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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1992

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good morning. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 101-12(2): Public Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, as you know a board of inquiry has been established under the Medical Profession Act, to examine the primary issues regarding medical services at the Fort Smith Health Centre.

It was my contention that if the inquiry was unable to deal with other matters of concern to Members of this House, then a further inquiry could be considered.

Members, however, want a public inquiry established under the Public Inquiries Act to examine issues relating to the provision of services at the Fort Smith Health Centre.

As a result, the government will establish such an inquiry and Members will be asked to approve an initial supplementary appropriation of \$500,000 to pay for its cost. The cost of a public inquiry cannot be covered from without our existing budget.

Mr. Speaker, the inquiry will begin as soon as the necessary arrangements, including financing, can be made. I will be tabling the inquiry's terms of reference later today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 102-12(2): Environmentally Friendly Products

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to announce today the publication of a catalogue of environmentally friendly products. It can be used by purchasing officers and departments to locate sources for products that do not harm the environment and those that are made from recycled materials.

The catalogue has been sent to departments, boards, agencies and community governments. It has also been sent to Chambers of Commerce and N.W.T. public libraries for the use of northern businesses. This catalogue will give suppliers an idea of the kind of products the government may be seeking, so that those products can be made available through local businesses.

Federal, provincial, and territorial purchasing organizations have been working together for the last three years to prepare a national catalogue of environmentally friendly products. Production of the national version is many months in the future. Therefore this version, which fits our northern operating environment, has been published as an interim measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

Minister's Statement 103-12(2): Minister's Absence In The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Mr. Pollard, the Minister of Finance, and Economic Development and Tourism, will not be in the House today, and perhaps for the rest of the session, because of health reasons. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, that was an emergency statement. I would ask Ministers if they would state that they are about to make an emergency statement.

Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Clean Up Of Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader often tells me, and rightly so, that I should not be so critical of the government. She will no doubt be happy to know, that today I rise to compliment the Minister of Public Works and his department.

---Applause

The community of Rankin Inlet has been trying for some time to obtain funding for the clean up of the tailing from the old north Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine. This mine has been closed since 1962, and the tails were deposited on the titled lot to the north east of the community.

The community has had serious public safety and environmental concerns about this tailing pond for some time. In 1991, this project was included in the waste sites program of the Arctic environmental strategy. Almost \$3 million was designated for clean up of this site. The Department of Public Works was designated to manage this project on behalf of the federal government.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the sheer size of this project would have prohibited Keewatin companies from bidding on a single contract. This past spring I approached the Minister to see what mechanisms were available to ensure that Keewatin businesses were fully involved in the project. In the end, it was decided that a contract be negotiated involving a number of companies in the Keewatin region.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that this project is going very well. The cleanup of the tailings pond is proceeding as planned and the contract arrangement

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has provided much needed work for both businesses and people in the Keewatin and ensured that the economic benefits accrued from such a project, remain in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, it is this type of arrangement that ensured a large contract remained with northerner contractors. It is a welcome and much needed initiative.

I would like to thank the Minister and his department for the political vision to see the importance of this

initiative and the bold action they took to ensure its success. Given the success of this project, I am sure that similar arrangements for large contracts can be made in other parts of the Northwest Territories in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that the Government Leader will note my good deed for the week. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is a very important day for all the interpreters and translators in the territories. I would like to thank all the interpreters and translators. The people that I want to thank are Raymond Sonfrere, Violet Hardisty, and Jeannie Hope.

When we speak in the House, in our language, they translate and interpret for us. I talked to one lady this morning, and I bought some chocolate bars from her. She is selling chocolate bars on behalf of a volleyball team at a local school. I bought chocolate bars for the interpreters. Jim and I, we ordered some flowers for them, so we will be giving them flowers today.

Today is a very important day for all the interpreters, and I would like to thank them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, it is very important to me, to know how useful the interpreters are. I am aware now that today is translator's day. We are all aware that we use interpreters and translators all over the world, not just in the N.W.T.

It is not just for English or Inuktitut. I am very proud to recognize that today is translator's day, and I also want to commend the formal interpreters, because since I was growing up, I have been aware that there

are always interpreters and translators. It is about time that they are finally recognized formally. We have to use the interpreters/translators, and a lot of time, I forget that I am using interpreters/translators when I am talking. I deeply want to show my gratitude to the interpreters in the Northwest Territories, and for all the interpreters internationally. Thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Mr. Bernhardt.

Member's Statement On Aboriginal Development Corporation In Coppermine

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members will recall that I have spoken previously about the important role that the Aboriginal Development Corporation continues to play in the emerging economy of the Northwest Territories.

Today, I am pleased to announce an exciting new development in Coppermine. An interim board has been established to form the first Aboriginal Development Corporation in that community.

Mr. Speaker, the potential for an economic expansion within the particular region is great. The promise of new resource development projects, and proposals, for capital growth in the transportation sector, fits right in with the community's plans.

I believe that it will not be long at all until the Inuvialuit of Coppermine are demonstrating once again, that successful business ventures can be planned and managed by northern aboriginal peoples.

Mr. Speaker, we will be looking to the Department of Economic Development for planning assistance and funds, and I trust that the Minister and his officials will continue to provide my constituency with full cooperation.

In closing, too, I would like to thank my honourable colleague from Keewatin Central, and the people of Rankin Inlet, for the advice and encouragement they provided during the initial planning stages for our developing corporation.

I know that the interim board hopes to continue this working relationship, and as for Mr. Todd, as a token of my appreciation, should he require assistance in

having his shirts ironed, I will guarantee that he will receive perfect service "as and when" required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt. Members' statements, Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because I want to show that I am proud of our interpreters and translators since I became a Member in 1975, and that was when the interpreters started in the Legislative Assembly, and up to now, they are still interpreting and translating, and I am very proud of them.

At the time, back in 1975, they were recognized, because of the fact that even if you were a unilingual aboriginal person, you were still able to become an M.L.A. That is when the government started strongly to support the need for interpreters and translators, and the first interpreters/translators, I know that some of them have passed away, and some of them have moved on to different jobs, but up to now, I am still very proud of them, and I am proud of the present day interpreters/translators. I know it is very tiring and stressful. Even if they work for long hours, they still manage to show us that it is not that stressful.

Since today is translator's day, I am very proud to say that they have been here, and I am very grateful. Since I became a Member in 1975 up until now, in order for the Members to communicate with each other, they managed to help us. It is not just in the Assembly. It is in the health centres, the hospital, in our communities that the interpreters/translators are very useful, so the northerners can understand and communicate with each other.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Your time is up, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) I rise to show my gratitude, as I am aware, and have seen, that the interpreters/translators have a very stressful job to do. Not just in the Assembly, but I am also aware that the Dene Members are very proud of their interpreters, and I have observed, especially when I am a chairman, that they work very hard so the Members can communicate.

Since 1975, the Assembly has been using interpreters, and I am very proud to have risen to show how proud I am to the interpreters/translators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MS. MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to rise today to show my appreciation and pride of our interpreters on International Translator's Day. Most has been said by my honourable colleague from High Arctic. I also would like to thank former Commissioner Stuart Hodgson who initiated having interpreter services within the G.N.W.T.

I would like to thank, as well, the Dene and Inuit interpreters. They work long hours. I know their work is very stressful. As I was once an interpreter, I know the pressures and stress the interpreters go through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Mr. Nerysoo.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago, Mr. Speaker, we were reminded that today was International Translation Day, and I wanted to thank on behalf of all ordinary Members, our translators and our interpreters. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that hard work and the dedication of our interpreters.

The efforts of these women and men make it possible for representatives of the various cultures of the Northwest Territories to come together in this House and strive to complete our work efficiently and accurately. On behalf of all ordinary Members, I would like to thank the staff of the Language Bureau and the Assembly's translators for their long hours and their dedication.

I would encourage all those who can visit the Language Bureau's open house on the third floor of the Laing building to attend, from 10:00 a.m. to noon today. In closing, I also want to thank those people who have given their time, not only to translate, but to help in the promotion, protection and the development of our aboriginal languages.

I know that I can say on behalf of all Members, not only the ordinary Members, but all Members in this House, that we want to thank all of the Inuktitut, Dene, Gwich'in and French translators who have provided their time, their dedication, effort and support to Members of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Members' statements, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to also say something. When you do interpreting, there are many among us who do not speak the English language, well, so they only speak in their language. For them to communicate in the English language, I would like to say thanks to the people who are interpreting for them.

Also the people from the land, and in our constituencies who do not understand English well they only understand their language well. It is good we are able to communicate to them what is going on here. I would like to thank them as well, both the

male people and female people who are interpreting and translating.

I, myself, started speaking South Slavey first, so sometimes when I speak English I find it a little bit hard. When I speak Dene I find it easier. Also in the communities, the Inuit and the Dene, whoever worked as M.L.A.s in promoting the native languages and the people that interpret for them, I would like to thank the people who initially started the interpreting/translating.

That is why we are able to preserve our language. Last week I talked about language development, I feel that is why we are able to preserve our language. I thank you all. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery Mr. Bill Lyall, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Board Of Inquiry For Fort Smith Health Centre

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the time to thank the Minister of Health for his decision on granting a public inquiry at the Fort Smith Health Centre. However, Mr. Speaker, the Minister so readily stated that his board of inquiry, which was established, was also being pursued. I wonder what the board of inquiry that he established is going to cost?

Since the Minister so quickly estimated the cost of the public inquiry, and has never once told this House how much his board of inquiry costs, I certainly hope, as a Member, he does not ask me to approve an initial supplementary appropriation for funds for his board of inquiry. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Minister has his priorities mixed up. He is a Minister to meet the public needs, not the departmental needs, and his actions displayed the contrary.

However, Mr. Speaker, the public inquiry that is granted to Fort Smith is totally, and most appreciated by my constituents, and I am pleased that their wish was granted. I want, again, to thank my colleagues

for the support that they have given me in the House to acquire this board of inquiry. I know, without their support, we would not have got one. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to thank all the interpreters/translators and I am also very proud of their achievements. During our session in the Assembly, we can speak in any of our languages, whether it is Inuktitut or the Dene languages. I know, for a fact, that the interpreters/translators go through a stressful time when we are having meetings within this House. We are all aware of that.

Sometimes we tend to forget that there are interpreters in the booths, and some people tend to start talking too fast without thinking that the interpreters/translator might not be able to keep up with the speakers. If we did not have interpreters/translators here, we would not be able to communicate effectively. (End translation)

I would like to share the appreciation with my colleagues, of the services that we are privileged to have with our interpreters/translators. When a Member speaks, namely Mr. Todd, sixty words a minute, the interpreters have to speak 120 words a minute.

---Laughter

When other Members speak 100 words a minute, the interpreters have to speak 200 words a minute. When a word comes out in English that is not in our language, for instance, association, organization, agency, or corporation, the interpreters have to invent new terminology in this regard. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I thank the interpreters for all their services. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On International Translation Day

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Ministers, Members on this side of the House, I would also like to make a short statement of appreciation for the services the interpreters/translators provide us.

(Translation) The people that do not communicate in English benefit a lot from the interpreters, for which I am very thankful. (End Translation)

The interpreters/translators spend very long hours listening to us trying to make the best of what I think must be very difficult for people to understand. I want to let them know that there is some interest on my part when I become acutely interested in knowing what they must think of us. I think for the public record it is probably better for them not to say anything about it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, can he give an estimated cost of the proposed board of inquiry that he has established under the Medical Profession Act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do believe that I estimated the costs of the medical board of inquiry when we debated the honourable Member's motion earlier in this session. At that time, I estimated the costs at between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and that is based on previous experience with inquiries of this kind. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, can I ask the Minister how he estimated the costs of the public inquiry to be \$500,000? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the main gauge for estimating the cost was our experience with previous inquiries of this kind, and a recent example we have to follow is the so-called Bourassa Inquiry, which cost, I believe, in excess of \$500,000. Mr. Speaker, the reason for the difference in the estimate of cost between a medical board of inquiry, and a public inquiry, is that the public inquiry has a much broader range of issues that can be examined, and also a much broader scope for the calling and the compelling attendance of witnesses who have traditionally demanded legal counsel and it is those legal fees, Mr. Speaker, that will be a particularly heavy component of the estimated costs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally, it is the process of Cabinet to ask for supplementary appropriation for funding. That is required under a proper justification for these funds and, Mr. Speaker, he is basically taking a ball park figure from out of the air, coming here wanting to ask Members to approve an initial supplementary appropriation of \$500,000. Mr. Speaker, we have half of the year left out of the budget process, does the Minister feel that it is not more appropriate to ask for a lesser amount of this

House for a public inquiry, and then ask for money as he requires it? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the budget for the proposed inquiry will be tabled and presented to this House when the supplementary estimate is presented. Mr. Speaker, I am quite confident that \$500,000 is in fact a low estimate of the costs. So looking at the issues, and the extent of public concern in the Member's constituency, I think that experience will show that in fact we will be fortunate if it only costs \$500,000. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, this is your final supplementary, Mrs. Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that this is my last supplementary. It must be a real mess that is why there is an estimated cost of \$500,000, and I think that was why I asked for this public inquiry, to try to get to the bottom of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, when does he intend to bring forward the request for the Members to approve the supplementary appropriation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O888-12(2): Cost Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I understand that Ms. Cournoyea who will be acting for Mr. Pollard in connection with this matter, will be conferring with the chairman of the

Standing Committee on Finance about how quickly this supplementary request can be expedited, so it will be a matter as I think it traditionally occurs, to be discussed between the acting House Leader and the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance. I cannot answer the question today for that reason. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O889-12(2): N.W.T.P.C. Measures To Ensure Safety

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a new question to the Minister responsible for N.W.T.P.C. Last session, Mr. Speaker, it was brought to my attention that there were five lay-off notices granted to individuals in Fort Smith, and we were grateful that N.W.T.P.C. took it upon themselves to find these individuals employment and these lay-offs were avoided. However, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about some of the safety in respect to the operation of N.W.T.P.C., particularly the safety that may be violated at the Taltson River Dam.

Mr. Speaker, at the dam, I know the Leader is fully aware that there is a fairly lengthy number of steps that go into this area where you check the power everyday, and recognizing that there is only one person out there who goes in to check these power services it is possible that an accident could happen. I would like to ask the Minister what measures are taken by N.W.T.P.C. to ensure that the safety regulations are not violated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O889-12(2): N.W.T.P.C. Measures To Ensure Safety

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I know after the accident that took place awhile ago, that the safety measures at the Taltson Dam have been increased and extra added training on safety measures was put into force, and I will be pleased to provide the Members with the list of safety precautions that were drawn up in this one-man working place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O889-12(2): N.W.T.P.C. Measures To Ensure Safety

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I would like to ask the Minister if it is possible to provide the person with a radio so he can keep in contact with people. As you go down into the area of the plant as I said there must be at least 50 steps that you have to walk down into this area. It would be a good idea to have a phone system in the plant or in the house. Is it possible to provide a radio, because he is the only individual out at the site, totally in isolation, monitoring the power station out there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O889-12(2): N.W.T.P.C. Measures To Ensure Safety

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I will bring that suggestion to the attention of the Power Corporation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Todd.

Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, and this speaks to the N.W.T. Health Care Association on September 21, the Minister of Health stressed the importance of planning and developing a framework for the provision of health services in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, surely these planned initiatives will take considerable resources and staff time. My question to the Minister is what resources and staff will be developed to support any planning initiatives undertaken by the department, or boards?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, there are substantial capital monies set aside in the current and proposed budgets of the Department of Health over the next couple of years, for these planning exercises. There is some \$2 million, for example allocated for the Keewatin and Baffin regions for planning exercises, and other regions as well, Mr. Speaker.

There are substantial financial resources allocated to assist boards in planning health needs in collaboration with the department. As far as staff are concerned, Mr. Speaker, there is a dedicated capability within the Department of Health to assist with capital planning. There are a number of people who are experts in this field who will be available to do that work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

MR. TODD:

Thank you. Can the Minister indicate whether this dedicated group within the department is being funded by internal resources, or is it going to require additional resources?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

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Further Return To Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the staff dedicated to capital planning within the Department of Health, are part of the existing establishment of the Department of Health. They are part of the base funding of the department, the base establishment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

MR. TODD:

Since this planning initiative will be funded within existing resources, can the Minister indicate whether he has sought, or is seeking F.M.B. approval for the reorganization of this planning department within the department?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O890-12(2): Planning Initiatives For Health Services

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

I have no plans to do so at the moment, Mr. Speaker. The department of course is considering its organization in anticipation of the amalgamation with the Department of Social Services. That is the big reorganizational agenda that is being considered at the moment, Mr. Speaker. Of course it will lead to reorganization in almost every aspect of the department's operation, including capital planning. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. During this Assembly, and many prior Assemblies this government keeps making commitments to enhance levels of aboriginal people, aboriginal employees in this government especially at management levels. It has been brought to my attention that just recently there were four appointments made, four senior staff appointments I think at the director level within the Department of Education, and none of them are aboriginal.

My question to the Minister is: Were these four appointments actually made?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this issue, because I was as curious as the Member was. The department has made some changes recently to honour some obligations and some temporary arrangements have been made, to fill vacancies resulting from secondments and absences due to education leave.

A director in the department was recently seconded to the Executive to participate in the consolidation exercise. To fill the temporary vacancy this created a senior federal public servant was loaned to this government, to manage the unit, to help us prepare for the possible transfer of the labour market development and training responsibilities from the federal government through the constitutional agreement.

The department has an obligation to reassign an employee returning from education leave next spring. So a recent vacancy was being temporarily filled on the acting basis until the employee returns. Another vacancy was recently filled by an educator returning from education leave whom the department was obligated to hire, as part of the terms of the education leave agreement.

The final appointment was made to honour a commitment to the divisional board to assign a director whom the board wished to replace.

Mr. Speaker, the department has not used these arrangements to avoid the competition process. The arrangements were part of the department's human resource plan and represented the best possible course of action to satisfy our legal obligations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform this House as to the names of the individuals appointed, and the positions to which they were appointed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I apologize, I do not have the list of these names with me right now. I will inform the Member of the names of who they are, and what positions they are in. I do not have that information with me, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

MR. KOE:

Yes, I think I can wait for the names. I can give you the names, if you need them.

---Laughter

The Minister, in his response mentioned that these positions, and these individuals are part of the department's human resource plan. I would like to ask the Minister, where do aboriginal employees fit within this human resource plan, or are they even part of the plan in terms of hiring them for senior management positions?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The aboriginal employees under the, you might say the Northern Initiative Program, make a higher priority for those positions, when they are qualified or are able to be trained to fill these positions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. If these were director positions, or senior management positions, why were they not advertised publicly for all people in the Northwest Territories to compete for?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O891-12(2): Direct Appointments Within Department Of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I already answered that question by stating that the appointments are reassignments, one secondment and two appointments, made to honour educational accomplishments to employees. These are the legal responsibilities that we have to those employees as I stated earlier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in regard to the Northern Accord. I have been told that the status of negotiations on the Northern Accord has been suspended with the federal government. At the present time, since 1988, there was an enabling agreement to formulate, or bring about the Northern Accord regarding natural resources.

This is devolution of jurisdiction from the federal government to G.N.W.T. in terms of the ownership and management of natural resources in the N.W.T. I understand, since 1988, there have been negotiations and at this point I have been told that these negotiations have been suspended. I was wondering if the Minister responsible could explain to the House the status of negotiations on the Northern Accord at this time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the negotiations have not been suspended. I believe that my statement here said that they were not going very far in terms of a package that I felt would be acceptable, financially, to the people of the Northwest Territories. We have settled almost all points, but the financial area is one where we are still having discussions on.

Recently we accelerated the discussions to the Prime Minister's level again saying that we are just not gaining any momentum. The problem with the federal government is that this funding, the financial part of it is new money. Certainly since the finalization of the Norman Wells agreement with the federal government, the federal government has had an increase of \$50 million, approximately a year from those resources from Norman Wells.

So we are having a bit of an argument that rather than looking at it as new money, it is money that they have acquired since the agreement to pay resources from Imperial Oil has been going to the federal coffers last year. So we have accelerated those discussions once more. The Minister of Finance has already brought that up with the federal Minister of Finance, Mr. Mazankowski about two weeks ago.

It seems in the last couple of weeks there has been some movement. They have not been suspended. I just made the statement and wanted to be completely honest with you that in the areas that are expressly important to us, in take-overs or any type of additional responsibilities, that the financial resources be there and that is the area that we are having extreme difficulties with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This whole area of Northern Accord is extremely important to a lot of people in the

north, especially aboriginal people who have been negotiating land claims and so forth. Basically this is what it is based on, land and resources.

This Northern Accord deals specifically with resources on the land, and where I come from, the region that I represent, they are very much interested in this whole aspect of it. It seems to me that there is very little information of exactly what this Northern Accord is going to look like. I knew that the First Nations were party to the Northern Accord at one time and I was wondering how much involvement do the aboriginal groups have in these negotiations at this present time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

In developing the Northern Accord the principles of the accord and the parameters of the accord, all the aboriginal organizations leadership have been involved. All the information that we get is continually flowed to them. The reasons why we have not had any meetings lately is because there has not been any significant movement that we can say, let us convene a meeting and discuss these new principles, a different aspect of dealing with this or the broader parameters.

All of the organizations have the up-to-date information. If there have not been ongoing meetings this is basically because there has not been any movement to change the situation from last year. I know that the department on invitation has gone to communities to explain what is in the accord, and they are certainly open to those suggestions or any invitations on that matter if various communities want to have more information, because it has not been distributed to them, or they feel that there is something different than what was negotiated last year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the previous transfer agreements such as Health and other departments, I am very leery about this whole area because that is the basis of a lot of different groups and their land claims. The way it is going we hear that it is suspended, and it is going slow. With the lack of information that is coming forth, I am very concerned at this time that the people that take the land as theirs are not directly involved in this whole process, except for consultation purposes.

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We do not know whether our input in this consultation process is taken very seriously. I was wondering if there is any way of having aboriginal groups more directly involved in this whole process, rather than just a consultation process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can explore that. Right now there is not much going on, but we can bring people more up-to-date. One of the things for sure is that the accord itself, and the final package, will have to go through the normal process in the Legislative Assembly and will be deliberated here. So in terms of feeling that something will be signed off, or people not knowing about the final contents, that will not be done.

We will be dealing with it more through the process. It will come, because there are financial implications through the Standing Committee on Finance. It will come through the committee structure, it will also go to this Legislative Assembly. Because there is not much movement and we have agreed on the parameters with the aboriginal organizations, and really what we are dealing with right now are the technicalities of the financial arrangement.

If that gets settled, certainly that will go back to have a revisiting on how good the package is, or if it meet everybody's needs. If we have the protection that we do not get caught in getting a deal, and then it effects our other budgeting processes, it will come through all of the processes. I will look to see whether we can update the organizations and see if we can give them more information or more of what is going on.

I know that they are all busy and when there is no movement, I do not want to pretend to them that we are making further movement, because we are really just arguing with the federal government right now on resources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that we are going to go through the processes later on, but it would be a lot easier if people that are closest to these resources are involved at an earlier state than later on in the process, because with the comprehensive claim policy it does not permit control of ownership of all the subsurface interest, and there is going to be joint roles in government management bodies, and these sort of arrangements will effect the structure on the future constitutional development in the north.

It is a bigger issue than just leaving the Northern Accord with the people negotiating, because I feel it is going to affect all of us in the long run. Personally I would like to see more involvement at this earlier stage than later on, because the people have to understand what they are doing as it is their resources to begin with.

So I was wondering if there was any way that this could be done? There is a question there some place. The Deh Cho Regional Tribal Council are very much aware of this particular concern since we are not negotiating in our area on the claim at this present time. Perhaps later on there might be some sort of an arrangement. At the present time, we do not know how long this is going to go on. So, if they could somehow be involved in this thing at the earlier stage that would be better. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will ask Members in oral questions if they could try to keep their preamble short, and use it as a set up for the actual question. The preambles sometimes tend to become more in light of a statement, than they are as a set up to a question. Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O892-12(2): Status Of Negotiations On Northern Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I know that we, the claimant groups, certainly have paid a lot more attention to the Northern Accord and some claimant groups have built that accord into their negotiations to enhance what they have, so I realize some people have more interest. I am pleased to work with the Member to see how we can cover off the Deh Cho area, because I know that certainly they have a different position than the other groups. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O893-12(2): School Bus For Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember there was a request made to the Minister of Education in February during session. I talked about the request by the Sanikiluaq people and they have been requesting this for quite some time, and they have requested it through the Baffin Divisional Board of Education to acquire a bus and I have gone to Sanikiluaq, and I have seen how far the school is from the community.

Perhaps the present Minister of Education could tell me whether he has any information from the previous Minister of Education in regards to the requests by Sanikiluaq to get a school bus, because it is very dangerous in that community in the fall because of the lake that is between the school and the community. The school children do not have transportation at the present time in Sanikiluaq and they have requested numerous times to get a school bus because of the distance of the school to the community.

I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Mr. Speaker, whether he has received a letter from Sanikiluaq in regards to this school bus? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O893-12(2): School Bus For Sanikiluaq

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have received a request from the people of Sanikiluaq

asking for transportation services for the school children. There are a lot of requests from different communities, and we do not have enough funding in our department at this time to follow through with all the communities' requests. At one point \$5 million is going to be used for every community that requests funding so for this reason, I have asked my department to do a study about transportation services for all the community's school children but I cannot say at the present time, Mr. Speaker, when that study will be completed, especially for Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question O893-12(2): School Bus For Sanikiluaq

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MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Education. Perhaps after the studies have been completed by his department, maybe he can inform me what is planned for a school bus for Sanikiluaq children? Would the Minister please inform me on how many years that the school bus will be provided for in the community of Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O893-12(2): School Bus For Sanikiluaq

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The study that is being done by my department at the present time, is a study on all the communities that have requested a school bus, and we will include Sanikiluaq in our study for the beginning of the 1993-94 school year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Gargan.

Question O894-12(2): Recovery Of Health Billings

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. I believe tomorrow is going to be the day when the territorial government will be submitting a court challenge with regards to that deficit in Health. The deficit is that they are going to recover it through the courts, and I am just wondering because it was announced a couple of weeks ago, is the government still intending on pursuing that recovery of the health billing through the courts tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O894-12(2): Recovery Of Health Billings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, there has been some indication that there might be some movement on the health billing. We have not retracted it, the intention is to go ahead tomorrow. However, I know there are some discussions going on today to see how much movement there is, and I am prepared to come back to you when those discussions are finished today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Zoe.

Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health last week commented on plans to increase the number of aboriginal people in the Department of Health. He indicated that he has met with his senior officials, and asked them to develop a strategic plan of how they can increase aboriginal people to an officer level or above.

I admire the Minister for doing that however, Mr. Speaker, it makes me wonder why the officials in the Department of Health have not done this much earlier since affirmative action hiring has been a priority of this government for I believe, more than seven years now.

My question to the Minister is has the Minister investigated why his department is only now developing a strategic plan?

MR. SPEAKER:

I will just remind Members that a Minister is not responsible for the actions of former Ministers. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am really not aware of what efforts have been made by previous Ministers in that direction. Mr. Speaker, the Member asked me if I have looked into what was done before. I am looking ahead in taking on this relatively new responsibility, but no I have not researched in detail past efforts to deal with affirmative action. I have not done so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

That is a point that I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker. It appears that the department has not been doing anything in this regard. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be looking into why this work was not done before? Would he look into it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am not accepting that efforts have not been made in the past. I will look into those previous efforts. I may say, Mr. Speaker, if the Member has a specific concern about a particular job, or a particular competition, I would love to hear about it and I would love to deal with that specific concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, Members in this House know since I have been elected to this House, I have been monitoring the Department of Health and how it has been progressing. It appears that this Affirmative Action Plan has not been working in the department. Now they are trying to look at it, and develop a plan. Why was this not done earlier? There must be some rationale, and I am asking the Minister to see why affirmative action in the department has not been working, in order to help him develop this strategic plan that he has indicated that he is working on? Would he look into it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Yes, I said I would. I believe the House has received on an annual basis reports from every department about its progress on affirmative action. Yes, I will look into the past, as well as plan for the future, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

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MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When will the Minister's officials complete this strategic plan that he is planning to work on? How long is it going to take?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O895-12(2): Hiring Of Aboriginal Employees Within Department Of Health

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the exercise that I referred to is part our planning for amalgamation with the Department of

Social Services. It is a massive exercise, and it will take months to complete. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to extend question period today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period will be extended. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. It is in respect to the terms of reference that the Minister has given me a copy of, for the public inquiry on the Fort Smith Health Centre.

In reviewing the terms of reference one of the questions that came to my mind, and I would like to ask the Minister, is what process did he use in respect to formulating these terms of reference? Recognizing that the former board members of the Fort Smith Health Centre are the ones who have the best understanding of the long standing administrative problems.

Can the Minister indicate to this House the process that he used in formulating these terms of reference? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference were prepared under the direction of the deputy minister of the Department of Health in consultation with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, has he said that it was formulated with the Department of Health, the Deputy Minister and the Department of Justice.

I am wondering whether he has taken into consideration, to even ask his presently appointed public administrator if he had any input into these terms of reference, or did he make them totally with departmental officials from Health and Justice? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker. I really do not know to what extent officials in the Department of Health consulted the public administrator or other persons, but I am informed that Mr. Ellis was asked for his input.

Mr. Speaker, generally speaking it is unfortunate that these terms of reference are not before the House yet. I will table them today. Generally speaking, I think Members will find that the terms of reference are broad ranging. They are designed to capture the concerns that were expressed over the number of weeks by the Member for Thebacha in letters, questions, and Member's statements. When the terms of reference are tabled later today, Members will see that it is a very broad ranging terms of reference, which will cover all the areas of concern expressed by the honourable Member privately, and publicly, to myself. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is ironic that it has always been the discussion, particularly when I refer to it, and think of the Strength at Two Levels report the request of ordinary Members to always be in the process of developing terms of reference, and recognizing that only the department officials from Justice and Health were asked along with Mr. Ellis for the development of the terms of reference.

I would like to ask the Minister even though these terms of reference have not been tabled in the House there is nothing in this terms of reference that refers to the Minister, and his Department of Health. I would like to ask the Minister why did he not ensure that the public inquiry examine his own responsibilities, and relationship with the health board? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O896-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect to the Member, her assertion is not correct. I think that the inquiry clearly includes an examination of the role, and responsibility, of the Minister of Health. For example, section 4.7 refers to a review and critical analysis of the events and process leading to the resignation of the board of management. The appointment of the public administrator and the establishment of this board of inquiry, all involved the Minister of Health.

I think it is certainly very clearly contemplated that the role of the Minister of Health in those events, will be examined by the board. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the board of inquiry looks at the board of health in relation to legislation of the Northwest Territories that includes the legislation which establishes the Department of Health and spells out the role of the Minister.

All of those statutes and regulations of the Northwest Territories relating to health are clearly within the mandate of the board of inquiry, and will clearly be available for examination. As I say, Mr. Speaker, I think that the terms have a very broad range and

I certainly do not expect, as Minister of Health, that I will escape scrutiny under these terms of reference. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

If I could caution Members, the two Members have been discussing a document that is not in front of this House, that other Members do not have in front of them so the other Members may not be aware of the background and details of the document.

If I could ask Members in courtesy to other Members, if they could perhaps not proceed with any more questions on this particular document until the document is in front of the House, so all Members have the opportunity to know exactly what the Members are discussing. Oral questions, Mr. Ningark.

Question O897-12(2): Development Of Credit Unions

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Economic Development and Finance. Mr. Speaker, co-ops in the north play a very important role in terms of economy and hiring native people.

Many years ago I worked for the co-op for five years and most of my family members work for the co-op. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the co-op is the biggest employer in my community and I think that goes for most small communities across the territories. Now my question is, Mr. Speaker, what has this government done in terms of enhancing the request made by the Arctic Co-op to develop credit unions in the territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, to give the question credit and not half answer it, I will take that as notice, and come back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O898-12(2): Response To Written Question

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services when he intends to respond to a written question that was asked by myself on September 22 requesting information on September 28. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford.

Return To Question O898-12(2): Response To Written Question

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an answer prepared, I just do not have it with me at the moment, but I shall have it for the Member today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health indicated today in his Minister's statement that he has established a board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. Recognizing that I will not ask for the substance of the matter before the board of inquiry. I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether or not this board of inquiry is now fully constituted? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the Minister to advise the House what criteria he used in deciding which doctors and lay representatives to select the members of the board of inquiry? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I should explain that the board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act, is a body that exists at all times. It was not constituted because of this particular issue in Fort Smith. Members had been appointed and the board of inquiry was in place before this issue arose. It is the kind of body that is there when it is required.

Some action had to be taken, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that all members had up-to-date appointments. As far as I know there were only two members whose appointments needed to be confirmed, or updated, in order to activate this particular board. Dr. Covert was the previous President of the Board of Inquiry, and has been so for some years. His appointment was about to lapse, Mr. Speaker, and therefore it was necessary to re-appoint him in order to get the board fully constituted.

The representative of the N.W.T. Medical Association needed to be appointed. That particular individual for some reason, was no longer able to serve, or the position had lapsed. So I had to wait a period of time to get a nomination from the N.W.T. Medical Association. The other members of the board of inquiry Dr. Fairbairn and Ms. Mary King of Hay River were already in place, and did not have to be re-appointed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, since he indicated that Dr. Fairbairn has been appointed and Ms. Mary King has been appointed and Dr. Covert has been appointed, is the Minister indicating that this board of inquiry comprises of three people the three being Dr. Fairbairn, Dr. Covert and Ms. King? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O899-12(2): Constitution Of Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, no, there is a fourth person who is the nominee of the N.W.T. Medical Association. I have appointed Dr. Kallos to represent the position of N.W.T. physicians on the recommendation of the N.W.T. Medical Association. The other members are Dr. Fairbairn, who is the out-of-territory medical

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practitioner, Dr. Covert, and Ms. King.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O900-12(2): Discussions On Department of Health Report

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In June, the Department of Health came out with a report titled "Health and Health Resources, Fort Simpson and Area Community Profile". In this report the Department of Health has developed six steps in achieving and maintaining the well-being of the residents of Fort Simpson, and surrounding areas within available resources.

This report fulfils step one in that process. Its purpose is to provide a base for joint discussion at which time opportunities for more efficient, and effective service to the Fort Simpson area will be identified.

The second step in this process is just to hold discussion between residents, health practitioners, and the Department of Health. Mr. Speaker, the

people in Fort Simpson would like to have these discussions soon.

Also I would like the Minister to confirm who from the community will be involved in these discussions? Will it be just a select few, or will the discussions be of an open nature where anyone concerned will get a chance to be heard? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O990-12(2): Discussions On Department Of Health Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the honourable Member that there is no intention to have, I think he called it, a select few people involved and I believe that the first phase of the planning showed that the department did reach out to a large number of community leaders and critical organizations, such as band councils, Metis locals, and local governments to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I have recently informed the department that it is the desire of the residents of the Member's constituency to keep moving on this important exercise, and to begin the next phase. I have asked them to make it a priority to, again, begin these discussions in the near future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O900-12(2): Discussions On Department Of Health Report

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what his department's intentions are for the hospital in Fort Simpson, because I stated in the House previously that our intention in Fort Simpson, and that area is to have proper health programs and services for Fort Simpson and the surrounding area, out of the hospital in Fort Simpson. We want to keep that hospital there and we would like to have better equipment. The personnel that work out of the hospital are good personnel at the present time, but we need more services, and we hear quite a few complaints from smaller communities that the service seems to be dwindling down. So I was wondering what is the ultimate purpose of this exercise of these

six steps? What is the intention of the department? The Minister should tell us right now exactly what his intentions are. Is it ultimately to use this exercise to do an end run, shut down the hospital and make it into a glorified nursing station? Or is it to upgrade it to the way the people in the communities would like to see this hospital? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Two questions. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O900-12(2): Discussions On Department Of Health Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that the honourable Member would suggest that there is a predetermined agenda for this health study. I know that residents of the area fear that this review is a justification for closing the hospital. I want to assure the honourable Member that is not in the terms of reference, nor have any conclusions been reached by myself or health officials about what should happen with health services in that region.

Mr. Speaker, the Member asked me to state clearly what the intentions are of the department with respect to the hospital. It is precisely the purpose of this study to gather the necessary data to examine how the hospital is being used, how services are being delivered, what services are being met and what needs are not being met.

Once we have that information, Mr. Speaker, with the full participation of the M.L.A. and community leaders, once we have a profile of the health needs of the region then we will be in a position to do a logical response to that information and I do not know what that response is going to be, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea what it will lead to. I think we have to take one step at a time, get the information, make it as comprehensive as possible, ensure people have ownership of that process, feel that it is legitimate, that the department has an open inquiring mind about the matter and once we have all that information then we will make these kinds of critical decisions.

I am certainly not prepared to make commitments of any kind in the absence of that information having been gathered and assessed. It is premature now to say what the end result is going to be. Why would we do a plan if we already knew what the end result was going to be? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O900-12(2):
Discussions On Department Of Health Report

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June as I mentioned, there was a report that came out called "Health and Health Resources, Fort Simpson and Area Community Profile." At the time when this report came out, a team of health officials travelled to Fort Simpson and met with people representing the region and upon receiving this fairly thick document, they were asked to comment on this document. So it is very difficult to rate a document while you are having a meeting to reply on it. A process was agreed upon that this same team was to travel back to Fort Simpson at the end of August or the early part of September, to get the proper feedback from these people involved in the community and this commitment has not been followed through.

I would like to ask this Minister -- I know he was a previous Minister -- but with this commitment that was made by the health officials, is it going to be honoured and if so when is this going to take place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

That is two questions. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O900-12(2): Discussions
On Department Of Health Report

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HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, yes certainly the next phase of the visit will take place. Officials from my department were expecting to hear from the community as to when they should come back, and through their M.L.A. they have been informed quite recently that there is a desire to have those second round of meetings.

Arrangements are being made at this time. I understand, Mr. Speaker, I expect a mutually agreeable date for a visit will occur in the very near future, but I cannot tell the honourable Member when. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question O900-12(2):
Discussions On Department Of Health Report

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One last question, the people that are concerned about the health issues in my constituency would like to convey to the Minister next time his officials travel to the community with a thick document, if we could receive these documents ahead of time so that when the meeting does occur, we would have some feedback at that time? So if there are going to be any documents at this upcoming meeting, they would like to see these documents before any such meeting takes place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am not sure that was a question, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O900-12(2): Discussions
On Department Of Health Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Well, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some misunderstanding here. When the document, the Fort Simpson and Area Profile, was presented to the residents of the Fort Simpson area on June 25, 1992, I believe there was some mention for any preliminary comments. That was probably misplaced. I want to assure the honourable Member that the document that was prepared and distributed to residents is the only document that will be reviewed at the next visit. Residents have now had several months to consider that document and the department is quite willing to hear the responses at this time. It has not changed. We are anxious to receive input from the community before the next phase is planned in a cooperative fashion. I want to assure the Member that there is every attempt being made to give the residents adequate time to consider, and respond to that profile document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O901-12(2): Documents On Labour Dispute

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 22, I asked the Government Leader to provide this House with a comprehensive summary of negotiations, consultations, correspondence, and all other actions undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories which have been directed toward the resolution of the labour dispute at the Royal Oak Mine, in written question.

I would like to ask the Government Leader if she has the documentation available for Members?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O901-12(2): Documents On Labour Dispute

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the document has been completed and is being translated. I had hoped that I would have it today, but it will be available tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo, supplementary. New question, Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O902-12(2): Funding For Emergency Repair Program

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation circulated an Emergency Repair Program statement today, and indicated that there was no funding left in that particular program.

I am wondering if the Minister is assessing whether or not there is a need for additional financial resources in that particular program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O902-12(2): Funding For Emergency Repair Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O902-12(2): Funding For Emergency Repair Program

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. Could I ask, Mr. Speaker, if he has any idea of when that assessment might be completed and available for Members, or Cabinet to review?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question O902-12(2): Funding For Emergency Repair Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within a month.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the terms of reference that has been prepared for the public administrator at the Fort Smith Health Centre and I have tabled that document in this House.

The terms of reference that he prepared for the public administrator, sometime in September at the Fort Smith Health Centre, has outlined very specific duties in the development of a strategic plan for long term development of the health care centre, something like what my colleague from Nahendeh was discussing. He has also been assigned the responsibility of developing admission statements for the health centre and of determining the health care needs of the area. Can the Minister explain why the public administrator has been assigned these responsibilities rather than waiting until his term ends and a new board, which represents all community interests, is appointed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this important work which had been under way at the time the Fort Smith Health Centre Board was, unfortunately, dissolved due to resignations, should, and must continue. It is critical that the planning go forward and so that is the first reason why it was included in the terms of reference for the Fort Smith Health Centre public administrator.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the individual who received that appointment, Mr. Don Ellis is a person who, I believe, is quite familiar with the community and the residents served by the Fort Smith Health Centre. He has had extensive experience in exercises of this kind including the decentralization exercise that led to the creation of new forms of government organization in the Fort Smith region. Therefore I think he is well qualified to continue this kind of work in a sensitive manner that responds to public needs while we are waiting for the turmoil surrounding the centre to be resolved, and while we are waiting for the appointment of a new board that can function and replace the public administrator. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister has given me a document that I have not read yet. A little grey book that I thought that was the sum of his strategic planning, but it probably was not. However I would like to ask the Minister why he did not include a requirement in his administrators terms of reference that the strategic plan admission statement must be developed in consultation with public groups, and with individuals within the community?

This was not included in the terms of reference. He is again assuming, because Mr. Ellis is aware of the community, that he can develop this plan in isolation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the planning processes developed by the Department of Health are very clearly geared toward community consultation and grass roots input into the development of a plan for health care needs.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that this work will be undertaken in full consultation with the community. There was no need to spell that out in the terms of reference for the public administrator because he is very familiar, and I think most honourable Members should be very familiar with the method of strategic planning undertaken by the Department of Health.

It is community-based. The document that the honourable Member is referring to is the first phase of planning, it is the health profile for the community. I am sure that the honourable Member would now want us to move on to the second stages of health planning, and not freeze planning so that we can improve and plan for the future of health facilities in her constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is critically important to ensure that within the terms of reference it is specifically pointed out that this consultation process should be within the community, or with the community whereas the terms of reference are absent particularly in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the terms of reference have also been established for the public administrator at the Mackenzie Regional Health Services -- which I also tabled -- there is no reference in developing a strategic plan or admission statement in that document. Can the Minister explain why he judged that it was necessary to direct the public administrator at the Fort Smith Health Centre to take on these tasks over the duration of his appointment, but not the administrator for Mackenzie Health Services? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I met with the public administrator appointed for the Fort Smith Health Centre, Mr. Ellis to discuss his work, and Mr. Ellis expressed a strong interest in pursuing a strategic plan and continuing the work of health planning. He is well qualified in this area. I think the honourable Member will know from her experience with this gentleman, that he is not one to act in isolation without consulting community leaders and community groups.

I think that he has a good reputation for working with local governments, band councils, Metis locals, and even M.L.A.s, Mr. Speaker, although that is not always easy. Mr. Speaker, I guess I felt it went without saying that Mr. Ellis would act in a consultative fashion, and I do not believe that it is necessary to spell it out in the terms of reference.

As to the Mackenzie public administrator, Mr. Speaker, since setting up that public administrator, the Department of Health advises me that they have had some experience assessing the role of a public administrator and it is true that the terms of reference for Mr. Ellis are more extensive and broad. That is the result of that experience, and perhaps an improvement of the public administrator model since the Mackenzie public administrator was set up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary to Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask in my final supplementary if the Minister of Health would make a commitment to table in this House a comprehensive outline of the process the public administrator will use to develop the mission statement, strategic plan, goals and objectives for the Fort Smith Health Centre including his plans for community consultation which is critically needed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O903-12(2): Terms Of Reference For Public Administrator

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be prepared to do that in due course. The public administrator's primary job right now, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that the health centre is running smoothly, that patients are served and that the primary health care needs are met.

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However when he is able to do the strategic planning work and develop a process I will certainly be pleased to table that information in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Is this a new question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell? Is there anybody else who has an oral question? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O904-12(2): South Slave Divisional Board School Bus

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education this time. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education a question as to why the South Slave Divisional Board is allowed to purchase a bus, and it is located apparently in Fort Smith to transport the Snowdrift students on the weekends when all busing services in Fort Smith are out on contract for the requirements of transporting students? Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure about the historical reasoning behind this so I will take that as notice and attempt to explain it tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services is probably aware that payment directives have been established to specify the process through which alcohol and drug contributions funding is to be distributed to various counselling programs and treatment centres across the territories.

These requirements that all O and M contributions must be reviewed, and referred to a board of community representatives before they are approved which is the board of management. It is a requirement, Mr. Speaker, under the Financial Administration Act, that these payment directives must be followed. If any public office becomes aware that these requirements are being contravened, they can be found guilty of an offense.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that for the 1992-93 contribution applications the board of management for alcohol and drug services were not even allowed to meet. Finally, a month after the applications were approved a telephone conference was held with some board members, but even at the time the department did not provide the board with copies of the funding application.

Can the Minister of Social Services explain why his department has disregarded the process of community representation in decisions about alcohol and drug funding? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the board of management has had a great difficulty obtaining a quorum during the period in question. The chairperson was seriously ill and even hospitalized, other members of the board were unavailable at critical times when meetings were attempted to be organized and the board was operating with a bare quorum. It was difficult for the board to meet for logistical reasons, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell the honourable Member that since I became Minister, the board did meet -- I think it was sometime in July -- and they did then have an opportunity to make the reviews that the Member has referred to

and to look at funding applications at that time. So they were finally able to meet and things had been brought up to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister tried to explain whether the board could meet or not, but I am more concerned in regards to the payment directives not being clearly followed.

Will the Minister immediately undertake a review of the actions of his officials in the alcohol and drug community mental health services, to determine why this serious breach of the Financial Administration Act has apparently taken place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will undertake the review, but I will not assume that there have been serious breaches of the Financial Administration Act until after I have received all of the information following that review. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that the board of management had difficulty in forming a quorum. Sometimes this difficulty arises from the board not being in full complement. Will the Minister make a commitment now that he has ensured the board of management for alcohol and drug services would

meet regularly, and is supplied with the information that is required to perform the functions that have been assigned to it by government policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, since the role of that board, and many other boards and agencies of the government of the Northwest Territories, is under review not only by the government but by committees of this Legislature, and since we are operating in times of financial restraint and it becomes increasingly difficult to pay for the costs of many boards and agencies, I cannot make the commitment to the honourable Member today that it will be possible to continue the operation of this board.

The matter is under review, and I have had a chance to receive the views of the board. I will look forward to getting the views of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions however, before making a final determination about the future of that board. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister is hesitant to allow the board to continue with their mandate then I believe, that he may be contravening the Financial Administration Act. Is the Minister willing to allow this board not to meet just because of a time of restraint, and place himself in a position which may allow his officials to contravene the Financial Administration Act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O905-12(2): Lack Of Community Representation For Alcohol And Drug Funding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the honourable Member that I took the initiative to cause the board to meet in July so that they could do the work that they are mandated to do under the present payment directives. I told the board at that time, that it was no secret that all boards of this government are under scrutiny. That there justification *raison d'etre* costs are going to have to be considered in the climate of restraint that we are now living in. I committed to the board that I would inform them about what steps would be taken next. I want to assure the honourable Member that I have no intention of violating payment directives developed under the Financial Administration Act. If the board is not to be continued then of course the payment directives will be amended so that they will accord with whatever new regime is established. No final decision has been taken on that as I said Mr. Speaker, I welcome advice from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on which the honourable Member is represented before making a final determination. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O906-12(2): Consultation With Home Owners Regarding Flood Damages

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About ten days ago I asked the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs to table in this House all the applications that had been made, or received, from the communities as a result of floods in the Mackenzie Delta. Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the assessment was not done based on requests or applications, or submissions by homeowners. It was done by the Department of Public Works.

I want to ask the Minister responsible for Public Works whether or not he can indicate to me if the departmental officials consulted, or met with, or in any way communicated with homeowners in Aklavik to deal with the consequences, and the damages as a result of flooding this spring.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into it for the Member and I will get back to him.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O906-12(2):
Consultation With Homeowners Regarding Flood Damages

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, if he could encourage the officials of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Department of Public Works, to actually go into the community to see for themselves or meet with the people that are concerned about damages to houses, because they are in the midst right now with some very cold weather and this is not cold compared to what it is going to be in February, January, and December of this year.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question O906-12(2): Consultation With Home Owners Regarding Flood Damages

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will direct the Department of Public Works as well as the Housing Corporation to go and meet with those people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question O907-12(2): Discontinuing Use Of Leg Hold Traps

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard on the radio this morning about leg hold traps being outlawed in the north, or trappers are not going to use them it starting this fall. Personally I disagree with that decision, and I know the Minister responsible is not here, but maybe

I could ask the Government Leader. I do not like to see this policy put into place at all, I think it is going to harm the trappers. It is confusing and expensive to work with these things.

Is there a way we could put this off defer it until we can reassess the situation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O907-12(2): Discontinuing Use Of Leg Hold Traps

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to speak to the Minister about looking into that situation again. As many Members realize in this Legislative Assembly, and certainly the Hunters' and Trappers' Association, this government of the Northwest Territories has spent a great deal of time trying to express on behalf of the hunters and trappers, that this exercise is not relevant to the Northwest Territories.

However, this is a situation that is taken Canada-wide and with all the efforts that we have put through, through the Fur Institute of Canada, through the aboriginal peoples trappers' associations, we have had this delayed three times.

I will talk to Mr. Alloo who was supposed to be back today, but was delayed in his travel arrangements, and see if there is anything else that we can do. I know that I can assure all the Members here that we have exercised an awful lot of energy in trying to get the institution of putting in place a banning of leg hold traps. I will talk to Mr. Alloo to see if there is anything else we can do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral question. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O908-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contracts With Delury And Associates

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader -- I am not too sure if it should be the Government Leader or the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

-- whether Delury and Associates still have contracts with this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O908-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contracts With Delury And Associates

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O908-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contracts With Delury And Associates

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Since the Minister is not aware to his knowledge whether there is still contracts, sole source contracts for Mr. Delury, would the Minister indicate or confirm for this House whether there are any contracts in place for a later date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi. Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O908-12(2): G.N.W.T. Contracts With Delury And Associates

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, to my knowledge, Mr. Delury does not have any contracts with this government.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

New question, Mr. Speaker. I will formulate other questions on that matter at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER:

A new question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education in regard to the Thebacha Campus Catering contract if the Minister of Education would advise this House whether that contract has been awarded? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, yes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate to me when he will be advising the public of Fort Smith that this contract has been awarded? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

I am not sure we have a responsibility to inform Fort Smith of the awarding of the contract. However if the Member wants Fort Smith to be informed, I will ask Arctic College whether that is appropriate or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, you would think that when the Minister is going to allow his department to spend probably about \$200,000 on a contract, that he would have the courtesy to at least advise the public. I would like to ask the Minister if he will make a commitment to advise Arctic College, and if they would advise the community of Fort Smith as to the successful bidder for that Thebacha contract? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O909-12(2): Thebacha Campus Catering Contract

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will request that Arctic College be courteous enough to advise Fort Smith on the awarding of the contract.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 60-12(2): Activities Of Department Of Safety And Public Services During The Royal Oak Mines Labour Dispute

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, return to Written Question 60-12(2) asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Minister of Safety and Public Services concerning the activities of the Department of Safety and Public Services during the Royal Oak Mines labour dispute.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your Committee Report 13-12(2) tabled on June 25, 1992, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts indicated its intention to meet more frequently....

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Order

MR. NERYSOO:

Member is not including translation of the report.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk, have the reports been translated? I would like to inform the House that there are only copies of the report in English available at this time. It has been a courtesy in this House that documents are translated. There is a certain amount of latitude with tabled documents, but as Speaker, I feel that a committee report is very important, so if any

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Members have any problem whatsoever about the fact that this is not translated, I would ask the Member if he would stand down his particular report until proper copies of translated committee reports have been received by all Members. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I raised that particular matter, because I know that on a point of order the translation should be made available. There is a unilingual Member, who is a Member of this committee, and that is Mr. Kenoayoak Pudlat.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. I will rule that you do have a point of order, and I would ask the committee chairman to stand down this report, until translated copies have been made available to all Members.

Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member who raised his point of order in regard to the translation of this report, I realize his concern ...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Zoe, are you raising a point of order? Please state that, Mr. Zoe.

Point Of Order

MR. ZOE:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there is a specific rule that says all standing committee reports have to be translated. I think it was provided as a courtesy and our Member on the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Pudlat, is involved and he fully understands what is in the committee report. So I do not see the problem that the honourable Member from the Delta has raised.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I have already ruled on the point of order. I am prepared to give a more detailed response to the House tomorrow, but my ruling was that I feel for something as important as a committee report, the precedent of this House has been that reports of committees are translated. My ruling is for the committee chairman stand down the report until there are translated copies for all Members.

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

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document. Tabled Document 106-12(2), Terms of Reference, Public Inquiry, Fort Smith

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please... Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document. Tabled Document 106-12(2), Terms of Reference, Public Inquiry, Fort Smith Health Centre. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents. Mr. Whitford.

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 62(2) of the Transportation of Dangerous Good Act 1990, I wish to table the following document. Tabled Document 107-12(2), Report to the Legislative Assembly on Transportation of Dangerous Goods 1991. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of documents, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. First I would like to table, Tabled Document 108-12(2), a copy of correspondence dated September 29 from the Minister of Health to myself regarding health planning for health services. Members will note that paragraph four of this letter clearly shows that the department will be undergoing some reorganization to form a new planning group consisting of two planning officers, a researcher, and a statistic's analyzer to support board planning initiatives.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, Tabled Document 109-12(2), a copy of correspondence dated September 30 from the Speaker of the Keewatin Regional Council to myself, regarding the joint planning for a regional health care facility for the Keewatin region. Mr. Speaker, this letter reiterates the support of the regional council to locate this facility in Rankin Inlet.

MR. SPEAKER:

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 66-12(2), "Working Towards a Common Future" Commission for Constitutional Development; 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 17-12(2), Report on the Review of the 1992-93 Main Estimates; Bill 9, an Act to Amend

the Insurance Act; Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, with Mr. Nerysoo in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

I would like to call the committee to order. We were dealing with the budget yesterday. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that we deal with Bill 9 and Bill 33, and then back to the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Is that agreed with the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. We will deal with Bill 9. If we could deal with Bill 9, we were deferred at clause 5. Bill 9, clause 5. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Insurance Act

Committee Motion 182-12(2): To Amend Bill 9, An Act To Amend The Insurance Act

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that clause 5 of Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Insurance Act, be amended by striking out 1993, and substituting 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Do all Members have copies of the motion? Thank you, I believe all Members have a copy, and just note that the motion is in three languages English, Inuktitut and French. Are there any comments with regard to the motion? The motion is in order. Any comments? Mr. Dent.

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MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be supporting this motion to amend, in large part because it delays

implementation of the increase. I just wanted to state again for the record, that my main objection to this bill, is because it represents a hidden tax. I would not object to a scheme which sets a fee, or fees, to allow the government to recover the costs of administration, but such fees should not be set as a percentage of premiums. They should be set in dollars.

Another consideration has to be, in the past day we have heard complaints about rates of insurance companies, and I think the best way to keep rates down is competition. The N.W.T. we have to realize is a very small jurisdiction, it is very small for insurance companies. The volume is not here to attract a lot of companies. In the past several companies have withdrawn from doing business in the N.W.T.

The fireman's fund has completely withdrawn from the market. I am advised that Commercial Union, which is one of the largest underwriters in the N.W.T., has quit writing any new policies, which is generally the first step toward withdrawing completely from a market. Also, contrary to what we have been told in this House, I have been advised by agents that many insurance companies treat the N.W.T. as a separate zone, tracking loss histories, and the cost of doing business here, and factoring these into the actuarial figures, to compute premiums.

With computerized data, it is easy to see how that can be done. I believe that any increase to the cost of doing business will be passed on to the consumer. I believe that insurance companies, which are already unenthusiastic about doing business in the north, will look at the higher cost of doing business, add this tax increase into their consideration, and perhaps decide that it is really not worthwhile to do business north of 60.

As competition declines, Mr. Chairman, you can count on insurance premiums going up. So, while I will support this amendment, because it delays something that is a bad move, I want to advise that I will still vote against this bill in third reading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, myself, will be supporting this amendment to the motion, because the insurance companies in the Northwest Territories

are, no doubt, in need of improvements, particularly in the further communities in the High Arctic. In the smaller communities, when they try to get insurance, they can only get insurance through the telephone.

People that live in the higher communities, who try to apply for insurance have to ask for it through the telephone, and this can be quite costly. Those who live in the smaller communities, who have to get insurance for their motor vehicles, are charged rates that are the same as those who are living close to highways. I think that this will have to be looked into further, because this is quite unfair to the smaller communities.

For instance, if I were to live in Grise Fiord and wanted to get insurance, I would have to call Yellowknife or Churchill, Manitoba, and these are long distances from my community. I am already paying the cost of long distance phone calls. If you are not covered by insurance, we cannot drive. I think we will have to look into this Insurance Act further, and improve, or amend, the bill. For that reason, I will be supporting the amendment to the bill. The tentative effective date is 1994, I will be voting against the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Any other general comments? To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 5, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Does the committee agree that Bill 9 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Is the committee agreed that we get into the budget at 1:30, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Prior to leaving the committee, and just to remind Members who are interested in going to the Remote Sensing Centre, transportation will be in front of the Assembly immediately. The time being 12:30, the and session will begin at 1:30. Thank you.

---LUNCH RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Department of Justice, page 7-8, directorate. I wonder if the Minister would like to invite his officials in at this time? Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Justice is prepared to move ahead with this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this committee agreed that the Minister invite his officials in?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I believe that the officials are not here yet, but they are on their way. We are on the directorate. Mr. Gargan.

Department Of Justice

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I was asking a question, when you recognized the

clock at 7:00 p.m. My question was with regard to young offenders, and fines imposed on young offenders. In most cases where young offenders go to court, their fine seems to be quite extreme, so, even if they wanted to work off their fines, they have to make a lot of time, and commitment, in order to work off the fine option.

I am not trying to influence judges, or the courts, that they should lessen the fine, but we know the young people, after a while, working for nothing just does not make them much more responsible. Eventually, Mom and Dad would step in and pay off the fine, anyway. It happens quite a bit. I was wondering, rather than imposing a fine, if a young offender goes into court, that they be given a certain amount of community service work, or something to that effect.

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A young person that is charged really does not concern himself about the charge, because, eventually that responsibility would fall on the parents. I was wondering how the department is trying to address that particular issue, because I think that it happens all the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. At this time the Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, Michelle Thomas, and her grade ten class from St. Patrick's High School. Welcome.

---Applause

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, it has been pointed out before that the justice system, and the way in which the system is directed to deal with young offenders, has been largely in place, in the absence of any input from, certainly aboriginal people, and northern people. There are two aspects to it.

When young offenders have been dealt with in the justice system, one is generally some sort of fine is given to them. The other is, they are sent sometimes to facilities that are designed, and set up, for young offenders who are sentenced to a certain period of time.

It is our suggestion to communities and I pointed it out a little bit yesterday, in places like Fort McPherson,

Fort Good Hope and other communities, to develop, and suggest, alternatives directly to the judges, and to work out arrangements with the judges at the community level, as to what they recommend be done in dealing with young offenders.

The department, itself, does not have a specific suggestion, to say here is what we think we should do, other than to say that the community can set up, for instance, youth justice committees, a council of Elders, or just a council of community leaders, that can sit in the courts, take part in the proceedings, advise the courts as to what they recommend, and what they are willing to do to take responsibility for those young people. That is the response I hope the Member is expecting, and that is what he wanted to hear. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Directorate. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I appreciate the response from the Minister. When judgement is passed on a young person, a teenager, or a very young child, that goes up in the courts, the courts seem to think that those kids have a bundle of money to spend, and they fine them. Whether, or not, the court knows that whether the child pays the fine or not, the court also know that the parent could pay for the fine.

Regardless of what the circumstances look like, I always have that funny feeling that if you do not impose a fine, then you send them to an institution to serve their sentence. There is nothing in between. Say you are fined \$150, if you cannot pay it, then the communities still have that final option in which a child could work off their fine. I do not know why they do not just say it outright, you have to do 20 hours of community services, as opposed to imposing a fine on them, and try to meet that date, or try to work off that fine, before that date comes where you have to pay that fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the thought is that whoever presides in a court proceeding, whether it is a Supreme Court judge, a territorial court judge, or a justice of the peace, they will continue to practise law, so to speak,

using whatever examples we have in the past. The only suggestion we can make, to say they can do something different, is if the communities get involved.

People at the local level, for instance, might have a lot of young offenders going to court, who find that a large number of them are being fined, usually large fines and there is no flexibility in the sentencing. The fastest remedy is for a group of community leaders to start working with this department, to work out how they can get involved in the administration of justice, even on the interim.

The young people of the community would take note of that, and I think they would show tremendous appreciation for the concern and the care that community leaders would be showing through such an initiative. I also think that people are becoming increasingly more sensitive to the kind of problems and the pain and suffering that a lot of young people are going through, that we do not know about.

I think by drawing our community leaders closer to them, it has got to have a significant effect, a good effect on young people. It would show our own people reaching out, trying to help in an area where traditionally, we have had the attitude that if you are a young person, and you get into trouble, you are on your own. We have to give up our responsibility for you, you are now in the hands of the courts. You are at the mercy of a system that we have nothing to do with. To take an initiative is a positive sign, that everybody would appreciate, especially our young people. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The same individuals join me today, as yesterday, Mr. Rudolph, the Acting Director of Finance, and Mr. Geoff Bickert, Deputy Minister of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mahsi Cho. Directorate. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

One other problem that I find, is when a young offender goes to court. They are never there because they acted on their own. There is always a group of

them, the whole gang, sort of thing. If one does it, the whole group does it. You find, in most cases, influence from other young people has a lot to do with it.

The other thing too, Mr. Chairman, is we also have a lot of young offenders who are there because of adults. Whether it is supplying minors, or not, you do not connect the two.

One of the things that I find very difficult is that, if a young person goes up for consuming alcohol, there does not seem to be an effort to find out where they get their booze. This is one area that I have been struggling with in my community, in which young people get into trouble, because they are under the influence. We cannot seem to find out who the person is that is giving them the booze. I do not know how you could handle that, but this is one area that I am very concerned about, with regard to supplying a minor.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Do you wish to respond to that, Mr. Minister?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, again, just to build on what I was saying earlier, when you have initiatives by communities, where a group of people might be very concerned about the number of young people who are going through the courts, there is a way in

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which they can deal specifically with youth, with young offenders, by setting up a committee that says that is all they are going to deal with.

That is what we have in Fort McPherson. It is possible, if the communities feel they want to take an even larger role, by dealing with, not only children that are young offenders, but also deal with their parents, and the adult offenders of the community. It is taking more of a family, and community approach to dealing with offenders. The community is taking a role in the sentencing and the decisions of the justice system, when dealing with parents and adults in the community.

It has been said many times that young people, for instance, will not be very eager to lay a complaint against an adult who has supplied them with alcohol, because it is not that they force feed them the stuff,

the young people get it because they want to get it. I do not think there is any great inclination toward anger at these people for doing it, unless there is some tragedy involved. I do not know that a great deal of time could be spent on that. Again, dealing with the source of the problem, that probably is where I would be interested in working. I do not want to spend a great deal of time saying, "what can I do to get young offenders to lay complaints about who is supplying them with drugs, or who is enticing them to commit crimes, or who is encouraging them to drink, and generally get into mischief and misbehave." Rather, I would not want to ignore it. I would say that I would like to spend a great deal more time trying to deal with the source, and how the justice system deals with them. If we do that, then we just let the court sentence them, and send them off to correctional facilities, you are just going to continue. I think if we get community people to work with young offenders, to work with judges and the court system to take a more caring, I think, supportive role for these young people, then I think we should see a decrease in the number of times these young people come back into conflict with their communities, and with the justice system. If we also take an approach where the community should also take responsibility for the parents, and the adults, who also break laws, then surely, we would have good returns for our efforts there as well.

Again, sending many adults to jail, or fining them, does not do anything. It just puts a dent in their pocket, and in many cases, it has been said, that it is a relief for some adults to be sent to Yellowknife where they can have their own bed without worrying about it. They are absolutely dead certain they are going to have three meals a day, they are not going to be cold, and they are not going to have to worry about anything. There is no stress, the way some of them live in the communities, the kind of lifestyle that some of the adults lead, they can only say that it is a nice break, and I am going to be gone for a couple of months.

So, I think there is a real need to do some work in there, and I am quite anxious to get involved with communities that would take some initiative in this area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, directorate. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the other area that I would like to touch on, I do not know whether, or not, the Minister would like to respond, he did say that people would like to take a break, but most of the people that would like to take a break are married people, so it would probably give them a nice break from their wives, too, I suppose.

Those are the people that I do not think would want to see themselves going to jail. Those are family people, and I think the deterrent in this case would be to send them to jail. I do not know.

With regard to the Family Law Review Committee, Mr. Minister, you said that you are going to be tabling a document on that, and I was particularly interested in that custom adoption. Four or five years ago, or even before that, custom adoption used to be a practice that happened between two aboriginal families within a community, and it is usually done with regard to the immediate relatives taking on the responsibility of a young child.

These things have changed through the years. The responsibility was also taken on by Social Services, and so we go through a long process, and the result is not always the same. Now, the Minister did say that there is going to be a report coming out soon. Today, maybe, but I am really interested in how he incorporated customs into the present law system. How did he do that? It is probably very difficult. It took him four years to look into the whole thing, but how is it addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the tradition of adopting here in the north, amongst Inuit and Dene, as the Member says the practice is labelled. It is customary. It is part of our tradition for family and friends to adopt children, sometimes they are grandchildren, sometimes they are cousins and sometimes they are not even related, but that is our custom.

The Family Law Review Report recommends very emphatically, that we develop no legislation, there would be nothing in the law that would say how custom adoption fits, or does not fit, into our present justice system.

What I understand is that Social Services and the courts, the Department of Justice, and vital statistics,

have really been besieged by individual requests from parents, and relatives of adopted children, for instance, to change names, and to look for passports. In trying to do paperwork, there really was no system set up to deal with custom adoption. Custom adoption moved into this, because of the need for paperwork. The Family Law Review seems to suggest, and I cannot really speak about it in detail, because it is not tabled yet, but it recommended, I think you could say, that we stay out of it. All we do is try to find a way in which to make it simple.

If people want to change a name, if they want to get birth certificates, social insurance numbers for children, or passports, as a government, we should make a commitment. I think I can make the commitment now that we will work towards making it simple for people in the communities to get through these bureaucratic wrangles that so many get hung up on these days.

I do not think that the government ever intended to start legislating, and developing laws, for custom adoption.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Directorate, total O and M of \$1.833 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 79, police services, a total O and M of \$23.98 million. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One important concern I have is under the program, and activity, is policing in the smaller communities in the eastern Arctic.

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When I travel, Mr. Chairman, I notice that most of the police staff are white male officers, especially when you have two officers in the same community. I do not know the reason behind that. Maybe the reasons are that men tend to commit to more crimes than women. I do not know.

I would like to ask the Minister through you, Mr. Chairman, if the Department of Justice has any

program, or any initiative, to try and recruit women officers within the small communities. The reason I say that, is that crime in our smaller communities is still running high, and violence against women is still very high. In that respect, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the Department of Justice has any initiatives to try and recruit women in the area where you have two officers, one being a male officer, the other being a female officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I understand up until 13 years ago, there were no female R.C.M.P. officers present in the Northwest Territories. Now there are at least twenty in the G division, so there is some movement towards recruiting women in the force, and having them present in the Northwest Territories. I am not certain if that was the full extent of the Member's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my question was, is the Department of Justice taking initiatives to recruit more female officers to the communities, especially when you have two officers. Now, every community that I have been to, where they have two officers, they are usually male officers. When you have two officers, one should, at least, be a female officer, because sometimes the R.C.M.P. officer is called to a family dispute where women are involved. That was my question.

I am not going to elaborate why I feel that there should be more female officers. I think each, and every Member of this House, knows why. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

I am not sure if this particular matter is important, because the Yellowknifer, or News/North, may not think it is an important issue, maybe not to Yellowknife anyway. I wanted to ask the R.C.M.P., or

the Minister of Justice, if there have been any discussions concerning the police services, or the establishment of an individual, in Arctic Red River to provide services to that community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, if I could just make note of the previous Member's comments. Mr. Ningark, I understand, is suggesting that we should look at the suggestion that if we had more women R.C.M.P. officers in the communities, it may lend a more positive element, particularly to the female population of the communities who need, perhaps greater sensitivity, than most members of the community perceive the male R.C.M.P. officers to have.

He says that this may be a positive element to suggest to the R.C.M.P. in their recruitment policies. I think it is a very good suggestion, and I will pass that on to the senior people in the R.C.M.P. division here.

With respect to Mr. Nerysoo's question regarding Arctic Red River. I met with the Chief from Arctic Red River a couple of weeks ago, and the chief raised the same point as well. What I had said is that, in my view, I believe that every community in the Northwest Territories, whether they have any level of crime or not, reported crime, that they deserve to have some police presence in that community.

The problem is, of course, that this government, and Legislature, have never had the adequate resources to implement that. In fact, we do not really have a full say, anyway, in the way that the resources we allocate to the R.C.M.P., are used. In regard to Arctic Red River, it was one of the communities that was pointed out to the Chief Superintendent of the R.C.M.P. when I met with him. I know that housing, and office space, is one of the additional problems that we are faced with.

If we lay out money to make an officer available, and the R.C.M.P. agree to place that individual in Arctic Red River, we still have the added problem that we need capital money to build an office, and adequate housing. Right now, I understand that the federal government has to provide it, but there is a possibility that the community may take their own initiative to make those types of facilities available for lease. This

was discussed with the chief, when I met with him a few weeks ago.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. Just to show, Mr. Chairman, to people that do write stories, Arctic Red River is being responsible in this matter. In fact the comments that you made indicate that they are considering a number of options that would not, in fact, cost this government capital dollars, but rather operational and maintenance dollars on a long-term basis, so there is not, what you might say, significant, and immediate, need for capital expenditures of a great amount by this government.

I do want to encourage the Minister, and the department, to pursue discussions with the community. I am not certain if you necessarily have to add more, as opposed to maybe reorganizing the region itself, to either reduce numbers in one community, or move an individual from a larger centre. The intention, for instance, of Fort McPherson, is to provide services to two communities, and maybe that could be investigated, in terms of the services to Arctic Red River. I just wanted to make those particular comments to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to follow up a bit on what Mr. Nerysoo has mentioned, in that some of the community groups have access to certain monies, and may be able to make deals in terms of capital expenditures. So, I think further discussion and negotiations are open to some of these communities. I hope that, during your visit next week up into the Delta, you get into some more details on these types of negotiations. They may be willing to build some houses for you to house this new staff, if you can find monies to hire them, and deals could be made to house them.

One area that I am particularly interested in is the Native Special Constable Program, and I see that the cost sharing arrangement with the Solicitor General of Canada. Can you tell me how many native

constables, or native special constables you have in the territories, and where are they?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk)

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, just for the Members interest, if my plans unfold as they should, hopefully I will be in Arctic Red River, and the Gwich'in communities, including Aklavik and Inuvik next week to follow up on some of the meetings that I have had with community leaders two weeks ago, and to take care of some other business as well. I will be following up on the comments that both Mr. Nerysoo, and Mr. Koe, have made.

In response to his specific question, I understand that there are a total of 34 aboriginal members within the "G" division at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I imagine those 34 are spread fairly equally across the territories, I hope they are. Has an evaluation of any kind been done on the quality of service, and the appreciation of having these people in the communities that they are in. Has any kind of evaluation been done on the use of native constables in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman. I hope I did not miss anything in the Member's question, but what I understand is that these aboriginal members are roughly split half in the eastern part of the territory, half in the west. That is just my own quick rough estimate, based on the list that I have. All of them are now considered full members, full constables, in the R.C.M.P., and that the R.C.M.P. are integrating them as quickly as they can to internal full status, or whatever you call it. They are, as far as I know, very much appreciated by the communities that they serve.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

How many of these 34, and if you do not have the answer, I will understand, or other ones that were in the program in prior years, have graduated from taking the full program, and become full fledged R.C.M.P. officers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, all of the, what they used to call special constables, are now full constables within the R.C.M.P. "G" division.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

This will be my last comment. I would like to express my support and appreciation for the R.C.M.P. and the government to have this cost shared arrangement. It is part of the affirmative action we keep pushing for, and it is a very visible force of individual who people see on a daily basis, and I express my support for the program, and to all the special constables who are enrolled and are taking part in the policing of our communities. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On police services, one of the departmental goals is that the people of the Northwest Territories are protected through adequate police services. As stated in one of the books here, it is one of the goals of the Department of Justice. With the policing services, and the amount of money that we are talking about here, \$23.980 million, the people that I represent in my constituency, and there are six communities, only two of these communities have police services. They are Fort Simpson, and Fort Liard. There used to be a police service station in Wrigley, but they have been pulled out of that

community because of funding, not enough funding to provide for a position.

Recently there was an announcement that, some of the communities that did not have R.C.M.P. in them, are going to have R.C.M.P. members placed in these communities. I was disappointed, because Wrigley has been asking for an R.C.M.P. to be posted there for quite awhile. There was not any police service placed there.

The other concern is that the community of Fort Liard had lost one member, they had three, and now they just have two. The community of Liard also has concerns that, with the decrease to two, it will be very difficult for the R.C.M.P. members out of Liard to perform their duties adequately. I say this because Fort Liard is a community next to one of the entrances into the Northwest Territories, via a highway out of B.C. There is a need sometimes to patrol the highway. With one less member there, I am told by the community, that it is going to be very difficult for two members to do all of this type of work.

I am addressing the lack of adequate police services, as stated as one of your goals. If the Minister would want to comment on these two particular communities of mine, that lack adequate police service at this present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I had said earlier to another Member, and all the Members here, that in my view, every community in the territories should have a police officer present in their community. Whether or not there is any reported crime within that community, I believe that it is a right for elders, and senior citizens to have the comfort of knowing that there is somebody that can provide security, in times when there are unwanted visitors or strangers coming into communities, and weekend disruptions to the social life of communities. I think, women and children have to have that comfort of knowing that there is somebody there that they can go to in times when they feel unsafe, threatened.

I just want to say it again, I have met with the R.C.M.P. and both the R.C.M.P. and ourselves have said that in spite of limited dollars we would like, and we will work towards, trying to find some way to put

R.C.M.P. back in Wrigley. One of the problems that the Member should be aware of, in the view of the R.C.M.P., the present facilities there are not adequate. They have great difficulty in recruiting and placing single members in communities by themselves.

If you have a single person, like an unmarried man, staffing a single man detachment, it is a male officer, then the Superintendent of the R.C.M.P. feels that it is not what they want to provide to the community, or demand of their officers. So, there is a reluctance there, but, also, the present facility in Wrigley is not, in their view anyway, adequate as housing accommodations and there is not an adequate office, or even an overnight detention centre.

Those have to be addressed. I would like to talk to the community about what could be done to address this issue. If there are efforts to provide adequate housing, which the federal government usually provides to the R.C.M.P., if there is some way the community or private developers could build houses and office space to lease to R.C.M.P., then the Government of the Northwest Territories would provide the money to lease facilities. It has to be

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agreeable to the R.C.M.P.

If this government, and this Legislature, are the ones who are short the dollars to put the R.C.M.P. there, and everything else has been worked out, then we will certainly come back to let the Members know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is certainly a problem there, the situation is that people want adequate police service. The situation in Wrigley cannot be solved at this present time, but as you say, there might be different ways of solving that problem, if the community could build a building, somehow get it financed, and make some arrangements to have it leased to the R.C.M.P. That might be a way of solving part of the problem, and getting a member in there. That is what I understand.

That problem could be worked on in the longer term, but the immediate term is that if a member cannot be put there, then the level of adequate police service

has to increase to these smaller communities. We have Wrigley now with no police, Jean Marie, Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake; four communities with no police there. The way it works, I understand, is that there is a detachment in Simpson that has a few members, and anytime there is a problem, and one of these members is available, they will go into these smaller communities.

Likewise, in Fort Liard, they have two members to take care of the community and these other small communities as well. Even in the communities where there are detachments, I hear some complaints that at some hours when there is trouble, it is very difficult to get hold of a member, because their calls are forwarded to Yellowknife. It is very frustrating for people in communities, where the members live in the communities, and they have to talk to somebody in Yellowknife before they get some response.

That level of adequate police service has to increase. If you are going to take members from communities, and not increase the level of police response, then something is definitely wrong. I think, maybe, the Minister, and his department officials, should take a really close look at this particular area, and see if the level of adequate police service could increase, to the satisfaction of people in the communities.

What I am saying, if you have not heard me, Mr. Minister, while you are talking there, that if the level of service response could increase to make up for the members that pull out of the communities, that would help. At the present time, there are a lot of complaints that, when people do call, they are talking to somebody in Yellowknife, before they are talking to a member in the community. Something has to be done about that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the members that work in some communities get calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether or not these phone calls are serious, people expect them to answer all of them. It is quite difficult, and this is the kind of stress that nurses, for instance, in small communities live under. They cannot even go for a walk. When they do it seems to be those times when serious accidents happen, and the whole community is in an uproar, because no one answered the phone.

In regard to the R.C.M.P., we do not have enough money to place officers in each community. Even if we did, we still cannot get them to answer the phone 24 hours a day. The Member is suggesting that we look at something to offset getting a 24 hour answering service in Yellowknife, that is something that they are looking at already. There are a number of suggestions. We could even look at just getting what was discussed last week, which is to look at community members volunteering to take calls, and pass them on to members.

In those communities where there are R.C.M.P. officers present, whether there is one or two, we should encourage communities to have volunteer groups that would assist the R.C.M.P. to police the communities, to perhaps advise them on how to better police, and how to approach different incidents and complaints that they have to deal with, day to day. That is one of the ideas that I know they are dealing with. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services, total O and M \$23.980 million. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. I do have a similar problem in Pelly Bay, as my colleague, Mr. Antoine. About two years ago we used to have one R.C.M.P. officer in the community who was based permanently, but about a year ago he was transferred somewhere, because the force did not have enough money to cover that community.

The problems we have faced in Pelly Bay since we lost the R.C.M.P. officer, is that when a crime is committed, then a person has to make a long distance call to Spence Bay in order to get that alleged crime investigated. It will usually take another two weeks, sometimes, before the officer comes to investigate the crime. We know that we would really like to have the R.C.M.P. investigate the crime while the evidence is still hot. Even while the evidence is simmering down, but at this point in time, now it takes until the ice has frozen over before they come.

Now, I know the situation is bad. I know we do not have the money to base R.C.M.P. officers in the smaller communities. I know the R.C.M.P. officers have to work through there, whatever you call that system -- satellite, but, I would like the Minister to tell us when will he be able to get some answers from the

department, as to when we will see the R.C.M.P. permanently stationed in our communities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we do have many Members concerned about the communities within their own constituencies that want and need police presence in their community, and the short answer is that we have been cutting our budget, and there is a lack of available funds. So for instance, the end of the R.C.M.P. member's time in Pelly, when the member left, no one came to replace him, because of a lack of money.

I have no idea now what type of accommodation, the condition of such an accommodation, the type of office space and other space that the R.C.M.P. require, if they are available, and what the condition is of the available facilities in Pelly Bay. I do know, the R.C.M.P. have stated, they are interested in putting a member back in the community. It is just a matter of finding the money, so it is ironic, I guess. We are telling each Member that we approve budgets, and budget cutbacks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Police services, Mr. Gargan.

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MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, just one observation, and that is I think most of the trends with regard to crime do not happen during the normal working hours of the people. That is when everybody works, including the R.C.M.P., and I am just wondering why this government, pays for the R.C.M.P. services up here, and does not address what the trends are in those communities, and which crimes are being committed?

If we are in the business of prevention, too, I think one of the preventions is just the fact that the presence of R.C.M.P. in the community does prevent crime from happening, and when you do not have them, or if you have them present only during normal working hours, and not during the evenings, or early mornings, then that is when things do tend to happen.

So, I do not know whether, or not, the R.C.M.P. are basing their operation on normal working hours, or whether they are basing their duties to reflect when crime is most likely to happen. I realize that we could look at statistics to determine that, but I do not know why that is not part of the determining factor on when an R.C.M.P. should be carrying out his duties.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I understand the R.C.M.P. use the statistics on reported crime, and the times at which they are reported, for example, what time of the week, what time of the day, as a way to plan for their shifts, and hours of work. So, there is some attention paid to what the Member is asking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Well, I appreciate the response, but I think, just like Mr. Antoine, we do run into that same situation where people, tell me to phone the R.C.M.P., or they want to use my phone to call the R.C.M.P., even as early as 9:00 p.m. in the evening. You are switched immediately to Yellowknife.

So, I do not know. Maybe, again, that is the time when the R.C.M.P. feel there is not a crime, that based on their statistics there is nothing happening around that time of day. I do not know. I just thought I would bring it up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, you have many responses to Mr. Gargan, on police service. I have here on the list Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on the topic of police services, the funding that has been cut for the police services. We are aware, ever since we can remember the R.C.M.P. has been around, and a lot of time when we were kids we were afraid to see cops.

In one of my constituencies there are two policemen, and there is sufficient accommodation, and it has been mentioned that they might take away the policemen in the community of Lake Harbour. I wonder if the Minister of Justice can reassure me, that they will not take the R.C.M.P. from our community, because I have heard rumours that they might, and it is one of the first communities ever to get R.C.M.P.

Before, they had policemen in Iqaluit, or Cape Dorset, because some people are sort of expecting that the police will leave our community. I know we are always short of funding, and it is getting harder to fund them. I wonder if he can reassure me that the police will stay in Lake Harbour? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as we know, there is no intention to remove R.C.M.P. from Lake Harbour, at this time. The constable, I think there is an aboriginal constable present in Lake Harbour and the member, as far as I know, is going to continue serving that community for the foreseeable future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already talked about this issue during this Session in a Member's statement, and for four years previously to this, I have addressed this issue of policing.

I really do not want to spend a lot of time repeating things that I have already said before. Just some insights would be rather useful, perhaps. I have known many young policemen over the years, and I know that after they have served in a detachment, where they are on shifts and so on, and they are investigating crimes, they really live a tough life in many ways. When they go to a small community to work, it is almost like going to a holiday camp, and they admit it. It is like going to heaven, almost, because it is such a beautiful place, the people are so nice, and we cannot believe that you could actually get paid for doing this, it is marvellous.

Of course, they very often did not stay long, and they were young. They would regret leaving, because it

was so marvellous, but they were told you will go now, you have done your few years, and it is time to move on. I hear that many times people talk about the need to do things in a different way, our systems do not work, and it has to be more reflective of what we need. I am reminded by the remarks made by Kenoayoak Pudlat about his community. Lake Harbour, at one time, in 1911, it was the headquarters, it was one of the few places on Baffin Island that existed as a community. It had a wonderful deep water port there, and it was easy to get into. The police established the first detachment on the Island. It was responsible for a huge area, they ran dog teams all over the place. Iqaluit did not exist, it was not even thought about putting a place like Iqaluit together at that time.

Over the years, things change, other places grow, and their needs grow. The Minister is faced with a problem of not being able to do everything that people want to do, with what he has got. It is not a direct relationship to the R.C.M.P., I suppose he has a lot of influence, but the R.C.M.P. have to do the job that it is contracted to do under its agreement. You have so many resources to do it.

I know, Mr. Chairman, and maybe Mr. Pudlat will remember this, that there was a man in Lake Harbour, called Akavak, who was famous all over Baffin Island, he is dead now, but he was always polite to people. Whenever the plane arrived with a new constable, he would just take him under his wing, he would only be about 20 years old, still green, and wet behind the ears. As far as the people in that community were concerned, the real policeman was Akavak, he was the guy that knew everything, and he was the person that people would look to. He knew that place, he knew the people, and he was not going to be moving to another detachment somewhere in Saskatchewan, he was going to be there for the rest of his life.

I think people were very well served by people of his quality. There were many of them, I am thinking of Kyak from Pond Inlet, as another example of it. It seems to me that this whole business, of how you provide policing, has to be a proper mix of what you really need to get done.

For example, my guess, and I agree to be out of touch in a lot of the small communities, now, I do not live there anymore, but my guess is that there are

very few crimes in the community, where within a few minutes, people do not know who did it. It is very rare that you get something happening without people knowing who was responsible for doing it. It is very difficult to be anonymous, and to do something that takes weeks, and weeks, to figure out who is responsible.

The whole business of investigating is not the same, it just seems to be a different kind of work to what exists in the big centre. Whereas, I have said before, we now have crime on a very large sophisticated scale compared with what used to happen, even in this city, 10 years ago. I am stating that point, Mr. Chairman, because it seems to me that we really have to look at what the real needs are, what is the best way of meeting those needs, so we can make the best use of our resources.

I would like to warn Members, that as far as I am concerned, anyway, and what I have learned over the last three or four years, that in this city, although we seem by comparison to be well served, it is very much a question of too few people doing a job, which is beyond the means as allocated to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Are there any other general comments? Are there any other questions with regard to police services? Are we concluded? A total O and M of \$23.980 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Legal aid, a total O and M of \$4.907 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Lawyer support services, a total O and M of \$1.968 million. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one concern, Mr. Chairman. I do have a member in my constituency who was killed on a construction site, as he got run over by a crusher. It has not been

resolved yet, and I am still working with the adopted mother of that child. I have not resolved anything, because of the processes with regard to him trying to get a lawyer or monies for a lawyer to deal with this case. I just wanted to bring this up for the record so that the Minister is aware that I am still a bit concerned that nothing has been done, and request that he might look into it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. A total O and M of \$1.968 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Registries and court services, \$8.365 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one concern, it was in February 25, that Mr. Bernhardt brought up a question with regard to judges being trained. We have a pot that is used for training judges, whether it is for gender equality, aboriginal rights, or for French language. In the response by the Minister at that time, the Minister said that pot of money is administered by the judges, and that we do not ask what they are trained for.

It is still public dollars, and it is still being spent. I do not think that judges should be put outside the processes of accountability, I think judges should be just as accountable of public monies as anybody else should be. For that matter, I would hope that when Members ask, "there is this much money for judges for training, what did they train in"? They should be accountable for the amount of monies being spent in that area. Why is that not the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman. As a novice Minister in this portfolio, I understand that it is part of the Constitution that judges are independent of legislatures and parliaments. All we do is provide money for them to run the justice system. I think we provide an amount of money for them to take training, and those things

that they deem for themselves necessary to carry out their judicial duties. It is not for us to direct them to do anything specific.

I understand, and I am told, that judges, at least in western Canada, have done a tremendous amount of work in looking at, I do not know if this is the right way to phrase it, but, looking at gender equality, and aboriginal justice, and how they can come to grips with those issues? There has been a lot of work done in recent years.

I know that just by looking, and by getting briefed very quickly on the work that judges and J.P.s are doing here in the Northwest Territories, it is tremendously demanding. We know the kind of schedules that Ministers and Members of this Legislature keep and are willing to do, but we get good pay for the work we do. I think the amount of volume of work, the stress, and the travel that we demand of these judges is, in my view, tremendous.

I want to share that with you, because I want you to know that I am a little bit sensitive about judges, and I want to make sure that they are treated properly and fairly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Registries and court services, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, I agree that Ministers do get good salaries for the amount of work that they do, and the same thing applies to judges. That does not take away from the fact that here, Mr. Minister has to go through public scrutiny for the public dollars that he is spending. You give immunity to judges from that type of scrutiny.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to argue with the Member about this. What I understand is that the Constitution provides immunity for judges to be scrutinized by politicians, it is a separate and independent institution. I just want to make another point as well, that I have been told, the judges that we have here in the territories, if they were interested in the money part of the work, they would be asking for much more money, because they do carry a tremendous work load.

If they were just interested in the money part, they would all be better off in private practice, because of their experience. I think they are doing it because they believe in their work, and they believe in the commitment to the public of the north. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Registries and court services. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Since we will not be talking about it, I cannot confirm what the salary scales are...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Proceed, I am sorry.

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MR. GARGAN:

The Minister would not give me that, so I cannot confirm or make comparisons, because they are, as the Minister indicated, protected under the Constitution, from politicians. I will just leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, just to make the point that these are public figures, the territorial court judges make a little over \$100,000 a year, \$108,000 which is considerably less, in most people's opinions, than what they would make if they were in private practice. This, the Territorial Legislature provides the funds for. The N.W.T. Supreme Court judges make \$152,000 a year, and this the federal government provides the funds for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Registries and court services, a total O and M of \$8.365 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions, grants of \$46,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Contributions, \$2.045 million. Agreed?
Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one point I would like to bring up with regard to legal aid, or court workers, is the court workers also have limits to their budgets. At times, when the court circuits are travelling to the communities, they have to find their own way, because the court circuit does not accommodate for those people to travel with the same charter. I thought I would bring it up because, on several occasions, court workers have told me that even judges chartering to different communities for court would not allow these court workers to travel with them. It is a concern I have, in a time of restraint they should really look at making sure, that wherever possible, either they share charters, or accommodate those workers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I understand the judges and lawyers, the head of the court workers, are all presently working to address this. Everybody has agreed, that court workers should get some priority status in travelling in the court circuits. They are trying to work out some agreeable arrangements.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Contributions, \$2.045 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Total grants and contributions, \$2.091 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Are there any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Revenues, recoveries, and transfer payments. Are there any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Distribution to budget. Are there any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Program summary, page 07-7, total O and M of \$41.153 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and thank you to your witnesses for appearing. The next item is the Department of Personnel.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

We are dealing with the Department of Personnel. Mr. Minister, would you like to make your introductory remarks, please?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I am pleased to introduce the 1992-93 main estimates for the Department of Personnel. Before I get into some detail, I believe it is important to note that almost all of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee were implemented during the year, to the satisfaction of the committee. In order to implement these recommendations, the department had to make some fundamental changes to its operation to strengthen financial management.

Tight budget control is extremely important, especially in a department like Personnel. If high cost items, such as employee benefits are not effectively administered, there could be a drain on program funds across the government.

As I am sure you know, our negotiations with the unions earlier this year were successful. In the spirit of restraint, both unions were responsible in their demands. The Teacher's Association, for instance, settled for a two year agreement, with no wage increase in the first year, and 1.8 in the second year. The collective agreement was ratified by a large majority of the membership in April. The negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers were equally productive, with a similar settlement, that is expected to be ratified in early October. The major achievement during these talks was agreement on changes to the method of paying vacation travel assistance. This will result in cash payments to all employees.

Negotiations will continue over the next few months with the Union of Northern Workers on the issue of pay equity. The government cannot afford to pay a large settlement, but if there is goodwill on both sides, Mr. Chairman, I am confident that we can, and will, negotiate a mutually beneficial agreement. However, we have taken measures to provide displaced employees with career alternatives. The Work-force Adjustment Program, and the decentralization support positions negotiated with the U.N.W. have contributed to improved employee morale. These programs provide staff with positive options which allow them to continue their careers, take retraining programs to enter alternative fields, or to find jobs outside government.

Affirmative action continues to make steady improvements in the representation of aboriginal people in government. The percentage of

aboriginal employees has increased from 33 percent in 1990 to 35.2 percent. This is an increase from 1,759 to 1,902 employees in a total establishment of approximately 5,400. The Standing Committee on Finance has recommended that the government establish a goal of 50 percent aboriginal employment by 1997. In keeping with my earlier comments on the northern hiring strategy, it is important to remember that 80 percent of unemployed aboriginal residents have less than a grade nine education. Therefore the achievement of this goal will depend on a large degree on the determination of our people to succeed, and the success of our education efforts, to assist them in the next few years.

I have made a commitment, in my recent statement on northern hire, to produce a public document, outlining government strategies to improve northern employment in all sectors.

The expanded staffing appeals process was well used by existing staff, and by members of designated groups from outside the government, in the past year. A total of 92 appeals were heard in 1991. Sixteen appeals, or 17 percent of the total, were upheld. This is down from 1990, when 30 percent were upheld. This downward trend tells me, that at least initially, that the staffing process is working more effectively, and that we have a fair and more equitable process of hiring.

The appeal process has undergone a major overhaul in the past year. Appeal committees are well trained, and are becoming much more familiar with the standardized process we have developed, in consultation with the unions. The process is now much less objective, not only does it clearly define the roles of all the actors, but also the remedies that are available to committees.

My priorities for 1992-93 include completing the negotiations for pay equity, and implementing the new job evaluation system. The handbook will be finalized for employees who are excluded from the union, which outlines their terms and conditions of employment. This will complement the senior management handbook, completed in 1991-92, and will mean that all groups of employees in the government have access to information on benefits and rights of employment.

A new removal tariff will be implemented in 1992-93, which will outline definitive rules and regulations for

the removal of an employee's personal effects. The tariff is based on the federal government's regulations, and should save some money, perhaps of \$10 million a year. Moving companies have been given an additional month to respond to tender calls on the tariff, but we cannot continue to do business with them, in my view, on the existing terms, as we currently pay 35 to 40 percent more than the federal government for similar moves. I know it costs more to move in the north, but any additional money that we spend on moving people from place to place, reduces the money available for programs.

I have also commissioned a study to provide information on the turnover rates of aboriginal employees. It will survey existing, and former, aboriginal employees to find out how they feel about government employment, and the measures that the government might take to improve retention rates. The study should improve comprehensive information, and the reasons for turnover of aboriginal staff, and provide useful advice on career development options, and how to improve the quality of work life for the aboriginal civil servant.

Finally, I will be coming forward this fall with a comprehensive long-term staff housing strategy. This strategy is the combined effort of a number of government departments, and it is aimed at providing solutions to long-standing problems in staff housing, selling surplus units, promoting a private market, dealing with the need for links with the public housing programs, and rationalizing the rental and utility payment structures. Because of the budget implications for 1993-94, I will be tabling this strategy with the Standing Committee on Finance as part of the 1993-94 budget exercise.

The budget for 1992-93 has been reduced from its 1991-92 level of \$29.852 million to \$27.406 million, for a total reduction of \$2.446 million.

The 1992-93 budget includes a number of changes:

1. A reduction of \$333,000 and five person years from the headquarters establishment;
2. A reduction of \$404,000 in other O and M, including a reduction in travel, material and supplies and equipment advertising;
3. A net reduction of \$818,000 in removal costs as the result of the implementation of the new

removal tariff;

4. A reduction of \$259,000 in other O and M funds in the job evaluation activity after the completion of the pay equity study;
5. Transfer of \$1.325 million in other O and M to the Deh Cho and Inuvik school boards, to allow them to pay benefit costs for the employees after the boards are established;
6. An increase of \$178,000 for benefits for language consultants after they become members of the Teacher's Union;
7. An increase of \$195,000 in other O and M to cover the increase costs of second vacation travel assistance entitlements for N.W.T.T.A. members.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that we can have a productive year ahead of us, and that other necessary controls will be in place to make it possible to achieve our objectives. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. According to the procedure of the House and committee of the whole, does the Finance Committee have any comments on this? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

The Finance Committee would be prepared to make comments right after the break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Chair suggests that we take 15 minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We are on the Department of Personnel 1992-93 Main Estimates, page 6-7. Before we took time off for a much needed break, the Finance Committee was in the process of making a comment. Mr. Dent, would you proceed, please?

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments from the Standing Committee on Finance are basically going to be rather brief, we are going to move right into resolutions fairly quickly. The Committee, as already

has been stated, remains concerned about the insufficient numbers of northerners, and affirmative action candidates, in the public service. I think that this has been talked about earlier on, when we were making our general comments about the budget.

To repeat it again, it must become the exception to look south to hire people, rather than the norm. We have to get more northerners to work. One other comment that I would like to make, arises from the Minister's opening statement, in which the Minister

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mentioned that, "We cannot continue to do business with moving companies as we know do, with rates 35 percent higher than federal rates." The concern stems from the fact that, I do not believe the negotiations yet, that this one month delay was intended to provide.

I am surprised that the Minister would make that kind of comment before those negotiations, especially since this government is on record with the Business Incentive Policy of recognizing the higher cost of doing business in the north. I think that we have to recognize that, since it does cost more to do business in the north, we are going to have to expect to pay a little bit more.

For instance, moving tariffs in the Yukon are 40 percent higher than the federal rate. Moving tariffs in B.C. are 17 to 25 percent higher than the federal rate. Moving tariffs in Alberta are 10 percent higher than the federal rate. Now, if you add a local B.I.P. of 20 percent to any of those, obviously we are going to be considerably higher, probably close to the 35 percent that the Minister stated. I hope that the Minister has not prejudged the process, and will allow negotiations to take place.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move right into the resolutions, from the Standing Committee on Finance. Our first motion has to do with the Human Resource Management System. The last Legislative Assembly approved a motion to establish, as an objective, the development of a government-wide human resource management system, complementary to the Management for Results System, and it is to be implemented as soon as possible.

Committee Motion 183-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 71

The government has agreed with this motion. However, it is not shown as an objective in the 1992-93 main estimates. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Personnel list the objective to develop a government-wide human resources management system, complementary to the Management for Results System, and its implementation plan, in the 1993-94 main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 184-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 72

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our second motion has to do with cross cultural orientation. Since the civil service is dealing in a cross cultural situation, the committee believes it is very important that all employees receive effective cross cultural orientation and training. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Personnel ensure that all government employees receive cross cultural orientation, and training, in order to assist them in the delivery of their programs and services, in a manner sensitive to the needs of the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the Standing Committee on Finance sessions, there was some concern expressed about the cost of the public service. The committee wishes to have a better understanding of the cost of the public service, in order to hold government accountable. Buried at the back of the 1991 Annual Report of the Northwest

Territories Public Service, which was tabled in June 1992, is the government's response to these requests. You will see that in exhibit one in our committee report.

There are a number of deficiencies with this exhibit. Namely, the average salaries and positions, when extended, fall short of the \$350 million budget by \$69 million. Not all benefits were listed, such as housing and settlement allowances, and we still do not have sufficient information on how well we remunerate our employees.

When the committee reviewed certain activities, we were surprised by the apparently high level of average salaries. For example, excluding any benefits contained in the Department of Personnel, Culture and Communications senior management, excluding the deputy minister, averages \$107,000. The N.W.T.T.A. President's salary is \$133,000, although that is, Mr. Chairman, recovered, the Women's Directorate averages \$110,000, the Ottawa position secondment is \$107,000, again, Mr. Chairman, this position is recovered, Municipal and Community Affairs Land Claims Review averaged \$104,000, Education high school coordinator averaged \$98,000.

Committee Motion 185-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 73

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the main estimates and Standing Committee on Finance documents, commencing with 1993-94, include an additional line indicating the average salaries and wages per person year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Carry on, Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 186-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 74

MR. DENT:

Also at the Standing Committee on Finance meetings, there was some concern over how we could know how well employees were being remunerated. Therefore, in order to approve accountability and we noted that other provincial governments table a

detailed listing of remuneration paid in their Legislative Assemblies. Again you could refer to exhibit two, which was taken from the British Columbia public accounts, found in our committee report. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Personnel table a detailed listing of remuneration paid in the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. All those in favour? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not clear on what the motion read. I was not for sure who, was it for the

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staff? If it could be a little clearer? I think that Mr. Dent will probably clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we already have a motion in this House that legislators' salaries be tabled in the House. This was referring to senior staff of the Government of the Northwest Territories, although it was not mentioned in the motion. The intent of the committee was to have senior staffs' salaries tabled, in the same manner as was done in the exhibit shown in our report, similar to the B.C. process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Nerysoo, do you have the clarification? Thank you. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next resolution has to deal with cost savings. The Department of Personnel informed the committee...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent, I believe Mr. Minister wanted to speak to the previous motion. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, just a concern about the confidentiality for Members in the public service, because, as you say, everybody knows everybody up here. If we published salaries and monies earned by people in particular positions, it becomes very public, there is no confidentiality left for individuals. I think that most people will, whether they are in the communities, Yellowknife, or large centres, feel that there is some invasion of their privacy, about those things that they feel are confidential. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will not allow a debate during the motion. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, if you are not going to allow debate, I was going to respond to the Minister's comment. I think that if he is going to be allowed to comment, then I have to be able to respond to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Mr. Dent. In that case, go ahead.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee's feeling was that these are public dollars that we are talking about, and the public has the right to know. We are talking most particularly in reference to Hay Plan employees, who would not necessarily be covered by the collective agreement, which might have in it some privacy provision.

The Minister may be aware that, in the first session of this Legislature, I tabled a report which showed how a majority of provinces in Canada do, in fact, table this kind of information in their Legislatures, and make this kind of information public. I do not think it is unreasonable to think, if we are spending public dollars, that there has to be a public awareness of where they are going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I do not think we have any more comments on this issue. Proceed with the motion. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm with you Mr. Chairman, we have already voted on the motion which relates to tabling of the employee's salaries. Okay, our next resolution has to do to with cost savings in the department.

Committee Motion 187-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 75

The Department of Personnel informed the committee that it was successful in reducing the cost of recruitment travel \$1.218 million, or 75 percent, from \$1.632 million to \$414,000 during 1991-92, for which they should be congratulated. Departments that announce these types of savings without adversely affecting needed public programs should be encouraged. Of course, it does raise the question why were these savings not realized before, and the committee does not wish to see any deterioration of the travel situation and savings. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the government should use the cost savings actions by the Department of Personnel as a model for further budget reductions by other departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final committee resolution has to do with measuring the output and effect. The committee wishes to know what the department will accomplish with the money put into personnel programs and services. Further, the Minister indicated, to the committee, that there is a high level of morale amongst staff. The committee agrees that employee morale is a key indicator of success, of how this department does its job.

However, there was no measurable evidence provided by the department that employee morale was indeed high, during a period of dramatic change.

Committee Motion 188-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 76

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Personnel report, as a minimum, the following performance measurements on a government-wide basis in the 1993-94 main estimates:

1. Employee morale;
2. Employee turnover rates by departments and regions;
3. Employee absenteeism rates;
4. User satisfaction with personnel services;
5. Affirmative action statistics; and
6. Progress towards a G.N.W.T. human resources management system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion please signify. All those opposed? Carried.

---Carried

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Continue, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, that completes the resolutions, coming from the Standing Committee on Finances' review of this budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are now in general comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Minister for a copy of his opening remarks on Personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister. Will you provide the Member with a copy of your remarks?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can provide the Member with my own individual copy. Do other Members want it, as well? In that case, we will make copies right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just with regard with what I have heard during the Minister's opening remarks, he did say that there is going to be a comprehensive review done with regard to employee benefits. I did not make a statement with regard to when benefits were first introduced, it was based on when the north was still quite an isolated place, but I do not think that is the case any more, and it should be reflective of that. So, I would like to ask the Minister what this government is doing to ensure that we do not further deteriorate the delivery of programs to the communities, while the bureaucracy is flourishing.

The public service, the N.W.T.T.A., should all do their part in ensuring that we do have the proper balances with regard to who is making the sacrifices, and who is not. If you are cutting the Northern Arts and Cultural Programs, of course, it is the communities that are suffering, but in all the programs that we have gone through so far, these salaries and benefits have not decreased. In fact, they are increasing, while the programs themselves are decreasing, and my concern is that sacrifices have to work both ways.

It cannot be that the communities are the ones that take the brunt of this government's deficit, while protecting their public service.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, when we negotiate agreements with the unions, the union takes account of who it is that

there membership is, and that is what decides what type of benefits they seek.

There is an increasing number, a high number, of northern, and aboriginal, people now present in the work-force, they are members of the unions, and we have served notice that we expect the type of resources, the type of money that we put into benefits for employees, into collective agreements, to start changing.

For instance, removal benefits, how you can use vacation travel assistance, housing, these are a few of the items we think will start to change dramatically. For instance, terms that would cover the kind of removal costs and assurances that southern hires want, are going to largely disappear if we hire mostly from the north. Any resources that are presently allocated for that can be re-allocated by the unions for others, and that was one of the offers we made this year. If there are areas where money was allocated in previous years, that the union feel is not a priority for the membership, they are quite free, within the total allocation that they felt they had available to them, to ask to re-allocate it. I think the trend is that way, as the Members suggest, to make sure that the type of money we provide to Members through collective agreements, as benefits to government employees, that it is negotiated, and taken into account that a larger percentage of the work-force are going to be aboriginal northern people.

Mr. Chairman, could I ask for witnesses to come in, so that we can have some real experts in Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agreed that the Minister can bring some witnesses in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Minister. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce the witnesses, please?

Department Of Personnel

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have join me this afternoon the Deputy Minister of Personnel.

Mr. Ken Lovely, and the Director of Finance for the Department of Personnel, Mr. Stewart MacNabb.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, just recently, since the implementation of the Affirmative Action Program, we have seen trends in the existing public services and the aboriginal percentage. It must have been just recently that aboriginal employees, or northerners, have benefitted from working with this government. We have a situation, we have to say that we need to develop a benefits package, or employment package, that reflects the situation of the north now.

I realize that Ministers, when they first got in, took a reduction in pay of \$5,000, and Members are entitled to one vacation travel a year. Civil servants have two, people are still entitled to receive removal costs when they get hired up here, and if they decide to quit, their removal costs are covered too. Those are all situations which do not really reflect the north. We should be able to say that if there is a commitment on the part of the public service, one vacation should be good enough, like everybody else is receiving. We also have a situation, where classroom assistants are not given vacation pay, but they are given something equivalent to the amount of gas they use, to go out on the land. Again, that is a different arrangement all together.

There are bits and pieces of differences between the Union of Northern Workers, and the public service, and the N.W.T. Teachers' Association. You have to combine all of those, and look at them to see what would be the most equitable, what would we as aboriginal people, as northerners, say is a good package for the people that are working up here. No more, no less than anybody else.

Mr. Chairman, during the time that the Minister indicated that he was going to pass legislation with regard to employment, legislate the people back to work, or to legislate their wages. I received a lot of letters from my constituency, outside my constituency, and a lot of them are not people from up here, that really do have concerns. I mean, the members in my constituency are the ones that should be fighting and complaining, but they are not saying too much with regard to what they are getting, or what they have. I

would think that, if we were to develop a package that properly reflects the north,

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I do not think anybody would be opposed to anything being developed to that effect.

Right now, we are still feeding the bureaucracy, regardless if it is 1.8 percent for the second year increase, the fact still remains that, whatever percentage increase you get, it means a reduction on the other hand for programs being delivered. You are going to see the deficit, not come to zero, but it will increase to feed the bureaucracy. My concern is that the communities are doing their part in making sacrifices, the sacrifice that they are making is, this is how much we have got, this is what you get, live within that means. We are not saying the same thing to the bureaucracy, or the civil servants. There is still a demand for them to have a salary increase. They are not saying that they want to give up this, because maybe it does not really reflect the times. Maybe I am not listening to the radio, but I am listening to something. I certainly am not hearing anything with regard to the people that are responsible to provide those services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, just to clear up a point, I do not recall ever saying that I was going to legislate. I think he is referring to the fact that I might have said I was going to legislate the unions, legislate collective agreements.

The question was asked, if that had been considered in the department. I took it to mean that has it ever crossed my mind, and I said to be quite honest, which might have been a foolish thing at the time, it was crossing my mind. I do not know if it made it across. That was the thing, it was never a serious thing, but because of the serious financial situation that the government found itself in, that was a consideration that we had, definitely, at the time. How long we thought about it, I do not want to qualify.

In any case, one of the things that is going to happen, in my mind with unions is that as increasing number of northern people, aboriginal people, will start to, and continue to become an increasing larger proportion of union membership. It is going to have a direct

proportionate effect of making it increasingly difficult, politically, for us here in the Legislature to be tough. Even now, when you might say, the perception is amongst many people that it is still largely a southern hire, a southern recruited civil service.

For instance, four years ago, before my time, the Minister of Education tried to change something in the education budget and it did not quite work out as well, in part because there was a large outcry from teachers. I think we have never really been that tough in negotiations. There is always a respect for what people have, and what they are working for. It reflects as well, the present agreement that we made with the teachers, and the one that is still not ratified by the Union of Northern Workers, that they respect the fact that the government has no new money. In fact, we are in a deficit. That is why they have agreed to zero and 1.8 in first and second year of the collective agreement. This in fact, is a cut, because it does not even cover inflation. I think we have to respect the fact that these are people who have signed on to serve the government in good faith, with certain exceptions, and there is some moral obligation on our part to maintain what they would perceive as good faith positions. Definitely, in some instances, legal obligation to do so.

There is an item, which I mentioned in my opening remarks, which has to do with pay equity. There again, I think it is something that Members should track as we get into negotiations, because the union filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission, about four years ago. It basically said, the way that this government classifies jobs and pays for different work by different people, was discriminating. In particular, women were paid less than men in certain jobs, even though they could be deemed as work of equal value. That item has not been negotiated with the union. I mentioned in my remarks that I am going to in some way, address some of the inequities for all people of the north, but also for aboriginal people who have traditionally filled most of the lower paying jobs in positions within this government. That should be of benefit to them, and also to women.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to take a different tack here, maybe different from my colleague, Mr. Gargan. I can agree, Mr. Chairman, on a number of

the issues that he has raised, and he has made it quite clear about the need to develop a northern benefits package that reflects northern conditions, and I support that.

I support the comments that have been made here, in this House, about improving and increasing the number of aboriginal people in the public service. Not only in terms of people being recruited in the lower levels of our bureaucracy, but in the higher, middle management, upper management of our public service. I want to make one point, and it is this, that on the matter of senior positions, is the matter of the political leaders to decide that aboriginal people should take on responsibilities in deputy minister positions. If they do not feel comfortable with aboriginal people, and are not prepared to nominate those people, then the political leadership have to be accountable for that. That is really not a matter that you are generally responsible for. You are, in fact, responsible for the middle management, and I note in your remarks that you have made comments, that we still do have a significant educational problem that exists. I am hoping that as we get on in dealing with the educational system, that we can provide for properly educated citizens, young people, or even older people. Education programs that will allow them to take on the responsibility as manager.

I wanted to say this, that at many times we have a tendency to criticize our public servants, yet, we sometimes forget that there are a lot of public servants in the Northwest Territories, that are first aboriginal people, second that are long term northern people, that have been born and raised here, and thirdly, have made a commitment to live in the Northwest Territories. We sometimes forget that, and maybe we should be complimenting them on some of the work that they do for us, that we are proud of. We sometimes ignore that. We do it, and I do it, at times. I am going to say to you, let us compliment these people once in a while. We talk about the morale of people not being strong, we talk about the morale of people because they are uncertain, in many cases, of the political direction that they are receiving. One minute they are being requested to help them in the communities, people are happy with that, and the next minute they are being criticized for things that they maybe did not do perfectly, but they were trying to do something that you requested them to do.

I think we have to be consistent about what it is that we tell our public servants. It is interesting to note that today, for instance, we raised a good deal of praise on our interpreter/translators, but all of them

are public servants, with the exception of our French translators, who are on contract. If we are proud of them, I think we should say that. We cannot continue to be critical of our public service.

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The other point that I wanted to make, is that we raise concern about this point about unions getting too much money. In some cases, I can agree that they are making more money, but you have to weigh that against your competition. You have to weigh it against the people that are recruiting, not only in Canada, but around the world. It is interesting why we say we want a lot of nurses, medical professionals in the Northwest Territories. If you look at the documentation before us, and, in fact, in some of the documents across the country, that are recruiting for nurses, I made this point before, and it is this, that they are offering more benefits for a nurse to work in Texas than they do right now in the Northwest Territories. There is on average, a higher wage in Alberta for nurses, than there is in the Northwest Territories. That is what we are competing with. Those are the professionals.

If we are going to get to a point where we can recruit our aboriginal people, then let us get on with it, in terms of trying to develop the programs, and support the programs, not only talk about it, but support the programs in this Assembly. Sometimes we do not do that. We should also make a point, Mr. Chairman, it was a point that was made again, by Mr. Gargan, and it is that there were a lot of letters that were sent, as a result of remarks made by Mr. Kakfwi, maybe they were made in the wrong context, but it was remarks relating to the matter of legislation. I think they were unfortunate, in terms of when they were said, and the way the response was made.

I want to say to you that the people in my constituency, the majority of them, were not from outside my region. The majority of the people that talked to me are in the public service, and in the Mackenzie Delta area, in fact, from those communities. With the exception of some teachers, and some of the nurses.

I had a chance to meet with some of the people who were representing the union in my communities, and they were from Fort McPherson, or Aklavik, they were not from outside. So, in many ways, they were expressing a concern to me. I had to raise that point, in fact I spoke to Mr. Kakfwi on a number of occasions about it, and criticized him even in this House when

he was making mention of that. That is history now, and we can go on with the new agreement, as it has been signed.

I have a lot of other comments to make, but I just wanted to put those words on record. Sometimes we have a tendency, I think, of being too critical, not moving back once in a while, and directing a few pleasant remarks to the staff who do a lot of hard work for us. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on what has been said?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I do not want Members to think that this is out of character, but I would thank the Member for his comments. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Can I have order, please? I believe I have Mr. Ernie Bernhardt. Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about affirmative action, Mr. Minister. Hidden away from headquarters in small regions of the N.W.T., is a practice of hiring northern aboriginal people to fill positions. I feel that this practice is, who you know in the bureaucracy, and who can get you the job.

Even to this day, this practice still continues. I will give you an example, Mr. Minister, if I may. Twelve ladies applied for a part-time position as a secretary. They were all graduates and yet, the guy that did the hiring, Mr. Minister, hired his own relation. There were twelve other young girls, some are single parents, yet they were not given an opportunity to advance their skills, or to prove their skills, to the people that they serve in their area office.

This has continued for years and years. For me, that is not affirmative action. Affirmative action, if I understand it correctly, is for aboriginal people, but I do not want it handed to us, we have to earn it. Slowly, I think, we are getting trained people, but give us an opportunity.

Another question I would like to ask you, Mr. Minister, of the 35.2 percent aboriginal people in the government work force, how many of these in senior management positions, or middle management positions?

I just want to see, especially in my region, people of aboriginal descent given fair and proper treatment. From what I have had people tell me, there is too much nepotism going around in my region, and I would like to put a stop to it. It is not fair, the people are hurting, and it seems the non-natives are getting all of the jobs.

It is not fair to our people. We would like to progress, like everyone else, but if we are not given a chance, how can we? I would like to see headquarters, once in a while, your staff, Mr. Kakfwi, come to our region. Send your staff up, and see how your department is working at the community level, to ensure that we have fair practice by the Department of Personnel.

I do not mean fly in one day, and fly out the next, but go around to the people who are qualified, and cannot seem to find jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the Member raises some serious concerns. Unless we know about it, and it is brought to the attention of Minister, including myself, we cannot really act on it. I can tell the Member with practices like this, which are in violation of government policy, there is no doubt in my mind, that I would jump in and intervene.

I have done it before, and I have done it right in the Kitikmeot region. It is not a problem for me, I just have to know about it. On the other part of the Member's question, regarding the percentage of senior management in government overall, I do not have the figure offhand. I know that the Kitikmeot, interestingly enough, as a region, has the highest percentage of aboriginal government employees. I think it is a little over 50 percent, over half of the government employees in the Kitikmeot are aboriginal people.

What the number is for senior management, I think, as the Member is indicating, it is probably quite low, but so is the number of senior management positions in that area. Over 30 percent of the senior

management in the Department of Personnel is of aboriginal descent, or in the affirmative action category. So, as a department, for the present time, we would like to think we look good.

It could change, due to transfers, promotions, and other things that constantly change in government. I will say again, if there are specific cases that the Member would bring to my attention, I could see if I could have them reviewed, and addressed, by the appropriate Ministers. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are doing the Department of Personnel 1992-93 main estimates. Any more general comments? Mr. Gargan, Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe for the benefit of the communities, right now if we had one dollar for the whole Northwest Territories, 60 percent of it would be to support this government, the rest goes towards programs for the communities, such as education, social services, health.

We have run into a situation, Mr. Chairman, and I do not know who to blame, but I could point fingers. We ran into a deficit last year, and the result of the deficit was because expenditures were done just before an election, and as a result of the election. The point is, Mr. Chairman, in the Public Accounts Committee, one of the things that was mentioned was, that the public service does not have anything with regard to when they should stop expenditures. Even in their computers, computers are not designed to beep if you go beyond your expenditure.

There is not the control by a Comptroller General that enforces the Financial Administration Act. So, those are not things that you can blame on the aboriginal communities. I could also say a lot of nice things about the public service, but the point is we are not in the situation we are in because of aboriginal people. Someone has to take the blame, and that is why I say it is good to give praise when it is due, but my problem is that we would not be in the type of situation we are in, if people were doing their jobs, and that has been addressed time, and time, again even by the Auditor General.

The government is not doing anything to address the issue. Even at the last public council meeting, the same recommendations are still coming up. We do not have a system in place which would alert the finance people that they are over extending, so we are in a situation now, we are in deficit.

The other thing, too, is that if we are going to be saying that pay equity is good, and that, because of the court challenges under the Human Rights Act, we have to make some kind of adjustment for pay equity, the same thing should apply to benefits equity, too.

Whether you are with the Union of Northern Workers, the public servants, or the N.W.T.T.A., I think, if we are going to apply things evenly and fairly, then do it. I have problems with people in my constituency that are given different benefits than people that are working here in Yellowknife, and I use the example of vacation travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on the comments made by Mr. Gargan. You have the floor, Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Some of the concerns that the Member raised, the Minister of Finance should be in a better position to address. I know that, as a department, we have put a great deal of effort into trying to come up with savings that were directed by us by the executive, and the savings are evident, I guess, in the comments I made earlier.

There is going to be, I believe, increasingly, more stringent guidelines and directives being implemented, as less money is available for spending. I think that is quite in line with the need for accountants and auditors to become, increasingly, more in control of the government spending and practices. As a department, we think we have done quite well. The Minister of Finance can speak for the government overall.

Just on the last point the Member raised, there was a time previous when aboriginal employees and other northern employees, for instance, had some money to go out on the land as part of vacation, but it was less, and different, than was offered to other employees. This year, it has been negotiated, and it will be a cash pay out, whether you go south or you stay in the

north. It is going to be an equal amount. I just wanted to raise that to the Member.

There are some efforts made to make some improvements.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Well, I would have to say that it is about time they started. The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is the department planning at all on working on developing a northern benefits package? Has there been any movement in that direction?

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, we do have things that are based on the cost of living here in Yellowknife, including fuel and power subsidies. I am just wondering, Mr. Chairman, whether, or not, transportation is supplied on that same basis.

Do all government employees have vacation travel based on government rates? In other words, you take the airfare from here to Edmonton, and that is what you get, whether you are living in Grise Fiord, or in Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, a couple of points. On the vacation travel assistance, which we negotiated with the unions, it is part of the agreement with the teachers, and I think it is tentative with the U.N.W., it is where you live. The economy airfare from where you live to Edmonton, so it is not based on Yellowknife rates, it is from where you are employed to Edmonton.

On the second point that the Member raised, I do not know if that is what he intends, but Mr. Gargan, you sounded like we unilaterally decide what benefits to give to employees. The union negotiates all that. The last point you made, in which you said, "well, it is about time", in fact, this is the first year, that I know of, that the union raised the idea about doing something about vacation travel assistance, to equalize it whether you are going to spend it in the north, or go south.

As I said, we did develop a tentative strategy that would look at northernizing, or whatever you want to call it, the collective agreement so that it increasingly reflects what we think it should. That is, there is an increasing number of aboriginal and northern people in the work-force, and in the unions, and some of the elements that we brought were met. In fact, the unions were already thinking much along the same line, so it was there.

I think the union, and ourselves, took a very positive approach to the negotiations this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I do not know if it is reflected in this, but with regard to pay equity, everybody being sort of even based on the job they are doing, how much is it going to cost this government, to do that? There must be a calculated amount, if we carry on with this pay equity regime. Are the reasons for the delay because we do not have that money to cover that, to compensate for that pay equity. I am sure women are anxious to see, if they are doing the same thing as a man does, then they should be paid that amount. What seems to be

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the problem here? Do you have a figure on how much it is going to cost? I presume the Department of Personnel has done its homework on that, and that we have numbers and everything, and this is how much it is going to cost the government to do it. Is the delay, because we cannot cover it at this point in time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, kindly. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to have to ask the Member not to insist that I get into this in detail. It is going to be a subject of negotiations. I do not want to set bottom or top lines on what, in my opinion, the low figure or the high figure. I have absolutely no way to predict this at all. It is subject for negotiations. We know there are inequities in the system, and we have agreed to negotiate it with the union.

I believe that we have to take into account that it is going to be retroactive, to I think a year before the complaint was filed, if we live up to what we think may happen. The entire thing is up for negotiations. The unions know that we have no money, we are in a deficit. If we are seen to be taken to the cleaners, then it is going to reflect on agreements, the collective agreements that we will negotiate in the future. It will reflect on the kind of additional benefits that we extend to employees, and it will reflection the kind of programs, and projects, that we can fund in other areas of government spending.

I would like to just leave it at that, that we are committed to trying to address this, one way or the other. It is expected to be conducted in the very positive atmosphere that we have developed with the unions in the last year or two or three. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are there any other general comments? If not, can we proceed page by page.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Directorate, total O and M of \$4.267 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 06-11, job evaluation, total O and M of \$601,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Staffing, total O and M \$2.757 million. Agreed? Mr. Nerysoo, then Mr. Gargan. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make one particular comment here. I may ask the Minister a question. If Members will recall, when we first began

the affirmative action policy, its primary focus was on aboriginal people, when we first established it. I think with a certain amount of rationale, the arguments were made to broaden it to include women and disabled, and in fact, somehow, we dealt with the matter of extending it to long term residents, and the idea of 20 years was brought in.

I cannot, in anyway, say that it may have not been a good idea, but I think that one of the problems with the complete opening of the affirmative action policy, is that you lose what might be the groups that you wanted to increase in the public service. That had to do with women, in terms of management, disabled, and aboriginal people just getting into the public service. For me, opening it up as broad as they did, has really lost the whole idea, or the value of the affirmative action policy. Maybe we cannot necessarily go back and change it, but I would ask the Minister if he could do an assessment of the advantages of having broadened it to the extent that we did. I have no problem with the idea of providing an affirmative action policy to those that have been born and raised here, but it concerns me that we are providing an advantage to people that, within the last 20 years, have just even come to this country. For me, it is not even a value to Canadians. It is so broad now, we have lost the value of it, its original intent.

I want to ask the Minister if he might be able to review the situation, and maybe assess whether, or not, there has been gains or values, in terms of the intent of the affirmative action policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the policy directs the government to evaluate the affirmative action policy, and then present it to the Legislature to the government by 1994, so that is in two years time. In the meantime, it is my view, that this reflects, in part, what we tried to do in the Business Incentive Policy, and preferential policy for northern businesses. We tried to give some preference to those people who make the north their home. It should be clear to everybody that the policy says, that aboriginal people have the first priority for jobs. There is that difference in the policy that gives the edge to aboriginal people. I think that is an important element to consider. I am certain that, within a year or so, we will start to organize, to assess the impact of this policy and begin to put together an

evaluation that will be given to the Members before the next election.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not argue the request that has been made to have the evaluation, I think that there is always a time needed to do the assessment. The only concern that I had, was the way the policy reads right now, there is no preference. I know that there is a priority for aboriginal people, I have no problem with that, and there is a suggestion that the women's issue is equal to that of a person who has come across the sea within the last 20 years.

For me, it does not make any sense. Maybe for someone who drafted that document, it makes sense. You are dealing with women who are talking about going beyond the positions of being a secretary, or at the lower parts of our public service, getting into management, and getting access to government jobs for the handicapped, making it more easily available to them. There is no advantage to a person, a non-aboriginal person, who has been born and raised in the north, compared to someone who has come over from Europe in the last twenty years.

I am not going to argue that the policy is there now. What I am saying to you is that, maybe, there has to be an assessment done if there is an intent to give advantage to people, then what is that advantage? If there is no advantage, then we should say it publicly. That, okay, anybody who has come over in the last 20 years has more rights in the north, or equal rights to those that have been born and raised here, and some who have been here for 40 years. There is no difference, that is all I am saying, and maybe, that has to be considered.

I am not going to argue about how things work, but I just wanted to make that point. Maybe there has to be a reassessment of that situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Honourable Minister, would you like to respond to that comment?

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. At the present time the policy does not give preference to, as the Member says, a non-aboriginal person who has lived here for fifty years in a job application situation. They would be on equal footing to somebody who has come over from South Africa, 20 and a half years ago. The policy does not address that, and I think that the Member is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the ways that the Department of Personnel used to hire people was that they used to include aboriginal organizations, or health boards of that area. I do not know about regional councils, but I am just wondering if you have that sort of participation before you hire your staff, regardless of whether the person is going to be stacking up paper, or a senior management position.

Again, it depends really on the position itself, a lot of latitude is given to the regions, to the staff, to the supervisors, to make this choice. I think we should allow, in order for us to avoid that type of question, as much as possible, in the place where the hiring is going to be done, that the people from that area, directly affected by that person, would participate in the interviews, and eventually do the hiring.

If you do not have that, then I think that is where your problem is. I think Ernie has brought up a good point. We keep talking about self-government, but what is that? We are not really exercising it up to now. I think it is time that we look at doing something in that area. In the spirit and intent of that, you should allow band councils, hamlet councils, regional councils, health boards, school boards, whatever the case may be, the opportunity to decide who will eventually be hired.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the practice now, for those positions in government that we think have an impact on the community, we do try, within our limited budget, to involve band councils, and the aboriginal leaders, to take part in the interviews, and selection process. This is a new, recent practice. I think, the key still is

in becoming increasingly present in the unions, because that is the body that negotiates on behalf of employees.

The more northern, aboriginal employees we have in the unions, the more it will reflect that. We also have to deal with the fact that there is not a great number of northern, aboriginal people who have the expertise, and the education, to readily take over senior management positions. No matter how we design government, and no matter whose government it is, unless we do something to address that real serious deficiency, it will not really matter.

We will still have to bring people in from somewhere else to fill senior management positions. I understand what the Member is saying about the concept of self-government, but unless we do something to make sure that we have an increasing number of northern people who, as Jeannie Marie-Jewell said the other day, could become super bureaucrats, the prospect is, whether you have an aboriginal government, or any other type of government, even aboriginal organizations will have to face the prospect that they will have to hire, in large part, non-aboriginal people to manage their organizations, corporations, and institutions, for the foreseeable future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I am not too sure who serves on the unions, and how much of a portion of that representation is actually reflects aboriginal concerns. With regard to staffing, what business is it of the unions to have a say in what the communities should have?

I find it totally unacceptable that this government would allow the union to dictate to this government. For instance, who is going to be the person that is working out of Fort Providence out of Yellowknife, or for that matter, Cambridge Bay? I think the only point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is I have been involved in many federal government interviews, as an aboriginal person, and we have made selections that were unacceptable, but we still managed to hire people to senior positions, or director positions, in which they were not appropriate for. They eventually did do the job, like the Secretary of State position, for example, the director's position, it took a lot of influence to an aboriginal person.

It depends on the collective agreement, the unions want this, and the unions want that, so we cannot really address it. There are things that I believe are in the interest of the unions, but hiring people for communities, or establishing a position on the hiring practices for the communities, I do not think that is one that they should be playing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, if I gave the impression to the Member that the union was involved in the hiring of government employees, then I want to correct that. They are not involved in the hiring of government employees, and we are trying to make some effort to make sure that, increasingly, communities are involved in the selection, and hiring of our government employees. Again, it is going to be part of this community transfer initiative.

I think those are all areas in which agreements have to be made, because right now, at best, we tried some very ad hoc approaches to involve communities. I think there needs to be some agreement on the part of communities, to make sure that the process is fair for all members of the communities.

I raise it, for instance, because I know in some communities there is basically one to three families, and if you are not one of those families, you are at the far end of the stick. So, there needs to be, even within our communities, some ways to assure everybody that they are going to get a fair shake in these processes. As Mr. Bernhardt said, there is nepotism, and I think it is not exclusive to the realm of government, so we just have to be careful about it. We have to take a positive approach to make sure that when we go to communities and offer them something, it is not something that is faulty, because of our own lack of diligence.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are on the staffing. Total O and M, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one final question. Do you have a policy in place, now, with regard to the hiring, in some of the regions or communities, and whether, or not, in this policy, you have the inclusion for participation of the communities that are affected either locally, regionally, by district, centrally, or north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I believe the Department of Personnel has such a policy to assist the staff in hiring and recruitment, and I can make that available to the Member.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if the Minister has answered my question. I am asking whether, within your policy, you have something that allows for the participation in the hiring process of the local bands, hamlets, education societies or native organizations, or whatever the case may be? What is the policy? Do you have a policy with regard to participation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, maybe my response was too short, but, I meant to tell the Member that, yes, we have such a policy that includes provisions on how we should seek community involvement, and for what type of positions we should seek community involvement in the hiring. I mean, if that is not what the Member is asking, then I will ask him to repeat it again.

I am trying my best here to answer your questions, and if I am not being clear, or I am missing the point, then help me out. Do not give up, yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We are on staffing. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

No, I am happy with what the Minister has said, but you have already put a restriction on it, by saying that it depends on the type of position.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Staffing. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I understood that, and I know it is limited to certain types of positions, in which we actively seek community involvement, because it is quite costly to do it otherwise. That was the reason I offered to share the policy with the Member, so he could see it himself, and he could review it, and pick out the good elements, if there are any in it, point out the deficiencies, and advise us on it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Staffing. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two particular matters I wanted to deal with. One happens to be a matter under the Work-force Adjustment Program.

Now, I have heard Mr. Chairman, that there is some concern being expressed by individuals who have been involved in the Work-Force Adjustment Program. It is my view, maybe the Minister could correct me, that there is a priority lesson in which most of the individuals have been laid off, or under the Work-Force Adjustment Program given priority for rehire, is that correct? Maybe you can clarify that for me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, they have priority for hiring.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask the Minister, and the deputy minister, to review

the situation, where that priority may not have been considered to individuals under that particular program. Maybe to address it immediately, or properly, so that we do not have a complaint, or any grievance, filed as a result of that.

There are circumstances, and I know of one case, I do not want to talk about it here, I would rather deal with it on a more private nature. I do want, generally, the department to be insistent that the particular arrangement, or that program, that you embarked upon with the Union of Northern Workers, is adhered to, in terms of the priority, or whether, or not, jobs are available to those individuals, that have been let go, or at least laid off. I do not know if I necessarily want to use the word laid off, but that is the only words that I can think of at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, this particular initiative, because of restraint and decentralization has been a priority area, and given attention by the department, and myself. We are trying to monitor the situation carefully. It seems to be going along very well, but if the Member has a particular case that he wants us to look at, we would be quite prepared to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Staffing, total O and M of \$2.757 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Labour relations, total O and M of \$1.010 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Equal employment, total O and M of \$974,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Employee benefits, total O and M of \$17.797 million. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One area that I wanted to comment on, is the employee benefits. Having been an employee of this government, I have an idea as to what employees do receive, in fact, as an employee, I made several comments regarding the benefits that I received, as an employee of the G.N.W.T. I was glad to hear the Minister commenting on the fact that there will be equalization of benefits for people who are hired from the north, because I felt as an employee, the value received by an aboriginal person, or someone who was born and raised in a certain community, was not the same value of vacation travel benefits, as those employees who were hired from the south.

I know this is an incentive to bring people up north, good qualified people to come up north. I still did not see where justice was being done for employees who were hired in the north. Especially when we talk about hiring northern people, and especially when we prioritize aboriginal hire in our system.

The other area in which I got to know the collective agreement quite well, was when I made a grievance regarding the travel of employees. There is one certain clause of the agreement which says that you are not able to take, or apply for special leave, unless it has something to do with the weather. If you are unable to get back to your community due to weather, after being on vacation, if you flew in, that was fine, then you were able to receive that special day. However, if you are coming from out on the land, and coming in from vacation, and you are stuck because of weather, you are not able to get that benefit, you do not get that special day.

I went through that, I grieved it through the union, and it went all the way to the Commissioner, and then it was turned down. Areas like that, when you have things like that, that affects people hired in the north, then there is a different scale used for people who

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are hired from the south, and people who were hired from the north. What I wanted to see, was that there

was the same kind of benefits given to different people.

That is just one area that I wanted to raise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Would you like to make a comment, Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is a point that is in current tentative agreement, that has yet to be ratified by the Union of Northern Workers. What I understand, is that there is an agreement now for people who go out on the land, that they would be entitled to special leave if they do not get back by the time that they are supposed to back at work, because of weather, or other circumstances.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Employee benefits, total O and M of \$17.797 million? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Detailed works performed on behalf of third parties, pages 6-16, 6-17, and 6-18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Total department, \$80.839 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 6-19, revenues, recoveries and transfer payments. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Distribution of budget. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 6-09, program summary, total O and M of \$27.406 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this committee agreed that the Department of Personnel is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses at this time. What does the committee wish to do next? Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Economic Development, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this House agreed that we will deal with Economic Development?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Proceed, Madam Premier, for opening remarks.

Introductory Remarks, Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to apologize on behalf of the Minister responsible, for matters beyond his control, he is not able to deliver his budget address. So, I will be trying my best to carry out this function.

Mr. Chairman, the 1992-93 main estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism total \$45.738 million, which includes \$34.228 million of operations and maintenance funding, \$8 million for the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, and \$3.5 million for Tourism and Parks capital projects. In addition, this budget provides funding for 147.5 person years.

Mr. Chairman, the government has heard from communities that priority must continue to be placed on supporting the creation of new jobs through the growth of the private sector, particularly in the smaller communities.

To this end, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has re-allocated resources, and adjusted operations, in order to continue to stimulate growth in smaller communities.

The programs and services offered by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism are geared towards business development and increasing incomes. The variety of programs, issues and responsibilities, covers sectors such as fisheries, small business, arctic foods, agriculture, arts and crafts, tourism marketing, parks and visitor services, as well as interprovincial and international trade.

Mr. Chairman, there are different organizations within, or at arms length from the department, aimed at delivering programs to promote economic development in these areas. I will provide Members with some highlights of initiatives that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and related organizations, are undertaking to develop the economy of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress that the success rate of initiatives undertaken by the department, and related agencies, is largely dependent on the level of community support. When local groups initiate, or help, to drive the course of a project, there is a sense of ownership and pride in the outcome. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism endeavours to involve local residents when initiatives are being considered, and we encourage communities to help identify potential economic opportunities.

The Business Credit Corporation is a product of the Northwest Territories' economic strategy, and is structured to make funding more accessible to level II and III communities.

The N.W.T. Business Credit Corporation Act was proclaimed in October, 1991, the effective date of start up being April 1, 1992. The purpose for establishing the corporation was to create an arms length lending agency capable of providing term loans, contract security, and loan guarantees, to new or established northern businesses. It replaces the department's business loan fund, which had provided similar services since 1977.

Although the corporation provides the same lending services as the previous business loan fund, there are a number of distinct differences in its method of operation.

While the current cap for the loan fund is \$20 million, it has the ability to grow to a maximum of \$50 million, at the discretion of the Financial Management Board.

The loan fund is intended to be self-sustaining. That is to say, that interest income, net of the cost of borrowing, must be greater than the fund allowance for write off. The corporation will continue to receive

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approximately \$333,000 annually to cover operating costs.

The Board of Directors has been granted lending authority up to \$500,000, and has been empowered to delegate its authority to officers of the corporation. The delegated authority is currently set at \$200,000. Loans in excess of \$500,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million, can be approved by the Minister, on the recommendation of the board.

Mr. Chairman, the corporation is fully functional, but has a number of operational and administrative initiatives, which will be undertaken prior to year end to increase its effectiveness. This includes the delegation of lending authority up to \$25,000 to regional staff. The delegation of authority will be implemented upon the completion of credit training courses, being sponsored by the department over the next two months. All departmental economic development officers, board members, and B.C.C. staff, will take the course currently scheduled for Inuvik, Iqaluit, Yellowknife, and Hay River.

Over the past 12 months, the board of directors of the corporation have approved 43 loans valued at \$6.350 million. There is approximately \$18.290 million in principal currently outstanding to 223 clients, and the

total portfolio, including interest due, is approximately \$19.200 million.

The Business Development Fund was established in 1991, in response to concerns raised in the Score Report, and also in conjunction with, the direction established in the government's economic strategy.

The program was designed to achieve the following objectives: to consolidate a variety of business incentive policies into one comprehensive policy; to target funding to businesses in disadvantaged communities; to improve client access to funding programs; to reduce the time required to apply and receive funding; and to provide funding for the complete business cycle.

In all instances the guiding principles which dictate applicant eligibility are: One, projects must demonstrate a level of job creation. Funding is based on \$25,000 per job created with a job being measured as \$12,000 in wages, or 40 weeks of employment; Two, the applicant must demonstrate need. The program continues to be last resort funding. Therefore, all other sources of funding must be accessed before approaching the fund; Three, the project must demonstrate potential for viability within reasonable time frames, generally two to three years; Four, the applicant must share the risk. Although the minimum equity required for each program, ranging from 5 percent to 20 percent, in the policy is mandatory, it can be increased if the applicant has the resources.

A full report of the fund's performance over the past 12 months will be tabled in November. In it, you will note that there has been a significant shift in the distribution of funding to less advantaged communities, and that the programs are meeting our objectives.

For example, since the new policy was introduced in 1991, approvals in level III communities have increased 76 percent, those in level II have increased 13 percent, with an estimated 68 percent of the funding being provided to aboriginal-owned businesses.

In 1991-92 the department issued 229 contributions for a total of \$3.35 million. This generated 172 new jobs, and levered an additional \$9.85 million in project funding from other sources.

The proposed reduction of \$607,000, in total, to the department's contribution programs should not affect this performance since it reflects historical lapses.

Mr. Chairman, we will continue to refine the policy, system and programs, to further enhance access to the fund, and to improve the level of service to the business community.

The usage of the fund crosses all sectors, and shows that contributions need not be large to make a difference.

Eight fishermen received contributions through the Business Development Fund, of about \$1,500 each, to purchase automated haulers for the winter turbot fishery, to increase their efficiency and productivity.

Similarly, assistance totalling about \$40,000 was provided to seven char fishermen in the Keewatin, to purchase boats, motors and fishing gear.

With a contribution of \$8.277 million, the Toonoonik Sahoonek Co-op in Pond Inlet hosted three Japanese tour wholesalers. As a result, two departures to the floe edge will be offered in May, 1993, and summer narwhal viewing tours are scheduled for August. Total income from these bookings is estimated to be \$60,000.

The True North Trading Company received funds to develop a mail order catalogue for N.W.T. arts and crafts. Over 100,000 copies will be distributed throughout Canada by the end of October.

The department provided assistance of \$31,000 to an Aklavik resident for a pilot project to produce fur parkas. Twelve parkas were produced prior to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and the initial response indicates that there may be a limited market for these parkas within the Northwest Territories.

For the third year, the small tools and Capital Equipment Assistance Program has provided funds to regions, to assist artists and crafts people to buy tools and equipment. Better tools will allow for better quality arts and crafts production, and greater incomes for producers. A total of \$200,000 has been provided to regions this year.

Each year, the freshwater fish marketing corporation administers a commercial fisheries assistance subsidy on behalf of the department. To date, \$544,000 has been committed this fiscal year, to offset costs for the Great Slave Lake fishery.

The Department is the implementing party for the majority of funds under the D.I.A.N.D. Cooperation Agreement of the 1991-1996 Canada-G.N.W.T. Economic Development Agreement. This agreement totals over \$10 million this fiscal year, with the Northwest Territories portion being 30 percent of that, or about \$3 million.

Projects are under way in a number of sectors, including arts and crafts, fisheries, community sponsored development, agriculture and wildlife harvesting. These sectors account for 68 percent of the total program funding.

We also participate in the Industry Science and Technology Canada Cooperation Agreement, which includes funding this year for tourism and entrepreneurship. The total value of this agreement for 1991-92 is over a million dollars.

A third cooperation agreement, valued at \$2.7 million over five years, has been signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and Forestry Canada.

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Over half a million dollars has been allocated for the 1992-93 fiscal year, to undertake forest management and development initiatives. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism participates in the decision making under this agreement, although the Department of Renewable Resources is the lead G.N.W.T. department for this agreement.

Mr. Chairman, the regions have direct involvement in the design of the programs, and the criteria for E.D.A. applications. There is an extensive consultation process, leading up to the development of work plans. Regional sub-committees, with public representation, have the authority to review, and approve applications.

The Department is working to ensure that this E.D.A. will provide money in the sectors where it is need most, with direct involvement at the community level.

Mr. Chairman, some examples of projects undertaken through the E.D.A. Program are as follows:

1. In response to industry concerns about soapstone supply, quarry projects were funded in Pangnirtung, Lake Harbour and Broughton Island. An assessment of the Cape Dorset marble deposit was completed by Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources officials and the local Economic Development Officer;

2. E.D.A. funds were invested in the Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung Graphics Program, both collections of which will be launched this fall. The Pangnirtung collection has been produced under the auspices of the Pangnirtung Print Shop, and is the first collection produced in five years.

3. Keewatin Region saw a commitment of \$455,000 directed to exploration for fish stock, and enhancement of technologies for fishing activities in both Hudson's Bay and Inland Lakes.

4. The Baffin Region has undertaken an aggressive five year program involving the exploration for, and testing of, fish stock in areas in and around Baffin Island. Over half a million dollars has been committed to this program for this year alone.

5. The Kitikmeot Region saw a commitment of \$90,000 towards enhancing fisheries production technologies, as well as seeking new stocks in communities outside of Cambridge Bay such as Gjoa Haven.

6. Community sponsored development funding was approved for the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce to promote small business week in October, and conduct the second annual Nunavut Trade Show next spring.

7. The eastern Arctic's second business service centre is under construction in Cape Dorset through funds provided by E.D.A. and the N.W.T. Development Corporation. Built in conjunction with a new retail store for the west Baffin Co-op, it has been a cooperative effort between the department as facilitator, and the Kingnait Development Corporation as proponents. The Business Service Centre will be occupied by the G.N.W.T. as a primary tenant which will help subsidize new business tenants. It will open in early 1993.

8. There are approximately 250 performing artists in the N.W.T. who will have the opportunity to benefit from E.D.A. funding directed towards professional development and enhancement opportunities.

9. In the tourism sector, the department negotiated \$1.4 million over the life of the current E.D.A. specifically directed towards increasing the tourism skills of northerners. An excess of 200 northern students graduated from these programs last year.

10. A significant initiative within the commercial renewable resource sector in the west involved musk-ox harvesting for export markets. In the first year of the E.D.A., Umayot Corporation, an Inuvialuit controlled company, received \$375,000 towards the purchase of capital equipment to facilitate the commercial harvesting of musk-ox on Banks Island. Approximately 2,000 animals were harvested under the direct supervision of Agriculture Canada.

The Commercial quota of 5,000 animals on Banks Island leaves considerable room for expansion. This year, and additional \$300,000 has been approved for investment in upgrading technology, and a harvest is planned for this October.

11. An additional \$250,000 has been allocated for this fiscal year to test the feasibility of conducting an export harvest of musk-ox near Holman. This will be the first harvest of this kind carried out in a location other than Banks Island. Again, Umayot Corporation will be working closely with the local Hunters' and Trappers' Committee, and the department. Meat harvested from Banks Island, and Holman, will hopefully find its way into markets throughout Canada, and the rest of the world.

12. The department has also facilitated the approval of funding for carrying out harvests for a projected 200 caribou in Coppermine, and 200 to 300 musk-ox in Cambridge Bay. These harvest are to be structured to allow for government inspection for the first time in N.W.T. All meat harvested from these two projects will be committed to commercial markets here in the N.W.T. The local hunters' and trappers' associations are the primary proponents, with the N.W.T. Development Corporation providing professional support and access to markets.

13. The North Slave Region will receive funding to consult with communities to determine their interest in pursuing commercial caribou harvesting.

The total commitment for this fiscal year for commercial wildlife harvesting is \$735,000 with proponents, chiefly Umayot Corporation, providing an addition \$500,000 in equity.

The N.W.T. Development Corporation was established in 1990. It is mandated to invest primarily in, or for, the benefit of lesser developed communities. This year, it will invest some \$8 million towards development of business opportunities. These businesses are community based, with local

boards playing a major role in their continued operation.

Mr. Chairman, all commercial enterprises currently operated by the department, will be transferred to the N.W.T. Development Corporation. This will allow these enterprises to operate in a more business-like setting, and remove the artificial limit to their growth that was imposed through their inclusion in the government's budgetary processes.

One project the corporation has undertaken is the airport kiosk in Toronto International Airport. "Arctic Canada" was opened in July of this year, and provides an opportunity to market northern products, and gain a better insight into product demand

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patterns. Suppliers benefit from direct market feedback on their products, and "Arctic Canada" provides a vehicle to promote the Northwest Territories to a national, and international clientele.

Sales are carefully monitored so that breakdowns by product line and by region are easily available. We also obtain information on where customers are from, and what they are buying. This information will assist any N.W.T. suppliers in targeting their products to specific markets.

On the production side, the corporation is involved in several projects. One of these is the Tuktoyaktuk carving project. In seven months, ending August 1992, the project purchased 1,095 carvings from 46 different artists in the community. These purchases amount to \$84,700. for the period. The carvings are being marketed in the national market, as well as directly through Arctic Canada.

In Rankin Inlet, the Corporation is undertaking a pilot project for fabric arts and crafts products. This project has been operating since July, and is fostering some creative new product lines.

The Corporation is also involved with older and more established businesses, such as the Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas Shop. The product line there is being developed to bring new concepts to a well established product.

Mr. Chairman, some of these products are on display at the N.W.T. Development Corporation Offices. I invite Members to drop by to get a first hand view of the type of products that are being produced through development corporation projects. Their offices are

located on the seventh floor of the Northwest Tower.

Mr. Chairman, another development corporation project, or key interest, will be the provision of continued support to the expanding fishery in Pangnirtung, which includes a new plant and secondary facilities. This investment alone is approximately \$3.3 million, not including the operational costs, bringing the total investment and support offered to this region in excess of \$4.2 million for this fiscal year.

With a downturn in the Canadian economy, and slow arts and crafts sales, the department's arts and crafts marketing has been focusing on development of European and Asian markets. This involves raising awareness of the product, and N.W.T. generally, and an aggressive program to establish links with dealers.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has provided ongoing support to the Amway Environmental Foundations, "Masters of the Arctic Exhibition", currently on a world tour, including Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and the United States.

We have provided a wide range of technical and artistic assistance as well as funding. We will be taking advantage of this high profile exhibition by undertaking a number of commercial exhibitions in the United States portion of the tour. Concurrent with this, negotiations are under way to include N.W.T. arts and crafts as part of Amway's Corporate Awards Program, and inclusion of these products in Amway's consumer catalogue.

There are seven galleries in Europe currently carrying N.W.T. arts and crafts. Our objective is to triple this figure by direct contact, and taking advantage of our increased exposure through Expo in Seville, and 14 exhibitions through Spain this last year.

A new Spanish company which is wholesaling our products has purchased \$120,000 worth of arts and crafts to date from wholesalers such as Arctic Co-operatives Limited.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that approximately 45 percent, \$374,000, of purchases for the Expo retail outlet were Dene arts and crafts. Our exports to broad markets, as I have just described, include both Inuit and Dene arts and crafts.

To assist further with the development of Dene crafts, a new person year was allocated to Fort Rae.

Furthermore, an E.D.A. contribution of \$88,000 was provided for the development of promotional materials to enhance sales of N.W.T. arts and crafts which five of eight brochures dedicated to Dene crafts.

Our Asian marketing campaign has produced sales of over \$900,000 with costs incurred by the department amounting to just over \$340,000. Japan and Korea are the target markets. Major exhibitions in leading Japanese and Korean galleries were undertaken after the successful showing of the "Masters of the Arctic" exhibit in the newly opened Canadian Embassy in Japan.

The department is working with Arctic Co-ops Limited and a Japanese businessman to build on the excellent reception these products have had to date. A similar arrangement has been made in Korea.

An extensive survey of the United States market was conducted with the assistance of Canadian Consulate offices. It found that only 32 outlets now carry Northwest Territories products but an additional 50 expressed immediate interest in doing so. We do anticipate increased sales opportunities through follow up to this study.

The initiatives I have just outlined form part of a comprehensive arts and crafts marketing strategy developed pursuant to our overall economic strategy. Current retail sales in this sector are just over \$28 million. This strategy is aiming at increasing sales by \$10 million by 1995.

In addition to departmental promotion efforts, the Northwest Passage Trading Company of Gjoa Haven is an example of a community group taking the initiative to directly market its products. This company is the focus of a revitalization of the carving industry in Gjoa Haven, and we are pleased to be working cooperatively in furthering their initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the N.W.T. is rich in terms of a large land mass, highly marketable unique resource base, and a strong cultural identity. Renewable resources in the north are characterized by slow growing stocks, however, and development in this sector faces high cost of production, a limited pool of qualified managers and workers, inadequate infrastructure, and small markets. The department's resource strategy is targeted at assisting in overcoming these barriers and harnessing the wealth in this sector.

In this year alone the department, in conjunction with E.D.A. and the N.W.T. Development Corporation,

committed over \$9.5 million to assisting growth in the commercial renewable resource sector. The vast majority of that assistance and investment has gone towards expanding fisheries, which involve primarily level II and III communities.

The department combined its efforts with the Department of Renewable Resources to secure new offshore allocations involving three operators and 8,800 tonnes of fish and shrimp, in addition to the 1,000 tonne open quota for turbot in Cumberland Sound. Only two years ago, the offshore

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allocation to the N.W.T. was limited to one operator and approximately 2,000 tonnes.

The agriculture sector is somewhat limited by geography, but opportunities and developments in recent years have been exciting.

The department is focusing on development of market gardens and greenhouses in the North and South Slave areas.

Technical advice and infrastructure has been provided in a variety of communities such as Trout Lake and Kakisa.

Much of the work being done now is modeled on work completed several years ago by the department with a company called "Produce North" in Norman Wells. This company operates a very technically advanced greenhouse producing a full range of vegetables and fruits. The company's entire production this year was sold to the Northern Store in Norman Wells displacing significant amounts of produce normally supplied from the south.

Our focus in this sector is to replace imports, and develop value added processing of Arctic foods. Our successes in developing product lines for Expo will assist sales of northern food products, both locally and outside the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, a major function of the department is to support the development of the tourism industry. Areas of activity include, product development, marketing, licensing and regulations, research, intergovernmental coordination, and park establishment.

The travel industry has been one of the faster growing components of the service sector in the N.W.T. Since 1979, all purpose travel has almost doubled, and

related expenditures have more than tripled. Visitor expenditures in 1989 were reported to be \$89 million of which 456 million or 63 percent were pleasure-based, while 33 percent gross receipts was derived from business travellers. Statistics show that the number of non-resident motor vehicles, entering the Northwest Territories increased 10 percent in the five year period from 1986 to 1991.

Although the western part of the Northwest Territories still receives a major share of the visitors, largely as a result of the road network, there has been substantial activity in other regions, especially the Baffin.

A significant proportion of the new travel businesses are located in the smaller communities. Overall, the number of hotels/motels and bed and breakfast facilities in the Northwest Territories has increased from 23 in 1971, to 98 in 1992.

The most recent information shows that little to slight growth in visitor numbers has occurred between 1990 and 1992 for the Northwest Territories as a whole. Total business and pleasure person trips are expected to remain level this year at 89,000. Although 1992 visitor statistics are not yet available, we anticipate increased visitation in the Inuvik region, partially resulting from Alaska Highway celebrations, and the opening of the N.W.T. Visitor Centre near Dawson City. The Dawson Visitor Centre had 8,414 visitor registrants in 1991, the highest of all Northwest Territories operated facilities.

Estimates for the eastern Northwest Territories indicates a slight decline in numbers during the same period. For package tours operating in the 1992 season, bookings are said to be down. Although the short term outlook for the tourism industry presents a challenge, it should be remembered that the industry has performed equally or better than other provinces. Many provinces experienced a significant decline in tourism sector activity in 1992.

It is likely that any downturn in industry performance is due largely to the recession in the south curtailing the vacation plans of visitors to the north.

Mr. Chairman, the department's research indicates the need for a more focused marketing program, and the requirement for tourism products offered in the Northwest Territories to keep pace with consumer trends.

Improvements required to generate additional employment and economic benefits from tourism

include, the immediate need to streamline and target market our existing and proven products. An immediate focus on more product specific marketing, the long term development of more non-consumptive specialty type products, and a gradual improvement in the quality of facilities in both the private and public sector.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has and will continue to monitor, evaluate and support the tourism industry.

Continuing department initiatives in the tourism sector include:

1. Support for community based tourism through the provision of financial assistance to tourism zone associations.
2. Assistance to community initiated tourism feasibility planning activities. For example, the Fort McPherson tourism business plan or the Ndilo tourism and cultural attraction feasibility study.
3. Support for public infrastructure and associated creation of marketable tourism destinations deemed valuable by the industry and Northwest Territories residents.
4. Assistance to operators for product development.
5. Monitoring and evaluation of tourism trends, and dissemination of appropriate information to business operators and decision makers.
6. Support for private sector tourism operators through the business development fund.
7. Liaison with other departments and governments, to ensure that the concerns of the Northwest Territories Tourism Industry are coordinated/represented.

One example of a potential growth area is the visit of the Russian Icebreaker to the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions with about 50 tourists, 32 of whom joined the vessel in Cambridge Bay, and six of who were tour operators looking to add to the destinations they market.

These people were impressed with the quality of the facilities available, and are booking a return trip with 112 tourists next season.

Mr. Chairman, a major new initiative of the department is the development a product oriented cooperative marketing program.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Over the past three years, the department has implemented a tourism advertising campaign

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to position the N.W.T. as a desirable tourism destination, in a variety of target marketplaces. Although this general awareness campaign has generated a significant amount of interest within our target markets in Canada, the United States, Japan and Europe, N.W.T. tourism operators are telling us that sales have not reached expectations.

Therefore, the department is adopting a new approach to tourism marketing activities this year. In developing this new approach, we listened carefully to what N.W.T. tourism operators were telling us with respect to: types of marketing activities which provide the best linkages between specific N.W.T. tourism products and key marketplaces; tourism industry attitudes; the general health of the tourism industry in the Northwest Territories, within Canada, and worldwide; and the interests and capabilities of the Tourism Industry Association, and the tourism zone associations.

The basis of the new approach will be to develop product-oriented, cooperative marketing activities and promotional tools, which include a specific point of sale contact.

Our agency of record, Inkit Ltd., in association with Camp and Associates, is currently developing an advertising campaign which will focus on existing saleable N.W.T. tourism products, and will encourage private sector investment in marketing activities.

Economic Development and Tourism will provide the seed money to develop the creative advertising layouts, and anchor space in strategically targeted publications. N.W.T. tourism operators will be invited to participate by purchasing additional space in these publications, to include their company name, address, and telephone number in the advertisements.

The department has contracted a facilitator, the North Group of Yellowknife, to work with the operators to identify strategic linkages between products, and solicit and coordinate operator participation in the program.

By adopting this product-oriented, cooperative approach, and applying these key principles to the department's tourism marketing activities, the N.W.T. tourism industry will continue to provide a significant contribution to the Northwest Territories economy.

Mr. Chairman, I would like now to review the role of parks in the tourism industry, and the benefits provided to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Parks contribute significantly to the economy of the N.W.T. National parks, in particular, are specific brand name destinations that are the essential ingredients for tourism packages sold nationally and internationally. Nahanni National Park Reserve, for example, has an established reputation that draws wilderness enthusiasts from southern Canada, the U.S.A., and Europe.

National parks are important sources of employment in several towns and smaller communities in the N.W.T. For example, Auyuittuq National Park employs 20 people in Pangnirtung, three quarters of whom are Inuit. Three of the five management positions are held by Inuit, and most of the resource management and enforcement staff are Inuit. While any employment is welcome, such park jobs are specifically desirable, because they enable aboriginal residents of small communities, to take full advantage of their traditional skills and knowledge of the land. Total payroll for Auyuittuq for 1992/93 is \$722,000.

Parks are also important because they protect wildlife populations and guarantee subsistence harvesting. They thus support the traditional ways of life, that are critical to the economic and social well-being of many small communities.

Mr. Chairman, the department recently joined representatives of the Inuvialuit and the federal government, to sign an agreement to establish Aulavik National Park on Banks Island. After more than ten years of negotiations, the people of Sachs Harbour concluded that this national park would bring important social and economic benefits to their community. The G.N.W.T. supported this negotiation process and worked to ensure that the agreement provided maximum benefits to the community and to the N.W.T.

In addition to national parks, which emphasize conservation, the G.N.W.T. has a system of territorial parks which promote local and tourism use of natural areas.

As a key development in this area, the G.N.W.T. is now seeking transfer of the necessary land to establish Katannilik territorial park in the Soper River valley near Lake Harbour. The community sees important benefits in guiding, outfitting, and accommodating visitors, as well as increased sales for its nationally and internationally known carvings.

Canadian Heritage River Status for the Soper River is an important attraction. Six tour operators now offer Soper River trips, and more operators are expressing interest. The owner of one firm, Bob Maynard of "Country Walkers" in Vermont, was so impressed with the quality of the experience, that he has booked two departures for 1993, and committed 10 percent of the tour profits for environmental education in Lake Harbour.

The emergence of Katannilik and the Soper River as a brand name destination results in benefits for Iqaluit as well. Visitors require stop-over accommodation and charter flights, amongst other services. With Katannilik joining Auyuittuq, two highly regarded territorial historic parks at Kekerten and Quammaarviit, how do you say that? I am almost finished!

---Applause

I wonder if John is really sick!

---Laughter

This is plus the planned new national park near Pond Inlet. The Baffin is acquiring the critical mass to become a world-class destination for the rapidly growing ecotourism market.

In the west, a series of parks in the south Mackenzie have been renovated to expand capacity, and encourage bus tour traffic. Blackstone, Saamba Deh, and Lady Evelyn Falls parks are now substantially improved in order to attract greater numbers of tourists.

Mr. Chairman, consistent with the economic development strategy, the Department is concentrating its tourism facility development initiatives into areas with high potential. There has also been development of facilities along the Dempster Highway, and into the Mackenzie Delta. This system consists of expanded and improved parks, community interpretive signs, roadside pull-offs, promotional facilities in Dawson City, at the

beginning of the Dempster highway, and planning for new visitor centre for Inuvik.

These facilities and communities will gain from the national parks established in the northern Yukon, Banks Island, and at the Tuktoyaktuk pingos. Road improvements planned by the Department of

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Transportation will add considerably to the attractiveness of such a trip.

Mr. Chairman, each year tourism volumes along the Dempster Highway have increased, this year setting a record by surpassing last year's peak by 5,000 people. The opening of the centre in Dawson City, and the developments I have just described, will add to these numbers year after year. Communities along the highway, such as Fort McPherson, as well as Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, will benefit from this increasing level of travel.

The Canol Trail also has significant potential as a tourist destination. The Sahtu claim may include support for the establishment of this trail as a tourism destination.

In the interim, the department will be instrumental in assisting the people of the Sahtu, and particularly Fort Norman, in accessing "Arctic Environmental Strategy" funds to undertake the cleanup of discarded material, and stabilize some of the structures which could be considered historically significant.

To take advantage of road access, generally, we have also been working closely with the Department of Transportation to improve the quality of roadside pull-offs and highway signage. Most notable has been the large new sign promoting the Liard valley, which was erected at the Alaska Highway junction.

Attractions such as these provide a wide range of potential visitors with specific destinations and facilities that they can take advantage of. The benefits accrue as these destinations become better known, and more accessible in terms of transportation and locally available services. Parks and visitor services are a necessary and desirable element in our overall tourism promotion and development efforts.

Mr. Chairman, this budget includes ongoing funding for six new economic development officers which were established through supplementary funding in 1991-92.

Concurrent with this initiative, we have and will continue to be responsive to community requests to transfer funding to community councils in order for them to hire economic development officers who will work directly for the councils.

The department should be seen more as a partner than solely as the provider of capital. We must work cooperatively with community businesses to facilitate development and be a catalyst for development.

To this end, better use will be made of available federal program dollars as well as private sector equity in developing new businesses. The Development Corporation will play a larger role in the economy of many smaller communities across the north, and program delivery will be streamlined.

Initiatives we are undertaking such as decentralizing authority for the Business Credit Corporation, and the Business Development Fund will allow more timely action, responsive to community needs.

In terms of overall development of the economy, we are developing new markets for N.W.T. products, maximizing the impact of government expenditure of the northern economy through our "Buy North" program, and development of a northern manufacturing incentive to encourage this sector of the economy. Such an incentive is currently being developed to promote the purchase of northern manufactured goods by government, and those contracting with government, as called for in the recently updated business incentive policy.

Mr. Chairman, as example of the type of role we have outside of program delivery, is the department's role in the decommissioning of the DEW Line facilities.

The department is coordinating an interdepartmental response to this federal initiative, which has resulted in the purchase of surplus equipment for relocation to nearby communities where it will continue to be put to good use.

We will continue coordinating this effort with a view to maximizing the potential benefits from dismantling the remaining facilities. Our efforts will focus on having the contracts broker down sufficiently to make them accessible to as many northern businesses as possible.

The Government of Canada will negotiate a cost sharing arrangement with the government of the United States for dismantling. The final contracting

approach will have to fit within the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Chairman, while our participation at Expo '92 did not produce the revenues hoped for, it has been a success in showcasing the products and the people of the Northwest Territories to the world. There are risks involved in participation in an event of this magnitude. Those risks were clearly laid out before this House in documents tabled prior to debate on the bill, establishing the revolving fund for Expo '92, as well as in the debate itself.

This Legislature reviewed those risks, and decided that the potential benefits outweighed the risks involved. The international recession, high prices and strikes are all factors that contributed to lower than expected revenues for Expo.

As a result, our participation will cost almost \$3.9 million, however, we should not overlook the fact that we have delivered a high quality product in terms of our facility, our service, and our northern products. Our staff have been excellent ambassadors for the north. They have been recognized in the Spanish press as being some of the friendliest on site. Unlike Expo '86 where the turnover of staff was significant, we have had only seven of our 51 staff come home, and three of them were for medical or family reasons. This is an excellent record, and I think that they deserve our thanks for their efforts.

The tourism training group, and other agencies, provided excellent training and orientation to the staff prior to their leaving for Seville, and this has undoubtedly contributed to the continuity, teamwork and excellent spirit that has been demonstrated these past months.

Members should know that the Canada Pavilion in Spain, without factoring in our investment, cost Canada and the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec almost \$50 million. We spend almost \$6 million, and recovered more than \$2 million for a net cost of \$3.9 million. The provinces and the federal government went in without any opportunity to recover any of their investment. We sold a lot of product, we received excellent exposure for our products and much of what we spent, in fact \$2.6 million, was paid to on behalf of northerners in purchasing or towards personnel.

We will be taking advantage of this increased exposure through tourism, arts and crafts, and northern foods marketing. We have made valuable

contacts, and inroads, and I believe we can benefit from them over the long-term.

Mr. Chairman, much has been in the news concerning free trade, the Canada/U.S. free trade deal, the North American free trade agreement (N.A.F.T.A.), the G.A.T.T. talks, and initiatives related to reducing

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trade barriers within Canada have received widespread attention.

We have been monitoring developments and participating in working committees, on all these fronts, for the purpose of ensuring that Northwest Territories interests are maintained, in the form of our continued ability to stimulate the northern economy through government purchasing and contracting practices. The Business Incentive Policy stipulates the measures we will take when contracting for goods or services.

The recent international free trade deals run counter to our practice of providing an incentive to northern business, but does not directly apply to the Northwest Territories.

At the last First Ministers' Conference on the Economy, however, First Ministers directed the federal/provincial/territorial committee of Ministers, on internal trade, to eliminate trade barriers within Canada by 1995. This initiative could directly affect the Northwest Territories, and our ability to maintain the Business Incentive Policy. We will be formally requesting an exemption for the Business Incentive Policy from this initiative.

The recent Constitutional Consensus Report adopted at the Charlottetown meeting has produced a more pressing concern. The report includes a political accord on a Canadian "common market" that will accompany the constitutional amendments. The principles of the political accord could make it unconstitutional to restrict access based on a business location. Although these principles will have to be ratified by a future First Ministers' conference, and are subject to further negotiation, I feel I must notify this Assembly of this government's concern over these potential changes, and note our commitment to making every effort to state our case for maintenance of the principles of the Business Incentive Policy.

Mr. Chairman, the Northwest Territories economy is almost entirely import based. Every dollar we spend

eventually ends up in southern Canada, with only a very small multiplier within the territories.

We are a developing economy. More industrialized areas of the country have developed over the past hundred years with the benefit of government protection. The Northwest Territories requires time to catch up with the rest of the country and help to develop a Northwest Territories business community which can be competitive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Premier. Do we have the comments from the Standing Committee on Finance? Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Yes, if part of the departments strategy was to wear us down, I think they have succeeded. It is understandable why Mr. Pollard is sick today.

Mr. Chairman, that sounded so good, I wonder why so few people believe it? Part of the problem in my riding, is that I am not sure that they agree with the committee's effort, that it obviously took, to put this long, elaborate, and eloquent speech together.

I am not going to, at this late hour, because I am worn out after listening for 55 minutes to wonderful things that the Department of Economic Development has done. I am not going to sit here, and refute for another hour.

However, if I may, I will try to proceed with some of the motions in the areas of concern that we have. Can I proceed with the motions, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Before we proceed with the motions, I would like to ask the Clerk to ring the bell, and bring the people in. Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, there is an old saying from where I come from where they say there is nothing like blowing your own horn, and this department succeeded in the last 55 minutes of doing that. However, some of us are not quite as benevolent as others, and in the review of the department's budget, there were some concerns out there. We do recognize that there are some good things happening. We recognize that the N.W.T. Development Corporation is doing the kind of things a

number of us want to see at the level II and level III communities.

However, there is a concern out there, and I would like to proceed with a few motions before the witching hour at 7:00 p.m. On the N.W.T. economic strategy, we believe that economic development plays a significant role in the social fabric of the communities. It is an instrument of change and job creation, and we all know that the lack of economic activity, results in social breakdowns in the communities.

In October of 1989, a Special Committee on the Northern Economy reported 30 recommendations to help build our economic future. It was sported by the previous Assembly. However, reviewing it and reviewing the department's mandate, it appears, at least to our committee, that a number of the recommendations have been ignored by the department, and in fact by the government.

The Standing Committee on Finance is concerned that very few of these recommendations have been acted upon, and they do not seem to be part of an overall N.W.T. economic strategy.

It is equally a concern of the Standing Committee on Finance that this is an example when the Legislative Assembly has gone to great length, great time and expense to conduct field research and consultation in order to provide direction to the government, that is not acted upon or followed through.

Committee Motion 189-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 12

This committee's review of these recommendations indicates that they still have merit, and should be acted upon by this government. Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism respond to the recommendations of the Special Committee on the Northern Economy, and provide a status report on the implementation of the N.W.T. Economic Strategy in the preparation of the 1994-95 estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the recommendations on the Northern Economy Report was about the assignment of development officers in the communities. The previous Assembly approved a motion that the department commence providing

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funding in 1991-92 to communities to hire development officers as outlined in the Special Committee on the Northern Economy Report.

The committee is pleased, I repeat pleased, that a pilot project involving two communities is under way, and there is active negotiations with several other communities. The Minister indicated that when an area economic development officer leave, the community is given the first opportunity to take over this position, and that he is open to other suggestions for committees that wish to take over these responsibilities.

Committee Motion 190-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 13

However, the committee is concerned that none of this shows us an objective in the 1992-93 estimates, and this information may not be trickling down to the communities. Therefore, I move that the committee recommends the Department of Economic Development and Tourism conclude its comprehensive policy for assisting communities, and hiring development officers in time for the review of the 1993-94 main estimates, and include an objective to significantly increase the rate of transfer of these responsibilities, subject to community approval and acceptance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion carried.

---Carried

Proceed Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we started with two positive, so we will continue with a negative. One of the concerns of the committee was with respect to cumbersome paperwork, the department, in the kindest terms, should be focusing on people, and not on paper.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, at least to the Standing Committee on Finance, has one simple purpose, to help its clients be successful.

The department's clients could be multi-national giants, you know who they are, native development corporations, the local restaurant owner, or promising new entrepreneurs. If the department is able to help them create some jobs and income and become a success, and that is the criteria in which the department should be judged as being successful.

The committee is concerned that the department has become over taken by paper burden and bureaucratic rules, and has lost sight of its clients. In the debate, when we were discussing this in committee, it was shown by the acting deputy, that there were a number of areas where the paper did flow reasonably quickly. However, we were not going to get into a long debate about where it did not.

The fact of the matter is, we have to find a way to expedite timely flow of paper, to ensure that we can meet the appropriate schedule, particularly in the E.P.A., and the business loan funds, etc.

We have all heard it before. I am sure this is not new. Somebody has to simplify the process, so that we do not continue to frustrate the client.

Committee Motion 191-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 14

Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism take steps to ensure that the amount of paper to access the department's programs be kept to a minimum, until client responsiveness improves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I believe the motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Please continue, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some days I really like this job, and today I really like this job. On the affirmative action, it speaks for itself. The committee is concerned that the department could not provide, repeat could not provide, affirmative action statistics during our hearings, and had limited success with aboriginal senior management positions, though they certainly had success in the salary level.

Committee Motion 192-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 15

Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Assembly establish a goal of significantly increasing the number of aboriginal people in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Further, the committee recommends that the department review options, and develop an action plan with a 1993 main estimates to accomplish this goal, including:

1. Job re-definition, to use the talents available in the north;

One does not have to be a rocket scientist to be an Economic Development Officer.

2. Development of a career pathing; and

3. Advertise and recruit in the south on an exceptional

basis only.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that recommendation number 15, as a motion, is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

This is about as exhausting as the speech. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that came up time, and time, and time again, is the turn around time of funding requests, that I talked about earlier. There has been enough said on that. The committee

expressed concerns with respect to the amount of time it took to respond to applications for assistance, and the need to devolve more authority to the regional level, to improve the responsiveness.

Now, we do recognize that there are some moves in that area, and we do appreciate the fact that there will be authority at the Superintendent level for \$50,000. However, there has to be a way to simplify the turn around time. There was example upon example of people waiting for 4 or 5 months for turnaround in loans, and of course, the deputy showed us where there were thirty days and fifteen, and we commend them for that. It seemed to us, particularly in the level II and III communities, that is where we have to find a way to improve the turn around

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time, so that we can meet the climatic conditions of business interests in the Northwest Territories.

Committee Motion 193-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 16

Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, give increased financial authority to the regional officers, particularly as it relates to contribution and loans, with the objective to improve the turn around time of funding requests.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you. On the issue of risk capital, I do not have a copy of speech, but I believe I heard in the speech some reference to this, that the business loan fund has to be self-financing. The committee is concerned, and I have spoken on a number of occasions, as chairman of the committee, that the Business Credit Corporation, in our opinion, should be seen as the lender of last resort.

All of us are aware that the commercial banks and lending institutions, at least for the present, are shrinking their lending exposure. This reduces the

accessibility of risk capital for the entrepreneur in Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and some of the other smaller communities. Clearly, at least in the eyes of this committee, there is a need for this government to take greater risks, and not to be seen as competing, or running a lending institution as a bank.

Committee Motion 194-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 17

Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism review its lending and investment practices, with a view to changing its criteria, and making risk capital more available. The department should also provide a copy of the new policy to the Legislative Assembly by March 31, 1993.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. The motion is in order. To the motion. Madam Government Leader.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I would like a bit more elaboration. Actually, I really liked that speech, you know, it was crafted well.

---Laughter

In the risk capital, I guess I would like to get some idea of just how far you would go, before someone would really be talking about an opportunity to get grants, rather than risk. You can call it risk, but there is a point in time where it is not a risk, and what people really require is a grant, or a forgivable start up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Todd, would you like to provide further explanation on the motion?

---Laughter

Please provide further explanation on the motion.

MR. TODD:

Yes, the concern has been expressed, not just with this committee and previous committees, that with the current shrinking of the commercial and banking institutions, and it appears that this is the fact right across the territories, you have to look at programs

that are not going to function the same way as banks do.

That is not to say that we should not be looking at getting a return for our investment, but when we talk about risk, I know in my own experience, when we put together the Keewatin Community Futures, we determined on the front end there was a clear requirement for small investment for these entrepreneurs, and as a matter of policy, we determined that we would live with a 20 percent loss factor.

It is that kind of criteria that we would like the Business Credit Corporation, or the lending institutions, to look at. We would also like to see greater authority placed at the regional officer's level, which you are moving on, with respect to contributions and loans. Now, contributions, I know, are tied to jobs, but we would like to see that authority increased there.

We are not suggesting, for one minute, that you go out there and give out money, we are saying that the criteria should be a little less constraining than the current lending institutions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. I believe the motion was in order. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Carry on, Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. It is our understanding that, under the previous assembly, they approved a motion that doubled the Short Term Employment Program, and, according to the research that we have done, that it was a highly successful program. The previous assembly approved a motion on the S.T.E.P. program to provide \$862,000 in assistance to organizations, to implement job creation projects for the benefit of the communities. I would expect similar to the old L.I.P. program.

The 1992-93 main estimates cut this to \$412,000. This program, according to our committee, and our research, was successful, and these kinds of local initiatives that can get people off the welfare rolls and into a job, should be encouraged.

Committee Motion 195-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 18

Therefore, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism take steps to ensure that base funding, for the Short Term Employment Program, is increased for the 1993-94 main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Todd, from Rankin.

MR. TODD:

Last, but not least, and it is one that we have used for all of the departments, and that is, measuring output and effect. The committee is concerned with the department's continuing inability to measure the effect and impact of its spending programs and projects. For example, the department did not know the trend, in actual sales figures, of the arts and crafts

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industry, or of any goals of improving this experience, as a result of an annual investment of approximately \$1 million, made by the government.

Resources should not be provided for programs that cannot demonstrate their worth. There must be a method to quantify and justify, government expenditures. This has to be a priority, and incorporated into the 1993-94 main estimates.

Committee Motion 196-12(2): To Adopt Recommendation No. 19

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism report, as a minimum, the following performance measurements in the 1993-94 main estimates:

1. The trend in economic and employment indicators, including an employment rate, average disposal income, business income, private sector growth, cost of living index, economic leakage, and import replacement;

2. Public satisfaction with the department's programs;

3. Funding application turn around time;

4. Loan investment loss experience;

5. Access of new investment capital, and;

6. Status of the community economic strategies.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. To the motion. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know early on in a recommendation, a great deal of emphasis was put on the paper-oriented department, and the bogged down people being chained to their desks attitude, and not out there doing things. I just want to say that this will be taking some time to do, and some office time to do, I hope you recognize that. It is a bit of contradiction, I just wanted to make note of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. The motion is in order. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Point taken, Mr. Chairman. We appreciate the Premier's comments on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have not got a copy of the motion, but I was totally caught off guard with all of the hundred dollar words that he is using. I am not sure what it all means, but does this mean that it would become difficult for communities to start to get into initiatives, because of the amount of paperwork that is going to be required to achieve even the smallest of business?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The Member has made a motion to report progress, and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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. Your committee has been considering Bill 9-12(2), Bill 33-12(2), and committee report 17-12(2), and wishes to report progress with 15 motions being adopted, and that Bill 9-12(2) is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconded to the motion. Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 31: An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe that Bill 31, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act be ready for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order, Mr. Arvaluk. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 31 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

Bill 32: An Act To Amend The Young Offenders Act, No. 2

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Tu Nedhe that Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act, No. 2 be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order, Mr. Kakfwi. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 32 has had third reading. Third reading of bills.

Before I go to orders of the day, I would like to echo the sentiments of Members today, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, offer my thanks and gratitude to our interpreters, to interpreters throughout the Northwest Territories, for the magnificent service they provide us, and all the people of the territories. I think we can be very proud that we are world

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leaders in the provision of interpreting services, and our interpreters provide the bridges between our different cultures so that we can work together as one, here in the Assembly, and here in the territories. Thank you very, very much.

---Applause

Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Thursday, October 1, 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 First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
 - Motion 38
16. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 34
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 66-12(2)
 - Tabled Document 70-12(2)

- Motion 6

- Committee Report 17-12(2)

- Bill 33

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 9

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 1, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT