.

I would suggest that the work plan is something that can be responded to, if the Member wants to make suggestions to that, and we can look at tabling that.

My view is that it may be something more appropriately done as a caucus issue, since I sit in this committee representing the government, and Mr. Dent has been there representing the Legislature's ordinary Members. We have known for some time that this arrangement may need to be revisited, so that can be discussed in some context, as well.

You bring up the question of whether the Metis had been adequately dealt with or not. I know one of the Members of the committee, Mr. Dent, had raised the issue of whether municipalities are being treated adequately, or not, in this process. Whatever process we set up, it is my view, this community of political leaders is charged with overseeing the constitutional process much in the same way that the Constitutional Alliance had some years ago. We are one Member, or Members, of this committee not chairing it, not directing it, just being a part of it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I should correct the Minister, it is not the Metis Association, I believe it is the Metis Nation. They changed their name well over a year ago. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Gwich'in and the Sahtu Tribal Council, the Deh Cho, the Dene and the Metis, I am trying to ask a question to the Minister. This Minister is in charge of Aboriginal Affairs, he is basically responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs.

He is trying to ensure that we have a package for the western Arctic, and I am basically going to outright ask him, where and when in the process do elected M.L.A.s become involved in developing this package for this Legislative Assembly? Currently, it is being done by the political leaders without the consideration of the M.L.A.s' comments, on whether we think the Working Towards a Common Future document is good, bad, acceptable, or non-acceptable.

So, I would like to ask the Minister when will he take the time to allow M.L.A.s to express their comments regarding that document?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O835-12(2): Committee Of Political Leaders Working Document Discussed In Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the work plan is in a very rough draft form, which, I think, is what the Member has in her hands. All of the Members of the political committee are going to voice their views on the context, the content, and the outline, of that paper as it is written. Following that, if there is sufficient reason to believe most of the Members are in line with it, then it will go to, I think, a committee meeting, and it would be discussed. I think if the Member wants, I can table a final draft that is going to go to the next meeting of political leaders for discussion, as a way to get input from the Members, then that is what we can do.

The fact is, right now, this Legislature is the one that has the dollars to continue the process, or to shut it down, because the submission is going to be made to this Legislature. I think, if the Member wants input at this stage, and she wants to do it here in the Legislature, then that is fine.

It is rather awkward because, as I say, the last submission that was made by this group was made directly to this Legislature, and it was abruptly approved with dispatch, as somebody said last week. I am not certain that this is the process for it, but I have no difficulty with the suggestion, and I would be prepared to do it. I just do not want to get into a debate with Members about what the process should be.

We are trying to go with the flow, and I think give them whatever comfort we can, to let them make suggestions on how the work should be done on the next phase, or how they think phase two of the constitutional development of the territories should proceed, the western territories. Let us say, that it is not Members of the eastern Arctic who are going to watch, with some interest, because it will not directly affect them, but they know that people will come cap in hand to this Legislature for the money. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development if he, or any of his Cabinet colleagues, have received any documents that were to be forwarded, or considered by Cabinet, to outline the direction, and establish a policy, to guide the discussions and negotiations on the community transfer initiatives?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the implementation plan and paper that described the approach this government wishes to take in regard to community transfer initiatives is being finalized to go to Cabinet, I believe, this week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Can the Minister indicate whether or not he received any previous documents that were, in fact, intended to be brought forward and considered by Cabinet, other than the one that is being proposed for this week?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, in my earlier statement, I forgot to mention that the paper that is being prepared

this week, will go to the working group made up of the Premier, myself, Mr. Antoine, and Mr. Koe, as was anticipated and expected by this Legislature.

Following that, if there is an agreement, it will go to Cabinet, and once approved, it will land in this Legislature as it was requested.

There are other papers that have been developed. None of them have gotten anywhere close to Cabinet, yet. They all have been reviewed, rewritten, changed, and regurgitated. Parts have been reworded, omitted, retitled, reorganized. New definitions have come in, but none of them, I would say, have come anywhere close to going to Cabinet because, I think, the internal working that has been at play here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Did the Minister, himself, have knowledge of those documents, and did the Minister review those documents?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, all the work that the staff within my ministry do, and the drafts, come to my desk. They bring them up for discussion. They are reviewed by other senior officials within the department, deputy ministers, people from the central agencies, and there are many drafts and rewrites, and it is safe to say, that I probably have seen them all. I do not think they are all separate documents. They have been updated, changed, and rewritten on quite a number of occasions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification, could the honourable Member indicate to me why he has indicated to this House, and the public, that there have been no documents produced, dealing with the matter of the community transfer initiatives?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O836-12(2): Cabinet Review Of Community Transfer Initiatives

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, if I ever did say something like that, it would simply be in the context that there has been no document that has had the approval of Cabinet, and is now in existence. It was probably the context in which I would have made such a statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Dent.

Question O837-12(2): Representation On Committee Of Political Leaders

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little concerned that, perhaps, a misunderstanding may have been left in the minds of some Members in this House with one of the answers we heard earlier, to a question by Mrs. Marie-Jewell. So, my question to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Constitutional Development is, is the Minister not aware that my presence on the Committee of Political Leaders is to represent only four Members of this Legislature, and not all the ordinary Members.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O837-12(2): Representation On Committee Of Political Leaders

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, when the Constitutional Alliance was formed back in 1981, I think, it was a view at that time that the aboriginal organizations of the territories would represent the aboriginal people, and that the role of the Legislature would be to represent the general public, and specifically, the non-aboriginal residents of the Northwest Territories.

When the Constitutional Alliance folded about two or three years ago, there was really nothing to replace it, but in trying to keep up with whatever momentum we had left, there was some resurrection of interest, which resulted in the establishment of a commission some time ago, it was an informal arrangement at the time. There were two people, two M.L.A.s or, a Minister and an M.L.A. would sit on the Committee of Political Leaders, and that was sort of negotiated, and accepted, by the political leaders, at that time. The Member is correct that he is, in fact, there to reassure the non-aboriginal M.L.A.s, that their interests will be represented. The possibility is there for that, but, in fact, we are looking, also, for the larger public interest here.

This is a very informal arrangement. There is no Constitution, no rules, other than just a political agreement that we who gather together under the title of the Committee of Political Leaders will accept that we are, in the absence of anybody else right now, choosing to work together to work on political and constitutional issues of all people of the western territory.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the medical patients, in the church project which was started by church people from the N.W.T., who were sent south for medical treatments, particularly for the treatment of T.B., some never returned. Often the families of those people never knew where, when, or even if they died.

Mr. Speaker, although this project was terminated in March, 1991, the department stated that they would continue to investigate requests for information from lost families' members.

Could the Minister tell me if the department has received any further requests since the project was terminated, and whether those requests are being investigated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

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Return To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes to both questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those people buried down south, have been listed, there is about 68 Inuit buried there. How long have those lists been available to people, are there limited years that information is available?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question: 0838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of work has been done by the Department of Health. This was an initiative of the previous Minister, Madam Cournoyea.

Quite a lot of information has been discovered, although, unfortunately, some of the requests did result in a lack of information about some of those patients. Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's questions, I believe that where information has been

gathered, it should continue to be made available, readily by the department, to those persons who are anxious to get information about patients who got lost in the south.

As far as I am concerned, there should be no time limit on responses to requests for information, especially if that is information already in hand. There should be no time limit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That means that those people who died, in the early 1950s, 1960s, and even 1970s, if the family requests that the body, or coffin, be moved to their communities, are they still available? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, as I understand this program, it was designed to get information to families about what might have happened to a patient that left the north, in a situation where a family lost touch with that patient.

As I understood the program, it was to provide information about what became of that patient. Mr. Speaker, it was never a part of the program to bury deceased persons in the north, or to move the deceased from the south to the north. The program was only to let families know what became of those patients, where contact was lost. That was never part of the program, therefore, it has never been available. Unless the program changes, that particular service would not be available in the future under this program. It is an information program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

This is your last supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

MR. PUDLUK:

My final supplementary, this program was started because those families were still hunting for their relatives, even if they had died. Now, a lot of families have found out where they are buried. Today, they are asking if the body is still there. In 1950s, they could not afford to request the body be brought back at that time. Today, they may wish to, and can afford to bring the body back. Is the body still there, so that they can bring that body back to their communities? Does the Minister know if those bodies are still available? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O838-12(2): Requests For Search Of Missing Medical Patients

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to assist the Member in getting an answer to that question, if he could give me specific information about which family is concerned, and which patient. I would be glad to try to answer those questions, and I understand what the question is. I would be glad to assist. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O839-12(2): Government Leader's Attendance At Mines Conference

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources to confirm that when we closed on Friday, she proceeded to a mines conference in the Yukon?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O839-12(2): Government Leader's Attendance At Mines Conference

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 20, at 10 o'clock, I left for the meeting in Whitehorse, and spent the day and evening at the meeting. After the evening meeting, which concluded at 9:30 a.m., we got back on the plane at 10:30 p.m. to return to Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O839-12(2): Government Leader's Attendance At Mines Conference

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister whether she took the opportunity, while she was at this meeting, to explain to Mr. Epp, the Minister responsible for Mining, if she had the opportunity to discuss with him the concerns that we have here in this city about the whole mining business, and to use his good offices to explain the seriousness of it to his Cabinet colleagues.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O839-12(2): Government Leader's Attendance At Mines Conference

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, when I brought up the issue in broad terms to the meeting that evening, after the conclusion of the meeting, I spent about 45 minutes with Mr. Jake Epp talking about this particular

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thing, and this is the topic we talked about mostly, and how he should be using his offices to bring the situation to the attention of the other colleagues on our behalf.

We had a long discussion, he committed himself to do that, and apparently today, there was a conference telephone call between various Ministers responsible, and he was on the telephone in that conference call which, I understand, has just been concluded a few minutes ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O840-12(2): Plans To Control Bison

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have noticed that during the last several summers, we have been having an increasing population of bison in my constituency, and the municipality itself, on the road to the airport, even in the airport. I have just been reading an article, written by Kevin Lloyd, a native person, in which he states that irregardless of whether they are brucellosis free or tuberculosis free, they could still contract that disease.

I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there are any plans --- oh, by the way, I got your can of muskox meat -- any plans to maybe put some kind of control over where these bison are roaming. Are there any plans?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O840-12(2): Plans To Control Bison

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the bison in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary are disease free, we have established a zone, we call it a bison free zone, where, if we see a buffalo, the buffalo will be terminated, if it is possible. That buffalo zone is across the lake, across from Fort Providence. We noticed, starting last spring, that the buffalo are moving inland from the Falaise Lake area closer to the Fort Providence community because of the high water this year, and they are looking for a field where they can feed.

Also, because of the reconstruction of the highway, widening of the right of way, that promotes new feeding grounds for bison, which has been a problem. Also, I am looking at legislation change so that the quota might be increased from 40 up to 60, and also, I am looking at, for Fort Providence people only, a legislation change that would allow them to harvest bison northwest of the highway. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O840-12(2): Plans To Control Bison

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response that the Minister has given me, however, there is a problem right now with the bison roaming into the community itself. The access road to the community have bison roaming in there, the airport also have bison roaming in those areas and increasingly, Mr. Speaker, the bison have been going toward the Mackenzie River, so that you see them all along the highways and the winter crossings.

Increasingly, they are probably going to be going to the other side and getting themselves shot. My main concern is with regard to the immediate surrounding of Fort Providence in which there are a substantial number. I would like to ask the Minister if they have done any preventative programs so that they do not have to be seen in the immediate area.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O840-12(2): Plans To Control Bison

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the problem and, it is a problem. I heard the other day that the power plant operator woke up in the morning and there were two bison on his lot he had to "shoo" away before he got out of his driveway. Yes, it is a real problem that bison are going into the airport, and also on the access road to Fort Providence. What I have asked the department to do, is look at prescribed burnings so that the habitat could be improved in other areas further from the community of Fort Providence.

They have tried, along with the community involvement, to burn an area, but the weather was too cold. So, Mr. Speaker, the department will try to do that again in the spring. Plus, I would like to say that I will work with the community, and also the Member for that community, to see how we could solve that particular problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. New question, Mr. Gargan.

Question O841-12(2): Plans To Upgrade Mackenzie Highway

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, during the last several weeks I have been travelling back and forth between here and Fort Providence and I have also been doing my share of driving there, and it gets me muddy mad at the conditions...

---Laughter

...at the conditions in which the road is in. I realize that we did have several months of rain and snow, and that has caused a dangerous situation. But, last weekend, when I went to Providence, I have a four wheel drive, and I practically got stuck in a section in which there was six inches of mud that you had to go through. The Minister did indicate that in 1987, or 1985, I think, he would be working on that section of it. That is fine, really. I am happy that something is going to be done in the future.

My main concern is what is going to be done, now, with regard to the condition of the road, in that particular section, that is between Chan Lake, and Birch Creek.

MR. SPEAKER:

I could suggest to Members that the word "bloody" is considered to be an unparliamentary ...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Muddy...

MR. SPEAKER:

Now that it has been clarified, for the Members' edification, in case anyone is interested, bloody is unparliamentary. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O841-12(2): Plans To Upgrade Mackenzie Highway

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, the road was muddy over the last several days, and particularly the last week, because of the snow and rain we have been having on the highway, and that section, that the

Member so accurately describes is, indeed, a problem area, Mr. Speaker.

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It is subject to reconstruction in the next couple of years. It is the area that I think is referred to as Birch Lake/Birch Creek. It floods annually because of its low nature. It has two large eskers on either end of it, it is a natural flow-way for water, and it has been a problem as a tremendous amount of reconstruction has to take place in there.

In the meantime, I think in the past year, a lot of fill has been put in there to try and stabilize it, and indeed, at one point dikes had been built to keep the water from flowing across the road. This is, perhaps, what the Member is referring to.

We will ensure that as soon as the road is dry enough, we will have the graders in there to prepare as best we can for winter, before it freezes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. In future, I will muddy well pay attention.

---Laughter

Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O81-12(2): Plans To Upgrade Mackenzie Highway

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my concerns, Mr. Speaker, is after this, the muddy condition could cause an accident which might be bloody. So, that is my main concern.

Mr. Speaker, when you get to that section of the road, you cannot control a vehicle, so if there are oncoming vehicles, and you do get out of control, there could be an accident. That is my main concern. It is muddy now, but perhaps if they covered it with gravel to eliminate that condition, it may help you to control your vehicle better. It was difficult for me to control my vehicle when I was passing other vehicles, and that is a dangerous situation to be in.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford.

Further Return To Question O841-12(2): Plans To Upgrade Mackenzie Highway

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the situation that the Member is presenting, and I will endeavour to get more specific details as to the exact location, if it is indeed the one we are describing, and see what can be done to have a layer of gravel put on before winter comes along.

MR. SPEAKER:

Time for oral questions has elapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 38-12(2): Statistics On N.W.T. Power Corporation

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, return to written question 38-12(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo, is to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, concerning statistics on the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the committee, I would like to table Tabled Document 97-12(2), which is a letter to the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, dated September 23, 1992, concerning the Giant Mine strike. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: tabled document 9-12(2), Strength at

Two Levels; tabled document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; tabled document 62-12(2), Report on Northwest Territories Operations at Expo '92 as at May 31, 1992; tabled document 70-12(2), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; motion 6, Discussion on Sobriety Clause in Contribution Agreements; committee report 10-12(2), Special Committee on Constitutional Reform Report on the Multilateral Conference on the Constitution; committee report 17-12(2), Report on the Review of the 1992/93 Main Estimates; committee report 18-12(2), Multilateral Meetings on the Constitution and First Ministers' - Aboriginal Leaders' Conferences on the Constitution; Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Insurance Act; Bill 31, an Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93; Minister's statement 82-12(2), Update on National Constitutional Reform Negotiations, with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, the committee will now come to order. I understand we are dealing in committee with Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93. We are also dealing with committee report 17-12(2), tabled on September 14, 1992, and we were dealing with the Department of Education yesterday, when we concluded that department. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to suggest that we deal with committee report 17-12(2), and Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93 and proceed to dealing with the Department of Culture and Communications.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. You suggest that in that order, right? Thank you. We will be proceeding with the committee report 17-12(2), Bill 33 and Department of Culture and Communications, in that order.

We shall take a short recess before we proceed.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to remind each Member of the House, that during the proceeding of the committee of the whole, no Member shall speak for more than ten minutes at any one time. This is a rule of the Legislative Assembly, section 88(1). This is in order to give each Member a chance to speak to the item on the table.

We are proceeding with the 1992-93 main estimates and the Department of Culture and Communications, page 05-11. A book has been appropriately provided for each Member. Mr. Minister, would you like to make an opening statement?

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Introductory Remarks, Department Of Culture And Communications

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce the 1992-93 operation and maintenance budget for Culture and Communications.

Although consolidation is proceeding to establish the new Department responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs, at this stage two separate budgets for Culture and Communications, and Education are being presented to this Assembly.

In the case of the Culture and Communications, there are two areas which appear in the budget now, but are scheduled for transfer to other Ministries. Those are the publications and production activities, which is transferring to the new Department responsible for Public Works and Government Services. The official languages task of directorate is being transferred to the Executive. I will retain responsibility for all other culture programs.

Mr. Chairman, the budget presented for Culture and Communications, is directed at preserving, promoting, developing official languages, northern culture and the arts, and improving broadcast communications in the Northwest Territories.

To achieve this, we are seeking a budget of \$10.665 million, and 100 PYs. This is a reduction of \$701,000, and 1.9 PYs from last year, before the transfers and reductions from the departmental consolidation.

One actual transfer is reflected in the Culture and Communications budget. The government library task has been transferred from Culture and

Communications to the Legislative Assembly in 1992-93.

Funding person years, and comparative figures for the government library, now appear in the Legislative Assembly estimates. The combining of government and legislative library operations will increase efficiency by utilizing professional staff more effectively.

One of the major achievements in public library services, last year, was the completion and opening of the new Baffin Regional Library facility as part of the Unikkaarvik Centre in Iqaluit. The centre successfully combines a visitors centre, local library, and regional library service. The 1992-93 budget includes funds for additional staffing at the Unikkaarvik Centre to provide improved service to Iqaluit, and to the other Baffin community libraries.

This year we are developing a policy that will give the highest priority to a sharing of space with schools or other suitable community facilities when new libraries are required.

Community participation in both facility planning and operational procedures, is being encouraged to ensure that libraries, and the delivery of library services, are designed to serve the needs of the general public; as well as more specific education needs. Our new consolidated department offers good opportunities for more efficient programming in this area.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to providing basic interpreting and translating services to the government and the Legislative Assembly, our language bureau made important gains last year in properly documenting aboriginal language terminologies. Terminology workshops were held in the Kitikmeot, Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope, Rae-Edzo and Hay River. Language specialists, and elders, were sponsored to develop terminology that is acceptable for translating purposes. The goal is to improve the accuracy of interpreting and translating, by involving fluent speakers of the languages in establishment of terminology banks that are used by our interpreter/translators, and made available to others.

Following up on the work done last year, during 1992-93, we will be able to transmit documents in the aboriginal orthographies between computers in all government regional offices. This will allow us to speedily maximize the use of the translators,

depending on their current workload, wherever they are located.

During the year ahead, the department will also continue to support the interpreter/translator society of the N.W.T. with its initiative to develop standard competency tests for aboriginal languages interpreters. High priority is placed on the development and implementation of certification standards for interpreters, and our new consolidated department will facilitate a coordinated approach in this area.

Less money in this year's budget will cost the language bureau to concentrate more on its primary mandate, and it will be offering less services in kind to non-government organizations. There will be less travel and contracting, with trimming in this area done proportionately more at Yellowknife than in the regions.

The museum developed a new data base for Northwest Territories graphic names, which will be used to obtain official recognition of our traditional place names. The department is also developing a geographic names contribution program, which we plan to introduce this year. This program will provide financial assistance for researchers in the communities, to provide the information on aboriginal geographic names. The funding for this is available through the Official Languages Agreement with the federal government.

Mr. Chairman, there is growing demand from the culture and arts community for assistance to promote, protect, and enhance, our culture and heritage. We continue to believe that it is important to get that support out to the people who can better achieve those goals.

Last year, we were able to provide about \$500,000 in grants and contributions to cultural organizations, and individuals, throughout the N.W.T. Arts Council. Another \$219,000 was provided to support various artistic endeavours.

In the year ahead, we will be more stringent in monitoring cultural grants and contributions, to ensure that the funds are being used for the intended purposes. Since restraint has meant some trimming in this area, we will make a special effort to assist clients with information about other funding program resources and how to access them, and with ideas for fund raising for private and voluntary sectors.

Mr. Chairman, when Television Northern Canada went on the air for the first time in January, it was a proud moment for all northern residents, and also for our own television and radio service division. They had worked hand in hand with the aboriginal broadcasters, and our partners in the Yukon Government, to create the new service for northerners.

Not only were our efforts critical in the planning and the development stages of T.V.N.C., but we are playing an important role in ensuring that there is a good mix of educational and informational programming on the new network.

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In the year ahead, we plan to continue providing the youth oriented series, "The Tube", to T.V.N.C. This show reflects the positive side of living and growing up in the north, profiling successful young people, cultural camps, sporting events, as well as serious topics, such as staying in school, and dealing with alcohol problems.

The department will also be coordinating the provision of nine hours a week of programming from all areas of the G.N.W.T., including regional and acquired materials, and materials co-produced with aboriginal broadcasters and the private sector.

Aboriginal language funding provides aboriginal language versions of acquired programs in Inuktitut, North and South Slavey, Dogrib, Ojibwayan and Gwich'in. Mr. Chairman, a significant part of Culture and Communication funding is through the Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages this government has with the federal Secretary of State.

In 1992-93 the Culture and Communications' share of this funding is \$3.219 million. This includes \$2.522 million and 22 PYs related to aboriginal languages, and \$1.687 million and 15 PYs related to French. The great majority of this funding will remain in the new consolidated Department responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs with approximately \$675,000 scheduled for transfer to the Executive.

In addition to providing the necessary internal government requirements during 1992-93, funding under this agreement will be able to support community based Language Enhancement Programs through contributions. Mr. Chairman, during the year ahead, the department will continue to strive to

ensure that the cultural heritage of the Northwest Territories is promoted and enhanced, and is reflected in the programs and service that we offer.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my introductory remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions and also, any time you wish, I could bring in the witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. As part of the committee's tradition and procedure, now I will go to the Standing Committee on Finance. I believe Ms. Mike is making presentations. Ms. Mike.

Committee Motion 157-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 8

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to proceed with a number of resolutions on behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance. Committee Members noted that the private sector can capably handle government publication, production and photography requirements. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Culture and Communication include an objective in the 1993-94 main estimates to privatize publication, production and photography by March 31, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

On library legislation, the department lists an objective in the 1992-93 main estimates to develop a new library legislation for the N.W.T. The committee fails to see the need for library legislation. There is no hue and cry from the public for it, contrary to the best intentions, it is not good government to expend its resources, and conduct activities for which there is no significant public need.

This request pales in significance, compared to social program needs. Further, the committee is concerned that the Northwest Territories may already be over regulated with unnecessary legislation and that

department's blatant use of the existence of legislation to entrench programs and drive resource requests.

Committee Motion 158-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 9

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Culture and Communications terminates its objective to develop library legislation and freeze unrelated resources. Further, the committee recommends that the Cabinet coordinate a review of all legislation to determine whether it is a valid requirement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe the motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed.

Committee Motion 159-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 10

MS. MIKE:

On the Baffin regional superintendent, the committee Members noted that there is an inequity with the rest of the territories by having a Baffin regional superintendent for Culture and Communications, and very little justification for keeping the position. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Culture and Communications terminate the position of Baffin Regional Superintendent in time for the 1993-94 main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Please, proceed.

Committee Motion 160-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 11

MS. MIKE:

Measuring output and effect, the committee wishes to know what the department is going to accomplish with the money put into Culture and Communications

programs. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Culture and Communications report at the minimum, the following performance measurements in the 1993-94 main estimates: One, indicators of client satisfaction; two, trends in cultural retention; three, use of statistics of libraries, museums and the language bureau and; four, communication results statistics.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the resolutions.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments. We are discussing Culture and Communications on the main estimates of 1992-93. Any general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Chairman, I do not have any major general comments to make other than to ask, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could provide this House, and this committee, with a detailed summary of all of the expenditures that have been made as a result of the language agreement with the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, I forgot to ask you. Would you like to bring in the witnesses? Are you saying, Mr. Minister, that you will respond to Mr. Nerysoo, and then proceed with your witnesses? Carry on.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Please proceed. Are you looking for something, Mr. Minister? Just kidding. The Chair would like to welcome the witnesses and the staff of the Department of Culture and Communications. For the

record, Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Mr. Hal Gerein, my Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs; Mr. David Gilday, Assistant Deputy Minister of Culture; and Mr. Bill Setchell, Director of Finance for Culture.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would you like to respond to Mr. Nerysoo? Or, Mr. Nerysoo, would you like to rephrase your question again? Mr. Nerysoo, would you like to ask the same question? He has brought the witnesses.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. I do not know about the matter of doing it again, but if I could, Mr. Chairman, pose the concern, or matter, to the Minister, and his officials. I wanted to ask the Minister if he could provide me with a summary of all the projects, or proposals, that have been approved, and for which financing has been agreed to, through the language agreement for aboriginal language development?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, the answer I give is yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, generally speaking, I just want to ask if the Minister of the department has proceeded to develop a policy on the protection of heritage buildings in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, during the current fiscal year, the museum heritage division will be developing an

amendment to the Historic Resources Act. One of the areas to be investigated for incorporation into the legislation will be responsible for the preservation of historic buildings. Once the amendments have been finalized, the department will prepare operating procedures for funding restorations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the departmental goals is the cultural and artistic endeavours of northern residents to be encouraged and promoted. I keep seeing disturbing trends, with regards to that particular area, and one of them is with regard with the N.W.T. Arts Council.

I think all Members received letters from them on it, and in there, it seems that even though the cultural and artistic values of the aboriginal people in that area is very cherished, and very important, it seems to be taken as the departmental goal to eliminate that program altogether. The intention is that since 1989, for example, the contributions were first of all cut by 27 percent, 29 percent the following year, and now there is a total of about 42 percent in that same program.

So, I would like to ask whether or not, it is the intention of the department to eventually just get rid of that program altogether.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer will be the same as other answers that have been given, that this program like any other program, has to take its share of the cuts that we were requested to perform. My answer would be absolutely not, this will not be taken out altogether, because it is still important, and the goals and objectives still will exist. I know we are not feeding enough funding required here. We could do more, but at this time, fiscal restraint makes it very hard to keep that up to par, so that is why we have taken those cuts, like every other section of the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I appreciate the response, but the government, in its infinite wisdom, have chosen to cut a program in half, that is very dear to the aboriginal people, and it has been the target area in which most of the cuts will take place.

I would also like to remind the Minister that the cuts started back in 1988-89, and continued, so we did not have a fiscal restraint even at that time, but the cuts have been since ongoing, and a big brunt of those cuts have been this year.

I think that I am sure, although a majority of the Members here are aboriginal people, and this government's concern about aboriginal culture, and all those nice words, that behind all that is just another way of making the government seem to care about the cultures and arts of northerners, but, in fact, we are really not doing too much in that area. I think this is sort of a token program now, as opposed to maybe a good program that started quite some time ago.

I am not sure, but I think that the way the cuts are going, it is like Mr. Antoine said, every community, every aboriginal group, in some way, are very distinct to others. Even their language is different, their customs are slightly different, and so in order to maintain that very unique distinction, we need programs to promote the cultural or artistic talents of those people.

With the limited amount, we can see that the survival of that distinctiveness will diminish if we continue to diminish monies, specifically, to try to promote and encourage aboriginal culture and art.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to that?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very short one. I will not attempt make legitimate, or defend what has been happening in the past, what cuts have been taking place.

However, regarding this year's cut backs, and all the fiscal restraints, we have been asked to cut back ten percent of the programs. The Member will appreciate that cultural contribution segment has been cut back only eight percent, and not ten percent.

So, I assure the Member that there will be no voluntary, other than restraint, attempt to undermine the validity, or the importance, of the cultural programs that we contribute to the communities. The department is not the only one that has been promoting it. We have a \$200,000 contribution to the Dene Cultural Institute that also promotes cultural programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, in his response, the Minister did indicate that he is not going to try to justify why reductions are made in the past, with regard to the N.W.T. Arts Council.

It is the past that we should be concerned about, because by eliminating or reducing programs that do specialize in those areas, like stories, music, whatever the case may be, we are not going to have a past, or a future. I do not think, by reducing, that you are helping, promoting, encouraging, or maintaining, those cultural values, and the artistic values of residents up here. That is one on my concerns.

The other thing that I would like to ask the Minister is, whether or not under the language bureau, or the official languages section of the department, will have the Languages Commissioner here as a witness?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

I am not in power to ask for that particular witness in my department. We will have to wait for the other departments to appear before you. The Legislative Assembly is responsible for official languages, if you remember the decision that was made at the 12th Assembly.

As I stated, Mr. Chairman, we are participants of the reduction in spending in order to balance the budget

two years from now. We are participants of that one, however, I stated in my presentation, just a few minutes ago, I said that we will make a special effort to assist clients with information about other funding program sources, how to access them, and give them ideas for fund raising from the private and volunteer sectors. There is other cultural organizations, or culturally oriented programs, such as federal Secretary of State, U.N.E.S.C.O., and other organizations that other agencies use. What we are saying, is that we are not backing out from it, because we are also lacking funding to fulfil all the obligations, or all the other requests from Northwest Territories. What we will say, is that because we are short of funding, there are other agencies elsewhere in Canada, or abroad, who are interested in assisting with the item, exactly what Mr. Gargan is talking about.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

This year, I have seen copies of an agreement, a three year agreement, with regard to the French and aboriginal languages. I do not have the agreement in front of me, but how much are we getting in the next three years under that agreement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, we do not have the agreement in front of us either for French, and aboriginal languages. We could get back to the Member as quickly as we can. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe a copy will be provided to the Member. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Irregardless of what the numbers are, I want to know from the Minister, whether or not, due to the restraint, the numbers on the agreement have been changed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. It is because of the restraint that the numbers have been lowered. Proceed, Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they have not been reduced, this has been negotiated, and it has not reflected in the restraint.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Under the agreement, itself then, has there been any sections in regard to the promotion of culture?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with the cultural contributions that we would give out, there is a specific criteria for that, to protect those people, or the groups. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the difficulties I find, with regard to the department itself, is with regard, again, to the responsibility of cultural related activities to provide language, graphics design, publishing, audio-visual services, to all departments and agencies, and the delivery of programs to the public, museums, public libraries, television, and radio activity.

This again, I have problems with. In my constituency, we have one interpreter, one Dene language interpreter specifically for my area. He works in Hay River, and he lives on the reserve. He has to drive 15 miles every summer, every day, to go to work. At least 30 miles a day in order to get to and from work. He does not get any compensation for it, I have asked for that, and I have not received the courtesy of a response, with regard to that particular person. There was also a motion passed by the reserve to have the government, maybe get an agreement, so that they could provide office space for that individual on the

reserve, where he lives and where he would prefer to work.

I would like to ask, whether or not, in different regions, or different communities, there is now a trend in aboriginal businesses, using leases? We seem to be finding that very difficult for those communities to take responsibility, in my opinion, of the programs that are directly for them, and that they have ownership of. It is not happening. All the graphics and designs are delivering an aboriginal value in a white institution. When I learned about the rabbit, the teacher did not show me a picture of a rabbit, and I said it in Slavey. I was out there as part of my culture to learn my language, as part of my daily duties. I really get confused over the two concepts, and why the government is so keen on thinking that their teaching methods of aboriginal culture and language are the best.

They do give appraisals for that to the aboriginal people who work in those fields. But, the methodology of delivering the program is foreign. You have to actually learn those techniques to become experts in that area, and then you try to

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apply it at the community level, which I find very difficult for people to see. It is difficult, Mr. Chairman, to see how it is possible that two very different cultures could be taught by the same method. It just does not work.

I think that the sooner the government recognizes that, and the sooner they allow something to materialize in that area, you will always be put in a situation of thinking that we are the ones that know best, as a government, what the aboriginal people should have and should not have. Part of what we know best is we know about the Dene people, we know about their culture, and we know the methods in which we should deliver that culture. And it never allows the communities to determine that.

This is the difficulty I am having. Again, I realize that the department is doing its best, but that is not good enough. I think you are hearing that in the communities, the methods you teach English with are not the kind of methods you teach aboriginal languages with. Period. It is different. They seem to think that is the only method that is acceptable at this point in time in our history, and I cannot accept that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I accept the honour of you addressing me as Speaker, but I have not been promoted yet.

---Laughter

Honourable Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the interpreter/translator living in the Hay River reserve and working in the Hay River government offices, I do not think that any government employee is compensated or built an office specifically for that person, when there are other offices available in the vicinity, such as Hay River, where the support staff are, secretarial, administrative, and everyone else. Where the work requirement is there, where there are documents being produced and being translated by that person.

What I am saying is, anyone who is living in Cambridge Bay cannot be given a transportation allowance to work in Yellowknife, simply because he has chosen to live in Cambridge Bay and work in Yellowknife every day. These kinds of arrangements are not allotted by the government, nor do I think the taxpayers would accept that anyway.

As far as the specific recommendation or the idea that Mr. Gargan is submitting to us, I have not received that suggestion through the form of a motion from S.C.O.F. S.C.O.F. did not report to me any suggestion submitted by Mr. Gargan. So, I am not sure whether that was a general comment in the way that I should think about it, or the department should think about it, or has it been already accepted by S.C.O.F. to be submitted for this committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman? I was not clear on that one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, provide clarification for the Minister.

MR. GARGAN:

Okay. Mr. Chairman, in Providence, we usually have a social worker who lives in Kakisa who drives a government vehicle to Fort Providence, which is about 50 miles away, to go to work. She goes to work at 8:30, she starts driving at 8:30, and that is part of

her work. In Hay River, Transportation also provides vehicles for employees working in Enterprise.

On the Hay River Reserve, we have an interpreter who uses his own vehicle every day to go to Hay River to work. The Minister said himself, that it is because there is an office available in Hay River, but I also want to ask the Minister, if there is office space available on the reserve that could be leased out to the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, do we have unique solutions to unique situations? Go ahead. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I can only say that I hear you, and we can take that as advisement. Just like secretaries, clerical staff, or office administration, the interpreter/translator is the support staff, it is a government service that is located where it is needed by the government translating requirements.

I believe that, or at least I am told that, the translating requirements for the government are in Hay River, rather than documents being produced by the government in the Hay River Reserve. That is probably why that particular employee is required to be stationed in Hay River itself, rather than in the Hay River Reserve, because that is where the requirements are.

However, I could look into this and see whether the legitimacy in having an office space Hay River is true or not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I am in support of Mr. Gargan in trying to get transportation support for the person, because I have noticed that in some communities, we have government employees who go to work about a block away, and they are provided a vehicle. Now, general comments? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one clarification then. As far as the department goes, their position then is that an interpreter is part of the support staff then and it is not a profession itself. Right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know how the Member has refused to recognize the professionalism of that position. Like the teacher, the teacher must teach in that community, and is probably required to live in that community as a professional teacher. An interpreter is a professional person, and their services are required in Hay River as a professional interpreter/translator. That is what I am saying. It is a service by the professional person. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I was going to suggest that we go into detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree that we go page by page?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, we are on page 5-12 of the 1992-93 main estimates. Directorate total O & M of \$1.036 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, publications and productions, total O & M of \$937,000. Mr. Koe.

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MR. KOE:

Can the Minister advise us as to what stage they are at in the planning of privatizing some of these functions related to publications and production?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. What is the status of the privatization of some of these services? Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the area that has been transferred to the Department of Public Works and Government Services. The Cabinet has instructed that this area be reviewed for possible privatization. It is under review by the Cabinet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 5-13, publications and production, total O & M of \$937,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 5-14, language bureau, total O & M of \$2.823 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, do we have, in place, a policy of any kind with regard to the established profession of aboriginal languages interpreters?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I have also stated that in my opening remarks, that we will be encouraging having the interpreter/translator society or certification board, however you want to call it, independent from the government that will be able to certify, and test the interpreter/translators.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Do you have a policy with regard to interpreters? Do we have a weight scale, the qualifications, do we have something in place that

determines the degree of qualifications that an interpreter has, and whether or not they are paid according to their qualifications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Gilday to answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gilday.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, the interpreter/translator levels are established with training levels, with a separate salary, and then qualifications levels, interpreter one, interpreter two.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

I realize that you do have training levels. Do you have any levels with regard to people that just know it, because of their ability, as a Dene person I should know my own language, I do not need to be trained in that area. Do you determine anything with regard to that, or do you have to go through a government institution to learn your own language, in order to qualify for a level in salary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have a professional recognized in stages? Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can have a straight test for your language skills, however, sometimes we can recognize that a person is fluent, or a person is expert in his/her own language, can be tested for competency, for the level one, level two, interpreter one, interpreter two, and not necessarily have to take a course. Terminologies that are used by the interpreters, the method they are presented, using the common word, rather than multiple choice words for 29 different ways of saying snow for example, is being put on the test. So, that the person, when they are

interpreting for the government, that the similar word or standard word is used for the purpose of legal documentation or other documentation that is required. In that respect yes, the testing is necessary in order to have the person be certified as a interpreter or translator. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I do not know, with regard to myself, whether or not I have reached the potential, or the limits of my ability, to speak my own language. I could say that without any doubt, that if I go to my own community, and I see an elder, he qualifies far more superior than I would, with regard to that same language.

How do you determine the limits or qualifications, although I know my own language, I do not qualify myself as being the real expert in that. If I was to do a test, it would probably limit my qualifications based on the test. In other words, I cannot go beyond what is in the test itself. You are not going to get that unless you refer to a person that is older, or more qualified than I am. How is that determined? The level of qualifications must be determined by something. What I am saying, is that the most qualified people, in my community, I could give you their names, but I do not think they were ever consulted about that. How do you say that this person took the test, and he has reached his level according to the test, but he cannot go beyond because we have not reached that far yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let us get this very clear, that most of us are fluent, even more fluent than interpreters and translators, simply because we are hunters, we know the terminology of the land better, or because we are seamstresses, or because we are professors of the historical languages of the history. That does not give us a skill to become translators or interpreters. The interpreting and translating is not strictly on the language skills, knowledge of the language, it is not straight on that.

You are tested on your consecutive interpreting or simultaneous interpreting, in fact some interpreters are specialized in court interpreting, and terminologies

that are used in court cases. These are different requirements to become an interpreter/translator, not just a knowledge of the aboriginal language or English language, so that is only part of it. Just because you know more languages than the other person, does not make you a better interpreter in that system. It is hard to explain.

This is the method they use. It is a technical method that is used for consecutive, simultaneous, and also for specialization. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo, you have the floor.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have much concern about the issues that my colleague, Mr. Gargan, is raising, but maybe I should take a different tact on this particular matter.

You know, I, for one, will not challenge the knowledge of the elders in our community, or those who speak our language, but I think we have to recognize that there is a professionalism that is important in the work that interpreters/translators do. In fact what is

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interesting, is in many cases they are involved in the development of new words, new terminology, and developing, new ways of saying old things, in other words.

In many respects, they also have the responsibility of having the capacity not only to speak the language, but also write the language. In many instances, this is just as important as the oral transmittal of that language from one generation to the next, because I think that many of our aboriginal people in the languages that we speak, we want them to survive, but we cannot always depend on the idea of oral protection.

The fact is, the more we develop our language in terms of the ability to read and write those languages, the more likely our languages will survive. I say that not to be rude, or to be disrespectful to those who speak the language, but I can say to you that having been from a language that has been written since the 1800's, the Gwich'in, I respect a great deal the Slavey, the Dogrib, and the Inuit, for being able to orally transmit that language to their families.

We are a language group that is deeply in danger of disappearing. I look at the young people, and the translators that are here with us today, the Gwich'in, anyhow, those young people that speak the other Dene languages. I think that I could recall when we were first here in 1979, we had no one, and I think we ought to be proud of the fact of how far we have come. I think that we have a long way to go yet, but we have to be proud of where we have come from, and hopefully, it is a sign of the advancement of our own aboriginal languages, no matter what region we are from. I just wanted to make that point, because sometimes we have a tendency of arguing the same issue from a different perspective.

Nonetheless, our intentions should be to protect our aboriginal languages, at least I assume that is the same argument Mr. Gargan is raising.

I think we have to respect the professionalism of the people that do the job for us. I think one of the things that sometimes we overlook is this idea, and I want to point this out to the Minister, who is also the Minister of Education, that language teachers, professional language teachers, are recognized for that in most other jurisdictions across the country. Simply because you are a teacher, does not necessarily mean you are a professional in language development, and I think that has to be considered. I think the same thing has to be done with our interpreters/translators, that in most other jurisdictions, when you are dealing with French interpreters, there is a special recognition for their expertise.

The same thing with language teachers, we cannot always use the argument that in our schools, our aboriginal people have to also be involved in the teaching of our aboriginal languages. I think they are important, but at some time we have to make a distinction between their role as teachers in all the courses, and their role as language educators.

They are two different things, and we have to work in this system to ensure that is, in fact, the case, because that alone will help the situation that Mr. Gargan has raised. I think we have to move on, and say, let us get on with developing our language, and ability to read and write the systems, and the languages that are available to us.

I think the same concerns I have expressed are what Mr. Gargan has said. The problem is that for us it is unclear, because there are no clear guidelines, there are no policies, and there is no recognition,

professional recognition, of the people who are serving us in those languages. So, it makes it difficult for us to appreciate how committed the government is to protection of our aboriginal languages. That is all I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I, too, recognize the interpreters/translators that work for the Assembly; work in different regions, who work in the different communities. I think translating/interpreting is very stressful, a very challenging profession, and I think the interpreters/translators deserve to be recognized, because they are professional, and do a very good job. Mr. Minister.

---Applause

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interpreters invent words for the sake of inventing words, rather, help to invent words, that can be related to something that is new, or old.

For example, if I go see my grandfather, and ask him, "how do you say microcomputers in Inuktitut?" I think he would have a hard time explaining to me what the Inuktitut terminology is for that one, or, he might know. If I say, "how do you say environment in Inuktitut" he may give me eleven or twelve words for that particular word. However, for the purpose of enquiry, that common terminology has to be used. So, the interpreters come up with avatilirri, or the microcomputer, qaritaujaujaq, depending on whether it is a regular computer, or a microcomputer.

So, these things we will not find from your elders, no matter how much you respect their preservation and promotion of traditional languages, or words. So, we recognize that.

We are not here to eliminate the old words, or traditional words that are used. On the cultural programs, we will protect them, promote them, and enhance them, by the purpose of the language bureau. They have a much bigger responsibility than just protecting the language. By usage, also enhance it by being able to come up with the modern word that is used in English, or in the other language. If I could remember correctly, those microcomputers, jets, or anything like that, are not in old English. The English language is always invented to keep up with the technology. If the technology that has just been

invented or introduced does not have everyday language in English, then there is a new language developed for that, a new word developed for that, or a new name developed for that. Inuktitut, for example, language bureau, or in Dene, for instance, have to come up with words that are not available in the aboriginal language that are required by this Legislative Assembly or the Government of the Northwest Territories.

So, I have no disagreement whatsoever with Mr. Gargan or with Mr. Nerysoo in protecting, promoting, and enhancing traditional languages as used. Qujannamiik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the difficulties I find myself in with regard to the whole issue of language or culture, is that aboriginal people are not getting caught up with this notion that it is really not them, as aboriginal people. I am saying, for example, it is with regard to individual competitiveness, as opposed to community or collective thinking. Where it is slowly losing that value and we are slowly turning to European values and saying that I am better than my brother next to me, or on that side of me, and I think that is a bad trend, the way things are going.

The example again is, just because we are hunters, we know terminology as a hunter, does not mean as much as a person that is in the Laing Building as an interpreter. What used to be a way of life, because

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a profession that requires individual competition. I think that, myself, I am also getting caught up in that world of competition, that dog eat dog world kind of a situation.

I never used to be that way, perhaps, but I am afraid that what used to be collective as aboriginal people is slowly being eroded. We are accepting more methods, or technologies, of accepting other cultures, and that really fragments us as people. I do not know if you noticed it, Mr. Minister, but, certainly I think that by some of your responses, I am getting the notion that you are also caught up into it yourself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, I think that we are getting into a specialized field. In any given environment, we are under the language bureau. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to Mr. Gargan?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I was going to suggest exactly the same thing, that I do not know what Mr. Gargan's point has got to do with 5-14. That is the only comment that I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Okay, we are discussing the main estimates under Culture and Communications. Page 5-14 language bureau, total O & M of \$2.823 million. Mr. Antoine. Sorry, I did not see your hand.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Culture and Communications, under activity summary of language bureau, I just wanted to make a couple of comments. We have come a long way up to now in the north in regard to having our aboriginal language recognized officially by our Legislative Assembly, and I really appreciate it.

Earlier, at the beginning of today's sitting, I made a Member's statement in regard to language, and my mother tongue is the Dene language, labelled South Slavey by moola, but, to me, it is a Dene language. I really appreciate it. This language bureau is a vehicle, I guess, to ensure that our language continues forever. Because of that, I really wanted to mention that in the Minister's opening statement on this department, he talked about less service to non-governmental agencies, less travel and contracting.

I am afraid I must disagree with the move in this department because instead of increasing this activity, they are decreasing it, and I feel very strongly that this is a wrong move for me, as an endangered species.

---Laughter

I feel that this is a wrong way to do it. I feel strongly about it because, like I said in my opening Member's statement, all of these other languages that are identified in Canada, will always have a mother country that they could refer to if their language dies in this country. In our particular case, we have a

struggle to maintain our language, and I think rather than lessening the amounts that are allocated to it, they should be increasing it.

I also wanted to talk about standardization. We have some language experts in my constituency that feel very strongly that standardization is working against our particular dialect in our area, and there is influence from other areas that are more dominant in this language bureau. I would like to have this department take a good close look at our concerns, and talk to the people who are experts in my particular area, because we feel that our concerns are not being addressed on the whole question of standardization.

One of my colleagues, Mr. Zoe, a couple of days ago, talked about his own particular area, and he made reference to two dictionaries that were made on the South Slavey language, and to me, and my experts, it is not adequate enough. Even though they have been done, they are not complete, and there are a lot of mistakes in there that we recognize. We want to have the opportunity to revisit and do it properly, and that is another concern that I have. I want to make it clear here to the Minister, and his officials, that this is what I would like to see done for my language, to ensure that it does not get endangered any further.

If we are going to speak my language, I am suggesting that we do it properly. That is what I tell a lot of the young people in my area. If you are going to speak English, you might as well speak it properly, and that goes the same for my language. If you are going to speak it, and you are going to teach it, do it properly. The only way to do that, is to use our experts who take a lot of time to train in linguistic arts, and the technology that they have developed is high skill in this area. If you worked closely with them, and possibly give them some resources if need be, to ensure that our languages are protected. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to make a comment?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that there is no time to slow down in utilizing interpreters and translators. I do not think we are promoting that. What we are saying is, the employees of the government who are interpreters/translators, will not

be providing a service in kind to non-government organizations, they will be travelling less.

Through this testing and licensing program, that we would like to introduce as a non-government body, we would be encouraging private sector of the interpreters/translators be utilized everywhere as much as possible, because there is a need out there. It has already been identified to us, the government, do not stop the interpreting service to other organizations or companies, or the private sector, because we need them. Therefore, with these private interpreters/translators as a business, they will then be able to be tested and licensed as qualified interpreters through, if it is necessary, our training programs. As long as they are tested and recognized by professional interpreters/translators, and some might be from the private sector, nonetheless we are not trying to reduce the level of service, or availability of interpreters/translators.

What we are saying is that government employees, not the private sector -- we are still encouraging that profession to expand. Mr. Antoine, I am open to a discussion on that one. I will probably will need a lot of input on how best to maximize that, and at the same time respecting the financial restraints.

In the area of standardization of the writing system, I specifically said the writing system, not the oral tradition. I said yesterday, I for one, will not condone, or put up with this idea of standardizing oral traditions, oral language, or any kind of dialect, whether you are in Grise Fiord or Sanikiluaq. Our dialectic differences are all so different, they are colourful, and they are very nice. I do not want that to be somehow dissolved into something else, through time.

However, standardization of the writing system is important because you can then use the same keyboard operators to be able to utilize both dialectics, because even if, I am not an expert on the Grise Fiord dialect, for example, I know how to write their writing system, then I will be able to do some service for them according to the way it was presented to me. It is only the writing system that

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I am talking about in standardization of the Dene writing system, not in the oral tradition at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Ms. Mike, are you still on? Are you still on, Mr. Antoine? On my list I have Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern and general comment to the language bureau. The employees, especially the interpreters, the person years should have been raised in thinking of the Commissioner of Official Languages, that the communities are aware of the Commissioner of Official Languages, and that there will be more work for the government.

I know today, that we are always short of interpreters and they are very busy. They always have work to do and that they also have priorities, and the less priority has to be translated into Inuktitut, sometimes it takes time to get them translated into Inuktitut. As you know, Mr. Chairman, prior to my becoming an M.L.A., elected as a M.L.A., I was an interpreter for a number of years, and I know very well that the interpreters are very busy, and that it is very stressful during session. They have priorities, rush work, they have a goal to work within those days, and I know myself that they go through a very stressful time. I know this for myself.

Mr. Gargan stated earlier, and I would like to add to his comments, that I agree with what he said. We cannot, especially the interpreters cannot, know everything. Mr. Gargan will know names of the wildlife, some will be more specialized in health, and for today, when they complete their training, there is no way for them to move on. Perhaps, if they were to specialize, for example, in the courts, and the staff of the language bureau specialized in the health section, and after their training is completed, they could be extended for further specialized training.

There is no training for these areas, for instance, in assistance in the court, and if I wanted to have a job as an assistant lawyer, there is no such training for those things. Perhaps, if I went back to college or university, it would take several years to become a lawyer, yet, these are available.

For this reason, for the lack of further training, good workers are often discouraged, and they quit their jobs because their training is completed. (Translation ends)

Language development in getting the interpreters into specialized areas, such as legal terminology, because there are interpreters who do have specific interests with their jobs, and they go out of their way to learn more about it.

Yet, there is not any training available, because the number of interpreters that we have within the government might not even have the time to take the training if they wanted to get into specialized areas. So, I really feel that we should see some growth in this department, looking at the fact that we do have, now, a Language Commissioner in place who will probably be receiving a lot of complaints from different aboriginal groups on translated matters.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Mr. Minister, what is a prospect for getting into a specialized profession?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, let me say that the language bureau staff, and interpreters have been reduced to six percent, the staff person years have reduced to six percent.

However, the reduction of person years to six percent for them to travel to the communities, and for the outside interpreting purposes, are paid through the government. I am pleased to see that in some departments, person years are reduced, but in the Language Bureau it stays the same. (Translation ends)

If there is a requirement for specialized interpreting training, then the department can host that with the cooperation of the Justice Department, and Arctic College also can be assigned to contract those specialized interpreter/translator training.

As I said before, I would encourage an association, or some sort of a body, created independently from the government, of the translators/interpreters as a group, or an association, to test and license those interpreters/translators, and that specialized interpreter/translator also would be recognized accordingly.

For example, if a doctor is a general practitioner, so is a translator/interpreter; if a doctor becomes a specialized person, like a plastic surgeon, or a

general surgeon, he will be recognized. So, would the interpreter/translator become specialized in the court interpreting, or health areas, as you said, in terms of biological names, then that person would be tested and licensed as a specialist in that area. We could work on that cooperatively.

In the time of financial restraint right now, something much more imaginative will have to be created, rather than just going ahead and continuing to increase the budget estimates for that area. This is very important, but other things also dear to the public are, social services, housing, health, education, and for their own wellbeing.

So, unfortunately, when we suffer under financial restraint, language will also suffer under the restraint, but I am happy to report to you that no person years have been lost in that one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the 15 years that I was an interpreter/translator, the language bureau always had the smallest budget, and they still continue to have the smallest budget. There is also a lack of recognition of the profession as an interpreter/translator within the government. A lot of times they are not treated as professionals, and as well, when you really think back to just 17 years ago, most of the communities were just becoming settlements. Through the interpreters, they became settlement councils, they became hamlet status, and it is through the interpreters, the north has developed a great deal in smaller communities.

All I am saying, is that for a number of years we have had the same person years, yet our department continues to grow. This is from a demand of service from this department.

I am not disagreeing with you. In time of restraint that we are going through, because of the Languages Commissioner being in place now, all I can see is the work load of the interpreters just increasing, and there is no growth in person years with the interpreters. Thank you, that is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Ms. Mike. I believe the Minister is going to respond. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I have no disagreement with that one. There is a very high demand on the interpreter corps. There is a lot of demand now on a lot of department personnel because most of us are working on a skeleton, and I never could believe that until I got into the government. I was scouring for available staff that could help me. However, I have no disagreement with that one, but hopefully, we will be able to balance the budget, and be able to get back to a normal service that the public demands of us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Now you are in charge. Now you can take corrective action. Mr. Koe, did you have your hand up? Okay, we are discussing the 1992-93 main estimates, activity summary, language bureau, total operational maintenance of \$2.823 million. Thank you.

Page 5-15, managing of heritage, total O & M of \$2.206 million. Mr. Todd, from Rankin.

MR. TODD:

I wonder if, perhaps, you could let me get some clarification on the original documents that we got on this activity, somewhere in the total of \$2.206 million. On the one here, it is now \$2.772 million. Am I missing something? Where did this \$566,000 for capital come from, and why was it not before the Standing Committee on Finance during our review? Has it been slipped in here so that we can get it through?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

According to the information that I have here, total O & M of \$2.206 million. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Total O & M, \$2.206 million, total capital \$566,000, total expenditure \$2.772 million. I think that is what Mr. Todd is missing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Todd, even financial wizards sometimes misunderstand those things. We are on the museum heritage. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In the preamble on page 5-15, museum heritage activities responsible for doing whatever they are going to do, they provide advice, technical support and financial contributions, supporting community heritage projects. Can someone advise me as to how many community heritage projects are in the process at this time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, will you provide that information?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Gilday to answer that detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gilday.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, indeed we do provide O & M contributions for the ongoing support of community museums. We have the Norman Wells Historical Society, the Northern Anthropological Cultural Society that is in Fort Smith, and then Sunaqtangit in Iqaluit, and then we have capital contributions to ten community museum groups, or historical society groups.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Koe. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

MR. KOE:

Can I get that information, that list, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, would you provide that information to the Member?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, we are on page 5-15, museum heritage, total O & M, \$2.206 million. Agreed? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

On the larger scale, and most things of a larger scale seem to be located in Yellowknife, and operated out of Yellowknife, and I am talking about the museum. I am aware, through some dealings with them, that they are always short, and this goes anywhere we have documents and artifacts or anything related to heritage and museums. They are always having a problem with storage and maintaining the goods, or the artifacts that we have.

Because of the heritage centre being here, a lot of the artifacts from across the north seem to congregate or descend here. My point is that we have some smaller community projects, you mentioned three of the larger ones, Norman Wells, Fort Smith and Iqaluit, but I am sure you have been getting requests from other communities and other groups. I know that working with a specific land claim, there are provisions in that claim for development of some very specific issues or points, that deal with this issue.

Every activity here has been reduced, and this one too, but there is more demand, and more need, but obviously, the priority is not here, because we keep getting cut. There is a need to preserve these things but I am just making a point, how long do we go on? I know the basement is full, warehouses are full, and there are problems with the weather and those types of things. You need air conditioning or controlled temperature rooms for a lot of our prints, and a lot of the skin type things, and all of that costs money.

Through development of smaller community, or regional museums, some of these problems of concentrating everything in one centre will be removed. We have got to put some effort and some resources and maybe some new thinking into how we do this. I just wanted to make that point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, we are growing, yet the provisions are getting smaller. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the department has developed a draft plan which identifies the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre as a support agency for community museum programs, which Mr. Koe has just talked about.

A strategy is being completed this year, which will identify specific sources of support for development and operation of community museums, and the condition under which they can be provided. One of the things that we do, also, are school travelling packages. We are also developing a policy to collect what we need, not everything that is being thrown to us from different regions.

I am also very encouraged by, and this might sound quite coincidental, the consolidation of the Departments of Education and Culture, this will also help in utilizing schools, educators, and teachers with the travelling museum and programs as such, so that the museum pieces or heritage items are not sitting idly in the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre. So, a lot of things like that can be improved. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are talking to different regions now who are requiring that museum-type cultural, or heritage centres preserve some of these materials and, also, not only in terms of objects, but also in the

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written materials that could be used in a cultural, or heritage centre.

So, things have been developing, and it is good to know that with the Culture and Education consolidation, that I am very hopeful that we will be able to work faster under an umbrella organization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Next, I have Mr. Gargan. Mr. Koe. Yes, Mr. Gargan is next on the list. Mr. Koe are you planning on making a comment? If you are, proceed now. If you do not, I am going to go to Sam.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. One more point, I guess. I mentioned this very briefly in my reply to the budget address. In doing the overall government budget, a heavy emphasis was placed on restraint measures, and reductions of budgets, from all departments, and all activities took place. In the Public Accounts, the last report that we looked at, the Auditor mentioned

that this government has some \$3 billion worth of assets, and a good portion of that are in the artifacts, the paintings, prints, carvings, and written materials that we have in storage.

I would venture to say that I doubt if anybody in this government can provide an accurate list of what is there, what is in active circulation, what is in active use, and what is in our storage facilities, wherever those storage facilities are. Sometimes you have to wonder how useful it is in just storing this material. I had mentioned in my reply to the budget address, that maybe we should look at increasing our revenue pot by selling some of this stuff, if there are buyers out there, but that it just a thought, and take it from where it comes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. The latter part we could worry about later, but at the moment the department has recommended, to the Comptroller General, the establishment of an interdepartmental committee to review, and make recommendations, concerning inventory procedures for other cultural assets. The museum heritage division would be available for membership on this committee, and would be able to provide professional advice on artifact inventory and control procedures. This is being recommended now. If the Member wants to sell them off to pay for our deficit, then this is another matter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one, I do not know if this is an illusion, but in here with regard to salaries and wages, I am very encouraged by the reduction in the salaries by seven percent. I looked at the person years, the O & M, and grants and contributions, but I cannot seem to find where that reduction would be compensated. I would like to ask the Minister if, in fact, these salaries and wages are being reduced by seven percent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, are you speaking to the page 15-15? Okay. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I think that I also said that in my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I do not know exactly what page, I think one of the last pages, in the interpretation and community museum we have eliminated the heritage training coordinator. That is one PY. Previously this position coordinated and administered a program aimed at training community based heritage workers. As the position was vacant, no lay-off was required.

Also, in historic resource management, there is the elimination of a senior archaeologist in that one. So, what we understood was that we could still handle the workload that is being done by these PYs, without having too much effect on the workload. Although there is an effect on the workload, we feel that we can handle it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So, in fact, you have eliminated two PYs to compensate the reduction in the salaries. So, in fact, there really was not a reduction then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, I recognize you.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is right, there is no reduction in terms of salary, but a reduction of two PYs. However, there was a real reduction in that one of \$3,000, under small O & M, the smoking room apparently was eliminated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, 3,000 what, PYs or \$3,000?

---Laughter

Mr. Gargan, are you still speaking? Okay.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to request the Minister provide us a copy of his opening statement, because he keeps referring to it, and we do not have it in front of us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, would you provide copies for the Members of your Ministerial statement, opening statement?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, yes. I am prepared to do that if it is requested, immediately. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Koe. Just on that point, I was going to ask for that, because he has made several references to that, and I do not have them, but, yes, we might need it for historical memento. For future witnesses, maybe this Committee Chair can ask, before they sit, for the Ministers to provide us with copies of their opening remarks. Mahsi.

For future, Mr. Minister, we ask you to supply your ministerial statements, opening remarks to the Members especially when we are discussing the items on the statement. Okay?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I understand that is not the tradition of this House, to give out opening remarks at the committee of the whole unless it is requested, that is exactly what I did. It was requested, and I could give them out. Otherwise, it takes a lot of translating for other ones if you are automatically going to do it, and I notice sometimes from S.C.O.F. that it is very, very short.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Museum heritage, page 15-15. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) You could speak while we are sitting here. Thank you. We are aware that everybody, all the Members will probably be asking for the reports, and even if we do not ask for the opening remarks from the Minister, I think they should be made available for the Members, and I just wanted to ask, in regards to the two person years that were eliminated, where did the money go that was used for the person years? That is the question that I have, as to where the funding was put.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, in regards to this question, the two person years were eliminated, and they had to do with the museum heritage centres, and when they were eliminated, we just left it as it was. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Museum heritage total operations and maintenance is \$2.206 million. Thank you. Over the page, library services, total O & M, \$1.496 million. Thank you. Page 15-17, cultural affairs, total O & M, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, in this one, grants and contributions have been reduced by eight percent, but the salaries and wages have gone up by ten percent. We have reduced the grants and contributions to support and promote/enhance cultural diversity of the arts in the Northwest Territories in order to compensate the increase in the salaries, is that fairly accurate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, will you justify the differences?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Mr. Gilday explain the detail. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gilday.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, the department ran into serious difficulty with support to the people that we were giving contributions to. We found that we were unable to assist them with their accounting, with the completion of their contractual obligations for their grants and contributions, and, as a result, we were finding at the end of the year, for audit purposes, we simply could not complete the accounting. What we have done is, we have put some resources into wages so that we have secretarial support to help

keep order with the grants and contributions programs that we run, and since having done that, we are finding that we are very capable of providing service to the clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

The person years does not reflect that. It shows 2.4 last year, and 2.4 this year. So, you have not had an increase in your staff, or it does not show.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I will have Mr. Gilday answer that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gilday.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, part of the issue is that we are trying to reflect the actual salary levels of the staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

That is not clear, what does that mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clarification, please, Mr. Minister.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, the actual salary levels are being reflected in the main estimates, and we are working to adjust the budget so we are showing quite clearly what people are being paid, and we are simply working to give the support through staff resources to the clients. This has nothing to do with trying to inflate the staff count. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Nothing out of the ordinary. Mr. Gargan, are you done? Moving along, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Again, looking at the preamble for this activity, the cultural affairs provides administrative services and professional advice to the N.W.T. Arts Council. Can you inform me as to how these administrative services and professional advice are provided. Is it in a form of, do you have one individual, or a group, how is it done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This person is secretary to the arts council. One person. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

So, that is one person year. Is that person located in Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Where is that person, Mr. Minister?

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Okay, I just want to reiterate some of the comments that my colleague made in terms of funding to the Arts Council. Over the last couple of years or months, it was greatly reduced in the amounts of funding that they received, and the council and their activities have contributed, I guess, to a lot of the success stories that we are all aware of across the north in terms of projects, the arts festival, the T.V. Society, the video centre in Igloodik, and Northern Arts & Cultural Centre in Yellowknife, and so on.

The Members on the council are finding it difficult to continue to support individual artists or organizations because on the one hand, they are praising them, trying to support them, and then on the other hand, when they write the cheques out, they are saying they are sorry, you know, because we have cut back, we have to reduce the amounts, and the responsibility is in the department's hands. The people at the front lines, who give out the cheques, or make the recommendations, are finding it very difficult in dealing with their peers, they are the front line people and have to face the music.

I just want to reiterate that we should be looking, again, at some of these areas a little more carefully, maybe there are other ways of supporting our artists, and maybe we should look at how we do that. I do not have any ideas right now, but again, just about every activity that we looked at cut, cut, cut. I know it is the time we are in, the time of restraint, but I think our monies can be better spent, looking at ways of providing better support to some of these organizations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, are you going to respond, or should we carry on with the budget? Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I agree that I wish we could do more for arts council, but nonetheless, there is no reduction of overall, especially the contributions were only reduced by two percent, and the overall reduction is \$15,000, or six percent of the total budget. This one did not suffer as much as other departments, or other programs, that we have reduced to make up the total of ten percent. I do not disagree with Mr. Koe, I wish we could do more, because this is a very interesting

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area of programs that the department is doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

One other comment, every time we want to do something, it is always in terms of dollars and cents. I know the industry has become very commercialized, and it seems that we fall under that same trap. I was

over in Russia a few years ago, and they take great pride in their culture, and the people that are involved in these types of activities, they are all called professionals, they are artists, dancers, carvers, musicians, and they are all professionals. We, here in the north, or in Canada, have great difficulty in trying to call people professionals for things that they are good at. I know when I was over there, we also were looking at a carving display, and the people that did the carving were wearing medals. We asked them what those medals were, and this one individual had a silver medal and displayed it very proudly on her chest, and it was for being a professional carver. She was a silver medallist, or whatever, for just being, a carver. I guess in reference to my last point, this is one way of recognizing, or how we can maybe look at recognizing, our people. Maybe we do not pat them enough on the back. I would just like to make that point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Koe):

Thank you for that comment, Mr. Koe. We seem to have a habit of taking everything for granted. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to that? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Just a request, Mr. Minister, I will probably get a bronze medal from my language.

---Laughter

Can I get a summary of the grants and contributions that we have made this past year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, yes, we can provide that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Continuing on, cultural affairs, total O & M of \$996,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Television and radio services. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I am involved in a local radio station, I am going to declare a conflict of interest in this, and withdraw from the room while you are considering it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will consider it while you are away. Madam Premier.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that, if necessary, we extend the sitting hours until we conclude this item. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Agreed. Thank you. We will make sure we move along. Television and radio services, page 5-18, O & M of \$1.171 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Pardon me, how ignorant, someone made a motion.

---Laughter

Not someone, Madam Premier made a motion earlier. There was a motion to extend the hours until we conclude the item. All those in favour? All those opposed? Is there anyone opposing this motion? To the motion. Can we agree that we are going to extend the hours until we conclude the item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is carried.

---Carried

On page 5-18, total O & M of \$1.171 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister if there has been any proposals that have been submitted from the Native Communications Society of the Western N.W.T., to consider developing a television section in their organization?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Gilday.

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

I will ask Mr. Gilday to answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Mr. Gilday.

MR. GILDAY:

Mr. Chairman, we are very active in assisting the Native Communications Society in getting involved in television, for the purpose of broadcasting on Television Northern Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a total O & M of \$1.171 million, television and radio services. Thank you. Page 5-19, details of grants and contributions, grants, \$211,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We are on television and radio services, contributions of \$1.4 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Grants and contributions of \$1.611 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Program summary 01, page 5-11, program summary. Total operations and maintenance, \$10.665 million. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister if he could provide us with the reports that were provided under the N.O.G.A.P. funding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister, would you provide us with that particular report?

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HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, it seems to be a bit technical here, I will have Mr. Gerein answer that one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed.

MR. GEREIN:

Mr. Chairman, there would be no specific report produced under this item. However, we can give the Member a report, or a status report, on the project if he would so wish.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Okay. Total operations and maintenance, this program summary, operations and maintenance, \$10.665 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That concludes the Department of Culture and Communications. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to apologize to the witnesses that we have a very small table over there, but, I would like to thank the Minister, and his witnesses.

---Applause

I will now rise and report progress. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Ludy Pudluk):

Now this House will come to order. Item 19, report of committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 33, and committee report 17-12(2), and wishes to report progress with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder? Mr. Pollard. All of those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Nunavut Caucus at 6:00 p.m. this evening. Meetings for tomorrow morning, at 9:30 a.m. of the Management and Services Board, at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and at 12:00 of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services.

Orders of the day for Thursday, September 24, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 9-12(2)
- Tabled Document 10-12(2)
- Tabled Document 62-12(2)
- Tabled Document 70-12(2)
- Motion 6
- Committee Report 10-12(2)
- Committee Report 17-12(2)
- Committee Report 18-12(2)
- Bill 9
- Bill 31
- Bill 33
- Minister's Statement 82-12(2)

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Thursday, September 24, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT