



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

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**HANSARD**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'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, Mr. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 21-12(3): Resignation

**HON. TONY WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make an emergency statement. Mr. Speaker, after much soul-searching, consultation with my family, my constituents, and my colleagues, I have decided to submit my resignation from the Executive Council effective immediately.

While I realize the greater part of my decision is personal and private, I also realize that I cannot continue to carry out my duties to serve all the people of the Northwest Territories as a Minister in any department without the full support of my Cabinet colleagues and the full support of the ordinary Members. Mr. Speaker, I am also very sensitive to the concerns of my constituents who put me here. I have consulted with some of them on this matter and they are in full support of my actions. I am unable to serve them in the way in which I would like. As an ordinary Member I will continue to serve them and the people of the Northwest Territories to the best of my ability.

I would like to thank my staff for their dedication and full support throughout these trying times. Mr. Speaker, as perception is everything in politics, I am leaving of my own volition. I believe in good government and clean politics. "I am going to walk it and talk it with no compromises." Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier.

Minister's Statement 22-12(3): Resignation of Tony Whitford

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the honourable Member, Tony Whitford, had to spend a great deal of time to come to such a decision. Mr. Whitford is a fine man, a good man, a hard working man and an honest man. In our dealings with Mr. Whitford there was never a time when there needed to be extra effort put into the responsibility as a Cabinet Minister, that he was unwilling to take the extra time to do so, no matter how small or how big the task was.

I understand that Mr. Whitford has taken this step because although he has these qualities, technically he could not reach the expectations of the Legislative Assembly. I wish Mr. Whitford well. I hope we can continue with our working relationship and I hope that we continue to have his support. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Minister's Statement 23-12(3): Great Whale Hydroelectric Project

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Legislative Assembly of recent events concerning the environmental assessment of the proposed Great Whale hydroelectric project in northern Quebec.

In September 1992, the federal-provincial environmental assessment committees and panels issued the final guidelines for Hydro Quebec's Environmental Impact Statement. I am happy to report that the guidelines direct Hydro Quebec to examine potential impacts on the community of Sanikiluaq and to the marine ecosystem of the Hudson and James Bays. The guidelines also instruct Hydro Quebec to examine potential cumulative environmental effects. These issues are very important to the territorial residents of the Hudson Bay area. Over the past year the Department of Renewable Resources has been trying to secure

intervenor funding from the federal government for northern organizations.

After persistent effort by the Government of the Northwest Territories, local communities and Members of the Legislative Assembly, the federal and Quebec Ministers of Environment awarded intervenor funding to two northern groups: the Sanikiluaq Environmental Committee received \$480,000; and the Nunavut Environmental Coalition for Keewatin received \$25,000.

The Department of Renewable Resources is coordinating the government's participation in the environmental assessment process through a working group which has representation from the Departments of Justice, Health and Social Services. The main tasks include reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement and intervening in the environmental assessment hearings.

The next major stage in the environmental assessment process will be the release of Hydro Quebec's Environmental Impact Statement. This is expected early in 1993. I will continue to update the Legislative Assembly on events related to the

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proposed Great Whale Hydroelectric project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Allooloo.

Minister's Statement 24-12(3): Tri-Council Meeting On Projected Areas And Biodiversity

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week, Canada's Parks, Wildlife, Forestry and Environmental Ministers made a formal commitment to complete the country's network of protected natural areas which include parks and wildlife sanctuaries by the year 2000. Conservation of habitat is essential for present and future generations of northern residents to continue harvesting fish, wildlife and forests. Our government will work with the federal government and land claim organizations, who are the other land owners in the north, to fulfil this commitment. We will also work with the land and resource users to assess the economic impact of the creation of any new parks.

At the tri-council meeting all Ministers agreed to support the Biodiversity Convention signed by the Prime Minister in Rio de Janeiro. Biodiversity means that we should try to maintain a wide variety of species, both plants and animals, by protecting the habitats which support them. The major action item will be to develop a strategy to implement the convention in Canada. This will be done by a federal/provincial/territorial working group. The Northwest Territories component will focus on designing and managing a protected area, promoting a wider application of traditional knowledge in biodiversity conservation and integrating conservation and sustainable use into decision making. In this way we hope to ensure that economic development will proceed without harming our natural resources which are essential to traditional lifestyles. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that this was the first time that I have seen aboriginal organizations present at a Ministers' meeting. This reflects the greater recognition of aboriginal participation in intergovernmental forums. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement Regarding Recent Resignation Of Three Cabinet Members

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Mr. Speaker, a number of times I have been called the dean Member. Sometimes, they call me the oldest Member. This time, I would like to speak about a person in this House. I have been here for 17 years. I do not have any more experience than you have. Since I have been called the dean I would like to say a few words about this Assembly. It is not going to be a precedent speech.

When this Assembly started in 1967, the government moved to the north. At that time there was only one government. That was the Commissioner. Secondly, there was a deputy commissioner. In 1975, there was the first fully elected 15 Member Assembly. I was there. At that time, I thought we had a hard time making policies and guidelines more suitable for the north. After that, we started talking about changing the government. There was no complaining about the Commissioner of duty. Even if we tried to complain, because there were no Ministers, he would say, "none

of your business; it cannot be done." When he said no, we could not do anything about it.

Later on, we introduced the ministerial positions. We said, "All right, eight is good enough. Let us have eight Ministers." We did not fill those positions in one day. Some of those positions would wait for two years because there was confusion between those Ministers' positions. We were trying to take over the Commissioner's portfolio at the same time. The Commissioner said, "All right, it is time for me to go. You will take over." We filled those four ministerial positions. Later on, it was working smoothly.

Somehow, elections came and went by again and again. Jealousies seemed to be rising. "Why do I not have that power as a Minister? Why do the people in the north not treat me like a Minister?" One starts to feel that he/she should not be a Minister, that "maybe that guy is better than me." The other guy says, "No, I am better than him or her." It goes back and forth now. I think we are all accountable. No matter where you go, you will never find a better government. It does not matter how long you take or where you go, they will never be accountable. You wonder what is satisfactory with the government. Maybe one person out of this entire room is satisfied with this good government. All the other people will never be satisfied. I guarantee that is true. I am asking for the honourable Members' consent to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my speech. In my history since 1975, this is the worst thing that has happened is Ministers resigning this and last week. I have never seen this before. To be reasonable and agreeable, we seem to be always complaining about the Ministers. As elected Members sitting in this room, are we all accountable? Please judge yourself first if you want an accountable government. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That was an important statement from the dean of this House. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Good Government

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my honourable colleague, Mr. Whitford, I believe in good government. The public believes in good government. We all want a good government.

Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues, including this side, the public needs direction, not destruction. Mr. Speaker, we want a government that is unselfish, a government that is sensitive to the people that it serves. What is the perception of the public? We all know at this point in time.

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Mr. Speaker, I pray to God that Mr. Whitford's resignation will be the last one until the Cabinet review.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On "The Justice House"

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later on today the Legislative Assembly will consider "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality. The honourable Members may be aware that I have not always been enthusiastic about the initiative, Mr. Speaker. However, I wish to indicate that I consider "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality to be a significant document and one that is worthy of the full attention of this House.

As with any major comprehensive report, some of the findings are easy to agree with and some are not. I am pleased, for instance, to note the special advisor's recommendations regarding the use of clean language in the courthouse and court rooms, and I agree with her recognition of the need to encourage public education programs about legal systems. I fully support her recommendation that we should take a strong stance in demanding that the federal government maintain its commitment to cost shared funding for criminal injuries, compensation and victims' assistance. I am in complete agreement also with the special advisor's recommendation regarding the discipline of judges, including the development of a procedure of lodging anonymous complaints and the establishment of a code of conduct and judicial

ethics. Yes, Mr. Speaker, much of the contents of "The Justice House" is commendable.

I do wish to comment, however, on what I perceive as two disadvantages of this sort of review. First, I think it should be noted that the majority of the special advisor's findings raised issues that are relevant to both men and women who become involved in the justice system. In identifying certain issues as feminist issues or matters of gender equality, there is a risk that we may create a type of thinking that actually reinforces existing biases and can potentially lead to the development of even worse double standards.

Secondly, if we must identify certain shortcomings within the justice system as having an impact on women, then we should never lose sight of the fact that it is aboriginal...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has lapsed. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Secondly, if we must identify certain shortcomings within the justice system as having an impact on women, then we should never lose sight of the fact that it is aboriginal women who are being treated most unfairly. This is the truth that is not emphasized strongly enough in Ms. Peterson's report.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this afternoon's consideration of this report and I congratulate the Minister of Justice for ensuring that it has been placed on the orders paper in this House. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Replacement Of Nanook School In Apex

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on further developments following the unfortunate fire at the Nanook School in Apex early yesterday morning.

Mr. Speaker, the community is working very hard to keep this school program going. At a community meeting held last night in Apex, parents and the Niaqunguut Education Council expressed their determination to carry on the school program in Apex. Busing students to Iqaluit is completely unacceptable to them and it has been decided that classes will continue in the I.O.D.E. hall until the Christmas break. In the new year, four available houses have been identified in Apex, two of them vacant G.N.W.T. staff houses, which could be utilized as classrooms. The community of Apex is grateful for the generous help which has been received locally from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Health in particular, making sure these houses will be suitable for classes in the new year.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the community is determined to work towards building a new school on the site of the old school and I am pleased that the Department of Education, the Divisional Board of Education, officials in the Department of Finance and the risk management section, headquarters D.P.W. are making every effort to move rapidly to assess the situation and begin the planning to replace this very successful community school. If insurance proceeds are available, this may ease the problem of identifying capital money. In any event, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking the support of the government and the Members of this Assembly to move to deal with this unfortunate situation in my constituency as rapidly as possible. I hope to begin work in the coming fiscal year. Qujannamiik.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about a week ago the Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Act was tabled in the House of Commons and received first reading. It

is hoped that this act will receive royal proclamation before Christmas of this year. This act will give constitutional protection for the first comprehensive land claim agreement since the Inuvialuit claim in 1984. It is also the first time that a comprehensive land claim agreement has provisions within it dealing with the self-government negotiations process and implementation plan. The act also creates a co-management land and water regulatory regime; a first in all of Canada between aboriginal people and the government. This model of co-management will probably become a standard for the Mackenzie Valley and I believe that it is already included in the Inuit agreement.

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The Gwich'in seek, from both governments, fair consideration of the implementation of their agreement to allow for their goal of self-determination to be fulfilled. Regional boards will be an important element to the regulatory regime and I hope this government supports the Gwich'in position. I would also like to express my congratulations to the Gwich'in leadership, who have worked long hours and with the determination and unshakeable conviction that this agreement will create a better future for their people.

I hope that the Government of the Northwest Territories and this Legislative Assembly give them strong support and that they show the same support in dealing with all active claimant groups; the Inuit, the Dogrib, the Sahtu, Dene and Metis. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Bernhardt.

Member's Statement On Recipients Of Building Trades Helpers Certificates

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to congratulate three men from Coppermine who are the first recipients of building trades helpers certificates. Sandy Keadjuk, Joe Agliak and Harold Hemiak received their certificates of completion on Tuesday in Coppermine. These three young men earned their certificates by taking part in the Construction Worker Training Program developed by the Northwest Territories Construction Association with the assistance of the Departments of Education,

Culture and Employment Programs; Government Services and the N.W.T. Housing Corporation.

This training program is designed to provide residents of the Northwest Territories with entry level certified training in the construction industry. The course includes classroom and workshop training organized by the Northwest Territories Construction Association. On the job training is provided by a contractor. This unique training program has numerous benefits. Those who earn a certificate are more employable and bring a wide range of valuable skills to the construction industry. Our northern communities will also benefit from having resident building trades helpers available across the Northwest Territories.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my honourable colleagues to join me in congratulating these three young individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Tribute To Mr. Tony Whitford, M.L.A.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the last year there has been something missing in this Assembly. One of the things that is missing is a sense of humour. There has been a tremendous amount of ill will. There has been too much tension. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to a person whom I have got to know very well over the last four years. I am talking about my friend, Mr. Whitford. He and I have shared many days over on this side.

Today, Mr. Speaker, in paying tribute to him I want to point out that I am doing it with some difficulty because I have lost my voice from exposing it to this night air, to long days and long evenings. My wife tells me I should get sick more often because I sound sexier when I talk like this.

---Laughter

In fact, several people have told me that over the last few days.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, if my friend, Mr. Bernhardt, gets up next week and gives everyone a Christmas wish list and says, for Brian Lewis I want a big supply of potency pills, I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with my potency. I also know there is nothing wrong with Mr. Whitford's potency. When he comes to sit on this side he and I will share good times because this man has all the things you would expect in a public figure. He has good humour, a good connection with his people, integrity and he works hard. What more could anybody want? I welcome him and I will be working with him again. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Lewis, I am overwhelmed by your potency.

---Laughter

Item 3, Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Question 146-12(3): Status Of Request For Cape Dorset Museum

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Pudlat on December 1, regarding a request for a building in Cape Dorset for the purpose of a museum.

The Kingnait Cultural Society in Cape Dorset has been working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment officials to develop a cultural centre to house a large collection of Inuit drawings

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Excuse me, Mr. Kakfwi, I think we have a little trouble with the translation. It is all right. Proceed please, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Kingnait Cultural Society in Cape Dorset has been working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment officials to develop a cultural centre to house a large collection of Inuit drawings, prints and sculptures produced for the West Baffin Eskimo Co-op. Much of this collection is now on loan to the McMichael Museum in Kleinberg, Ontario.

Through carry overs and new funding available in the 1992-93 budget, \$177,000 has been allocated for planning for the centre during the current fiscal year. The 1993-94 capital

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budget includes a further \$500,000 to be used for construction of the facility. Both sums are identified as contributions intended to cover a portion of the cost of the project which is currently estimated at approximately \$2 million.

The government recognizes that in the current fiscal climate it will be difficult for the Kingnait Cultural Society to raise the rest of the funds as was planned. The society may have to alter its plans to meet the funding that is available. The department is consulting with the Kingnait officials on this matter. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 12-12(3): Services For Victims Of Crime

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Todd on November 19, with regard to services for victims of crime.

The Department of Justice has produced materials which will assist child and teen victims to understand victims' issues and the criminal justice system. We have also provided financial contributions to non-government organizations for various projects which assist victims of crime and family violence.

The department produced a booklet entitled "Sexual Assault: A Help Book for Teens in the N.W.T.", which will be distributed to all junior and senior high schools once we receive the user's guide presently being prepared by the Department of Education.

We will also be distributing an educational video to departments and agencies which provide victim services or child/teen witness preparation. This video, accompanied by the "Kids in Court" booklet, the teen sexual assault booklet and the user's guide, will assist children and young teens serving as witnesses in criminal justice cases.

The prosecution of offenders is a federal responsibility. This department urged the Department of Justice, Canada to hire victim/witness assistants in each of the Yellowknife and Iqaluit Crown offices. The victim/witness assistants help the Crown prosecutors communicate with victims and witnesses in communities and assist in trial preparation.

The department contributed \$60,000 to the Y.W.C.A. in Yellowknife for a Victims' Services Program. This program provides support to victims of crime and, most recently, to the families and relatives of the Giant Mine tragedy. This pilot project will provide a model to other communities from which they can begin to develop their own victim services program.

We have also contributed \$24,500 to the Hay River Women's Resource Centre for a conference on helping victims. The conference will be held in February, 1993. This conference will provide community care givers and facilitators from all regions of the north with the support, information and tools they need to better understand and meet the needs of victims.

The Victims of Crime Act, proclaimed in force in April, 1989, established the victims' assistance fund and provided for the appointment of a Victims' Assistance Committee.

Between November, 1989 and October 31 of this year, over \$398,000 was disbursed from the victims' assistance fund to 128 recipients across the Northwest Territories for victim related activities in training, service delivery, public information and research. Members of this House have been informed as to the funding of recipients within their constituencies from information provided by the tabled annual reports of the committee.

I am pleased that the victims' assistance fund is becoming better known to non-governmental organizations and concerned citizens. The fund is generated by surcharges that people have to pay on fines. It does not, however, collect sufficient resources to support a company as a program for victim assistance across the territories. Community based and culturally relevant victims' services programs which provide crisis response, personal support and follow-up assistance to victims will enhance public awareness and understanding of the administration of justice. The department is currently looking at methods to assist communities with this objective. We also encourage communities wishing to start their own victims' services programs to

approach the appropriate federal department for financial assistance. I am pleased that Members are taking an active interest in the advancement of services to victims of crime and family violence. I look forward to keeping you informed about the steps which are being taken in this area by the Department of Justice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 185-12(3): Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Workers' Compensation Board, but since we do not have a Minister responsible yet, I will direct my question to the Government Leader.

On September 23, I asked a question on whether earlier commitments to develop a policy for defining who is eligible to receive worker's compensation as a traditional harvester had been met. It was indicated that commitment had not been met and that the new policy is still being developed. In the absence of the new policy, can the Minister advise the House what definition the Workers' Compensation Board is using to decide who is and who is not eligible for compensation if they are injured in the course of traditional hunting, trapping or fishing activities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return to Question 185-12(3): Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, because the Department of Renewable Resources pays for the injuries that are caused by accidents out on the land or in pursuit of the traditional economy, the Department of Renewable Resources has developed a policy. I would like to defer that question to the Minister of Renewable Resources.



**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 185-12(3): Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our Premier mentioned, the department has developed a policy pertaining to the Workers' Compensation Board for the hunters and trappers. I believe that new policy is being reviewed by the W.C.B. and they are also working with my department for the final analysis of the policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 185-12(3): Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you. Since the policy has not been approved, will the Minister tell this House if we are operating under the old policy?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 185-12(3): Workers' Compensation For Traditional Harvesters

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, yes. I believe the new policy will be implemented as soon as the final analysis is done. I presume that the new policy will soon kick in. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 186-12(3): Fire Insurance For School In Apex

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, was there fire insurance on the school in Apex which burned down yesterday?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 186-12(3): Fire Insurance For School In Apex

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the school was insured. I believe the adjusters are there right now. The Department of Finance has sent someone to be there at the same time as the adjusters. I think there is a \$25,000 deductible amount on that particular issue. It will depend on the outcome of the investigation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 187-12(3): Five Per Cent Advantage For Northern Material Suppliers

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of D.P.W., Mr. Morin. In Mr. Morin's response about waiving the five per cent preference, he indicated that one of the reasons the local business was awarded the contract was because the supplier of the material had his own stock of inventory. That gave him the five per cent advantage. Am I correct in assuming that from now on, all bids that are being submitted, if the local supplier is supplying material they will have the five per cent advantage? In other words, the band councils, hamlets or other businesses in the communities will have the five per cent advantage? Am I correct?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 187-12(3): Five Per Cent Advantage For Northern Material Suppliers

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to qualify for it, those companies fill out their application for the Business Incentive Policy. As for the example you are talking about in Fort Providence, the company applied for Business Incentive Policy preference and stated the goods and services that it offers through its business, and stated that it is a material supplier

business in Fort Providence. So the five per cent preference applied. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 187-12(3): Five Per Cent Advantage For Northern Material Suppliers

**MR. GARGAN:**

Am I correct in what I said earlier? In the Minister's response, he said that the portion that the band did not get the five per cent local preference on was the material it bought outside the community. The other bidder, under the Business Incentive Policy, is a supplier of the material. It stocks the material in its inventory for the general public to buy. If the bidder supplies the material then he has a five per cent advantage over a person that does not?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 187-12(3): Five Per Cent Advantage For Northern Material Suppliers

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that case you are correct.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, Oral Questions. Item 6, Written Questions. Item 7, Returns To Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Return To Question 8-12(3): Activities Of The Languages Commissioner

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

Mr. Speaker, a Return to Written Question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell and responded to by the Premier on the activities of the Languages Commissioner.

The Commissioner of Official Languages, under the authority of the Official Languages Act, is appointed by and accountable to the Legislative Assembly. As Government Leader, it would be inappropriate for my office to provide the requested information.

The request for information on the activities of the Commissioner of Official Languages should be made to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 8, Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, Petitions. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 11, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12, Tabling of Documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

**ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 26-12(3), Annual Report of the Superintendent of Child Welfare 1991 and 1992.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 7, 1992 I shall move that Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Motions. Item 16, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Morin.

**ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu that Bill 3, an Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 3 has had first reading. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 16, First Reading of Bills.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 16, First Reading of Bills. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Allooloo.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Wildlife Act be read for the ...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

You are out of order, Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I seek unanimous consent to do a first reading on Bill 15.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 15 had has first reading. Item 16, First Reading of Bills.

First Reading Of Bill 15 Withdrawn

I am sorry, Mr. Allooloo, I have been informed that the House is not in possession of the Bill. First reading has been withdrawn. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Item 18, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Committee Report 1-12(3), Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates; Committee Report 3-12(3), Final Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform; Committee Report 4-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; Bill 1 Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94; Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Bill 10, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1991-92; Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93; Appearance of the Languages Commissioner, with Mr. Nerysoo in the Chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The committee will now come to order. Thank you for your attention. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe that it was our intention to deal with Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality, today as the first item of business.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that we deal with Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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---Agreed

Tabled Document 2-12(3): "The Justice House"  
Report Of The Special Advisor On Gender Equality

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before the Minister makes his opening remarks I wanted to bring some points to the attention of this House. Firstly, it is our intention to have a discussion on the report and not necessarily to conclude the discussion, nor the debate on the recommendations which have been made. As a result of this, we would hope that a major debate would take place after explanations have been given with regard to the recommendations from the Minister and from the Chairperson of the committee. It was also our view that we wish to have a major debate on the report, including the suggestions which were made previously and that was to consider inviting other persons and other organizations, such as the Council on the Status of Women, into the committee to make their views known to this House and to the government. I wanted to make these initial comments before the Minister got into debate on this particular item, so that he is aware of the issues, the concerns and the direction that we wish to take on this matter. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Does the Minister have opening remarks? Mr. Kakfwi.

Introductory Remarks

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in December 1990 Katherine Peterson was given a 16 month mandate to examine criminal justice and family law in the Northwest Territories, and to recommend changes that would make the justice system more responsive to women.

In the preparation of this report the special advisor travelled to all regions of the territories to conduct public workshops and public meetings. A broad variety of women and men of all ages participated in this process. The special advisors also met with representatives of agencies involved in the administration of justice, including the R.C.M.P., Crown prosecutors, members of the judiciary and officials from the Departments of Justice and Social Services. This report is the result of those extensive consultations. It contains 90 recommendations covering many areas and directed at various departments and organizations. In the report, the special advisor makes the point that women and aboriginal people were not involved in the development of the rules that govern our current system of administration of justice. As a result, the system does not always reflect the values and perspectives of those who were not consulted in the designing of "The Justice House". This important point has been brought home forcefully and eloquently on many occasions by statements made in this Assembly by Members of this committee.

The most important message in this report is that women must be treated with respect. This report contains a great number of suggestions on how to make changes to the Justice system so that women are treated with respect, so that their concerns are heard and so that women are no longer ignored as they so often have been in the past. Changes are needed in all parts of the justice system. Many of these parts are beyond the direct control of a territorial Minister of Justice. Many recommendations are directed at agencies outside this government. For example, ten recommendations are aimed at the Department of Justice, Canada. Seven are directed at the R.C.M.P. Others are directed at the Law Society or the Canadian Bar Association. These are being passed on to those agencies with every encouragement to receive the recommendations favourably and to act on them positively.

Sixteen recommendations directly affect the courts. These recommendations must be dealt with in a manner that fully respects the independence of the

judiciary, while at the same time ensuring that the courts are given the encouragement and the tools to reflect community values.

Other recommendations require the cooperation of other departments. Thirteen recommendations involve the Department of Social Services, four involve the Department of Education and two involve the Department of Health. Officials from the Department of Justice are currently engaged in discussions with other departments on the implementation of recommendations. There must also be extensive consultation with women's organizations across the territories. When women in the north have contact with the justice system, they almost always do so as victims of violence. We are all more aware of the reality of violence against women as we approach the anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

Violence against women, as has been pointed out by Members of this House, has reached epidemic proportions in the territories. This situation gave to a recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance in September, that the Department of Justice develop a pro-active plan or strategy to address violence. Many of the key elements of that strategy are contained in the report of the special advisor. This would include such things as a major public awareness campaign directed at changing attitudes about violence against women.

The report also recommends counselling programs for abusive men. Another element of the strategy will be the provision of training to Justice personnel so that they better understand the situation and perspective of women, particularly when they are dealing with cases of sexual assault and wife assault. The department is working on the development of training materials. This exercise will involve the cooperation of other agencies and departments. The recommendations of the special advisor come to us at a time when major innovations to the administration of justice are under way. These innovations are aimed at encouraging community members to assume a greater role in solving problems in their communities. In this way, those people who have been left out of the development of this system will have an opportunity to solve problems in a manner that they think is appropriate.

As we embark on this process, it is essential that we ensure the full participation of women. Women have participated actively in our discussions in communities. Their voices must continue to be heard.

We must seek their help and advice and full involvement as the input of women in these innovations is key to their success.

Another important area of recommendations concerns the provisions of services to victims. The special advisor

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recommends that these services are community based and culturally relevant. The mandate of these services should be developed at the community level. These recommendations are consistent with the approach that the department is taking in the development of community justice initiatives. Much work remains to be done in this area. This is necessarily a long-term undertaking, and the assistance of other levels of government will have to be sought.

A number of the recommendations address the need to make justice more accessible to women. Several of these have been acted on by the department, and proposed legislative changes are in the works. For example, I will be bringing forward a legislative proposal to change the Limitation of Actions Act so that women who have been sexually assaulted are not barred from suing their assailant because they are unable to start proceedings soon enough after the assault. This measure recognizes that women are often severely traumatized by sexual assault, especially when the assault is perpetrated by a family member.

I will also be recommending to Cabinet, legislative changes to allow common-law spouses access to support from their former partners. The current legislation is inadequate and does not recognize the large number of common-law relationships in the territories. I propose to address this problem right away. The special advisor recommends the extension of the victim impact statement pilot project to communities across the territories. I believe that this recommendation was made before it became apparent that this program was not working as well as we might have hoped. An evaluation of the pilot project is necessary before any decisions are made. It may well be, as an honourable Member has suggested, that the program will work best in communities where there are well supported victims. It may also be that the aboriginal ethic of non-interference and the desire to restore harmony has not been taken into account in this program. An evaluation, the terms of which are currently being

drawn up, will help provide us with the answers. I am pleased to have this opportunity today to discuss this report with Members of the committee.

Many of the recommendations are already being actively pursued by the Department of Justice, both directly and with other players in the justice system. I believe we will benefit greatly from the advice and guidance of the Legislative Assembly as we embark on the legislative and financial initiatives which we will ultimately need to review and consider.

We are fortunate today to have as a witness, Ms. Katherine Peterson, the author of the report. She will be able to help us in our discussions on this report. I will invite Ms. Peterson to join us as a witness so Members may have some discussion, exchange of views and be able to ask her some questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree to the Minister bringing in the witness? No? Do you want a time-out? All right, we will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT BREAK

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Prior to the break, Mr. Minister wanted to bring in the witness. Does the committee agree that Mr. Minister will bring in the witness?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister. Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you introduce the witness for the record?

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have as a witness for us today, Ms. Katherine Peterson, Special Advisor on Gender Equality.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The floor is now open for general comments. Mr. Koe. General comments from the table.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was my understanding that the witness will be making a presentation on the report that was tabled.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Ms. Peterson, do you have opening comments, a presentation for the committee?

Author's Presentation

**MS. PETERSON:**

Yes, I do. Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to make a few comments to you about the report that you now have before you. This report, as was indicated by the Minister, was written as a result of consultations with individuals throughout all regions of the Northwest Territories. There are a couple of fundamental principles in the report, and they form what I would suggest to you is the foundation of that report.

The first premise is, not only are men and women different, which I think we can all understand, but men and women experience the world differently because of their gender. Men and women are also treated differently by the world around them because of their gender. The report is not about treating men and women the same. The report is about understanding the differences and the experiences of men and women and learning to respect those differences for both men and women.

The reason the report emphasizes that a greater degree of respect is required for the experiences of women, how the world deals with them and how they deal with the world, is because to date, that respect has not been accorded to them.

The other thing that you should be aware of, and I am sure you know, is that the court system and the administration of justice does not have all of the answers about how to treat women with respect and how to correct some of the unfairness and the inequality that women experience.

Those are the fundamental social problems which arise in the courts from time to time but cannot be solved by the courts. They must be solved in a broader societal context and they must be given the attention of bodies like this Legislative Assembly. That is why the recommendations contained in the report are not directed exclusively to the Department

of Justice. They are directed to other areas of responsibility that affect our day to day living in the Northwest Territories, including the

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Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services and other federal agencies. It is only with the coordinated effort of all of these individuals that these problems will even begin to be addressed in a way that is meaningful to women who live in the Northwest Territories and particularly in a way that is meaningful to women who live in communities in this jurisdiction. Until we start recognizing that women in communities require substantial resources to assist them with the day to day burden that they deal with in terms of violence, abuse, and poverty we will make no progress in bringing forward the question of equality of men and women in the Northwest Territories.

Those issues and priorities are for the Members of the Legislative Assembly to establish. I suggest to you that the burden lies with Members of this body to determine whether this is a question that deserves your serious consideration. If it does indeed deserve your serious consideration, you must allocate resources appropriately in order to address them.

The recommendations are long and they deal with many different areas of the administration of justice and related agencies. There are 90 recommendations in total. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have on any one of the recommendations, or with respect to how the report was prepared or with respect to any of the philosophical principles that may be contained in it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Ms. Peterson, for the presentation. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure Ms. Peterson was here when I made my Member's statement this morning. If she was, she will be aware that I have expressed my appreciation for this. In many ways I think that this is a very good report and I agree with a great many of the advisor's findings and recommendations. I want to make that clear now, because I want the honourable Members to know that I am supportive of the work that has been done.

However, I do want to start off my general comments with a couple of concerns that I have about this sort of review process. I would like to begin by commenting that there is always a danger with a review process that attempts to identify issues that are specific to one gender.

I think that all of us are aware that, through the years, people have tended to look at such issues as day care, nuclear arms and spousal assault as women's issues. They are not women's issues Mr. Chairman, they are everyone's issues. I feel that in many ways there is a danger that we face when we tend to look at certain types of unfairness in the courts as affecting women.

In my review of "The Justice House" I noticed that at least half of the special advisor's findings are just as applicable to men as they are to women. Mr. Chairman, it is clear that there are many instances in which the Canadian justice system which has been imposed on our northern community is unfair to both men and women.

There are recommendations about the need for plain language in the court rooms. There are recommendations about the needs for more control of judges conduct and recommendations about the need for more public education. These are all recommendations that apply equally to men and women. They should be looked at that way rather than as women's issues. As you see, Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that as soon as you label something as a women's issue, people tend to regard it as a feminist issue. There are certain attitudes and reactions that almost always come forward. In the 1990s, there are sectors of the population that tend to trivialize important matters as soon as they hear them labelled as feminist concerns or women's issues. That is unfortunate and should not happen. I believe it does and that the R.C.M.P., lawyers and judges referred to in this report are just as likely as other members of society to react to this labelling in a negative way. Let us not forget that the kind of insanity that makes a man attack and kill female engineering students in the tragic Montreal massacre arose as a result of a tendency to group women scientists as feminists. This action was both crazy and sinful. It reflects some of the attitudes which do exist and will always exist in our modern society. I wonder if we might have done a disservice to women in the Northwest Territories by trying to label shortcomings in the justice system as gender equality issues. They are shortcomings that we should all be aware of because, if the justice system is unfair to

one of us, it is unfair to all of us. I will stop here, Mr. Speaker, and give the special advisor a chance to comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Ms. Peterson.

**MS. PETERSON:**

I agree with your comments, Mr. Gargan, that the issues raised in this report are not to be labelled women's issues. They are issues for all of our society to deal with. Our society will have dignity only if all the members of that society are accorded respect. To the extent that we do not do so, our society is in ill health. With those remarks, I do agree. However, I disagree with what I detect to be, and what I would respectfully refer to as denial in some of your comments. There are issues within society that affect women that do not affect men. The question of domestic violence is one that I will refer to. When a man walks down the street he does not walk down the street with the same amount of fear that a woman does. When a man gets into his car at night, he does not check the back seat to see if anyone is there waiting to attack him. That is a different reality for men than it is for women. Our lives are fundamentally different in how violence affects us. To say that we should not point out that these issues especially affect women is to deny the existence of them. With those comments, I most strongly disagree.

I do agree that labelling things as women's issues detracts from the credibility of those issues. That is not a problem of women; that is a problem of how society treats women's credibility. Rather than asking women not to address these issues as women's issues, we should start teaching society that women do have credibility. Something that is a women's issue is an important issue to society as a whole. After all, for the last thousand years, we have treated issues that are important to men as issues of credibility within our society.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Peterson, I have looked at the list of visits. You have gone into the communities from Hay River all the way to Fort Smith,

Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Broughton Island, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Fort Good Hope, Fort Franklin, Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. Those are the large communities that you would see having those problems.

As aboriginal people, we have never addressed the issue of gender. We have always addressed it as a nation of people. Now, we are seeing even aboriginal women caught up in this gender war. It is not happening in the communities smaller than 1,000 people, for example. We do not see women walking the streets in fear at night. Nor do I see it for men. Perhaps, in Yellowknife, both women and men should be concerned about walking the streets in the evenings. I wanted to bring that out because you have about six people on your staff who helped you do the report. It is a very good report. The women who did this report also must have had a good education.

In your recommendations, one of the issues is plain language in the judicial system. I find a lot of the stuff in here very hard to read. I do not know what you mean by the definition "sexless." The report was done by a very bright group of people. If you put this into the communities it would be very difficult for the people in the communities to understand. Is it because of time that you have not gone to many of the traditional communities? When I refer to traditional communities, I mean those such as Fort Wrigley, Fort Liard and Fort Providence. They are not too caught up in your Canadian mentality, perhaps. This is not reflected in this report.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Ms. Peterson, would you like to respond?

**MS. PETERSON:**

Thank you. To answer your question, Mr. Gargan, it was a balancing act in terms of trying to visit communities in each of the regions and trying to visit communities of different sizes. I would disagree with you that all of the communities visited were large communities. Broughton Island and Fort McPherson are not large communities. We attempted to strike a balance in undertaking this report. The financial responsibility and the time available to complete the report necessitated that we make a choice about the communities which we visited. While, in some of the small communities, women may not have a fear of walking down the street in terms of the violence that



they may have in a larger urban centre, I will strongly point out to you that women have fear in their homes. That prevails whether they live in Wrigley, Lac La Martre, Broughton Island, Pond Inlet or any other community in this territory.

While violence does not always occur on the streets within smaller communities it definitely occurs within the home. That violence is even more troublesome because it occurs in positions of trust and in situations where women have very little power and little option of leaving an abusive situation and making a better life for themselves and their families. In small communities people who are suffering from abusive behaviour have very few options available to them to correct or rehabilitate that behaviour. All of those needs, particularly in small communities where people are isolated and have little in the way of other support mechanisms, must be seriously addressed. It costs money.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, first let me indicate to Ms. Peterson our appreciation for the trouble you took trying to come up and deal with this particular report. The time that many people took to be involved with the development of the report and recommendations, including those who were a part of the group who developed the report and made their presentations and made their issues known, is important. I do not deny that these issues are important. It is important for all of us to try to understand and appreciate the issues before us in terms of gender equality or those issues that do affect women very differently. It is not to diminish the importance of the recommendations or the issues in terms of recognizing how we view, both as men and women, the issues or how they are dealt with differently, it is more that there is a responsibility on the part of everyone to deal with these issues. We have to be prepared to try to appreciate the differences. You have noted that. We cannot always disassociate our responsibility as men from addressing these issues, the same way that women cannot dissociate their responsibility of dealing with those issues and concerns that apply to how we deal with men.

The point which Mr. Gargan made, perhaps not as gently as he could have, is that when you stereotype the issues and do not place the responsibility on all

people, both men and women, to deal with these issues and to address gender equality between men and women, and their understanding, then the general public loses, the women lose, society loses, and the men lose. In many respects we are concerned that you do not want to place these issues in the context of being simply women's issues. It is far more important than that. It is the responsibility of society to respond to these issues.

I have read most of the recommendations, and I have no problem with them, in many respects. I do not necessarily say that all of the recommendations cost money. I think there is a suggestion sometimes that reports are going to cause the public purse a great deal of dollars. I know there are costs but I am not certain that the costs are so substantive that people cannot deal with them, either now or in the long run.

Mr. Chairman, our discussions here today may be not be as long as you want them to be, but as I pointed out to the Minister earlier, I think the recommendations in the report which has been brought before us requires some clarification and some comment from you with regard to the intent of the report, the intent of the recommendations. Even more than that, I think a fairly clear interpretation is needed on the part of those organizations that are also involved in trying to resolve the matters of violence against women and equal treatment. No matter how it is done, it is not acceptable and should not be put up with by anybody. The fact is that in our society this is occurring every day. It is important and incumbent upon all of us to somehow become responsible for getting rid of those kinds of action and reaction. I wanted to make this particular point because I do not want you or the public to get the impression that our short discussion today ends the whole issue because it does not. We want the aboriginal native organizations, the Inuit Women's Association, the Native

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Women's Association and the Council on the Status of Women to deal with these issues with us.

In many respects the report only highlights those issues and those recommendations which you and your review committee felt were important enough to highlight. The question now is, who is involved in the implementation of these? The government and other organizations who are watching us every day to make sure that we respond to the needs of women and to the issues they raise. It is responsible of us to make

sure they have their input into helping us respond to this along with our government, to lay out a plan as to how we are going to address these particular matters.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Would you care to respond, Ms. Peterson?

**MS. PETERSON:**

Briefly, Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. Nerysoo's remarks that the solutions to these problems require a dialogue between men and women, and throughout society as a whole. It is not one gender's problem or the other's. In that dialogue, men and women must hear one another and understand one another. If we can accomplish that we will have accomplished a great deal. I draw no conclusions from the length of your discussion today. These problems are not solved overnight. They are solved with long-term commitment to the issues. I also agree that a consultative approach is appropriate in that it will be a learning approach for both Members of this Assembly and for those groups that may participate in it. The only word of caution that I would add to this, is that women's organizations have borne the principle responsibility for addressing these issues over the last many years. Those organizations, and the women who work in them, grow tired, and they need your help.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to express my support for the recommendations contained in "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality. The report appears to be comprehensive in identifying the various areas of gender bias in the judiciary system. At some future date, I hope and expect that this House will debate the report's recommendations in detail. I believe that adopting the report's recommendations will be an important step towards dismantling the barriers faced by women who come into contact with the courts and many support services involved in family and criminal law.

Mr. Chairman, I have noted that many of the report's recommendations centre around the need to improve counselling and services for victims of sexual violence. Better aid for victims is particularly

necessary in a jurisdiction with the highest rate of report of sexual assaults in the country, as I noted in a Member's statement earlier this week. With over 90 per cent of sexual assaults in the N.W.T. committed by someone known to the victim, it can easily be seen how in the small communities across the territories, victims are dealing with the added pressure of living in close proximity to their abusers. Obviously the victim's anxiety is further increased because of the lack of resources and the inadequate or poorly trained staff in the judiciary and support systems as pointed out in this report.

Mr. Chairman, the report acknowledged and Mr. Nerysoo has referred to the cost implications of implementing some of the recommendations. As everyone knows, times are tight, but I think in this House we have to recognize the critical nature of the problem of violence against women and identify it as a priority issue. Physical and sexual abuse most profoundly affects a woman's emotional well being. In turn, entire families may be caught up in a cycle of abuse and powerlessness in the communities, and the communities are robbed of prospering and healthy individuals. The urgency of the issue of violence against women must be recognized by this government. To ignore it will adversely affect all of society.

Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat concerned about the Minister saying today in his opening statement that the Victim Impact Statement Program, the pilot project, needs to be assessed before it is expanded across the territories. In his opening statement he also referred to my comments, which I made at an earlier date, suggesting this program might have a better chance of success in the larger communities. Mr. Chairman, I want to make it clear that my comments were in no way meant to be construed as suggesting the program should be reduced. In fact, I suggested that the program should be expanded across the N.W.T. and that its performance should not be judged until it has also been tried in the community with the best available support mechanisms and the most opportunity to use the statements because of the number of sentencing hearings which take place. Mr. Chairman, that community is Yellowknife.

I believe that it is entirely possible that some of the problems presently encountered in the pilot project would be addressed if the statements were available for use in Yellowknife. I think that this may lead to better success of the program in smaller communities.

Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if I could ask the witness to respond to the suggestion that the Victim Impact Statement pilot project should be assessed before being expanded across the N.W.T.?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ms. Peterson.

**MS. PETERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From speaking with people in the communities, not only people who, as individuals, have dealings with the court, but those who are charged with responsibilities within the court system, it is clear that there are some difficulties with the Victim Impact Statement. There were some difficulties with the distribution of this statement to the pilot project communities, how the statement was to be used, the role of police officers in obtaining the statement and explaining to a victim that she could in fact be cross-examined on the statement if the statement was not accepted. These are not simple issues to resolve, particularly the issue surrounding cross-examination on the Victim Impact Statement. In that situation you may find someone who has been a victim of a violent or traumatic assault who is breathing a sigh of relief because they do not have to give evidence in a trial on that matter. The guilty plea has been entered and the matter is just going to sentencing. That victim fills out a statement saying this is how this crime has affected me and how I will think it will continue to affect me in the future. If that statement is not accepted by defence

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counsel, the witness is then asked to attend court and can be cross-examined. The trauma of the whole incident may be revisited upon her as a result of this.

There are issues to be worked out in the use of Victim Impact Statements and the resources that are allocated to support obtaining Victim Impact Statements in ways that are meaningful and useful to the court system. I would be hard pressed to disagree with the Minister in terms of his comments about assessing the usefulness of Victim Impact Statements. I think that with all kinds of issues associated with the administration of justice we have to be in a period of constant assessment to see whether these things are working for us. Mr. Dent has indicated that it may be appropriate to try those statements in communities where there may be more

in the way of resources to support their use within the court system. I think that is a valuable comment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Ms. Peterson. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all I want to echo the comments of my colleague indicating to Ms. Peterson that appreciation is being expressed for the way the report has been developed. I also want to thank the women of the N.W.T. for participating in the process and bringing forth their concerns. That in itself has to be commended because it is difficult for an individual to bring forth these concerns and experiences. The courage is certainly to be recognized and commended.

Mr. Chairman, my comments are not with respect to the details of the report. I know the report has been submitted to the Minister's office and I recognize the recommendations with respect to training and awareness. I know that many of the recommendations are to request the people in positions who can enforce many of the laws that are currently in place to work with more vigour. Has there been any movement on his part for a plan to be developed to address this report?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister of Justice.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the report is not officially endorsed by this Cabinet. It is a report that is well received, we see it as a timely report. Many of the recommendations in here have already been acted on. I have tried to address some of them, and some of them have been passed on to the appropriate agencies. We believe that the report requires wide circulation. It is a public document and where the recommendations are directed to other agencies, for instance the federal government, we have passed on those recommendations. There are some which I have said require legislative change which are very straightforward. For instance, as a result of a recent court case, we have initiated the drafting of legislative changes so that outdated legislation is corrected immediately. Many of our laws are seen as being somewhat outdated. In the long-term plan, we will look at reviewing many of these areas but we do not have a comprehensive response. We have not acted

hastily, we think that many of these recommendations are going to be directed back at us. For instance, once the women's organizations and the aboriginal organizations have looked at them, suggestions will come in from different parts of our communities and, I am sure, from the Legislature.

Some of them are straightforward and we have acted on them, and some we have passed on to the relevant agencies. At some time or another there will be a written summary provided to the Members, updating them on the current status of many of the recommendations that I try to do. We can provide that in the next few days, but it will not mean that it is an official government response. It will be an update on the way in which some of the recommendations have been acted on already and the way in which some of them will be passed on to agencies.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, recognizing that this report has been on our agenda for some time, and recognizing the recommendations at the back of the report, I would like to ask the Minister if it would be possible for his department to develop a plan categorizing what areas have to be developed. We recognize that some recommendations are in the right format now, however, as the Minister said, it is a matter of dealing with them and bringing them to the appropriate department. I would like to see if the Minister is able to develop a plan categorizing these recommendations and to determine which areas of legislation have to be updated, and which areas of training departments can focus on and start developing and implementing in the near future.

I would like to ask the Minister if it would be possible for him to bring that forward to the House by February, when the session convenes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Justice.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, I believe by February we could have a very good document that would outline how we plan to move on the specific recommendations in the report. We will outline the ones that are fairly straightforward and complete. For instance, one of the recommendations

strongly suggested that we finish the family law review. It was done, but we have 90 recommendations, so we will break those down into the ones that are short-term, those that are directly the responsibility of this government, the ones that require legislative changes, the ones that require additional resources, those that will require an inter-departmental action plan and present all this to the Members by February.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for making that commitment and I look forward to seeing his developed plan as a result of this report. I would like to thank, once again, Ms. Peterson for developing the report and the women of the Territories who were courageous enough to bring forth their concerns on ensuring that this report be developed with their concerns expressed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Ms. Patterson and the women across the north for having come up with the report on the gender issue.

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However, my concerns are the same as those about which my colleagues have spoken, and I find that there are rarely any recommendations placed in the traditional aboriginal concept. It does not do a good job of clarifying that the problems leading to gender inequality have been imposed by the Euro-Canadian social framework. Aboriginal people did not ever split community concerns into men's issues and women's issues; they faced them together as a community. The report can be criticized because it does not reflect that philosophy clearly enough. Even though many of the recommendations are good, the special advisor seems to feel that men are not interested in solving these problems. That is not true of our elders in the small communities. What does the special advisor think of that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Ms. Peterson.

**MS. PETERSON:**

I appreciate your concerns about dealing with these issues as a community, as opposed to dealing with them as either male or female issues. One of the things that I have tried to emphasize in the report is why some of the issues that were raised may particularly affect women, particularly the issues surrounding domestic and sexual violence. These issues must be addressed in a larger context. By that I mean not only in the larger context of the administration of justice but in the larger societal context. I do agree that men are indicating concern to a greater degree, and in the situations you referred to within your communities and your culture, they have participated and carried concerns about the health of the community and the members in it. It is not a concern which is borne only by women. I will reiterate my comments, though, that many of the issues that have been raised do particularly affect women. How the court system and the administration of justice deals with some of these issues, and how that system is the product of a western-European philosophy, as opposed to a philosophy that has input from aboriginal people or input from women, is a matter of grave concern.

When we were conducting public meetings in the communities, many members came out and said that one of the difficulties they have with the court system is that they do not understand it very well. Our discussions often indicated that not only did people have difficulty with the administration of justice because they did not understand it very well, indeed, how could they understand a system that is not conducted in their language and that is foreign to their culture, but that this system does not reflect many of the values that are maintained by people who live in this jurisdiction, be they men or women.

One of the things that the report tries to emphasize is, as with issues of aboriginal culture which have a very important role to play in how we develop the administration of justice in this jurisdiction, so too do women have a culture as bearers of children and as nurturers of families. Their very gender brings with them a culture. Our administration of justice must start to recognize cultures, be they women's cultures or aboriginal cultures, that extend beyond that of white Anglo-Saxon males. It must do this in order to properly serve the needs of people in this jurisdiction. The report emphasizes the perspective of women and the culture of women because that was what I was

asked to do. That is the question I was asked to examine. Your comments, with respect to those concerns applying in a broader context to aboriginal people are very well taken. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your reply, Ms. Peterson. You are right, it is a broader issue. That is my exact point. I think, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I pushed this government to place a program for male offenders. We have nothing in place, within this government, to help out part of the problem in this society. We have good programs for women; we have shelters. I also know that sometimes the domestic problems arise because of the women. By that, I mean that, when a woman has experienced a sexual assault in her past, prior to entering into her present relationship, this sometimes leads to the husband being violent because of what she has experienced in the past. It is not because the husband is violent. I think this is the wide and complex issue which this government should be addressing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Are there any other comments? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to express my appreciation to Katherine and her team and all of the participants from across the north who helped develop this report. They did not only receive input from women. I sat in a public meeting in Inuvik and there were other men there, and I assume there were other men in the meetings across the north. I would like to express my personal support and pledge to contribute in whatever small way I can in this House, and wherever I am, in trying to resolve and deal with these issues.

A couple of weeks ago, with my colleague for Natilikmiot, I visited his home community of Repulse Bay and we held public meetings on health and social services issues. In my region there has been a rash of court cases regarding violence and sexual abuse. I find that there is a real cry for help in terms of counselling services for youth, the aged, the

handicapped, family violence abusers and victims and for alcohol and drug abusers. Obviously, they are all inter-related. Our communities are small and our populations have to mix and inter-relate to survive in the type of environment in which we live and work.

Communities do need these support groups and we have to work very hard to develop programs and make sure that there is money or professional assistance to help train and develop counsellors. A point that has been mentioned several times is the use of aboriginal justice methods. These initiatives are being taken by the Gwich'in, in terms of forming a community justice society, based on what they are doing in the Yukon. There are also other models in existence. Also, the use of elders as counsellors came out loud and clear in Repulse Bay and Rankin Inlet. The elders are there and they are begging to be used yet something has happened between our generation and theirs. We are missing a link and not going to them as often as we should. I feel that with help to assist the elders in being more pro-active and assisting everybody else in being pro-active is the way to make that linkage. The report is a start. It is a summary of issues and concerns that were raised from people across the north. The only direction we can go is forward. We are all working to make life better, healthier and safer for all our residents. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Does Ms. Peterson want to respond?

**MS. PETERSON:**

Mr. Koe, thank you for your remarks. I recall your presence at our meetings in Inuvik. You will have, through your presence there, gained some flavour of what we were trying to accomplish. With no disrespect to any of the Members in this House, you have indicated your support for the seriousness of the issues that are raised in this report. I encourage you to remember that actions speak louder than words. I ask you to remember that in your deliberations over the coming months. While we may agree in principle with the words we speak, we must also act out that agreement in the initiatives and the steps that we take to ensure that all people in this jurisdiction are accorded the respect and the value that they deserve.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to congratulate Ms. Peterson and all the contributors for a very good, thoughtful and clear report. I want also to commend the Minister of Justice for initiating this presentation in the Committee of the Whole. It is extremely important that we demonstrate to the public amidst all the other pressing issues that we are dealing with, how important this issue is to this Assembly. I know that there will be support for other presentations in future on this issue. We may choose to invite Pauktuutit, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the Native Women's Association to give us the benefit of their viewpoints.

Mr. Chairman, this is a difficult point for a kabloona to make. Touching on the very sensitive issue of traditional values, I know I am reflecting the views that I have heard from women in my constituency, including aboriginal women. I would like to make a small note of caution. We do not know much about the traditional values in the communities. There is an exciting project under way in Lac La Martre which we all look forward to and which will give us some real evidence gathered from elders about what those values are -- particularly in the family area.

The caution I would make is that we must recognize that even the traditional values may not always respect gender equality. We must be careful to be sensitive that some of those values may not reflect the spirit of equality that we value in the modern world. What the Members are saying about relying on those traditional values is important, but we also have to ensure that they are fair and appropriate to the modern world and the principles of equality.

That is a comment I wanted to make without taking away from what honourable Members have said about the importance of the system changing to reflect the excellent traditional values that we want to preserve. Mr. Chairman, I know that all the Members agree that this discussion of this very important issue must not end today. There is work to be done, and the Minister is committed to coming forward with an action plan. I wish to move a motion, now.

Committee Motion 38-12(3): That Minister Of Justice Provide Response To "The Justice House"

My motion is that this committee recommend that the Minister of Justice provide a response to "The Justice

House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality, setting out the government's response and implementation plans for each of the recommendations contained in the report for consideration during the resumption of this Third Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly in February, 1993. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Will this committee come back to order? Mr. Nerysoo, your amendment is in order. To the amendment.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

---Carried

Motion is amended.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

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

---Carried

Further general comments? Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have gone through the recommendations on "The Justice House". I like the recommendations that are made in there, but somehow I feel it does not go far enough. As a former chief for many years, in my community I had to deal reluctantly with the process of going through the justice system with some of my community members. I feel the same way as my colleague, Mr. Gargan, who said that this whole system has been imposed upon us within the last 400 years since Europeans came into North America. We have to live with it. Now, more attention is focused on the justice system in the north. For instance, there was a discussion of justice in the Deh Cho forum that just occurred. In there, a lot of discussion took place about justice in

the community. There is a need for more review and more education funding. There were specific recommendations on how the justice system would have to change for a community. It includes some of the recommendations that were made in "The Justice House". There has never been a total review of the whole justice system in the north, let alone a review or royal commission of any kind that looked at how the justice system is imposed on aboriginal people. That is why I am saying it does not go far enough. "The Justice House" seems to open the door to that possibility in the future. I was wondering if the special advisor would make some comments on my concerns. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Ms. Peterson.

**MS. PETERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree, Mr. Antoine. There are many aspects of the report that do not

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extend far into some of the concerns that you have indicated. I will also indicate to you that some of the aspects of the report and its recommendation are quite tempered. That is because I do believe that a lot of these issues should be approached as positively and constructively as possible, rather than being focused on in a negative or overly critical manner. That is not at all to say that this system ought not to be criticised; it ought to be vigorously, and the extent to which it can withstand that criticism and make changes as a result of it will show its health and well being.

I agree with your comments on the imposition of this administration and method of dispute resolution on aboriginal people. In the same fashion, this method of dispute resolution has been imposed on women. It was developed during a period of time when even western European women had no say in it. They had no vote, they had no capacity to own property, they had no capacity to speak and were, in fact, considered property themselves. So there are tremendous parallels between the interests of women generally and interest of aboriginal people, in terms of how systems that have been developed by others are imposed on them.

I can tell you, having been in Ottawa last week, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People is seriously

considering the question of justice and the administration of justice as it affects aboriginal people throughout Canada. That royal commission is grappling with some very difficult questions about separate systems of justice for aboriginal people, parallel systems, taking existing systems and moulding them or changing them to meet the needs of aboriginal people. Representatives of that royal commission will be in Yellowknife next week, and I urge you and other Members who have exhibited concerns about these issues to provide your comments to them. They have at their disposal tremendous resources to address this particular concern and I know it rests very high on their agenda. They have a large number of experts. By experts I do not necessarily mean university professors, I mean aboriginal people from various parts of the country who are providing their excellent advice and guidance to this royal commission.

To the extent that justice issues are being considered in other forms, I urge this government to take advantage of the resources that are expended elsewhere to address some of these very difficult and very important questions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

(Translation) Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I want to say one more thing under general comments. I made similar comments about a year ago when a Member talked about the anniversary of the Montreal massacre. I believe very strongly that if we are going to look at the fact the court system is unfair to women, then we must realize that it is most unfair to aboriginal women.

Aboriginal women have to deal with two sorts of biases, first, because they are aboriginal and second, because they are women. The courts use difficult legal language which is hardest on the aboriginal women who speak English as a second language. In a confusing legal aid system and in confusing policies related to criminal injuries and compensation we are the most unfair to the aboriginal women who lack the literacy to read about them.

The bias which exists within the R.C.M.P. attachments towards aboriginal people is just as real for aboriginal men.

Stereotypes are created which lead judges and many others to think that when rape occurs to an aboriginal woman it is different from when it occurs to a non-native person. Stereotypes and mistaken beliefs about our family values have resulted in unfair judgement within both the family courts the criminal courts. All these things happen to aboriginal women.

I have stated many times in this House that the real victims are the aboriginal women. I have to ask myself about situations like the one which occurred with Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds. I simply cannot believe that a white woman would have been treated that way by the R.C.M.P. or the Crown. I cannot believe that if it was a white woman, the R.C.M.P. Complaints Commission would treat her like a criminal and then take well over a year to come forward with the report. I believe strongly that it is the aboriginal women who are the most victimized with gender unfairness in the justice system.

I was disappointed that that message was not put forth in the special advisor's report. Mr. Chairman, another thing that I would like to talk about is the report that we are working on. I believe you said that people should be taught about the justice system. We are only taught about justice in the Dene way. Before that the native people were here, but we are not being taught about the native justice system. If we are going to be talking about the justice system, I think the aboriginal justice system should be touched on also. It has not been mentioned in the report.

The only justice system that seems to be used is the European justice system. I do not think it should be the only one. The way in which people existed and lived as a society, and how they resolved issues prior to the arrival of Europeans, should be taught to our young people. When young students are taught they are only given the white man's point of view. I think they should be taught about how the Dene people existed before the arrival of the white man.

The Inuit and Dene are having difficulty existing because they have to think in the white man's way. They also have to think their way of thinking. They are a little mixed up. This is why the Inuit and Dene are having problems, but this is not mentioned in your report. This is something which should be expressed too.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Ms. Peterson.



**MS. PETERSON:**

Mr. Gargan, I agree with your comments that aboriginal women suffer greatly at the hands of stereotypes. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that if I went down to the police station this weekend and said, "constable, I have been raped," that my complaint would be dealt with differently than if I were an aboriginal woman, either in this community or in other communities in the territories. There is no doubt in my mind about that. I will be afforded greater credibility because I am white, and that is wrong.

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One of the points which I am trying to make in the report is that the problem with credibility extends across gender lines as well. Generally speaking, women, be they white or aboriginal, are not afforded the same credibility that men are. When I go to a bank to ask to borrow money I have more difficulty doing that because I am a woman. When I go into a police station and want to complain about something I have more difficulty because I am a woman. Within the culture of women, aboriginal women suffer from that tremendously.

With respect to the question of apprising within the education system, other means to dispute resolution, I believe that is canvassed in the recommendations. Specifically in the third recommendation, I have suggested that not only should people be taught the present system, so that they have an understanding of it, because I believe that the power to cause change comes through that knowledge, I have also suggested that there be a comparison of other means to dispute resolution and problem solving that are used in different cultures.

I do not think that we should go into this process with the assumption that the way in which things are presently done is right. I think we ought to look at all of the options and see what best suits our needs in this jurisdiction. I think this jurisdiction has unique opportunities to be creative in how it deals with these issues. In being creative we must look to dispute resolution mechanisms that have existed long before western European methods were ever brought to the Northwest Territories. Your comments in this respect are reflected in the report and I think they reflect the concern of many people in the territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, what I said is that aboriginal women have to go through double biases because of the fact that they are not only women but they are also aboriginal. I have used Kitty Nowdluk as an example. In the same light, several years ago there was a woman who was raped, who was in Ontario and was summoned to appear in court, and she came back here without any police escort. This was what I was referring to. The recommendations state that all elementary and high schools should incorporate sections of the administration of justice and the historical overview of the development of the present court structure. What I was referring to was that, in order for us to arrive at that present court system, we should also be allowed to learn of the systems prior to the present court system. I did not see this in the report and this was what I was trying to get at.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Ms. Peterson.

**MS. PETERSON:**

I do not have any response to that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Any other general comments? Does the committee agree that this matter is stood down? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Peterson, thank you for your presence. Without question this matter is not concluded. We may, through the Minister, be inviting you to return to deal with this matter again. Thank you very much, I appreciate your attendance.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suggest that we deal with the bill pertaining to the Liquor Act, Bill 9.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Are we agreed that we deal with Bill 9?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Liquor Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. We will be dealing with private Member's public bill, Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act. Mr. Lewis, do you have any general comments?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also Members for allowing me to proceed this afternoon because my legal counsel would not be available to me on Monday and it would have made it very difficult to conclude this business. The only comment that I have to make in opening, Mr. Chairman, is that the work on this bill began in 1988. It has taken a long time to bring it into the committee so it can be examined in detail. I would like to invite my legal counsel to assist me on technical matters, Virginia Schuler.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Is it agreed that we invite the witness?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness in, please? Mr. Lewis, for the record, could you introduce the witness, please?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today my legal counsel, Virginia Schuler.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation has had a long history with this particular bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Brian Lewis, first introduced Bill 26 during the Second Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly. The private Member's public bill would have amended the Liquor Act to allow the establishment of commercial breweries. The Standing Committee on Legislation held public hearings on Bill 26 on May 26, 1992, and recommended a number of changes. The draft of a revised bill was tabled in the House on September 29, 1992, in order to allow further public review

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prior to the third session. This was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation by a formal motion of the House on October 1, 1992. The Standing Committee on Legislation held public hearings on the tabled draft bill on October 22, 1992.

While many of the previous concerns of the committee had been addressed, a number of significant issues remained outstanding and were reported to this House in Committee Report 2-12(3) tabled on November 23, 1992. In its report, the committee made further recommendations for changes to the proposed legislation.

Bill 9, a private Member's public bill, was introduced during the third session by Mr. Lewis. This bill received first and second reading on November 25, 1992, and the committee reviewed this bill during public meetings on November 30, December 1 and December 2, 1992. The Members of the committee wish to note that the sponsor of Bill 9, Mr. Lewis, responded seriously to the concerns and recommendations of the committee. Many of the changes recommended by the committee were incorporated within the new bill, and our experience has provided a good example of the way a thorough committee review can enhance the legislative process.

The committee is also grateful to Ms. Virginia Schuler, Q.C., for appearing as Mr. Lewis' legal counsel on a number of occasions. Also, the committee wishes to acknowledge the public input received. As well, the committee appreciates the appearance and assistance of officials from the Department of Safety and Public Services and from the Department of Justice.

Bill 9 would amend the existing Liquor Act to allow for the establishment of commercial breweries within the Northwest Territories. This bill would make it legal for a person or a corporation to manufacture beer in the Northwest Territories. The person would be required to obtain a permit from the Liquor Licensing Board first. The beer manufactured under the permit could only be sold to the Liquor Commission or to the public under a brew pub licence granted by the Liquor Licensing Board. Regulations would provide for the inspection of breweries, and the bill would allow an inspector to suspend the operation of a brewery if there was a serious contravention of the act or if it was in the public interest. This bill would include a provision that a brewery permit could not be granted without the approval of the local government most closely affected.

The committee was supportive of this community consultation but felt that in the case where more than one community would be affected by the application, the views of the other affected communities should be considered by the board as well. The new legislative process approved earlier by the 12th Assembly includes a procedure whereby bills can be amended at the committee stage. At its meeting on December 2, the Standing Committee on Legislation invoked this procedure and carried a motion to amend Bill 9 to incorporate the committee's recommendation that the views of other affected communities be considered by the board when considering an application for a brewery permit. Under the new legislative process, the concurrence of the sponsor of the bill is required before a bill can be amended at the committee stage. Mr. Lewis concurred with the committee's motion to amend Bill 9.

Therefore, the bill that is before the honourable Members today differs from the one voted by this House at second reading. Bill 9 has also been amended in one additional area. Originally, the bill would have required one form of government in the community to be notified of the application for a brewery permit. However, the committee was concerned that in communities where there are both a band council and a community council, both councils should have an equal right to notification. Bill 9 was also amended to include this recommendation with the concurrence of the sponsor.

There were two remaining areas of concern to the committee which Members may wish to comment on. Bill 9 departed from earlier drafts in that it placed the authority to issue or revoke permits directly with the Liquor Licensing Board rather than with the

Commissioner. Questions were raised by the Law Clerk and by Members as to the validity of such a scheme in light of the provision in the federal Northwest Territories Act which prohibits a manufacture of intoxicants without the permission of the Commissioner.

The committee appreciates the attendance and written comments of the deputy minister of Justice who indicated that these provisions were recommended and supported by the department. As well, as noted in Committee Report 2-12(3), the standing committee is concerned that there might be some potential for this bill to be misconstrued as applying to the illegal manufacture of home brewed alcohol. The committee encourages the sponsor and the relevant departments and agencies to ensure that public information about this proposed legislation draws a clear distinction between the manufacture of beer under brewery permits and the unlawful preparation of alcohol. This concludes my remarks, Mr. Chairman. I invite other committee Members to make any additional comments on this bill.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I have no additional comments, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 3.

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 9.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 10.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 11.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 12.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 13.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 14.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 15.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 16.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 17.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 18.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 19.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Clause 20.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 9 is ready for a third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Committee Report 4-12(3) and Committee Report 1-12(3). Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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---Agreed

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94 And Committee Report 4-12(3): Review Of The 1993-94 Capital Estimates For The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. We will be dealing with the matter of the Housing Corporation. Any general comments? Mr. Minister?

N.W.T. Housing Corporation, Introductory Remarks

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 1993-94 budget for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation for the committee's review. The corporation's 1993-94 capital program responds to the challenging environment in which we are now operating. There are many challenges that face us as we develop plans to meet the housing needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. These challenges include:

- a growing housing shortage;
- reduced federal funding; and
- a need to maximize local and regional economic benefits from capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, the 1992 Needs Survey indicated that there is a growing housing shortage. Over 3,500 households across the N.W.T. are living in housing which is not adequate, suitable or affordable. The number of households in need has increased by 14 per cent over the last two years, even though the corporation has delivered over 800 social housing units. The N.W.T. has the highest birth rate in the country and over 40 per cent of our population is under the age of 19. This means that as these young people grow up and start having families of their own, there will be a continuing and increased demand for new housing.

In many of our communities it is already very difficult for these young families to find housing of their own. We are facing this growing housing shortage with less help from the federal government than we ever had before. The impact of the federal funding cut back shows up clearly in the corporation's 1993-94 capital budget, Mr. Chairman.

Up until this year C.M.H.C.'s contribution has always matched or been greater than the G.N.W.T. allocation. However, in 1993-94, the Government of the Northwest Territories will spend \$30.95 million of its capital budget on housing. The C.M.H.C. capital contribution will amount to just over \$13 million. We are still working hard to convince the federal government to share more equally with us the cost of meeting the housing needs of the northerners.

New access to home ownership programs will be offered by the N.W.T. Housing Corporation in 1993-94. The new home ownership programs are timely, not only because they respond to a wide range of housing needs, but because they are a more cost-effective way of meeting those needs. The new programs are an essential part of the corporation's strategy to cope with federal funding reductions.

It is very important that the housing programs are delivered in a way that generates maximum economic business and training opportunities for the communities. To meet this objective, the corporation is participating in the development of a government-wide strategy to promote training opportunities in the construction trades. This is a joint effort with the Department of Government Services and Public Works, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs and the N.W.T. Housing Corporation.

Changes to the programs have also been made in order to maximize the number of home ownership and public housing units that can be delivered in 1993-94. For example, we have improved our building design, and simpler lay-outs and mechanical systems will make construction and maintenance easier. These design changes will apply to the public housing program and the home ownership program. We are also maximizing benefits to northern manufacturers, suppliers and businesses in the delivery of the housing program by specifying construction materials that can be manufactured in the north. This includes lumber, windows, water and sewer tanks, screw jack foundations and pads. Building material supplier tenders will also be broken down to cater to smaller northern manufacturers and suppliers. The Business Incentive Policy now applies to all N.W.T. Housing Corporation projects, including those cost shared with C.M.H.C. Most extensive use of the Rent Supplement Program will be made to encourage developers to provide built to lease public housing. This will combine with the G.N.W.T.'s staff housing requirements to further encourage and develop the private housing market in more communities. Funding requirements for the Rent Supplement Program will appear in the corporation's 1993-94 O & M budget as there is no direct capital investment by the corporation on these projects.

An important aspect of the housing delivery is encouraging the development of northern construction companies. This is addressed through the training initiative I mentioned earlier, and through various approaches to program delivery including:

- labour only contracts;
- project management contracts;
- supply, shipping and erecting contracts; and
- design/build contracts.

The corporation is also organizing workshops with northern builders to get their input on the new designs and program changes. We are committed to working cooperatively with northern construction companies to continually improve our housing designs and construction methods to maximize cost-effectiveness and efficiency.

The new home ownership programs, combined with the program changes and new initiatives I have just described, have been designed to enable the Housing Corporation to do better with less. All of these efforts are needed if social housing delivery is to be maintained at effective levels, so that we can address the needs of people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Mr. Antoine will be making a few general committee comments and then we will go on to four resolutions.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**Standing Committee On Finance Comments**

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some committee comments. The first one is on the federal responsibility for aboriginal housing. This government has been mandated by the Legislative Assembly to research the federal government's constitutional and moral obligation to provide adequate housing for aboriginal people. The committee feels that research into the federal government's obligation is even more urgent given the recent cuts in funding for social housing programs. This is happening at a time when the federal government is attempting to renew its commitment to aboriginal people. This research

should be completed as soon as possible, and if warranted, the government should take an aggressive position with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs under legal obligations.

For the last two years, the Standing Committee on Finance has been urging the government to put a plan into action to eliminate the public housing deficit within ten years. The Minister indicated that to deal with the current housing shortfall of 3,584 units, plus the increased housing need over the next ten years would require 925 units per year, 687 per year if we had the luxury of 30 years to do it.

The fact is we do not have 30 years to house people in need. If the corporation can only build 427 units in 1993-94, things look bleak for the hope of ever reducing the housing shortage we currently face.

The Standing Committee on Finance has not yet been shown a long-term solution to the public housing crisis by this government. We have not been told what the "big picture" is. For example, what effect will new housing needs, economic development, and other developments such as staff housing issues and encouraging home ownership have on core need during the next ten years?

In any event, despite the significant improvements proposed by the corporation in these Capital Estimates, for which they should be congratulated, even more innovative approaches are needed.

As we recommended during the 1992-93 review, the committee believes that the Cabinet must re-examine government capital priorities in light of fundamental housing needs and develop a ten year plan to eliminate the public housing shortage.

The committee feels the Housing Corporation could further strengthen the information provided to the Standing Committee on Finance during the budget review by providing the details of future years' capital expenditures, such as a five year capital plan in the 1994-95 Capital Estimates and Standing Committee on Finance books. In addition, capital should be broken down by community in the S.C.O.F. book.

The corporation is delivering 119 units in 1993-94, through the Rent Supplement Program. This committee recommended the use of Rent Supplement Programs to achieve public housing goals at a time when they were used only in level I communities. We are generally pleased that the corporation has proceeded in this direction. However, the corporation

did not disclose to the committee the cost of the Rent Supplement Program or the financial implications of this program for the G.N.W.T. and C.M.H.C. This committee's concern is affordability.

In future, the corporation should disclose the complete financial implication of this capital program including the Rent Supplement Program.

The committee understands that some communities have been successful in tracking C.M.H.C. funding directly for housing co-op programs. The committee believes that the corporation should facilitate more initiatives such as this. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee has four recommendations and motions it would like to put forward.

During the review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates, the committee was told by the Minister of Housing that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has cut its contributions for new housing in the N.W.T. by 63 per cent or \$22.399 million.

This will obviously have a devastating effect in a territory where a high proportion of families are in core housing need, the cost of shelter is prohibitive, temperatures are frigid and many health, education and social problems are related to poor housing.

The federal government has acknowledged a significant responsibility for housing in the north over the years. To cut the funding lifeline now is unconscionable.

It is the opinion of the committee that the government should take an aggressive public position on the federal funding cuts to housing programs. The focus of this strategy should be to increase political support at the national level for the reinstatement of C.M.H.C. funding levels.

This position should emphasize the extent of households in core housing need, the cost of shelter and more importantly the living conditions in northern communities.

Committee Motion 40-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 1

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the government pursue an aggressive public position to increase political support at the national level for the reinstatement of previous C.M.H.C. funding levels.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Todd.

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**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee did take a look at trying to find ways to increase the amount of housing available to people. According to the figures provided to the committee, 1,135 G.N.W.T. households are currently living in social housing. If they can be moved out of social housing into their own accommodation, these units will be available for families in core housing need.

The committee believes that a viable alternative for 1993-94 would be to invest up to \$20 million of G.N.W.T. money reallocated from less critical projects or programs, combined with bank financing, to build one 50 unit apartment complex in one community in each of the regions. The goal would be to create 250 apartment units for private accommodation and free up 250 public housing units.

In the future these apartment buildings could be sold off to local developers if a reasonable market exists, and the proceeds from the sale reinvested.

This approach offers some economies of scale. For example, one design may be used, and a quantity discount on materials may be obtained. Local companies and labour should be used as much as possible to ensure that the direct economic benefits of these projects remain in the north. The committee



believes, and I believe, that funding can be found from within the existing resources.

Committee Motion 41-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 2

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that, as a pilot project, the government reallocate up to \$20 million from less critical capital projects or programs to invest in one 50 unit apartment building for G.N.W.T. staff in each region.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Question has been called. All those in favour? Sorry, Mr. Bernhardt.

**MR. BERNHARDT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really do not agree with this pilot project because in the two communities I serve, we have some vacancies of government staff houses. If we do not have any decentralization PYs coming to my communities, why are we going to invest in a 50 unit apartment building for Coppermine and Cambridge Bay? It might be needed in some other regions, but certainly not in the region I represent.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, pertaining to the motion which has been put forward by my colleague, the Chairman of Finance, I have some concerns. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if this is contravening the whole government strategy in terms of trying to enhance the housing needs. Although this is an innovative approach, I do not think this idea will fly, especially if we are going to allocate \$20 million from less critical capital projects. As Members are aware, we are in need of funding to try to enhance our existing programs. We are in a financial restraint period, Mr. Chairman, and I do not believe this will supplement the restraint that we are in. I am having problems

with this motion, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I can support it. If I do not support it then I may abstain from voting on this motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it appears that the intention of the government to try to get out of staff housing and this committee's recommendations may be contradicting what the government is trying to do. I have difficulty in allocating our funding for staff housing when I feel that funding should be directed for public units. I, as a Member, with all due respect to our Chairman and our committee, do not agree with the concept. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I think there is a major assumption being made here that people who live in detached social housing would want to move into apartment buildings. Many people who I know that live in social housing do not want to live in apartment buildings.

It has been mentioned several times by my colleague in the Chair, that there are existing development corporation groups who have money available now that would probably, if this motion passes, want to get into this type of business.

My third comment is the same as my colleague for Thebacha, that we heard the government housing strategies yesterday, the government is getting out of the housing market and here we are turning around and building more government apartments. At this stage I would oppose this motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Mr. Chairman, they have a saying where I come from, you win one, you lose one.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Was that to the motion? We have not made any decisions yet. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to commend the Members on their positive attitude and commitment to try to solve the housing needs in the Northwest Territories because we are in great need of housing. We have 3,500 units and even with the amounts we are building, we cannot keep up with the grow and demand, let alone touch the backlog, because of restraint.

I would also like to remind Members that the allocation of units to the communities is driven by the needs survey. To try to solve five communities' needs at one time, or to target a certain group would not be a fair allocation or a fair way of trying to solve the housing problem. We have attempted in the past not to target any group for housing allocations. The programs are designed to specifically meet the needs of those most in need first. I just wanted to let Members know that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

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Committee Motion 41-12(2): Withdrawn

**MR. TODD:**

In face of people's concerns I will withdraw the motion, Mr. Chairman.

---Withdrawn

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Recommendation three, Mr. Chairman, is with respect to social assistance rates. Are they adequate for the current cost of housing? If the G.N.W.T. and northern employers do not pay enough to allow people to afford their own housing, the committee questions whether social assistance rates can be adequate to cover the real costs related to housing. The Minister

was to research this but has not yet reported back to the committee on his findings.

Committee Motion 42-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 3

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the N.W.T. Housing Corporation review with the Department of Social Services, the social assistance rates as they apply to housing costs to ensure the full cost of housing in the Northwest Territories are properly taken into account and funded by the federal government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

To the motion. The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Todd.

**MR. TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last resolution, Mr. Chairman, is with respect to the devolution of responsibility. Currently, housing associations have responsibility for the operation and maintenance of public housing but not for its construction. In line with the devolution of programs and responsibilities to municipal governments, the committee believes that the responsibility for public housing construction may also be done more effectively, efficiently and economically at the community level.

Committee Motion 43-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 4

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the N.W.T. Housing Corporation undertake a pilot demonstration project in the west and in the east to devolve responsibility for the construction of public housing to housing associations and authorities. Further, that the corporation work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to expedite the amalgamation of housing associations with the municipalities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

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

---Carried

That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Finance. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you. The motion to report progress is in order. The motion is not debateable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Before we go to the Report of Committee of the Whole, I would like to recognize in the gallery the social studies class from Sir John Franklin High School, and their teacher George Diveky.

---Applause

They have been keeping a careful eye on us during this week. Item 19, Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-12(3), Bills 1 and 9, Committee Report 1-12(3) and Committee Report 4-12(3), and wishes to report that Bill 9 is ready for third reading, with five motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Nerysoo. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Before I go on to Third Reading of Bills, I would like to recognize in the gallery, the Chief of Snare Lake, Joseph Judas.

---Applause

Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to give third reading to Bill 9.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Liquor Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had third reading.

---Applause

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the full Caucus immediately after adjournment. Meetings for Sunday, December 6, 1992 at 1:00 p.m. of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Monday, December 7, 1992 at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Legislation and at 10:30 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, December 7, 1992.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act
17. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act
  - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality

- Committee Report 1-12(3), Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates

- Committee Report 3-12(3), Final Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform

- Committee Report 4-12(3), Review of the 1993-94 Capital Estimates for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation

- Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94

- Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

- Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1991-92

- Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93

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, December 7, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT