



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

**Day 9**

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

**HANSARD**

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**The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arnagna'naaq, Mr. 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, Mr. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):**

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I have an emergency statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

Minister's Statement 11-12(3): Resignation

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I have spent a sleepless night agonizing over the events of yesterday. I want to say to the Members of this House, especially Mr. Bernhardt and Mr. Pudlat, that it was inappropriate for me to send notes to M.L.A.s about a matter under discussion in the committee of the whole yesterday. I do realize that this could well be seen as threatening, although I want to say sincerely to Mr. Bernhardt and Mr. Pudlat and assure them that that was not my intent. In fact it was I who felt threatened by the Standing Committee on Finance's actions.

Mr. Speaker, some Members may appreciate that I have been feeling quite a lot of pressure in this House with respect to my departmental responsibilities. That pressure has been affecting me and my family. I also did feel frustrated that, as a Minister, I had no way of speaking out for my constituents, either before the S.C.O.F. or in the Assembly on the matter of the Iqaluit museum.

Sending notes to M.L.A.s was the only way I could think of to allow the interests of my constituents to be known. However, Mr. Speaker, it was inappropriate and I regret having done so. So after much agonizing and consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, although this decision was my own, I have decided that the only honourable course for me is to resign immediately as a Member of the Executive Council.

I want to say that it has been a privilege and an honour for me to serve as a Member of the Executive Council since 1981. I want to thank the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea and my Cabinet colleagues in this 12th Assembly for their support and congeniality. I also want to say thanks to the deputy ministers of Health and Social Services, David Kinloch and Blair Dunbar, their hard working staff, and the Chairs of the Workers' Compensation Board, Brian Roberts and John Hill, with whom I have worked, and their staff, for their hard work and support for me in the difficult issues that these portfolios and assignments have brought. I think we were making some progress and I very much regret having to let them down by stepping down. I also want to thank my faithful and hard working Executive Assistant, Ernie Comerford, my secretary, Geela Qaqqasiq, for their hard work and, most of all, my wife and family who have been behind me all the way. I am grateful for that. They are my most important asset right now.

To my honourable colleagues in the Legislative Assembly, I would just ask that you allow me to participate in the activities on the other side of the House, as an equal. I do not have to be a psychologist to know that there are some hard feelings directed my way, but I hope I will have a chance to redeem myself and continue to participate in this Legislature, albeit in a different way from the one I am used to, to represent my constituents and also to consider the common good of all the people of the Northwest Territories.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this action on my part will end the spirit of rancour and animosity that I think has impaired the business of this House somewhat in the past year. I hope we can find ways to work together and show more goodwill than I have felt, at least, in my position on this side of the House. Mr. Speaker, I am taking the course of action that I think is appropriate and necessary and I hope that this explanation and expression of regret will end this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give an emergency statement on the same matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Please proceed, Ms. Cournoyea.

Minister's Statement 12-12(3): Resignation Of Dennis Patterson

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the honourable Member, Mr. Dennis Patterson, that a lot of us have a great appreciation for the long years of service that he has offered to this House as Minister.

Over the last few days, three more important portfolios were assigned to him in a very difficult time. Many of us over the past years have had the privilege of operating a government that had a lot of money. The financial situation across Canada and in the Northwest Territories was much more elastic and allowed us to make many more mistakes and allowed additional resources to make up for some areas we might have

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missed. However, we are no longer in that situation and we are not alone.

I want to thank Mr. Patterson for accepting those difficult portfolios and doing an excellent job as a Minister. However, we all conclude that in this Legislative Assembly certain actions are inappropriate. We understand that and we have to judge according to those particular actions. What the Minister did was inappropriate, and it was unfortunate because I believe it reflected on a situation that was tenuous in the best of instances. I would like also to say that being a Cabinet Minister is a very important part of this Legislative Assembly and we all get attached to and concerned about the kind of job we do, as this Minister has done.

However, as I said before, it is unfortunate and it was an inappropriate action. I admire the honourable Member for taking an honourable stance and doing the right thing. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Koe.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Western Constitutional Development

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the western Caucus met Wednesday evening with the Committee of Political Leaders to discuss constitutional development. We all agreed that in light of the 1999 schedule for division, western constitutional development has become a very important issue requiring M.L.A.s and political leaders to work together to ensure that a credible process is established to develop the Constitution for the west.

Western M.L.A.s and the Committee of Political Leaders are working on a common plan and budget for the next stage in this process which we hope to table in this House later in this session. It is also agreed, Mr. Speaker, that the transfer of more authority and responsibility to the communities can and must remain our immediate priorities, even as the work on territorial constitutions continues.

Members of the western caucus have asked me to affirm our continued strong support for the fast and effective implementation of the community transfer initiative in all regions of the Northwest Territories. One caveat on the initiative was registered by the President of the Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gary Bohnet, who is concerned that the interest of the Metis may be overlooked in some communities or regions. We recommend that the government take into account the concern and aspirations of the Metis in communities when transfer agreements are being concluded. Another issue is finding an acceptable definition of community. Several groups want the definition of community to include regions.

I want to thank the members of the Committee of political Leaders and the western caucus Members for realizing the need to work cooperatively on this vital issue. I expect that this is just the first of many such meetings over the coming months and I am confident that we can set a process...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your allotted time has lapsed, Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect that this is just the first of many such meetings over the coming months, and I am confident that we can set a process in motion, which ultimately will result in political arrangements for a Constitution for a western territory which is acceptable to all of us. Mahsi Cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery and to welcome to the Legislative Assembly, the newly elected Mayor of the town of Inuvik, Mr. Paul Komaromi.

--- Applause

Also, the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Tom Zubko.

--- Applause

Item 3, Members statements, Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Dogrib Land Claim And Diamond Exploration

**MR. ZOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday morning on the local 7:30 a.m. C.B.C. News broadcast, there was a news item, in which the N.W.T. Chamber of Mines general manager, Tom Hoefer, expressed his worries that a Dogrib land claim might scare off potential diamond exploration investors. Mr. Speaker, the general manager of the Chamber of Mines said that while a land freeze could be put in place during claims negotiations, potential investors wanted to have a secure investment climate. Mr. Speaker, it does not take a PhD to read between the lines of Mr. Hoefer's statement. I read his comments as the attempt to push the pro mining agenda into the arena of our upcoming land claims

negotiation with the federal government. Mr. Speaker, I do not personally know the general manager of Chamber of Mines, Mr. Hoefer. However, from the public statements that he has made recently he does not strike me as a person who has views on native rights, and land rights that are in line with the mainstream thinking. He seems to be, with all due respect, a relic of the past, a person who holds views towards native land rights of a time when a colonial government and business interests ruled over our land.

Mr. Speaker, the land being gobbled up by the diamond exploration interests is land which is under Treaty eleven, signed in 1921, for the Dene people. It is Dene land, and Mr. Hoefer and the mining interest on whose behalf he apparently speaks, should not try to threaten us. Mr. Speaker, the Dogrib people have not said very much to date concerning the use of our land by mining companies. We do want to cooperate with the mining industry and get in on the economic benefits. However, I give notice that we will no longer tolerate the colonial voices of the Hoefers of the world. Mr. Speaker, it is

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our land, and if that means an insecure investment climate for Mr. Hoefer's friends then that is his problem, not ours.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Item 3, Members statements, Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Cooperation Between Western And Nunavut Caucuses

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a short statement as the chairman of the Nunavut Caucus. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Caucus has been meeting, dealing with and discussing the events that are taking place. We are more than pleased to be working with the western caucus. However, Mr. Speaker, we will be meeting with our partner, the T.F.N., shortly. Once we have met with the T.F.N., at the appropriate time and on behalf of the Nunavut Caucus, I will be making a Member's statement. I appreciate the cooperation that is coming from the western caucus.

We have a lot of things in common with the western caucus, such as transportation, and the economy of the N.W.T. I know we are going to have a very good working relationship. According to a statement made by the federal government some time ago, if the native people are not able to work together, then they are not ready to govern themselves. Mr. Speaker, I say we are able to work together and we will be able to work together in the future. We will progress as partners, because we are going to be living side by side and we have a lot of things in common. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements, Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Death Of An Elder In Sanikiluaq

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to apologize to my constituency. In one of my constituencies a person who was born in 1920, recently died of cancer. I do not have his name at this time, so I cannot mention his name. I wish to send my sincere condolences to his family; he has lived a long life. He used to hunt during the coldest months of winter and he helped a lot of people in Sanikiluaq, so I wish to extend my condolences to the people of Sanikiluaq. I also wish to tell my constituency that we can be given the strength to go forward. Although our loved ones have departed from this earth, we all have strength from God. I am sorry to hear that person recently passed away. However, we will have to keep going in this day and age to work towards our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 3, Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Whitford.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Question 68-12(3): Bill To Rescue Coast Guard

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on November 22, 1992 and it relates to a bill for rescuing the Coast Guard ship.

In response to the Member's question in the Legislative Assembly on November 23, 1992, I wish to advise that the Department of Transportation is not intending to bill the Coast Guard for services rendered on October 23, in connection with the grounding of the M. V. Eckaloo.

The M. V. Merv Hardie was absent from the ferry crossing at Dory Point for approximately seven and one half hours, and was successful in freeing the Eckaloo. Upon its return from the scene of the grounding, the backlog of traffic was approximately 20 trucks and 27 automobiles. That, Mr. Speaker, was cleared in a matter of two hours.

The cost of the rescue operation to the Government of the Northwest Territories, additional to the costs which would have been incurred by the ferry in normal operation, amounts to approximately \$50 for additional fuel.

The cost of delay to motor traffic has not been calculated as sufficient information is not available. In fact, all local truckers, the radio stations, the Enterprise weigh scale and the ferry information phone tapes were alerted that there would be disruption of services. Most of the travellers were, therefore, able to adjust their schedules to allow for the disruption.

In this case it is not considered appropriate to send a bill to the Coast Guard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question 83-12(3): Evaluation Of Education System

**HON. JAMES ARVALUK:**

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on November 24, 1992 regarding the evaluation of education services.

The evaluation of aboriginal language courses differs from board to board. Where the language is being taught as a full-time subject, the evaluation covers all aspects of the curriculum. Children are tested by their teachers, not only for fluency in their language, but for competencies in all the appropriate curriculum skills. For example, a child taking social studies in Inuktitut will be tested in Inuktitut on what he or she has learned in social studies.

In boards where the language is taught as a second language, the children are tested on their ability to use the skills and vocabulary taught to them. The South Slave language is being taught as a second language from Kindergarten to grade nine in all schools in the Deh Cho region. For the specific evaluation techniques used by the Deh Cho Divisional Board of Education and DehGah School, parents should approach the principal directly.

At the high school level, each board has developed a challenge exam that is administered, usually by employees of the board's teaching and learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Before we go into the question period, I would like to read my ruling from yesterday.

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Speaker's Ruling

Yesterday, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi raised a Point of Order alleging the possibility that the honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Richard Nerysoo, had called him a liar.

I wish first to indicate to all Members that it is often difficult for the Chair to determine immediately if a phrase used by a Member is unparliamentary. As indicated in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th edition, at citation 486(1), and I quote, "much depends on the tone, manner and the intention of the person speaking", end of quote. All of these factors must be viewed in the context of the general debate surrounding the alleged unparliamentary phrase. This particular incident is a good example of the difficulty the Chair sometimes has in isolating a specific unparliamentary phrase from the surrounding context of heated debate.

I have reviewed the unedited Hansard, and in particular, pages 444 to 446. Mr. Nerysoo's exact words were, and I quote "I also want to indicate to the honourable Member before he gives the impression that I have had nothing to do with the Gwich'in self-government discussions, or for that matter, the development of the proposal that has been before the government is absolutely a lie," end of quote. Mr. Nerysoo did not call Mr. Kakfwi a liar or refer to anything he had said as a lie. However, Mr. Nerysoo did anticipate that the Minister would respond to his

question with a response, which to him would be a lie. It has always been unparliamentary to suggest that a Member has deliberately lied and deceived the House. Beauchesne's contains many citations to this effect. I refer Members to Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 494, which states that, "it is not unparliamentary temperately to criticise statements made by Ministers as being contrary to the facts, but no imputation of intentional falsehood is permissible." Accordingly, the word "lie" would suggest an intentional deceit, which has always been ruled unparliamentary. Furthermore, I rule that to anticipate an intentional deceit, a lie by a Member is also unparliamentary. The comment was almost assuredly made by Mr. Nerysoo in the heat of the debate and was most likely totally inadvertent. However, I feel that the implications contained in the use of the word "lie" cannot be accepted. Accordingly, I will ask Mr. Nerysoo to withdraw the word "lie."

In reviewing the unedited Hansard, however, I also note that the debate leading up to the unparliamentary language could have caused some degree of provocation. Mr. Kakfwi said, and I quote, "To suggest that I do not know what his constituency is saying is a bit irresponsible." Statements such as this can cause negative reactions. Debate in the House may become heated and Members may say things that, upon reflection, might have been phrased in a different way. I ask all Members to be careful and respectful of the other Members of this House when engaged in debate. It is fundamental to the democratic process that all Members be able to share their different points of view in a reasonable and rational manner and that the dignity of that debate and of the Legislature always be respected and preserved.

Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize to the House for the use of the word "lie." I apologize to the House, Mr. Zoe. If that is acceptable, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

If you could withdraw the word just for Hansard, I think that would be the proper course of action at this time, Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I will not challenge your decision, but I am not clear on whether one should apologize to the House or one should withdraw. I have apologized for the use of the word, if there was any intention of suggesting that a Member was lying.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

In this case, I would look at my ruling, Mr. Nerysoo. I think that because there were some subsequent words, I will read my ruling again.

The comment was almost assuredly made by Mr. Nerysoo in the heat of debate and was most likely totally inadvertent. However, I feel that the implications contained in the use of the word "lie" cannot be accepted. Accordingly, I will ask Mr. Nerysoo to withdraw the word "lie." Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

No, Mr. Speaker, and you may name me.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo, in the spirit of cooperation in this House and my attempt to be fair in my ruling, and my attempt to state a point that it is not in the best interest of this House that the word "lie" be used. I had asked in what I thought was a fair and reasonable way, Mr. Nerysoo, if you would consider withdrawing the word "lie." I do very much appreciate your apology but because of the way the ruling was constructed, it would be much appreciated, Mr. Nerysoo, if you would reconsider.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I accept and will withdraw the word "lie." However, I do suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Member also apologize for suggesting that I have been an irresponsible Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Because there was not a formal point of order, I cannot order that the Member do that, but in the interest again of reaching harmony in the House, I will ask Mr. Kakfwi if he would consider that request.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not have the Hansard in front of me, but I take back the comments which led me to think that the Member was being irresponsible yesterday. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Kakfwi. I do appreciate both Members reaching this compromise. I think it is in the best interest of the House. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Ningark.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 122-12(3): D.P.W. Building In Gjoa Haven

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier regarding the D.P.W. building in Gjoa Haven which I asked about earlier this week. Given that the carvers of community of Gjoa Haven need that building, and want outright ownership of the building, I wonder if the Cabinet has made a decision as to the fate of that building? Has the Cabinet made a decision to give this building to the community of Gjoa

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Haven? By the community, I mean the carvers' group in Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 122-12(3): D.P.W. Building In Gjoa Haven

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have discussed the issue with the Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and we are well on our way to making a decision on that, but we have not brought it to the Cabinet. The Member will note that, the Minister has been away for the last few days. We will see to the matter as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the gallery, Ms. Cece McCauley, who is the Honorary Chief of the Inuvik Native Band.

---Applause

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. This fall, the Minister replied that she would be able to respond to my question with regard to the report of N.W.T. Power Corporation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Member's question was concluded and I would like him to further clarify which issue on the Power Corporation he is talking about.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pudlat, would you like to clarify that question?

Question 123-12(3): Study On Rates Of N.W.T. Power Corporation

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) This fall I brought up a concern of my constituents, regarding the electricity rates. The Minister for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources had requested a review of these rates in the north. She had also responded to me in September and indicated that the review would be available. Would the Minister indicate whether or not the review is going to be available during this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 123-12(3): Study On Rates Of N.W.T. Power Corporation

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, yes, we can supply that information.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Item 6, Written Questions. Item 7, Returns to Written Questions. Item 8, Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, Petitions. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 11, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents which I would like to table. The first one is Tabled Document 18-12(3), the Community Transfer Initiative Implementation Plan. The second is Tabled Document 19-12(3), the 1992 Master Plan for the Corrections Service Division. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, Tabling of Documents. Item 13, Notices of Motion. Item 14, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Motions. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 3-12(3): Amendment To The Northwest Territories Act To Extend Term Of Legislatures

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, the term of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly is prescribed by the Northwest Territories Act (Canada);

AND WHEREAS, the Northwest Territories Act stipulates that the term of a Legislative Assembly in the Northwest Territories is four years;

AND WHEREAS, the Constitution Act 1982 provides that the maximum term for the House of Commons and all provincial Legislative Assemblies should not extend beyond five years;

AND WHEREAS, all Legislatures in Canada with the exception of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Legislative Assemblies have a maximum of five years and an election can be called at any time within that time frame;

AND WHEREAS, the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly does not have the power to dissolve itself and call an election without the approval of the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS, any Legislature should have a term of office that enables that Legislature to fully implement and carry out its decisions;

AND WHEREAS, a fixed term of four years does not permit an Assembly or government sufficient flexibility to address successfully the concerns of the residents of the Northwest Territories;



AND WHEREAS, the present term of the Legislative Assembly requires an election to be held in mid-winter;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River, that this Legislative Assembly adopt and recommend that the Executive Council request the Government of Canada to immediately amend the Northwest Territories Act to extend the term of a Legislative Assembly from four years to a period of up to five years;

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FURTHERMORE, that the amendment also permit the Legislative Assembly to dissolve itself and call a general election at any time within its legislative term.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has become very clear to us that the inflexibility that we currently have to endure places tremendous burdens on any new government which is elected. When we have a fixed term and we have an October or November election, there is no time to put together a budget to present to this House so we can pursue what I consider to be the proper course of having a budget on capital in the fall, and an O & M budget in the winter, so the proper planning can take place. In order to allow this Assembly to phase itself into a proper budget cycle, proper planning and a proper government agenda, we should be given the kind of flexibility that other legislatures have. I realize that our system is quite different from the system that exists in southern Canada, where, at any time, a leader who is unsure or would like to test his mandate, can just ask the Lieutenant Governor to go immediately to the people for a renewed mandate. In our system what I would propose, Mr. Speaker, through this motion, is that instead of having that power in the hands of a leader, we would decide simply by a vote of this Assembly to ask the Commissioner to dissolve us, so we could go to the people. That is really the intent of this motion, Mr. Speaker.

My own preference would be to have a spring election because that makes sense in terms of the new kind of government planning that is in place. We have endured a very difficult year in which we have had to

go through several budget processes in order to achieve the objectives of the government. I believe it is one of the reasons why our own government appears to be, from time to time, in disarray. I have thought about this quite a bit. Why is it that we continually wonder what the agenda is, what the program is, and so on. I see the problem as being one of having sufficient flexibility in order to plan the agenda properly, instead of having to start from scratch and build a budget, two of them over a short period of time, which means we have to wait one whole year before the government can really get on track. This frustrated me a lot this past year. For that reason I decided this was the time to make another step in constitutional development, so that we would no longer have to go to Ottawa with our cap in our hand, asking the Minister of Indian Affairs if it is all right to do this or all right to do that. We should have the power ourselves, at least to ask the Commissioner as a federal representative like a Lieutenant Governor to dissolve so we can go to the people. My own personal preference would be to have an earlier election in the spring of 1995 instead of the fall of 1995. If the Members feel that we should just leave it and wait to see what kind of agenda is forthcoming and what kind of programs need to be fully fleshed out and implemented, then it will be up to the House to decide. However, we should have that kind of flexibility, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Secunder, Mr. Pollard.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. The mover has the opportunity to conclude debate. Mr. Lewis.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Item 16, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 8: Payroll Tax Act

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 8 has had first reading. Item 16, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Pollard.

Bill 10: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 10 has had first reading. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Item 18, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates, and Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I thank you for your attention. The committee will now come to order. Yesterday we discussed the Education, Culture and Employment Programs budget. We were on Bill 1 and Committee Report 1-12(3) when we concluded yesterday. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we will proceed with Economic Development if we can.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that we deal with the Department of Economic Development 1993-94 Capital Estimates?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 And Committee Report 1-12(3): Review Of The 1993-94 Capital Estimates

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. It has been a long morning. We will take a 15 minute break and come back.

---SHORT BREAK

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I think we had a good break and the committee will now come to order. There was a suggestion on the floor that we deal with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. That is on page 15-11 of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates. Mr. Minister do you have opening remarks for the committee? Thank you.

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism, Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1993-94 capital budget of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is divided into two areas: tourism, including parks and visitors' centres; and the development corporation. I will deal with visitors' centres first, Mr. Chairman.

Through the 1993-94 capital plan, the department will finish the visitors' centre in Dawson City and begin construction of a regional centre in Inuvik. These two complementary facilities will increase the quantity, and improve the quality, of tourism information throughout the western Arctic.

The early summer of 1993 will also see the opening of the visitors' centre in Arviat.

In the parks area, Mr. Chairman, the funds provided in the capital plan will put the finishing touches on Blackstone, Saamba Deh, Lady Evelyn and Fred Henne Parks. Major renovations are planned for the Hay River Park and the Happy Valley campground in Inuvik. Once improved, it is anticipated that these two parks will be well-used each summer.

In some parks, Mr. Chairman, the main attractions are historical resources. The parks planned for the Meliadine River near Rankin Inlet and the Whaling Era buildings in Pangnirtung are projects through which people can come to understand and appreciate the north's rich history.

The two largest park initiatives in the capital plan are Katannilik, and Twin Falls. Katannilik Park includes the Soper River and the valley adjacent to Lake Harbour. Katannilik Park will especially appeal to hikers and canoeists who are seeking some of the fine Arctic scenery the north has to offer. Twin Falls Park is a consolidation of small, older highway parks on Highway No. 1, "the waterfalls route" near the Alberta border. This improved park will link Alexandra and Louise Falls by a scenic cliff side hiking trail.

Other types of facilities included in the capital plan are: roadside pull-offs; scenic look-outs; interpretive signs; and basic information signage to maintain the interest and diversion of visitors along the way.

Projects under the highway corridor development category include picnic areas and boat launch sites along the Ingraham Trail; improved highway signs along the Liard highway and the N.W.T. border, and the expansion of the highway route marker program along the highway to Fort Providence.

Tourism signage projects will be completed in Coppermine and Tuktoyaktuk, and new signs and outdoor displays will be developed in Cambridge Bay, Fort McPherson and Cape Dorset.

Last year, Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance asked the department to provide more detail about the economic benefits resulting from our capital investments. During the development and construction phases alone, the projects proposed for 1993-94 are estimated to create 44 person years of local employment, which equates to 166 seasonal jobs. The data does not reflect the additional employment opportunities created because facilities are improved, consequently attracting more visitors for even longer periods of time.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the N.W.T. Development Corporation, the corporation operates at arm's length from the department, and establishes its capital plan through an annual corporate plan.

Due to this status, it does not appear in the department's capital plan as a series of separate projects but rather as one summary budget.

The N.W.T. Development Corporation has a mandate to invest primarily for the benefit of lesser developed communities. This year it will invest some six million dollars toward the development of business opportunities. Those businesses are typically community-based with local boards playing a major role in their continued operation.

The development corporation is founded on the principle that increased local ownership and participation will lead to increased business success.

Mr. Chairman, in the first 18 months of operation, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation board of directors approved some \$10.5 million in capital investments in 11 development corporation majority owned businesses, \$1.2 million in eight pilot projects, and \$4.1 million as a minority partner in nine joint ventures with N.W.T. entrepreneurs. In addition, the corporation will provide \$1.8 million in operating subsidies to its majority owned business for the prior and current fiscal years.

Over the coming months, the development corporation will place emphasis on improving the management and support systems for its various ventures, increasing the productivity of its businesses, and seeking out joint venture opportunities, especially in lesser developed communities where it is not now present.

Time is required to refine its corporate strategy, communicate its mission more broadly, and increase community awareness of its programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully request the inclusion of witnesses as we go through the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will call two witnesses to come forward at the appropriate time, but in the order of the committee's procedure, I will ask the Standing

Committee on Finance to make a presentation, if there is a presentation to be made, Mr. Dent.

#### Standing Committee On Finance Comments

#### **MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance has some comments and recommendations that it would like to make to this committee. The first has to do with the benefits of economic development and tourism projects.

Mr. Chairman, during the review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates the standing committee recommended that the Cabinet reexamine economic development and tourism priorities from a cost and benefit viewpoint, and in light of other fundamental needs. The government's stock response was that it already does. Quite frankly, this response is unsatisfactory.

For example, Mr. Chairman, the three page project substantiation sheet for the Katannilik Park investment of \$1.276 million concludes with a weak analysis of benefits. Nowhere is there a statement of how many people currently visit the park, how many people are expected to visit the park after this investment, or of the expected economic spin-off and indeed, whether this investment will make any economic difference whatsoever. If we are not expected to get some worthwhile economic or social benefit, proportional to the cost, why spend \$1.2 million dollars?

Mr. Chairman, we have to believe that this department does not develop plans and strategies to achieve its capital program objectives in the most cost beneficial manner, and that it does not consider which projects will yield the highest level of social and economic benefits. If it did, it would have told us.

The Standing Committee on Finance has repeatedly told this government and most departments that we want to know what the long-range plan is and see projects justified. We do not want to continue to see examples of questionable economic development projects coming forward. It is Cabinet's job to catch these items before they get to the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I am moving to the first recommendation from the committee. During the review of the 1992-93 Capital Estimates, the standing committee recommended that the Department of Culture and Communications integrate cultural

facilities with other capital projects to achieve economy of scale. That department informed the committee that discussions of economic development and tourism ceased after problems arose. There is a fine line between tourism projects and cultural projects in many instances. For example, the Department of Economic Development budgets \$1.2 million for the Fort Smith Bishop's Residence Historical Park, while the Department of Culture budgets \$378,000 for Our Lady of Good Hope church in Fort Good Hope. Members of the standing committee believe that these two departments must work together to ensure a consistent and economical approach to tourism and cultural projects which are complementary.

Committee Motion 28-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 28

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the government, through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and through Education, Culture and Employment Programs, integrate tourism and cultural facilities, such as museums, visitors' centres and tourist offices in order for construction and operation to be done in a more economical matter.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion.

#### **AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Dent.

#### **MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one other recommendation for this department, and it has to do with fisheries. The committee is concerned about the development of the fisheries and fish processing in the Northwest Territories. The committee is of the opinion that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism should develop a long-term plan for the development of the fishing industry

in the Northwest Territories, including a review of all existing fish plants, so that more of the fish caught in the Northwest Territories can be processed in the N.W.T.

Committee Motion 29-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 29

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism develop a long-term plan for the fisheries industry in the Northwest Territories, including examining the feasibility of increasing the processing capacity of existing fish plants.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Standing Committee on Finance's comments on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I will now seek the concurrence of this committee for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to bring in his witnesses. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses. Mr. Minister, welcome to the committee.

For the record, Mr. Minister, can you please introduce your witnesses.

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Mr. Roland Bailey the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and also Mr. Jim Kennedy, who is the Director of Finance for Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are now into the general comments by Members of this committee. General comments for the Economic Development and Tourism budget? Mr. Antoine.

General Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed that in the past, when different parks were developed for the Fort Smith region, for example, Saamba Deh Falls Park, Twin Falls Gorge Park or Lady Evelyn Falls Park, they were in the capital estimates under "certain communities", but now they are listed under various Fort Smith. Does this mean that all these parks are controlled out of the Fort Smith office? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, it does not mean that they are all controlled out of one area. There is consultation with the closest community but it is efficient to coordinate those activities by route and so there are some areas that are maintained by the central agency. Consultation is still done at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. The Blackstone Park is close to Nahanni Butte. Over the years quite a substantial amount of money has been spent to develop this park. The community of Nahanni Butte has indicated to me that

it has seen very little in terms of income from it. It is very close to the traditional area of the people who live there. A small community such as Nahanni Butte, with this opportunity being so close to its traditional area, should benefit from the opportunity as much as it can. I know that millions of dollars have been poured into this area. At the same time the Nahanni National Park, which is not in our jurisdiction, has also received millions of dollars. A lot of money has been poured into these areas. The community was totally neglected. I would like to suggest that the Department of Economic and Tourism concentrate more in the smaller communities, such as Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River and Liard. It seems to me that these smaller communities have been neglected. I would like to stress to the Minister and his departmental officials, if the priority could be shifted to focus on the smaller communities, especially if there is a large amount of development happening close to them. We should do whatever we can to make sure that the people and the community benefit from these developments. This would help the community in the long run. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. In order to accommodate the interpretations provided to this House, I will pause momentarily at the end of each speaker's statement. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the point is taken. We will have somebody from parks go into Nahanni Butte and consult with the community and find out what the problem is. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments? We will now go detail by detail. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the next few years with substantial improvement to the highway systems, we anticipate that a large number of tourists will be travelling to Yellowknife on the Mackenzie Highway. We do not have much in the way of signage. For example, we do not have any signage with regard to the Mackenzie River. Even though people cross it, I am not sure if they know it is the beginning of the Mackenzie River. I think there should be a sign along the river somewhere between

Providence and the ferry landing that explains the history of how the river got its name, and what the aboriginal people call it. I think all this information should be provided for tourists.

The Mackenzie River is a scenic area and we do not have anywhere for tourists to stop to take a look around. I would like to have something like this put in place. Tourism still carries on during the winter crossing, garbage is left behind, and sewage is still being dumped. I have expressed this concern many times before and I am still not happy with the way things are carried out in that area. The Minister and his department should be looking a few years ahead, because we expect the highway to Rae-Edzo to be completed by 1997. With this I would think that the volume of traffic would increase and I think we should have more to offer to tourists travelling on our roads.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. We are in the area of general comments. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would tell the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism that there is a high unemployment rate and many people are on social assistance in the North Slave region, which I represent. I am sure the Minister will recall the number of times I have mentioned in the House the statistics from my region. As a Minister I think he needs to convey the reality to his Cabinet colleagues in order to develop or enhance the economy of my region. They need to cooperate with the Minister with regard to economic development.

Mr. Chairman, I always stress the importance of transportation infrastructure. I think this Minister must convey the strong message to the Cabinet that without the key element of transportation infrastructure such as roads, wharfs and airports, the economy will not grow. I am sure the Minister has heard me speak about this. Mr. Chairman, as the lead Minister for economic development in the territories, the Minister must strongly convey to the Cabinet, and to some individual

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Ministers that, in order to make some regions reach a better economy, they will have to assist them as much

as they can, in terms of capital contracts or general government contracts.

Mr. Chairman, the private sector has been doing as much as it can to enhance the economy in my region. As you know, I usually indicate that other than our region as the worst economic region, there is the Kitikmeot. This government, particularly the Minister who is responsible for economic development, has to convey strongly to the Cabinet and his colleagues that these two regions have to be looked at. It is unfortunate that the Minister who has the responsibility of economic development has not emphasized strongly to his Cabinet the need for decentralization. I was surprised because in promoting economic development and trying to better various regions and help the territories as a whole to prosper, the Minister has overlooked the two worst regions. He has not conveyed to his colleagues on the Executive that there is a need in those two regions for economic development.

Mr. Chairman, this particular Minister has the capabilities of making his colleagues understand the complex issues of the various regions, and he knows what is happening across the territories. His staff monitors everything, or I hope they do. With all the information that his staff collects, this Minister is the key Minister for enhancing the local and regional economy of all areas of the territories. Mr. Chairman, my region is disadvantaged. It has been disadvantaged for years. It is trying its best to catch up with the other regions. I realize the Minister is trying to assist us but I feel that more of an effort needs to come from this lead Minister. I think he must send a strong message to his colleagues that the policy of enhancement of the disadvantaged communities and regions has to be adhered to.

Mr. Chairman, over the last number of years in this House, I have been advocating this. We have been moving along slowly and trying to catch up. I think this is not enough. Surely we can do a little bit more for the communities which are disadvantaged. I hope that the Minister will seriously consider what I have said. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Minister, do you have any comments with regard to the general comments made by the honourable Member, Mr. Zoe?

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are many disadvantaged areas in the Northwest Territories, as the Members of this House know. We have to be seen to be fair to all areas of the Northwest Territories. I sympathize with what Mr. Zoe is saying, but I would point out to him that it was just recently that the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources came to an agreement through the N.W.T. Power Corporation with the Dogrib Nation with regard to building two hydro sites in the Dogrib area. I do not want this House to think that we have not been doing anything for the Dogrib Nation. I was at a meeting, as was Mr. Zoe not too long ago, where there was a question from a company that the Dogrib people are doing business with, that if that company was in partnership with the Dogrib Nation whether we would consider having them build a road in this area, and then leasing it back from them. They were given the green light to make a presentation to us, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government has intervened to make sure that the Dogrib company got a helicopter contract with Renewable Resources. So I do not want anyone here to think that we are not doing anything in that particular area. We will assist all areas of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chairman. I could point out that I know the Kitikmeot is having problems as well, but I could also say that the Deh Cho is having problems with its economy. I just want to say that I hear the Member's comments, I understand what he is talking about, but we must be seen as being fair to everybody and trying to bring everyone along at the same time and let them build on their natural interests and attributes in their particular area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I have Mr. Pudlat, and then Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I was able to go to my community with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and I was very happy about that. I am sorry that we were stuck in a vehicle. We were trying to push the vehicle for about an hour when we were stuck. I would like to express my gratitude to the Department of Economic Development and the Standing Committee on Finance. The new park, which has been in place since August, is a very scenic place in both winter and summer. People are using that park already. I am sure this is going to be very beneficial to the communities. There are some people who are trying

to find jobs. We have to work hard to bring the programs for parks in place to help our people. If we start putting these kinds of programs in place we can start having some jobs available to our people. We are still trying to make these kinds of programs available to Cape Dorset. We do not want to be on social assistance, we want to develop programs so we can have jobs available to our people. The people in my constituency are not the only ones who are on welfare assistance.

By working together with our government, the Minister, the Cabinet and ordinary M.L.A.s, we can start moving forward. Since we have just voted on the N.W.T. Nunavut ratification, we are going to start looking toward our future to see what we have to do and what priorities we have to set. We have to look at our young people who drop out of school. We know that there are people who have certificates and qualifications for certain kinds of jobs, but it would be so much better today if we could look at other people who are disadvantaged, compared to the people who have certificates and qualifications. If we look at those people we can start to move forward. I would like to work closely with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. If I was just on welfare assistance, I would not be moving forward at all. There are people who will get married and have children, and they are going to have to have some money to move forward in their lives. I would like to start working with the department to try to make economic development work in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it was embarrassing getting stuck in that vehicle. At one point we considered calling D.P.W. to tow us out, but we were afraid of what Mr. Morin would charge us.

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---Laughter

I appreciated visiting the Member's community. There seems to be a great deal of interest in the park. There is already a proposal by the Co-op to expand to accommodate visitors. There is also a private sector person who is interested in building a facility in the park in conjunction with the community with them

being shareholders in the project. There is also a great deal of interest in the park this year, and a number of trips into it have been booked at this early stage of its development. So we are pleased with the way it is going. We are also pleased with the community support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The economy is so slow today that getting stuck seems to be the trend. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I agree completely with the Minister of Economic Development when he suggests that we have to be perceived as being as fair and responsible to all the regions. One initiative that the Minister has taken with regard to incubator malls. I think it is being restricted to your region, so that only one committee could be selected from each region for that initiative. I would like to say that it should be open to all the communities. If the communities feel that an incubator mall is justified for their community, then they should be given the opportunity to develop that.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I have a concern about the Business Credit Corporation. It is a corporation that gives out money for business development, to make approvals with regard to business ventures, but that board has not been in existence for some time now. The Minister did not indicate that he would like to have Members suggest things by the tenth and that he would be doing the selection before the end of month. I would like to ask the Minister whether he has received nominations for selection to the board and whether he anticipates that the board will be functioning by the end of this month, as he stated?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the board will be functional next week.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**



Just one other thing, Mr. Chairman. Several months ago the Minister indicated, with regard to the Patterson Sawmill, that a business plan would be developed so that in three or four years the corporation would be profitable. I would just like to ask the Minister whether this plan is in place now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, there is a business plan in place for the Patterson Sawmill, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. GARGAN:**

How is the Patterson Sawmill doing now that it has been in operation for about six months? Is it doing all right and can the Minister provide me with the business plan that he was referring to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the Patterson Sawmill is not doing badly, although it is not getting as much product out of the trees as we had hoped. We are looking at some new technology, perhaps some narrow curve saws. The cost of production per thousand is still a little too high for us. However, as we up the volume that is going through there, we anticipate that the cost will come down. If we can get a greater percentage of finished wood out of the logs with some new technology, then we hope that the mill will be profitable.

I should explain to the House that there has been a verbal inquiry as to whether we should sell Patterson Sawmill and that is being looked at right now, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are in general comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just would like to make a couple of comments in this particular area. First of all, I just want to say that we have been quite successful in the Inuvik region and have been receiving probably more traffic than most other regions in terms of tourism. I do not mean total numbers, but people actually using the highway system. I know that there does not seem to be a great deal of commitment financially to address the possibility of putting more dollars into the Inuvik area, either in terms of improving the highway or looking at infrastructure that could accommodate the tourist industry. I am not so keen, Mr. Chairman, to have this government necessarily spend capital dollars as opposed to assist the possibilities of the community providing the necessary financial arrangements for community investment, or private investment in these kinds of facilities. I would still ask the Department of Transportation to respond to the development of the highway system, so that it does at least meet the standard that is set in the Yukon. I am talking about the Dempster Highway in this case. I am not talking about all of the paved highway between Dawson and the border or into British Columbia or into Alaska. I am more concerned about making sure that we meet the needs of the tourist industry and the tourists, and this allows for new dollars to move into the economy of the Northwest Territories.

I wanted to ask the government to consider how we might be able to deal with the matter of trade with Alaska, or business relationships with Alaska, leading us closer to the Pacific rim countries. We always seem to focus on going through British Columbia or going through Alberta to meet those potential trade relationships, but we never look at trying to deal with Alaska. In fact, it is closer in many respects to the Pacific rim and the Soviet market. I hope that we are looking at addressing those particular matters in the context of capital expenditures.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is indeed correct, the number of visitors to the Delta is increasing, and we are encouraged by that. As the Banks Island Park comes into being, there will be more people passing through the Delta on their way up to Banks Island. So many people go

to Inuvik and then go on to Tuktoyaktuk, so we are having, in spite of ourselves sometimes, some success in that area. I will take into consideration the Member's comments.

This year 25 per cent of our budget will be spent in the Inuvik region. For the total capital projections, more than 50 per cent will be spent in the Inuvik region.

With regard to the trade with Alaska, Northern Transportation Company Limited was trying to get into the supply business in Alaska, but ran into some insurance problems with barges and double-hulled barges, etc. There has been some attempt by Northern Transportation to start some trade with Alaska. If the Member's constituents feel that it is something we should be investigating further we would be glad to do that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be remiss if I did not follow-up on those comments by my colleague and the response of the Minister. The areas in the north western part of the territories: the Beaufort, Delta, and Sahtu regions, have had a history of various boom-cycles, such as the construction of the D.E.W. line sites, the construction of the Town of Inuvik in the mid-1950s, the large amounts of money and wages which were earned by people working in the oil and gas exploration phases in the 1980s, and the construction of the Norman Wells pipeline in the mid-1980s. Subsequently, each of these have been followed by periods of inactivity. There is no activity today and people who have been used to working have, in many cases, learned trades, and who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to these types of projects, now have a lot of time on their hands. We have followed that up lately with the land claims, and my colleague mentioned that the groups who have successfully negotiated land claims are now looking for investment opportunities. There are also other organizations, not only the ones who have negotiated land claims, like the Native Development Corporations, which have experience, knowledge, and a good track record in terms of investments and how to spend their money and do things properly.

To follow-up on Mr. Nerysoo's comments, this government should be actively negotiating with these

northern native investment groups, to talk about the possibility of using some of their money, their business organizations, and their construction companies to do some of the work. I think we may find that there will be lesser of a demand on our capital budgets, with perhaps a transfer somewhere in terms of O & M, but the offset will be the benefits to the local economies in terms of wages, the knowledge and the experience the people will gain. I hope we will end up with many more trades people with meaningful projects on their hands.

Because there is no industrial activity up in the area I represent tourism seems to be the focus. Tourism is obviously a fairly big area but it ties in with the renewable resources sector and the transportation linkages. They all are vital to a successful tourism industry. In all of these areas, especially the renewable resources area, which comprises handicrafts, fishing, lodges, guiding, etc., our northern people do not need a lot of college degrees. They have earned their knowledge by doing what they do best, living off the land. With some cultural awareness in terms of the people they have to cater to and the treatment they expect, very few dollars have to be spent in training these people to do the things they do best. We need infrastructure, safe and expanded transportation links throughout the Northwest Territories, because the people who stay here do not just go to one place. They have to travel long distances and in many cases they stop at two or three different places to get to their final destinations. Statistics prove that tourists, especially because we have a highway link from the Yukon, make the decision when they come up the highway to take that loop from Dawson to Inuvik. I think there is a lot of potential. I am pleased that the Standing Committee on Finance has initiated work in terms of looking at a new gambling facility in that area because people who come up the Dempster get a taste of that when they hit Dawson. I think that we should look at Inuvik if any facility is going to be built because a high level of traffic comes up that highway. These are some general comments. We have things to work with. There are people and organizations who are ready, willing and able to work. We need a little more coordinated fast action type of approach to getting some of these things done. Renewable resources are not new; we have talked about fishing, tanneries, carving, sewing. All those things are there, and it is just a matter of sitting down with the groups and getting the projects going. All too often we continue to talk and study in a lot of cases, and I think the time

is past for this type of talking. We must start doing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. We are on general comments. Mr. Bernhardt.

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Economic Development and Tourism has done its best to create employment. However, from listening to Members' comments, I think too much emphasis is being placed on putting more money into the highway corridor system to serve settlements which already have these facilities. Mr. Minister, my riding is only accessible by First Air and Ptarmigan. If you are rich enough you can go by kayak from Yellowknife to Coppermine. These things are not noticeable to the outside world.

Tourism is good. I do not dispute that. However, Mr. Minister, the tourism season in the Northwest Territories is five months. It does not qualify a person to go on U.I.C. What this government should be doing is looking at taking alternative measures to create the cottage industries within the communities so that people can get off the welfare system and sustain their livelihood. A lot of our native people cannot afford washers and dryers. We could have a launderette in Coppermine. We had one, but it has been out of commission for a long time. We do not even have a restaurant in Coppermine open to the public. These are the things that we really need. Our community is over 1,000 people. These are the things that the general public in my riding have to make people aware of. The people from the Keewatin are aggressive people. They have to focus on how to create jobs. That is

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what we need in our riding. I am not going to wait for the boom to hit my riding. I want to get things going, but it is hard to get the people in my riding to open their eyes and learn how to be aggressive. We have just as much ability as any other region, and our region is the least touched in the territories. The potential is there, but we are accessible only by air. We have a beautiful river, Coppermine River, Bloody Falls, Bathurst Inlet and these are the places in my riding where dollars can be put into, even to have a road from Coppermine to Bloody Falls. Not everyone can afford a boat and kicker. That would be good for the tourists that come to Coppermine. We are too

passive, I think we should learn how to be aggressive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

I wonder if the Minister would like to respond? Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member makes reference to us putting facilities into the highway system and I just want to point out that we are not little empires of economic development across the Northwest Territories. When it comes to the government and the way we look at things, we view all of the Northwest Territories as well as the economy. Even if we are promoting the economy in other areas simply because there is a road there and it is bringing more dollars into the Northwest Territories, ultimately that benefits everybody. Everybody shares money from the same pot. Pardon us if we do take advantage of the fact that there is a highway system and encourage more people to come along that highway, but it will eventually help everyone in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, we did take, at the Member's request, people from his area down to see the people in the Keewatin to see how they are doing things with their development corporation and I am hoping that will spring some ideas in the Kitikmeot about how they could go about getting more involved in enterprises in that particular location. It is safe to say that the farther you get away from the infrastructure, transportation routes and highways, the less people go to those areas. I would say that Mr. Bernhardt is correct in saying that the future of his economy in his area may not rest with tourism and we will double our efforts to look into the cottage industry that the Member is talking about and see if we can speed something along in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree 100 per cent with my colleague from the Kitikmeot region. Everyone may be aware that we use the same uniform from the region: same tie, jacket and pants, and we have a high rate of welfare from the Kitikmeot region. That is

the message that we are trying to state today by wearing the same uniform, Mr. Chairman.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, the economy touches everyone within the system, especially in my area of the Kitikmeot region. When the economy is down, family and social problems increase. When the economy is down it discourages people from getting further education because they know that getting more education is not going to help. Giving ownership of the business ventures to the given community makes common sense to all of us. Giving ownership of ventures increases a person's pride and ability to be self-sufficient. Supporting the local initiatives in supporting the local people in getting a better lifestyle. Mr. Chairman, I think we should use common sense. If this government supports the local contractors within the given community, then it can be assured that local hiring is going to be guaranteed. I am not going to go into debate. As the Members of this House know, it has been emphasized over and over again. So I would ask the Minister to be sensitive to our region. He knows that the Kitikmeot region is one of the most neglected regions in the system. I know this government is not doing this intentionally. It may be oversight, I do not know. We should, from now on, get a fair share of the pie, the pie that is given to the government to be fairly distributed among the N.W.T. communities. Most often, Mr. Chairman, remote communities, either in the eastern or western Arctic, are not fairly treated. I just wanted to make that comment at this appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does this committee agree that we go by detail?  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. We are on page 15-11, detail of capital on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Tourism and parks, building and works, headquarters, total region \$585,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Fort Smith, total region \$1.334 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Inuvik, total region \$1.075 million.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Baffin, total region \$485,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Keewatin, total region \$365,000.  
Agreed?

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region \$106,000.  
Agreed? Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to remind the Members of this committee, that the lowest area is the Kitikmeot. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you for that comment. Total region \$106,000.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total buildings and works \$3.950 million.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters,  
total region \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total acquisition of equipment \$50,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total activity \$4 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Page 15-16, business development,  
contributions, headquarters, total region \$6 million.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total contribution \$6 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total activity \$6 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Now we will go back to 15-9, Economic  
Development and Tourism program summary, capital  
expenditures. Total capital expenditures \$10 million.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Do you agree the department is now  
concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and witnesses at this time. Thank you.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

What does this committee wish to do now? Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

I wonder if we can proceed with Health, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does this committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Madam Premier, are you prepared to deal with Health at this time?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Opening remarks, Madam Premier.

Department Of Health, Introductory Comments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's capital budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year reflects a practical commitment to planning. Faced with the reality of restraint, the proposed capital budget provides the necessary appropriation for essential projects.

This budget supports the provision of health care as close to home as possible based on considerations of safety, quality of care and cost. It also supports the

process of developing strategic and multi-year operational plans through the collaborative efforts of communities, health boards and the department.

While projects have been identified for funding in 1993-94, it is proposed that they will only proceed after the specific need has been confirmed, and appropriate planning activities have been completed.

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Improved accessibility to dental services for children is also addressed in the budget. The Department of Health and Education will continue to collaborate on the provision of properly equipped dental services in schools which will be renovated.

Emphasis will be placed on renovating health facilities to extend their useful life span. Proposed allocations for minor renovations and code upgrades will complement the improved facility maintenance programs. A periodic evaluation of the condition of the facilities will be the basis on which capital projects are identified and prioritized.

The department will continue to identify technology which is suitable for use in health facilities in the north and meets service needs and cost efficiencies.

The need to further explore the use of computer systems and the linkage to southern resources management and delivery of services is also addressed in the budget. Expanded use of computer based programs for the management of health information is critical if the health system is to operate efficiently.

Mr. Chairman, in summary, I am recommending funding of \$5.850 million. The key elements of the proposed 1993-94 programs are:

1. Planning activities within the health system as a basis for determining future needs;
2. Improved computerized health and financial information systems in support of planning and management generally;
3. Improved health technology assessment as a basis for the upgrading or replacement of medical equipment;
4. Renovation and upgrading of health facilities to extend their useful life span; and

5. Improved facilities in schools to facilitate dental services for children.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in the officials of the Department of Health. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Before I do that, I wonder if the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance would like to make any opening remarks? Member for Thebacha.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the review of the 1991-92 Capital Estimates the Standing Committee on Finance recommended that nurses' accommodations follow the general territorial staff housing policies. The purpose of this recommendation was to save money through not building special nurses' residences. During the current review, Members noted that several health units were being renovated, and what was previously nurses' accommodation, was being converted for other uses. Members explained that perfectly adequate accommodation existed for nursing staff and should not be changed just for the sake of change. Again, the goal is to save money through a pooling of staff accommodation resources, not to spend additional money.

In recognition of the capital improvement made to the Inuvik General Hospital by the federal government prior to the health transfer, the territorial government agreed not to ask Canada for assistance in replacing this facility prior to 1996-97. Both parties did agree that this facility would be replaced with a facility would result in not decrease the level of service to below that provided at the time of transfer. The facility would be funded in the majority by Canada, based on the ratio of status Indians and Inuit to the total population in the hospital catchment area.

Members expressed concern that planned funding was not budgeted until 1996-97 and so construction would not start until 1998-99 at the earliest.

Committee Motion 30-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 30

Therefore, Mr. Chair, I would like to move that this committee recommend that the Department of Health proceed with the programming for a new hospital in

Inuvik during 1993-94 in order to be prepared for construction in 1996-97.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

---Carried

Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the health transfer, Canada has been advancing \$1 million per year, increased annually by the escalator, which shall be specifically used as part of Canada's share to replace the Inuvik General Hospital and to carry out major renovations to the Baffin Regional Hospital.

It is the committee's understanding that these amounts, which now total over \$4 million, have been taken as income in the years received rather than recorded as a deferred liability to be matched with the related expenditures.

Committee Motion 31-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 31

Therefore, I move, Mr. Chairman, that this committee recommend that the Departments of Health and Finance consult with the Auditor General on the correct accounting treatment of the \$1 million contributed annually by the federal government for the replacement of the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospitals and specifically whether it should be considered as a deferred liability.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

---Carried

Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

That completes the comments from the Standing Committee on Finance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Would Madam Premier like to bring in witnesses?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Madam Minister, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I have Dr. David Kinloch, Deputy Minister of Health, and Ed Norwich, the Director of Capital Planning and Maintenance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

General Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned about a situation in Fort Simpson. Last week there was a two day meeting in Fort Simpson regarding the health programs and services delivered in the hospital. I travelled there with the former Minister of Health, Dennis Patterson. In a meeting with the public there some specific commitments were made to the community affirming that this process would continue, and because of the changes I certainly do not want to see a slow-down in the process. Commitments were made to the chief and council that there would be some money set aside to do an independent study into the process which is going on. I am concerned that these commitments might not be carried out because they were made by the former Minister. I

certainly hope that an agreement is reached to try to resolve this issue in the Fort Simpson hospital area. I know it is not a capital issue but this has been the first opportunity to bring it up. I would like to know if this commitment will continue? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I am familiar with the issue. I have discussed the issue with Mr. Patterson and I know that he was looking for ways and means to make sure that the decision-making process for what is going to happen to the Fort Simpson unit be totally involved with the community leaders and the catchment area. The commitment to try to facilitate an independent look at what was in the process is still there and I believe that as a total government program issue, we have to address not only the Fort Simpson unit but other areas where we are delivering, to see what type of facilities for the various regions will continue to exist. Yes, you have the commitment that this process will continue.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, there were a number of letters exchanged between myself and the Minister. The capital estimates that everything for Simpson and surrounding area seems to be put on hold until this process runs its course. In the meantime, there are a number of things which should be taken care of until the process has run its course. I am concerned that this understanding may be overlooked in the process of waiting until somebody else is appointed as Minister of Health. I certainly hope that this department will look at Fort Simpson. Even though there is a process in place, we could do some of the things that are needed right away in that facility. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that there are some immediate concerns which can be addressed. It is in



the best interests of this government as a whole to move as quickly as possible in completing the study process so that we know what has to be done. It is not only a Fort Simpson issue, it fits into the whole health delivery system of the western Arctic. It is very important that we continue to try to fast track decision-making and the involvement of people to continue that long-term plan. In the meantime we know that there are smaller issues which will be taken care of. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the problem is that there is no health board in the whole south western region of the Northwest Territories. It is such a large area and there are three distinct areas included in the whole region. Since the health transfer in 1988, no health board has been created in that area. The people in my area and the Deh Cho region have said that they are distinct from the Dogrib region and the South Slave, and it is going to be cumbersome to have a large board. The department never pursued this. All we have is a public administrator running the whole show. There is no real input into the whole health process. The other health boards in existence in the north have more of a say than we do. I think this is one of the problems. I recall in 1988, the suggestion was made during the transfer that they wanted to see a health board, but not a large one, just a health board for their own particular area. I think this is what the Dogrib people have already said as well as South Slave. I think this has to be pursued. There might be different suggestions coming out of the discussions in Simpson but this is one of the key items which may be causing the problems in this whole process.

The decision-making which you have spoken about has to be looked at. I am wondering if the department will be working with the regions and the communities to try to resolve this issue? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

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**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, of course the short answer is yes, we want to continue to work on trying to set up one of these board processes. The last offer which was on the table, when the negotiations were with the federal government, was that there was enough money for one board. I understand that it is too large a board. The offer which could work perhaps is that there be one administration that would serve three sub-boards. That was not responded to and we never got past that. I think that we recognize the problem. In terms of financial support for how that board works, we have a number of options. For some reason, when we did try to push it, the communities said that they were involved with land claims and that they wanted to pursue that and they were not prepared to work as a total group. Yes, we will try and do something about that and follow up positively on it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a very short comment regarding home boarding within the health system. Firstly, the Kitikmeot boarding home is utilized by Kitikmeot patients, as the name implies. We have patients coming from other regions, mainly the Keewatin region. I am not saying that patients from the Keewatin region are not welcome; I think that more patients justify the need to have more space for the patients. The Kitikmeot boarding home is not big enough at this time to accommodate patients who are coming into the city of Yellowknife, even though other accommodations are being made at this time. I think we should be looking at getting another building or adding an extension to the existing building, but I do not think that is possible, given the size of land that the Kitikmeot boarding home is sitting on. I am not suggesting that we do it now, but this should be in the planning process. We need more space to accommodate patients coming from the Kitikmeot region and other regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, just to assure the Member that in the use of the Kitikmeot boarding home, patients from the

central Arctic get the first call, and when there is room other patients are put into the boarding home. There are occasions when some of the patients who come from Yellowknife for treatment like to stay in private homes, or in another areas, so the first call on bed space is for Kitikmeot residents. Very soon the area in the Kitikmeot boarding home that was for the care person in that facility will be turned into an additional six to eight beds, once the kitchen area can be secured and the caretaker can move to other accommodation. In the long term, in determining the ongoing needs of the patients, this is the total planning that we are doing for all the catchment area using the Yellowknife hospital. We do not only have to do work for Kitikmeot, but for Fort Simpson and the Inuvik region. The overall planning for how their new tracks of patient are coming in, is changing. It is not as we originally suspected. Certainly the people of Kitikmeot get first call at the boarding home unless they request to stay at a couple of the other places, because they like the people who run the private home.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not saying the Kitikmeot patients should get first call to stay in that boarding home, what I am saying is we should be looking at getting other spaces to accommodate the number of patients who are increasingly coming to this community.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments, Member for Kitikmeot.

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Premier, you know that we have only one native doctor, and he happens to be Inuvialuit, Dr. Noah Carpenter. I wonder if you have thought about bringing him home to work for his own people. He would be a perfect roll model and from what I understand, Mr. Chairman, he is a very good surgeon. If you can entertain ideas of bringing this doctor home it would help our people to say, if Noah can do it then maybe I can do it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, on a number of occasions over the last several years, we have had numerous discussions with Dr. Noah Carpenter and he did work at the Inuvik general hospital for a short period of time. However, Dr. Noah Carpenter is a well-known surgeon specializing in a very critical area of health care. His services are very specialized and there are a lot of requests for his services. My understanding is that when you come to those qualifications you operate in a very intense, highly technical area of medicine. In that profession there is a lot of people who gain esteem and professional skills. His skills are be coveted in many parts of Canada, and most recently in the United States of America, because as you gain experience in your medical profession, you gain skill. Because of his medical knowledge and wanting to advance technically, he wants to move to higher skilled areas, but we do not have the support system here that he would require. I know that he always wants to learn more and be involved. He has reached a competency level now that would require him to go to the United States of America or some of the United Kingdom countries, where they perform more delicate, specific operations. So we did try, and my understanding is he is still sitting on the Science Institute Board and he does come home every so often. Maybe we can take his picture and give him more profile than he is getting. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Would this committee like to go into detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Details.

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. We are on page 12-9. Detail of capital on Health. Territorial hospital insurance services, building and works, headquarters, total region \$934,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$125,000. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you. I wanted to make a comment under dental services in schools but I will deal with it under another item. I will deal with the matter under Inuvik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Fort Smith. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to let the department know about the Trout Lake Health Centre. I would like them to take a close look at the facility itself. I have been told that it cannot be used due to the furnace causing fumes in the house. It should be renovated so that it could be used, as well as some of the mechanical facilities so that they also could be used. I was told there was a problem with the furnace and it is not a healthy environment. I was wondering if the department could look into that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I am informed that the furnace has been fixed and that presently the overall maintenance is being looked at. So I believe it is presently in progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am flying to Trout Lake right after this session today so I will check it out myself. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Fort Smith, total region. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, my comment is with regard to the program design renovations of the health centre in Fort Providence. During the finance committee meeting, I thought the amount was \$900,000. My

problem is not with the change itself, it is in regard to the centre. In my opinion, the change is probably based on the fact that the health centre is in good condition and there is no reason to be wasting money to renovate the centre. We do not have a resident nurse, but we do have nurses in the community. One is married and the other has her own trailer. I believe the renovations were to make improvements to the resident portion of that health centre, but there is no one residing there. I guess there was no justification for that amount of money being spent on renovating that centre, and I have no problems with that. I do have a problem that even if in future years, there may be renovations done, the priority should be given to Kakisa. You should look at having some type of facility for Kakisa. Perhaps a small health centre or at least some space so there is basic infrastructure in place. During the finance meeting I made that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier, would you like to respond?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I think that the Member's comments were what we should do. The on-going proposal to do the renovations are still there, however, I think the Member can be involved. We can evaluate what would be done to the unit, look at the needs, requirements and redirection of space because it is presently in the design stage. We have to have a closer relationship with the Member to make sure we are doing the right thing. I know the Member made a statement that the \$952,000 had been wiped out, but it still exists, it is just down the line.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that something is designated down the line for Providence. My point is that we still have other communities in the north that probably need to replace health centres. We have a good facility in Province and I am not complaining about that. We have already said in this House that we are treating every community and every region fairly. I appreciate that there is capital allocation for future anticipated expenditures, but if other

communities need it, they should be on the priority list, including Kakisa.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comment is with regard to the Fort Smith region and capital. Mr. Chairman, on a number of occasions I have talked with the public administrator for the Mackenzie Regional Health Board, with regard to including a facility for one of the communities in my riding. The community I am making reference to is Snare Lake. All they have is a health cabin which has been renovated to meet the needs of the visiting nurse or eye team. They do not have a permanent nurse living in that community. I agree with my colleague for Deh Cho in saying that the other communities which do not have facilities should be considered as a high priority. I agree with him. I want to ask the Minister, I do not see any facility anticipated for this particular community under the Fort Smith region in future years. Has a facility been considered for this community?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, as the Member can appreciate, sometimes it is difficult to maintain a stable five-year plan and be sure that as it proceeds it will stay there. There are a lot of different patterns of where people go and where people stay. We cannot anticipate this. I know there was a multi-year plan which was in place for some time, and included some projections on what you would need and when. For the particular community which the Member is concerned about, in that multi-year projection, it was in 1999.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mahsi. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, the manner in which the department is dealing with capital items for the Mackenzie region is not working. I will tell you why. One of the problems that currently exists is we do not have a board to make sure that the needs of the region are put to the

department's directors as required. This is part of the problem. The capital items are not placed as a priority by our government because there is nobody in the region to push for them. We have no board. This is the main reason. My colleagues on both sides of me from Deh Cho and Nahendeh will agree with me. If we had an adequate board in place then those individuals sitting on the board would assess the region properly and prioritize the various needs and communicate this back to the department. Then the

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department would consider them appropriate. This is not happening. This is why certain capital items are absent from this document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you kindly, Mr. Zoe. Would the honourable Minister like to respond?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I think the Member was making a statement. The board does not exist and you are asking me to presume that a board would do that, and I cannot. All I can say to the honourable Member is that if he believes that a board would make a difference, then yes I have to agree with him.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are on the capital projects. General comments. Fort Smith, total region \$125,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Inuvik, total region \$518,000. Agreed? Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I know that the standing committee has introduced a motion indicating that the finances for the planning of a new hospital should be considered. I want to ask the Minister if she knows whether this particular matter has ever been discussed by the Inuvik Health Board, or even suggested in terms of

discussing the financing which was agreed to by the federal government? Was it ever on the agenda at any time?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I do not go to all the hospital board meetings and when I was asked to appear as the previous Minister of Health, it was not an issue that was brought up for discussion, although it is very clear that this allocation is out there and earmarked. I know there is a motion. I cannot answer that clearly. We can get the answer to it. I know that on a number of occasions it was addressed even in discussions with Iqaluit. Where does the money go? Does it sit in a special pocket or does it go back into general revenue? I have asked the question several times and my understanding is that it is earmarked. Deciding whether it is put into a separate pot or not is not a matter of it not being designated at a certain time for that particular facility. I would have to get back to the Member with a more detailed response. I know that everyone is aware that those allocations were there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Inuvik. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate to me if the department has ever explained to the health board that money had been originally allocated to the Inuvik region for a new hospital? In other words, were they told upon transfer that the capital budget of the federal government did indicate \$13 million financing for a hospital in 1989? Were they told this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I cannot specifically say that, but I know that a number of members of the Inuvik Regional Health Board know about it, because they have asked me about it. I cannot clearly say whether there was discussion on that. Perhaps I can ask Dr. Kinloch as an official of the department, whether there

was a discussion and to what extent that knowledge exists within the health board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that the matter has been discussed at a board meeting. I do know that the chief executive officer of the Inuvik Regional Health Board is aware of the arrangements which exist for the capital of a new hospital.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Inuvik. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I am going to get to the point. It becomes very difficult for me to understand how a health board can indicate that a new hospital could be a priority if the matter has never been dealt with as an item that could be identified as a priority, particularly if they do not have any indication that financial resources are there for that hospital. I am going to ask the Minister if she could in fact write a letter indicating that the financial resources were there and identifying in the agreement where those resources had been identified for Inuvik and Iqaluit. I think it is important for the Inuvik Health Board to discuss that particular item. They have been raising it. We have been complaining as a government for a number of years about the extraordinary cost of maintaining the present hospital. Yet, we have not even found time to encourage the possibility of the discussion of a new hospital in Inuvik. I am glad and I support the initiative taken by the Standing Committee on Finance to indicate that money has been found to plan for a new hospital. It does not make any sense that the health board would even deal with this matter if it has never been an item of importance for them, or for that matter, if it has never been an issue for which information was provided to the health board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, the Member is asking if we would inform the Inuvik Health Board of this particular situation. Yes, we will.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Inuvik, total region \$518,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Baffin, total region \$1.668 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Keewatin, total region \$1.385 million. Agreed?

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Kitikmeot, total region \$14,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total buildings and works \$4.644 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region \$1.206 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total acquisition of equipment \$1.206 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total activity is \$5.850 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Back to page 12-7 of the estimates. Program summary, total capital expenditures, \$5.850 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we have concluded this department?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I would like to thank the honourable Government Leader and the witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Would you give the report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Chairman?

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-12(3) and Bill 1 and wishes to report progress with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Secunder to the motion? Mr. Zoe. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 21, Orders of the Day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut caucus at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. There will be a meeting of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform at 2:00 p.m. as well. Meetings for Monday, November 30, at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Legislation, at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Finance, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Chairman's Liaison Committee. Orders of the Day for Monday, November 30, 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
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15. Motions
  16. First Reading of Bills
    - Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
    - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act
  17. Second Reading of Bills
    - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
    - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
  18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Committee Report 1-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates
    - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94
  19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT