



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

3rd Session

Day 16

12th Assembly

HANSARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1992

Pages 331 - 366

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alooloo, 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, Hon. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. Todd, Mr. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Before we commence with Orders of the Day, I would like to welcome in the gallery the frontline workers in the field of family violence from 16 communities. They are in Yellowknife for a week long conference.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 28-12(3): Interim Report Of The R.C.M.P. Public Complaints Commission On Treatment Of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have circulated to the Members of this House a copy of the interim report of the R.C.M.P. Public Complaints Commission hearing into the treatment of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds.

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mr. Kakfwi, is this an emergency statement?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I forgot to make that announcement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Proceed with your emergency statement, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency statement. I have circulated to the Members of this House a copy of the interim report of the R.C.M.P. Public Complaints Commission hearing into the treatment of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds. This interim report follows a hearing held in Iqaluit last March, over a period of seven days. The commission panel was chaired by Alan Williams, the former Attorney General of British Columbia, and included Lazarus Arreak of the Northwest Territories and Jane Evans. I am pleased that the interim report has been made public at this time. Under the provisions of the R.C.M.P. Act, the report must be sent in its interim form to the Commissioner of the R.C.M.P. and to the federal Solicitor General.

The R.C.M.P. Commissioner is obliged to consider the report and to advise what, if any, further action will be taken with respect to the complaints. Moreover, if the Commissioner decides not to act on any findings or recommendations set out in the interim report, he must give reasons for not taking action. Following this process the Chair of the Complaints Commission will prepare a final report setting out the findings and the recommendations it has made, presumably taking into account the response, if any, of the Commissioner of the R.C.M.P.

Because the process is not complete, it is premature for me to make more than preliminary comments at this time. However, I believe I can say that I am pleased with the extensive discussion of the facts and circumstances, and the detailed recommendations put forward for response by the R.C.M.P. The report pulls no punches in its criticism of the treatment of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds by the criminal justice system, in which the report acknowledges the R.C.M.P. play such a dominant role. It is also very encouraging to see that the report stresses the need for victim services throughout the criminal justice process, something which you have heard me say on a number of occasions since taking on the Justice portfolio, and something you will hear more about in the future.

Mr. Speaker, finally I note in passing that with the encouragement of our government, the federal prosecutor's offices in Yellowknife and Iqaluit now have victim witness assistance to provide some measure of services for persons in the position that Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds was in. As well, through funding support from the Department of Justice, the Victim Services Program is now available within the R.C.M.P. offices in Yellowknife. I look forward, with interest, to the timely response of the Commissioner

of the R.C.M.P. to the findings and recommendations made in this interim report. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Statement From Frontline Workers Of Family Violence

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the women working against family violence, it is my pleasure to make a statement directed to all of the politicians. "We are frontline workers of family violence, representing 16 communities across the N.W.T. "We are discussing the shocking levels of violence against women and children. How do you see your responsibility in terms of rectifying the problems? How do you think the male leadership can best provide direction on these issues?" Thank you.

---Applause

Page 332

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 23-12(3): Update On Request For Boat For Sanikiluaq

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Pudlat on November 20, 1992. Mr. Speaker, it concerns the search and rescue boat that Mr. Pudlat was requesting for Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, search and rescue funding is provided under the new initiatives program administered by the National Search and Rescue Secretariat in Ottawa. Funding is provided to federal departments having a direct or indirect search and rescue mandate to develop search and rescue response capability throughout the country. Federal departments having a search and rescue mandate include the R.C.M.P., the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Coast Guard, Atmospheric

and Environment Services and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Any vessel purchased under this program would be owned by the sponsoring federal agency and could not be turned over for other community uses. Therefore, Sanikiluaq's request could not be accommodated by this program. Emergency Preparedness Canada administers the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program commonly called J.E.P.P. J.E.P.P. is a cost sharing program between the federal government, the provinces and the territories to enhance the emergency response capability in every region in Canada.

Municipalities, provincial and territorial government departments may access funding. Although funding is available to acquire equipment, facilities, training, planning and education, it is not available to purchase search and rescue boats. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Speaker, has funding programs which provide for the creation or expansion of businesses through the acquisition of new equipment and infrastructure. A private commercial venture could put together a business proposal to purchase a boat for commercial fishing, tourism, or freighting and could come to the department for assistance. If the business plan shows there is a market for the boat's services, that a profit can be made, and if the applicant has sufficient equity, the proposal will be considered for assistance.

In summary, a boat to be used for commercial purposes as well as search and rescue may qualify for departmental assistance, assistance from E.D.A. or, perhaps, from the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Program. Interested Sanikiluaq residents should contact the local economic development officer. The Sanikiluaq economic development office has indicated that the community would like assistance in getting a marine surveyor to assess the condition of an older boat which is in the community at the present time. The surveyor would recommend what repairs have to be undertaken. In this instance, Mr. Speaker, the department can assist. We look forward to their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 62-12(3): Method Determining Distance Of Daily Polar Bear Travel

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Ms. Mike on November 23, 1992, regarding the method of determining distance of daily polar bear travel; the longest distance a female polar bear with a radio collar has moved in one day.

Radio collars cannot be put on male polar bears. However, a hunter and a biologist followed the tracks of one male polar bear that had travelled more than 160 kilometres without stopping to sleep or hunt for seals. The bear was followed in April during the mating season when male polar bears travel long distances to search for females.

Information from hunters and movements of radio collared female polar bears indicate that polar bears travel more in the spring and early summer than during the open water season and winter. Thank you. I have another return if I may, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question 166-12(3): Water And Sewer Subsidy In Tax-Based Municipalities

I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Antoine on December 2, 1992, regarding water and sewer subsidies in tax-based municipalities.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is preparing a policy proposal on the distribution of water and sewage services subsidy funding to tax-based municipalities. I expect to submit the policy proposal to Cabinet in January, 1993.

Return To Written Question 12-12(3): Status Of The Ingraham Trail "No Hunting" Corridor

I have another return, if I may, to a question posed by Mr. Gargan on December 2, 1992, regarding the status of the Ingraham Trail "no hunting" corridor.

The following responses are provided regarding the regulation which prohibits individuals from hunting within the corridor along the Ingraham Trail:

1. Eight written warnings have been issued under the Special Management Area (S.M.A.) Regulations, Section 4, which states that "No person shall discharge a firearm for the purposes of hunting big game within Special Management Area F/1-B during the period commencing November 1 in one year and ending April 30 in the following year." All eight warnings were issued this fall;

2. No charges have been laid under the summary conviction procedures regulations for offenses under the S.M.A. regulations, Section 4; and

3. Since no charges have been laid, no one has proceeded to trial.

Page 333

Further Return To Question 31-12(3): Effects Of Tranquillizing Polar Bear Meat

I have one more return, to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 20, 1992 regarding the effect of tranquillizing polar bear meat.

Last April, a study was done out of Resolute Bay to determine when the drug used to tranquilize polar bears is no longer in the bear's body. The study was done on four polar bears.

The Department of Renewable Resources assisted the study, but does not yet have the results. The Department is contacting the researcher, who is from the University of Saskatchewan, to find out when the analysis will be done. Once the study is complete, the Department will discuss the results with hunters from Resolute Bay first and then advise other communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 162-12(3): Reason For B.I.P. Adjustment

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis on December 2, 1992, regarding the reason for the B.I.P. adjustment.

The subject tender was issued on September 9, 1992. The revised Business Incentive Policy was approved for implementation in June of this year. It extended the application of local preference to tender the purchase of goods. Previously, the local preference was applied only to tenders for construction contract.

The policy, therefore, extended the preference to local firms that supply goods that are intended to be used in the same community in which the supplier is located. Further, the policy provides that two or more communities be considered local when located close to the work site. For example the highways camp is

located outside municipal boundaries. Communities in the vicinity of the highways camp can be considered local for the materials destined for that camp.

Since the oil tankers are to be used in and around Hay River, Hay River is defined as the local for the purpose of applying the preference. Application of local preference is therefore consistent with the policy and the decision to waive local preference on a much larger tender to supply and install furniture in the Legislative Assembly building, was a separate and distinct matter, the reason for which I have already indicated to this House.

I must admit, however, that I am as concerned about this issue of local preference as the Member, for our preference policy should end. We should equalize opportunity for all northern business but this particular provision may, in fact, be doing the opposite in some cases.

I have instructed the Senior Management Preference Committee to review this matter and report back to me by the end of January. In the meantime it will be necessary to abide by the provisions of the policy as defined. Exceptions will only be approved by the Senior Management Committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

MR. KOE:

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

On November 27, the Minister tabled document 18-12(3), Community Transfer Initiative Implementation Plan. The purpose was to represent the government's commitment to recognize and encourage community self-government. The community transfer agreements with interested communities will recognize community authority, identify and designate community responsibilities and transfer resources for program and service delivery. My question to the Minister is, what is the status of the implementation plan?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the implementation plan has been tabled and needs to have a minor but critical amendment to it today. I will be tabling an amendment to page eight. I think we left out a critical word in the document. Having said that, the document is made available to the Members. It sets out the way in which we to propose to follow a process of implementation on community transfer initiatives across the territories. We are going to take the approach that only those communities that express an interest will enter into discussions. Once we have a better idea of the general approach of interested communities and the kinds of resources that would be required to fund the discussions, we enter into discussions with those communities that express an interest. Then we will come back to the Legislature with a supp for money.

It is my hope that Members of the Legislature on the advice from the constituencies, will give us some idea of what they may require for their particular constituencies. That is one of the steps that will have to be taken early in the new year.

I think it is important to point out to Members that while we cannot expect ourselves as Ministers to respond to all 76 communities in the territories we hope to respond to as many as possible. Members should know that because of the number of sittings we have, the opportunity to meet all communities at a time when they are interested is not as flexible as we would like.

We have made contact with all the Gwich'in communities. We have had an initial talk with the community of Tuktoyaktuk. We have an invitation from Sachs Harbour which I hope to go into sometime in January. We are waiting for some definite dates from the Dogrib communities as to when they would like to have some preliminary discussions at a regional or community

Page 334

level. There has been a visit to Cape Dorset which requires some follow-up. We are trying to do that presently. There was an initial meeting in Pond Inlet,

again with some follow-up required. In some cases the communities have been specific. The interest in a number of communities is to work on community justice and to see what they can do to move in that specific area. As for other areas, we are looking at moving on housing, either taking over responsibility for the housing associations or the housing programs themselves.

We are looking at flushing out the complex areas of responsibility that are presently under Social Services. Many communities have expressed an interest to have a discussion without any prejudice to future dealings on what exactly is on the table, what is available for discussion and what information is available. Some communities have asked for very detailed information about specific dollar amounts that are related to the discussions. For instance, one community wanted to know how much it costs for an inmate to travel to Yellowknife and back and the daily cost of incarceration for an inmate, to have some idea what the figure might be if a proposal were developed for the community to take responsibility for inmates at the community or regional level. That is the status of the community transfer initiatives. We are trying to finish off the ones that were initiated years ago. For instance, in Norman Wells, they have had discussions now for four years about taking over the natural gas system and water and sewage. We hoped that this would be finalized initially by January. It is now scheduled for March because of some setbacks. We are trying to finish off the ones that we started in earlier years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind the Members that if they are going to pose a question that could require a long and detailed answer, they should consider using written questions because a long and detailed answer would take away the opportunity from the other Members to ask their questions. Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

MR. KOE:

Thank you. I asked the question. I did not expect a long and detailed answer. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated that communities have been in negotiations or have put in requests. I know of several communities up in the Mackenzie Delta, Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River, for instance, that have submitted

proposals to the Minister and his department. What is the Minister doing in terms of dealing with these communities that already have assumed some responsibilities? What action is being done to assist these communities at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, in the case of the communities in the Delta, we have not got an official invitation to deal with the community of Inuvik, but we had a request to meet with the chief and council of Inuvik. We had arranged that. The chief was weathered out that day. We had a brief one hour discussion with those people who were available. We gave them a commitment that we would come back on invitation to meet with the chief to begin the discussions at that level again.

We went to Fort McPherson and discussed the approach generally with the chief. We had some discussions for about three hours in the afternoon and another three or four hours in the evening at the public meeting. There, we were asked for specific information. Much of it was in the area of Justice and corrections. We undertook to provide that information. We were aware that the community was developing and was going to forward a proposal to the federal government on a justice project. We were asked if we could assist the community by doing what we could to make sure that the federal government responded in a reasonable time to the proposal. We said we would do that. We were asked if we could provide some interim money to support the work of the justice committee so that it could hire someone on an interim basis and provide some honorariums for the members who had been working on a volunteer basis for a great many months up until then. We agreed to do that at that time. We have since met that commitment. We took a comprehensive proposal from the Gwich'in Tribal Council and have had some discussions on possible approaches since then with the Gwich'in.

We had a meeting in Arctic Red River where the community brought to our attention that it had a surplus amount of money that was available to them since we had nothing of substance to transfer, because the community of Arctic Red River has very

few committed resources from this government. They asked if, since they already knew that we were going to say that we have no money, we could help them put the surplus to use the way they wanted. We made that commitment. We have worked with them since then, and I think that surplus has been made available for use the way that the community had asked in the first place. There has been an expression of appreciation from that community for some of the work we have done. We need to come back.

The last I checked with the Gwich'in leadership, they were non-committal, but they know that we are prepared to come back in January or February, whenever time is available, to make sure that the work we started is ongoing. We have indicated to them that we would be inviting those people who should be there, such as officials and M.L.A.s, to be present at that meeting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

In fairness, I have asked that the Members consider using written questions for complex questions. I also would ask the Ministers to try to be brief and concise with their responses. What we are trying to achieve is a balance between the questions and the responses, so that other Members and Ministers will have an opportunity to speak during question period. Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the community transfer initiative implementation plan, this initiative will be an open and cooperative process, co-directed by the government, communities and M.L.A.s. What do you expect from the

Page 335

M.L.A.s in terms of this plan? Do you expect us to approve it? What input do you expect from us?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 188-12(3): Status Of Community Implementation Plan

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I invite input from the M.L.A.s on whether or not they want to set a time to discuss this implementation plan, and whether it should be moved into Committee of the Whole or left as a tabled document. I expect that M.L.A.s will be commenting on the document and that communities will, perhaps, be commenting on this document also and getting back to us. If it requires some alteration it will be done. We want to make the communities aware that we are still pushing as much as we can with this priority. If communities are interested we will be prepared to make a commitment to travel into those communities to get discussions going. All M.L.A.s are encouraged to be part of this and to play whatever role they feel they should play. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 189-12(3): Renewable Resources Officer Position For Arctic Red River

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. The community of Arctic Red River has been requesting, as a result of the community transfer discussions, a renewable resources officer. Could the Minister inform me if a position has been identified for transfer to that particular community?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 189-12(3): Renewable Resources Officer Position For Arctic Red River

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 190-12(3): Social Worker Position For Arctic Red River

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. On the matter of community transfer initiatives, to the acting Minister of Social Services, the community of Arctic Red River has requested that

a social worker position be transferred as part of the community initiative project. Has that position been identified for transfer to the community of Arctic Red River?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 190-12(3): Social Worker Position For Arctic Red River

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to whom the requests were made to but to my knowledge there has been no position identified from Social Services at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

That was a new question. Supplementary to that question, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 190-12(3): Social Worker Position For Arctic Red River

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the Minister of Finance, if any positions that have been requested from the community of Arctic Red River have been identified in the community initiatives, including Economic Development and Tourism, or any positions for the purpose of transfer as a result of community initiative discussions? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 190-12(3): Social Worker Position For Arctic Red River

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 191-12(3): D.P.W. Discrimination Against Aboriginal People In Kitikmeot Region

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Personnel. The Members of this House are aware of my long standing concerns regarding the hiring practices of this government and its commitment to hiring aboriginal people at senior levels notwithstanding the Affirmative Action Policy. We all know that the aboriginal people are not adequately represented at the management level in this government. From discussions with the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Bernhardt, I know that these are issues in his region also. Recently, aboriginal employees of the Department of Public Works in Cambridge Bay have communicated their concerns that they are being discriminated against when promotions are made within the department, in favour of non-aboriginal employees who are not better qualified.

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of these serious concerns of aboriginal employees of the Department of Public Works in the Kitikmeot region regarding the department's apparent unequal treatment of aboriginal employees?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 191-12(3): D.P.W. Discrimination Against Aboriginal People In Kitikmeot Region

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there is a group of aboriginal employees in the Kitikmeot region who have a complaint laid before the Human Rights Commission. The complaint is that they have been discriminated against on the basis of race by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The complaint is not going to be dealt with by the Department of Personnel or by this government but by the Human Rights Commission.

Having said this, we are taking steps to address this for ourselves. We sent the Assistant Deputy Minister, Darryl Bohnet, into the Kitikmeot, yesterday, to tell us on what the situation and circumstances are with these employees, if there

Page 336

is any cause for concern on our part, if there is anything we can do and if there are any findings which should be brought to my attention as a Minister. These are serious allegations and there have been complaints raised by certain employees and the

M.L.A. for Kitikmeot, Mr. Bernhardt, over the last year or so. I felt that some effort should be made to send someone from senior management in there to assess the situation on a preliminary basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral Questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 192-12(3): Reinitiate Stone Quarrying In The North

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism initiated the use of southern stone for carvers a number of years ago. There is some concern from fine arts galleries that the stone brought in from the south is not marketable. I would like to know whether the department will reinitiate stone quarrying in the north en masse for carvers in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 192-12(3): Reinitiate Stone Quarrying In The North

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, there was some concern about the asbestos content of some of the stone in the Northwest Territories. While that was being examined stone was brought in from the south. We are interested in quarrying stone in the Northwest Territories and to that end, in Coppermine, there will be some quarrying this year, Mr. Speaker. So we are bringing that program back, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 192-12(3): Reinitiate Stone Quarrying In The North

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know when the department plans to continue with other communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 192-12(3): Reinitiate Stone Quarrying In The North

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we have been responding upon request. If there are requests from communities, then we respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 193-12(3): Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, during the 11th Assembly, my first question was directed to the then Minister of Justice in the House, in relationship to the Task Force on Justices of the Peace, a subject that was dear to my heart then and still is. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is only fitting that I return to the issue I first questioned in the 11th Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It has been four years now since the Task Force on Justices of the Peace completed its report and since the department began implementing those recommendations. Can the Minister advise this House as to whether the department has carried out an evaluation of these recommendations and how well those changes that they are making are working?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 193-12(3): Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, with five minutes notice, the Members might appreciate a little difference in the quality of the response that I am able to give to questions. The Member raises the question about the recommendations that were done in 1988 in what they call "The Justice of the Peace Review". I am advised that 12 recommendations were made and I will try to go through them to best I can.

On the first one, in trying to ensure some judicial independence for Justices of the Peace, the Justice of the Peace Act was proclaimed, just on November 2, last month, which ensures that there is some independence in the sense that Justices of the Peace are, I think, now appointed for life. So there are some measures taken to steer towards judicial independence for Justices of the Peace.

There was a recommendation that a Justice of the Peace Review Council be put in place, but it is not completely in place. The council we had included a representative of a Minister and a representative of the public. I guess there was a recent Court of Appeal decision that prevents us from making these appointments. So there is a hiccup in that recommendation, but there is a Justice of the Peace, a Chief Judge of the Supreme Court and a Territorial Court Judge on the council at this time. We do have at least a couple of vacancies.

We had another recommendation that deals with having some work done to ensure that judges could be assigned different levels of responsibility. We do have some ongoing work to make sure that judges get training, which is touched on in another area of the recommendations.

There was a recommendation on recruitments, appointments and the involvement of communities. That has been done.

We had another recommendation that said Justices of the Peace should be under the supervision of the territorial Court, and that recommendation has been done.

We had another one dealing with the discipline and removal of Justices of the Peace. The Chief Judge has that power under the Justices of the Peace Act to discipline and remove Justices of the Peace.

Another recommendation. You see, with a little bit of notice, it is good.

Page 337

---Laughter

There were some recommendations on a training program for Justices of the Peace. We have had an intensive training program for the last two years. Fifty five of the J.P.s are now trained at a trial level. We have 35 who are now trained at the sentencing level and 50 who are still at the basic level.

Another recommendation was that Justices of the Peace, as much as possible, should speak the aboriginal language of the community and the people they deal with. We should report that 40 per cent of the Justices of the Peace presently speak an aboriginal language and we have training under way in the aboriginal languages. So there is some movement. We have translations for documents that J.P.s ask for in the aboriginal languages. We try to help with interpreters and translations of other documents that they wish.

There was another recommendation on facilities and infrastructure that should be available for J.P. court. We are still working on it but not many use the same court spots as the territorial court circuits that come and visit. What else have we got here?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi. Excuse me, Mr. Kakfwi, I think I have brought to the attention of the House now on a number of occasions that according to the guidelines which have been circulated to all Members, a question must not require a lengthy and detailed answer, and when answering a question, a Minister must be brief. Now, the problem here is that two questions have taken up half of question period which is not fair to ordinary Members and it is not fair to other Ministers. So I will say that you have replied to the question and I will say, Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been a week of learning for me and I think the question I asked was whether or not an evaluation had been carried out to see how well these changes were working. That is the question I wanted to know. I have another question. The question was, had an evaluation been done to see how well they are working?

Further Return To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I think what I will offer to do is give the Member a written summary of the action taken to date

on the recommendations; the ones that I feel have been completed, those that we are having difficulties with, if any, and those that are still not complete. Perhaps I can sit with the Member if he wishes to decide how the work done to date should be assessed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all of the recommendations that have been made in the pilot task force, the Minister has recited quite a number of recommendations, but the one that I have not heard is the recommendation on the honorariums and the payments that were made or going to be made to the Justices of the Peace for long and dedicated work. Can the Minister tell me why there has been no move to increase payments for Justices of the Peace in four years since this report has been tabled?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on this recommendation, I know that there is a proposal presently being made to increase the honorarium fees and hourly rates. We have yet to respond to that. There is a proposal presently before us which needs to be acted on. As to why it has taken this long, I am unable to answer the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. This is your last supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for those remarks, but I would like to know when this important recommendation is going to be undertaken. Can he tell me when he will target it for?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 193-12(3):
Recommendations Of Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which way it would operate, whether I would have to get approval for an actual dollar amount before I could implement the rates that I would approve or whether I would approve the rates and then go after the money and hope I would get it. If I knew I could get the money, I would approve the rates very quickly. Either way, I think I could make a commitment to work on this and make sure there is a resolution to this recommendation in the next few months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 194-12(3): Re-examination Of Community Resupply Program

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. In 1986, a decision was made by the Cabinet of the day to restrict the transportation of material goods and have communities supplied by one company. This was done to ensure that the community resupply programs throughout the western Arctic were maintained. Since that time, the economic situation of the Northwest Territories has developed to the point where there

Page 338

are other companies capable of providing this essential service. Would the Minister tell me what steps his department has taken to re-examine this decision in light of the changing economic and business situations in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 194-12(3): Re-examination Of Community Resupply Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have instructed my department to look at that policy. I know that the Town Council of Fort Simpson has raised the issue with us. There are other businesses in that area that are interested in supplying materials on the river system. We are going to look at the policy to see if it is outdated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 194-12(3): Re-examination Of Community Resupply Program

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary. Is the Minister prepared to advise the Cabinet that general conditions should be changed to allow other interested companies the opportunity to bid on a contract for community resupply, particularly in the western Arctic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 194-12(3): Re-examination Of Community Resupply Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I see the policy and understand all the issues surrounding it, then I will make a decision and advise the Cabinet accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 195-12(3): Location Of Premier

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally, the Premier advises the House as to ministerial travel, who is away and where they are. I would like to direct this

question to the Government House Leader. I would like to find out where our Premier is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 195-12(3): Location Of Premier

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it was an oversight on my part and I apologize to the House. Madame Premier is in Fort Smith at a luncheon with the Member for Thebacha. They will be returning at 2:30 p.m. I was told, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 196-12(3): Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have a letter that was sent out in the Yukon with regard to activities relating to trappers. I would like to ask the Minister if he has, at any time, communicated with the previous Minister of Renewable Resources and with the Yukon on the joint effort of addressing the matter of trap replacement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 196-12(3): Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Not only did I discuss with the previous Minister, Mr. Webster, the need to combat the animal rights movement with regard to furbearers' trapping, we also discussed at the national meeting of Wildlife Ministers how we should implement the trapping exchange program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 196-12(3): Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister of Renewable Resources if he is aware that the Government of Yukon will be introducing their new laws for trapping next October 1, 1993?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 196-12(3):
Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

No, Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that. I would like to thank the Member for that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 196-12(3):
Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be tabling the letter to all trappers that was sent out in the Yukon, for the information of the Members of the House. Could I ask the Minister if he could contact the Yukon government to see if he could coordinate the matter of trap replacement with it so that it will accommodate those trappers both in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories who harvest resources in both jurisdictions?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 196-12(3):
Communication With Yukon Re Trap Replacement

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Page 339

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question 12-12(3), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Renewable Resources, concerning the status of the Ingraham Trail "No Hunting" Corridor.

Return To Written Question 12-12(3): Status Of The
Ingraham Trail "No Hunting" Corridor

The following responses are provided regarding the regulation which prohibits individuals from hunting within the corridor along the Ingraham Trail:

1. Eight written warnings have been issued under the Special Management Area (S.M.A.) Regulations, Section 4, which states that "No person shall discharge a firearm for the purposes of hunting big game within Special Management Area F/1-b during the period commencing November 1 in one year and ending April 30 in the following year." All eight warnings were issued this fall;

2. No charges have been laid under the summary conviction procedures regulations for offenses under the S.M.A. regulations, Section 4; and

3. Since no charges have been laid, no one has proceeded to trial.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, Petitions. Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Dent.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL
COMMITTEES

Committee Report 5-12(3): Special Committee On
Health And Social Services, Interim Report No. 3

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, I have a report from the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. This is the third interim report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. During the two months since our last report, we have concentrated our efforts on gathering information. We held our first regional consultation, spending a week listening to peoples' concerns and suggestions in the Keewatin. We have started our major research project with the front line worker telephone survey now under way. This report outlines our activities and summarizes the issues raised with us by the people of the Keewatin. The last

section includes recommendations which are based on what we have heard.

Our activities thus far, Mr. Speaker, include the front line worker survey, and telephone calls to workers across the N.W.T. which are now being made as we survey staff in front line roles in social services, alcohol and drug projects and community health. In this first round of interviews we are focusing our questions on workers' needs and job stresses as well as their perceptions of community issues. Committee Members spent the week of November 9 to 13, 1992, meeting with people in the Keewatin. The Members visited three communities, one in each constituency as selected by the local M.L.A. A great deal of planning went into ensuring that we offered a variety of opportunities for people to talk with us. Public and private meetings were arranged and two popular education workshops were organized.

We began the week in Rankin Inlet on Monday with meetings with both the health board and the Chamber of Commerce. On Tuesday three Members participated in an all day consultation with the elders' committee. Two others sat in on the first day of our regional workshop on alcohol issues involving representatives from the alcohol and drug programs in communities which were not on our itinerary. That evening we held a well attended public meeting, where we heard presentations from both individuals and community groups.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday I flew to Baker Lake and Fred Koe and John Ningark went to Repulse Bay. Co-Chair Richard Nerysoo and Ludy Pudluk stayed behind in Rankin Inlet to continue with the alcohol workshop and to meet with the Keewatin Regional Council. On Thursday, those in Rankin Inlet hosted a youth workshop, wrapping up their meetings on Friday with staff from the health centre and the Department of Social Services.

In Repulse Bay meetings were held with the social assistance committee, the health committees, health centre staff, the community education council, the hamlet council and senior students from Tusarvik School. On Thursday night over 36 people took time away from celebrating the success of the Nunavut ratification vote and, braving the room's stifling heat, shared their concerns and ideas at our public meeting.

In Baker Lake, meetings were held with the health committee, the inter-agency group and with local elders. On Thursday night a public meeting was held

in conjunction with the local M.L.A. Over 100 people attended. On Friday morning I participated in the opening ceremonies of a regional youth conference.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our trip to the Keewatin we heard from a broad cross section of people: consumers, service providers, politicians and others. They all freely shared their concerns and ideas about their needs and various aspects of the delivery of health and social services. Some took advantage of the presence of M.L.A.s to speak on other issues as well. People spoke of the need for political leaders to be positive role models. Others wanted assurance that M.L.A.s would take action on the concerns raised by the public.

Mr. Speaker, I quote a front line worker, "We are hoping that the work of your committee does not end up with the rest of the work we have done, somewhere in the recommendations, which are ignored or put on the back burner indefinitely." Mr. Speaker, this section provides an overview of what we heard. We have organized the input, where possible, according to the target group that they primarily apply to: elders; children and youth; alcohol and drug abuse.

In almost every workshop and public meeting held in the Keewatin we were told of the importance of elders in the communities. As a link to the past, elders represent the heart and sole of the culture. They are looked upon with great respect and can be a great resource to others in their

Page 340

communities. Elders and others reminded us about the contribution they can make by passing on their traditional skills to young people. Some saw elders as a part of community efforts to help families and young people in crises. Interested elders could work with trained counsellors, each learning skills from the other. Such collaboration would make the help offered more relevant and effective to those in need of healing. Speakers expressed concern that not enough is done for elders. An example given was there are not enough volunteers to assist elders with daily tasks, such as shopping, snow shovelling or filling in government forms. People also spoke of the difficulties elders have in getting around their communities. Some suggested the need for home care services to help elders live independently as long as possible.

Many people expressed anxiety over the lack of residential facilities for the elderly in the region. The lack of interpreters and distance from families and friends led to communication and isolation problems for elders sent outside the region for treatment. These difficulties added weight to the call for the development of appropriate health care facilities within the region so that elders could be treated more effectively and closer to home. Mr. Speaker, I quote the Mayor of Rankin Inlet, Paul Kaludjak, "We would like our elders to remain in our community. Sometimes they require professional help that the family cannot provide. This creates family separation, unnecessary loneliness and confusion, as a result of moving away for care. This situation does not show respect to the elders and is very pitiful and unnecessary."

Mr. Speaker, people also raised the issue of the need for more timely medical intervention. Some speakers told us of sick elders being sent home from the nursing station with an incorrect diagnosis. When a correct diagnosis was later made, often it was too late for a full recovery. Elders complained of not being given preventative medical attention. Many elders also talked about the enormous burden of trying to care for themselves on the pensions which they receive. Due to high local costs of food and other goods they described their frustration at being unable to care for dependent adult children or to feed visiting grandchildren. With little money and no longer being able to hunt, they told us how difficult it is to provide for themselves let alone other family members in need.

The next section, Mr. Speaker, has to do with children and youth. Through their discussions, committee Members also discovered the importance placed on children and youth throughout the region. While the elders hold the wisdom of the past, the children and youth represent the promise of the future. Unfortunately, many speakers saw the future holding very little promise for many young people. They expressed grave concerns about the difficult issues which confront young people on a daily basis. A number of speakers identified the lack of jobs in their community as being a major obstacle to the healthy development of young people. Without the possibility of employment they noted that there is little incentive for young people to stay in school. Without a complete education which encompasses areas such as family violence, mental health, nutrition, sexual education, substance abuse and traditional lifestyles,

young people see little hope of avoiding a life on social assistance.

Many observers felt that the connection between elders and youth must be strengthened. This must be done not only to ensure that traditions and language survive, but also to help young people to see options other than alcohol and solvent abuse and suicide. Speakers also saw a role for elders to help communities respond appropriately and effectively to young people breaking the law. Participants recommended increasing the resources being put into prevention initiatives such as sex education, including birth control and sexually transmitted diseases, such as H.I.V. or A.I.D.S.

With regard to education about sniffing and alcohol abuse the importance of education and increasing the variety of extra curricular activities was stressed. One speaker expressed her opposition to the fact that abortions and tubal ligations are free but the reversal of tubal ligation for a woman who wanted to have a baby would cost over \$4,000.

At our youth workshop held in Rankin Inlet we heard from young people that they were bored. They say the lack of interesting activities and facilities are a contributing factor in many of their problems. With little hope of employment and nothing outside of school to keep them occupied, some youths talked about the difficulty of staying away from drugs and alcohol.

There was also a great deal of discussion on the issue of family violence and child abuse. The young speakers were concerned about the impact on the children and youth of today as well as the possible long-term ramifications for the entire community if treatment is not available now for victims. There were calls from some participants that family violence and child abuse must be brought into the open if the problem is to be dealt with properly.

Mr. Speaker, I quote Martha Grey, who appeared in front of us in Baker Lake. She said, "Let us talk about it now. Let us not be shy anymore. It will work out better if we talk about it now. It can be a very heavy project so let us start opening up." Again, there was talk of the need for proper facilities and programs for the region. For example, the available family violence shelter beds are not enough to meet the current demands. People also expressed concern over the lack of counselling available for men who are violent.

Mr. Speaker, the next section of our report deals with what we heard regarding alcohol and drugs. On the theme of alcohol and drugs, the speaker felt that political leaders should be positive role models. They felt that there should be increased regional and community involvement in planning and delivering programs. A number of people describe sniffing or solvent abuse as a problem in their communities.

There was a general call by participants at our regional addictions workshop that Inuit treatment models and a regional treatment centre must be developed. Together, these steps were seen as an important step in improving the effectiveness of treatment for people in the Keewatin.

Currently, all treatment beds are outside the region. A regional centre would enable clients to get help much closer to home cutting travel costs and facilitating after care.

Workshop participants were concerned about the lack of resources. They emphasized the need for more money to improve programs and wages. They called for the better

Page 341

utilization of resources and for providing increased personal and professional support for care givers.

The next section of our report deals with what we heard regarding social assistance. Throughout the Keewatin we heard concerns related to the various aspects of the Social Assistance Program. Many recipients described the great difficulties of trying to survive on the limited amount money that they received. All called for increased social assistance rates. Recipients shared their feelings of low self-confidence and self-worth. Many talked about the hopelessness of getting off the system.

There were comments made about the need to provide money for hunting expenses and not to take away people's earnings from carving or sewing. Speakers told us that clothing allowances were not enough to buy adequate winter clothing, others expressed confusion over social assistance payment options including supplier written cheques and priced monthly payments. The need for more flexibility and recovering costs associated with people's special needs was often raised.

Mr. Speaker, we heard a lot about care givers' concerns. Front line workers shared openly the

challenges they experience as they serve their clients. In combination they add up to a reduced capacity to help at a time of increased demand. Many workers talked about their frustration at the lack of communication between themselves and staff from other agencies, departments or with their own senior management. They shared with us the stress that they experience due to the amount and kind of demand that their jobs entailed. They spoke of the personal toll that working in this area takes on them. They asked for more support and training to reduce burnout and high staff turnover. They spoke of being unable to respond to clients' needs because of lack of money or time or because of policy limitations. Many talked about feeling chronically short staffed. When co-workers leave their vacant positions are often unfilled for long periods of time. This adds to the already gruelling work load for those who remain. Such vacancies lead to demands on the remaining pool of front line workers to deal with situations which are completely outside their mandate and training.

One example involves nursing station staff being called out to respond to a domestic situation involving alcohol because there were no R.C.M.P. officers stationed in the community and the by-law officer only worked days. As members of the public start to deal with personal issues such as family violence, addictions and or sexual abuse, they look for help to heal. This results in an increased demand which, in combination with the overload faced by front line workers, negatively affects the quality of service received. Speakers specifically called for nurses' benefits to be improved and for more good housing in order to provide incentive for nurses to stay longer. Some suggested the creation of pharmaceutical technician and clerical administration physicians to free up more nursing hours for the benefit of patients. People also wanted more social services workers.

Mr. Speaker, the special committee also heard from a number of people who called for the development of the comprehensive child care system. They told us that making a day care or other child care services available in the community would have many benefits. It would create child care jobs and enable single parents to either continue their education or seek employment. The availability of organized child care would also lessen the burden on family members, such as elders and teenagers, currently pressed into servicing that role. We heard that many young women missed a considerable amount of school babysitting younger siblings.

Keewatin residents said that they wanted to see more education and prevention programs. People felt that most problems could be reduced or prevented through community based and developed prevention programs. In health some said that this could be accomplished by letting C.H.R.s concentrate on the prevention work they are trained for or by hiring full-time public health nurses.

As mentioned earlier, we were told that prevention should be more of a priority in responding to many different social issues. Many services already have some element of prevention. Taking children into foster care at least temporarily prevents further harm coming to them at home. A crises line volunteer listening to a suicidal person could help them choose life. What people wanted was more help available to people before they were in a major crisis. They wanted people to be able to find help sooner rather than later.

One example centred around the issue of family violence. People spoke passionately about the need for counselling for all family members, victims and offenders. To rid families and communities of this painful and costly problem means working with everyone effectively. Offenders need to learn non-violent ways of dealing with their feelings and explore how they learned to be violent. Women and children need support as they try to heal from their pain. Everyone needs to heal.

Respite care was also presented as a preventative service. People caring for family members with special needs asked for occasional breaks from those responsibilities. They wanted a free morning to buy groceries or a weekend off now and then. Such breaks would enable them to continue to provide care and prevent the need to place the family member in an institution.

Improving the quality and number of housing units was also seen as a preventative measure, reducing the stresses of overcrowding or eliminating the health risks associated with such conditions.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of recommendations from our trip to the Keewatin region. The things the people of Keewatin told us they wanted were the basics. They said that they needed to warmly clothe and house their loved ones, to keep themselves and their families and to provide some support and care for those with special needs. They wanted jobs or some help in carrying on with their carving or hunting. What follows are the recommendations that emerged

from what people shared with us. As we reviewed our notes, meeting transcripts and the written presentation submitted, certain compelling issues emerged. Some of these are reflected below in the recommendations. As this was our first regional confrontation, we will wait for more information from our research or from our later consultations before drafting recommendations on other issues.

Page 342

First of all, we must talk and work together. We heard many different and sometimes conflicting views as to how people's needs could best be met. This is not particularly surprising given the cross-section of people we met with, each with his own perspective on what was wrong and how it could be fixed. It points to the need for widespread participation in stating their personal and community needs, brainstorming solutions and determining local priorities. Such a process will be the key to coming up with a shared vision and plan from the more scattered views held now. This participation must be more than consultation, more than asking for people's input while hanging on tightly to the power to make the final decisions. The process must be a collaborative one if it is truly to live up to our northern tradition of seeking consensus. In particular, specific steps must be taken to ensure that the people with the most at stake, those who consume and deliver the services, are invited to be active participants throughout the process. To best understand needs and consider how best to address them, needs the pooled expertise of such a partnership. The long-term impact of any intervention requires it.

People who use health and social services and those who work in those services must be active partners with the public and politicians in planning, delivering and evaluating such services. They must, therefore, be partners in the process of transferring control of services to communities.

The second recommendation concerns the amalgamation of health and social services. Mr. Speaker, often when we met with staff from either of these two departments, someone would ask us for information about the upcoming merger of the two departments. The staff look to us for answers. They had heard nothing official from anyone to counteract the rumours or to allay their fears of what might happen to them, their clients or their co-workers. Coupled with the ongoing stresses involved in working with people, the resulting uncertainty contributes to staff burnout and turnover. This is

something all of us pay for, especially those who are most vulnerable, the clients.

Those people in charge of this process do not appear to be sharing this information with anyone, in spite of their own rhetoric. Reshaping northern government says that the implementation plan includes consulting with, and I quote, "affected staff on page 5." Based on what we heard in the Keewatin, this has not yet happened, nor has there been any announcement of how or when it might. All of this is rather frightening, given that the implementation timetable calls for amalgamation effective April 1, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, the department staff have valuable ideas on how things can be improved. Their insight comes from their daily experiences with the current system, seeing first hand what works and what does not. Many have shared those ideas with Members of our committee. They told us about being both optimistic and fearful of the amalgamation. Fear was expressed that one department would take over the other or that the move would not necessarily result in cooperation among various programs. On the other hand, they were optimistic about the prospect of being able to offer more holistic services to consumers, ones that help them meet more of their health and social needs.

The government projects that amalgamation will result in, "improved coordination and efficiency in responding to the user-driven needs." Their expectations of this departmental union are very high, yet they have not even started to talk to the people who will be the ones making it work. How can a government hope that this rushed arranged marriage will succeed with the wedding day fast approaching, when neither partner has yet been introduced to the other.

The government is also silent on how it is going to determine user or consumer needs. In outlining its approach to this task of reshaping government, it does not specifically list consumers of services among those to be consulted. Despite this apparent oversight it still sees an amalgamated department better serving the needs of consumers. How it plans to do this successfully without talking to either staff or consumers is, quite frankly, a puzzle.

The special committee, therefore, recommends that the government start working together with health and social services staff and clients to hear and make use of their respective ideas in any integration or

amalgamation of the two departments. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Nerysoo will conclude this report.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the most frequent concern voiced to us was about some aspects of the Social Assistance Program. Most stated that the money they got was not enough. The shortfall was acutely felt by those recipients who did not hunt. This is not surprising. As we pointed out in our last report, the social assistance food allowance is only enough to pay about 60 per cent of the cost of buying a nutritious supply of food for families in the Northwest Territories.

We reaffirm our call for a major overhaul of the way financial assistance is provided to the Northwest Territories residents. While these long-term fundamental changes are being considered, specific adjustments still need to be made immediately. Action is needed to respond to people's concerns about not being able to meet their family's basic needs. People need to be able to provide enough good food for their families, and they can be helped to do this in a number of ways.

The key is a flexible approach geared to a client's situation, one of providing more money to buy food or to purchase supplies or gas to go out on the land to harvest it.

People need to be able to properly clothe their families. Speakers made it clear that the current clothing allowances are not enough to buy suitable clothing at local prices. Our climate demands that people be properly clothed.

People need to be encouraged to earn money. The current earned income exemption provision appears to have the opposite effect. Clients told us that they did not see any point in earning money beyond the exemption amount as it only reduced their social assistance benefits by the same amount. To avoid the penalty, some risk prosecution by lying about their earnings. Many people seem to be confused about what percentage of their earnings from carvings or from handicrafts

they needed to claim. This aspect of the Social Assistance Program needs to be structured so that the client is better off if he works. The client should always keep at least some portion of every dollar earned.

Programs need to be more understandable to those who seek help. We came across clients who thought they were not eligible for certain benefits or payment options. We checked and found they were eligible. The complexity of the program and the work load of the workers combine to limit chances to clarify such misunderstandings. One such example is the provision of seasonal clothing for children whose parents receive social assistance and who move to another community to continue school. The child is deleted from the parents' social assistance budget because he or she is not living at home. The Department of Education pays for the student's room and board but not the student's clothing needs.

If the student is at least 16, she can apply or he can apply for her own or his own social assistance. If he or she qualifies, he or she becomes eligible for a seasonal clothing allowance after three months on a pro-rated basis of a certain amount monthly. So what does the student do if it is November? Can he or she wait three months to get a warm coat? I doubt very much if she can, or he can.

From what we heard, the Social Assistance Program is complex and confusing to clients. Ways must be found for clients to thread their way successfully through the maze and get the help that they need.

One other aspect, the Social Assistance Manual, from our experience, should be in the language, in this particular case in the Nunavut area, in Inuktitut. With access to support and counselling, there needs to be more access to help people trying to cope with those things that make their lives difficult if not unbearable and unlivable.

On the matter of respite care, people need some relief from their responsibilities of caring for relatives with special needs. Some parents of mentally handicapped adults or children wanted to be able to turn over the care giver job to a home care or a day care worker.

Others talked of wanting a group home or a long-term care facility for temporary or permanent placement of their family member with special needs. The committee recommends that the government review the proposed respite care policy developed by the

Northwest Territories Council for Disabled Persons and move to implement it.

On the matter of the community council, people need to be able to seek help for personal and family crises within their own community. Those with whom we spoke pointed out the costs of failing to meet this need in terms of continued family breakdown and violence and suicide. Flying therapists in or flying clients out for intense week long sessions is expensive and benefits only a few, due to the costs involved. Services need to be available within a community. People need ongoing support as they try to heal themselves and their families. As many pointed out to us, elders and other care giving community members can play an effective role in helping people heal. There are those who focus on the use of local para-professionals, with support and training from skilled regional specialists, have been used in the Northwest Territories to offer this support. What is needed to ensure success is the staff and the financial resources to ensure that the helpers are adequately trained and supported in their work. If they are to continue to be helpful, those who listen to people and share their pain, must in turn have someone who supports and listens to them. The committee, therefore, urges the government to look into a pilot project involving provision of para-professional counselling at the community level. The project must include the provision of ongoing training and support to community care givers to ensure maximum benefits. An evaluation component needs to be built in to ensure that assessments can be made as to the success of the initiative.

In this report we have presented the major concerns of those whom we met in the Keewatin. We have recommended action for those concerns which seem particularly compelling. Some refer to shifting to more inclusive approaches to assessing needs planning and delivering services that involve staff and consumers. These are shifts that we see as necessary if we are to be effective in responding to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Other recommendations call for immediate policy changes or expansion of programs to make them more responsive to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. In order to achieve our committee's overall goals, much more information needs to be gathered for our committee's database. It will come from our remaining regional consultations and research projects. This additional information will support and expand on what we have heard and

recommended, as well as giving rise to other recommendations.

Our next regional consultation will occur from January 25 to 29, 1993, in the communities in Nahendeh, Deh Cho and in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion To Move Committee Report 5-12(3) To Committee Of The Whole

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the third interim report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife, Frame Lake, that the third interim report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services be received by the Assembly and moved into the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

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

Committee Report No. 5-12(3), Special Committee on Health and Social Services, is ordered into the Committee of the Whole. We will take a short break.

---SHORT BREAK

Page 344

MR. SPEAKER: I call this Assembly back to order. We are dealing with Item 10, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Koe.

Committee Report 6-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Report On The Proposed Elimination Of The Board Of Directors For The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, on the proposed elimination of the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has completed its review of a proposal to eliminate the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and replace it with an alternative framework for ensuring public input into senior management and policy decisions on housing. This review was undertaken in response to a written request from the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

The standing committee met on several occasions to review the rationale and substance of the Minister's plan. The standing committee expressed concern that some of the reasons indicated by the Minister for eliminating the board were inappropriate. Arguments that boards and agencies are inconsistent with the concept of ministerial government or that decisions to eliminate government created boards and agencies should be made solely on the basis of the "Strength at Two Levels" report cannot be supported.

Similarly, the standing committee finds that the assumption that significant cost savings will always be realized through the elimination of boards to be dubious. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was of the opinion that decisions respecting the elimination of boards and agencies should occur only when there is evidence that the existing structure is not working well and would be improved by an alternative approach.

Upon reviewing the situation surrounding the Board of Directors within the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions came to the conclusion that the existing structure did contain many inefficiencies and presented an ineffective and uneconomic approach to managing housing programs. Accordingly, the standing committee gave support to the Minister's proposal to eliminate the Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, in doing so however, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was mindful of the need to ensure that there is adequate public input from the community level into

policy development within the Housing Corporation. Therefore, the elimination of the Board of Directors was considered conditional on the development of some alternative mechanism for ensuring appropriate consultation and communication with community leadership and stakeholders.

At the request of the standing committee the Minister brought forward a comprehensive plan from a framework that would facilitate a new approach to community consultation. The Minister proposed that a system of annual district meetings should be implemented and that, in addition, annual public meetings should be held in each community. Increased consultation with local housing organizations and with local governments are also planned.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was supportive of these plans and has recommended that they should be initiated during the 1993-94 fiscal year. To ensure that public input is transmitted to and appropriately dealt with at senior management levels, the Minister proposed the establishment of a Special Advisory Committee on Housing, with a membership of seven M.L.A.s. While there are a significant number of concerns about the proposed structure and mandate of the special advisory committee, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was generally supportive of the principle. The standing committee has recommended that the Minister proceed with his plans to establish such a body but recognized that many specific details would need to be discussed when the Minister brings forward his formal motion to establish a committee and its terms of reference.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has found that there are definite merits to the Minister's plan to eliminate the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, provided that the board is replaced with the proposed consultation framework. The standing committee has recommended that the Minister proceed with this plan and that the Executive Council provide a comprehensive response to all recommendations in this report within 120 days. Mr. Speaker, that concludes my introductory remarks to this report.

Motion To Move Committee Report 5-12(3) To Committee Of The Whole

Therefore, I would like to move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the report of

the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on the Proposed Elimination of the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation be received and moved into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order, Mr. Koe.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Committee Report 6-12(3), Report on the Proposed Elimination of the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall be put into the Committee of the Whole. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Antoine.

Page 345

Committee Report 7-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Report On The Proposed Elimination Of The Student Financial Assistance Board

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I have a report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. It is a report on the proposed elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board.

MR. SPEAKER:

Please proceed, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has on occasion received requests from Cabinet Ministers to comment on certain government initiatives. This is very much in keeping with the spirit of the consensus style government which offers greater opportunity for a collaborative approach between the Executive

Council and standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee priorities for the current fiscal year were established early in the first session when it tabled its work plan on Committee Report 3-12(1). In addition to these, however, the standing committee also agreed to respond during the third session to requests from the Executive Council for input respecting the proposed elimination of three boards. The current report comments on the standing committee's review of a plan advanced by the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs, to eliminate the Student Financial Assistance Board.

Further reports will deal with the request for input regarding the Denendeh Conservation Board and the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions received correspondence on January 8, 1992, from the former deputy minister of Education indicating the department's intent to dissolve the Student Financial Assistance Board and requesting committee consideration of these plans. The standing committee met on March 24, 1992 and agreed to review the Minister's initiative.

Throughout this review the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions has focused on the following aspects: the history of the development of the Student Financial Assistance Board; the rationale for considering elimination of the board; and, the development of an alternative framework for ensuring appropriate levels of community and particularly student input into student financial assistance policies and decisions. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions completed the review of this matter on its meeting of October 27, 1992. The committee wishes to acknowledge the cooperation received from the Minister and his officials in responding to requests for information over the course of the review.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was aware that there has been a long history of the use of management and advisory boards within the Student Financial Assistance Program. These have been established under the Student Financial Assistance Act and regulations made under that act. Between 1982 and 1989, four regional boards held statutory duties to review applications for student financial assistance to determine the eligibility of applicants and to make

recommendations to a central review board. This system proved cumbersome and inefficient, and decisions were often delayed on students' applications that had arrived after the formal meetings of the boards.

The former Minister of Education, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, introduced amendments to the Student Financial Assistance Act which were granted assent on April 11, 1989. The former Minister provided the Committee of the Whole in the 11th Assembly with the following explanation of the proposals and rationale of these amendments, "The amendment will eliminate the regional student financial assistance boards and the Student Financial Assistance Review Board. It will establish a Student Financial Assistance Board, which will be an advisory to the Minister on all matters related to Student Financial Assistance Programs. The board will not be involved in the day to day operations of the program."

While it was felt at the time that this new board format would provide advice to the Minister and departmental administration, the fact is that it has met only once since the members were appointed in July, 1990. Although the members of the board have maintained a continuing commitment to their responsibilities, the advisory input from the board has actually been very limited. No specific recommendations have been forwarded to the Minister and the Minister has made no formal requests for board comments. This may be due to the fact that the Student Financial Assistance Program has now been in place for ten years and there have been plenty of precedents and policies accepted and approved by the Minister which already provide effective guidelines for administration of the program.

The department has recommended to the Minister that the Student Financial Assistance Board should be disbanded and that the Student Financial Assistance Act and the regulations should be amended to delete the board.

In reviewing this proposal, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was originally concerned with the need to ensure that appropriate mechanisms were in place to ensure that the department receives community input on the student financial assistance policy. Recognizing the special challenges often faced by northern students who decide to pursue a post-secondary education, it was felt that a priority should be placed on ensuring that the student financial assistance policy is developed in the clearest and most effective terms. This cannot

take place, in the view of the standing committee, without ensuring the appropriate representation of regional interest.

At the request of the standing committee, the Minister provided additional information which demonstrated that other channels of communication have already opened up which offer more effective input on student needs or policy deficiencies that the Student Financial Assistance Board has not been able to provide. These include direct contact with the growing number of student associations on southern campuses and at all Arctic College locations. Individual students have demonstrated that they are comfortable in bringing forward concerns and policy questions to departmental personnel, the Minister or the M.L.A.

Page 346

Recommendations about any necessary program management revisions can be generated by the Standing Committees on Finance or Public Accounts, the Auditor General of Canada and/or the territorial Audit Bureau.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recognizes that the existing board structure is not performing its essential advisory function and it is not the most effective mechanism for providing community level input at the present time. As such, the standing committee agreed to the Minister's proposal to eliminate the Student Financial Assistance Board.

Therefore, the committee recommends that the Minister proceed with the proposed elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board and, further, that the Minister should introduce the corresponding amendments to the Student Financial Assistance Act during the Third Session of the 12th Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was also of the opinion that the Legislative Assembly should continue to be advised of the department's progress in this regard.

Therefore this committee recommends that in accordance with rule 90(4), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to the recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House. Mahsi.

Motion To Move Committee Report 7-12(3) To Committee Of The Whole

Mr. Speaker, that concludes our report on this matter now. Therefore, I would like to move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, on the proposed elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board be received and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order, Mr. Antoine.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Committee Report 7-12(3), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report on the Proposed Elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board, put into Committee of the Whole. Reports on Standing and Special Committees. Item 11, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bills 4, 5, 6 and 11 and wishes to report that Bills 5, 6 and 11 are now ready for Committee of the Whole and that Bill 4 is now ready for Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 66(5) and have Bills 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 moved into Committee of the Whole today.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Pursuant to Rule 66(3) on the order of the Assembly, Bills 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 are ordered into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 29-12(3), amended page 8 of Tabled Document 18-12(3), Community Transfer Initiative Implementation Plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 30-12(3), a booklet published by the Northwest Territories Literacy Council, entitled "I Remember", a collection of short stories written by northerners.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 32, Subsection 3 of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 31-12(3), a list of funds transferred exceeding \$250,000 for the period March 23, 1992, to November 19, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Tabling of Documents. Item 13, Notices of Motion. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 8-12(3): Extended Adjournment Of The House

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, December 10, 1992, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that when the House adjourns on Thursday, December 10, 1992, it shall be adjourned until February 17, 1993;

And further, that at any time prior to February 17, 1993, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with Executive Council and Members of the

Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at any earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Notices of motion. Mr. Morin.

Page 347

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed please, Mr. Morin.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 32-12(3), a letter to all Yellowknife M.L.A.s and the M.L.A. for Inuvik, concerning the decision to waive the five per cent local preference on the tender for the Legislative Assembly's furniture. I promised Mr. Dent I would table this letter, so I am.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Notices of motion. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 9-12(3): Campaign Of The International Fund For Animal Welfare

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, December 10, 1992, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that this Legislative Assembly express its outrage at the campaign and tactics of the International Fund for Animal Welfare and other animal welfare organizations and the potentially

devastating effects of this campaign on northern people, their economy and way of life;

And further, that this Legislative Assembly urge the Government of Canada to restore full funding to the Fur Industry Defence Program and from it, continue to support Indigenous Survival International so that the defence of the Canadian fur industry in Europe and elsewhere may be supported and continued. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, Notices of Motion. Item 14, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday December 10, 1992 I shall move that Bill 16, Norman Wells Natural Gas Distribution System Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 14, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Motions. Item 16, First Reading of Bills. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Item 18, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), "The Justice House" Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Committee Report 3-12(3), Final Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform; Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93; Appearance of the Languages Commission; Committee Report 5-12(3), Special Committee and Health Social Services, Interim Report No. 3; Committee Report 6-12(3), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report on the Proposed Elimination of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; Committee Report 7-12(3), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report on the Proposed Elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board; and, Bill 2; Bill 4; Bill 5; Bill 6; Bill 7 and Bill 11, with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come to order. We have a number of items to deal with in this committee. When we concluded yesterday we were dealing with Bill 14. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to conclude Bill 14 and deal with the standing and special committees' reports and Bill 2, Bill 7 and any other bills after.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of this committee to deal with those items as stated by the Member?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yesterday, we concluded with most of Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93, but we are still on page eight, finance, operations and maintenance, tax and administration. Mr. Antoine.

Tax And Administration

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday we were dealing with Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93. On page eight, under the activity tax and administration to provide start-up funding in .3 person years with the implementation of the payroll tax for \$155,000. I am concerned that this particular item is going to be implemented before the Payroll Tax Act is approved. I was considering deleting it, therefore I have a motion Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Proceed with your motion.

Committee Motion 47-12(3): To Delete \$155,000 From Tax Administration, Department Of Finance

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the detail of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93, for the program financed under the activity tax and administration in the amount of \$155,000 be deleted. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Your motion is in order, it is in written form and is translated in the appropriate language. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

Page 348

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion please signify? All those opposed? We have a tie in this motion. I guess it is up to the Chair to decide. I say the motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Patterson, point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, Point of Order, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was a parliamentary practice that the Chair of the Committee of the Whole rules against a motion in the case of a tie. I am not seeking to challenge your decision, Mr. Chairman, but I want to ask you if my understanding of parliamentary practice is correct. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

No, it is my understanding that as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, I exercise my right to break the tie and that is what I did.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

On page eight of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, now the total under the amount not

previously authorized is zero, tax administration at zero. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I understand that we have concluded the details of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1992-93. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the numbers going to change by \$155,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Of course, they have to. Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause on Bill 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 14, clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The schedule part one, vote two, capital, total capital \$1.252 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Part two, vote one, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance \$9.025 million. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 48-12(3): To Adopt Bill 14, As Amended

MR. ANTOINE:

I move, that the schedule to Bill 14 be amended:

a) in part two by striking out vote one, item four;

b) in part two by reducing the amounts set out as the total operation and maintenance by \$155,000 to \$8.870 million; and

Page 349

c) by reducing the amount set out as the total supplementary appropriation in part one and part two by \$155,000 to \$10,122 million.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Part two, vote one, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance \$8.870 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation in part one and part two is \$10.122 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill as amended as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 14 is ready for third reading as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we deal with Committee Report 3-12(3), Final Report of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 3-12(3): Final Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi, do you have any opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Members know, we have submitted our report as a special committee. We are prepared to answer any questions the Members may have. If there are no questions and if the Members agree, we would like to see the committee deal with motions based on the recommendations of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Do you have any general comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

General Comments

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I think that all of the Members who served on that committee should receive some recognition for the work they did on behalf of this Assembly. The task was difficult and the work at times probably frustrating because of the people who had to be dealt with. Nonetheless I would like to express my appreciation for the work that was done.

It is my view that while this is the final report of the special committee, I do not think it will take us very long to find that we are going to be into additional discussions on constitutional reform in the north. It is going to require some significant changes nationally in terms of gaining support for the initiatives we take in dividing the Northwest Territories into Nunavut and Denendeh. It will require the support of the governments of southern Canada.

I know that on other matters like the inherent right to self-government, the task is not concluded yet. We still have a lot of work to do. Even in the aftermath of the vote on the Charlottetown Accord, many leaders across the country expressed the fact that had there been a vote primarily on the matter of the inherent right of self-government, it would have received the support of Canadians. However, that is still not a good enough solution in that we did not see the success of the vote on the Charlottetown Accord.

There is still a lot of uncertainty in the minds of the aboriginal leaders and the aboriginal people across the country. I hope that we do not lose sight of our

commitment to fighting alongside and supporting the inherent right of self-government for aboriginal people, including the need to ensure that the government of the north finds its rightful spot at the table of First Ministers to ensure representation for the people of the Northwest Territories.

I think that the task that was done on our behalf through the leadership of Mr. Kakfwi and the participation of other Members, not only on this particular special committee, but on other special committees, and through the leadership of Ms. Cournoyea at the First Ministers' conferences went far; perhaps not to the extent that we wanted, but what we wanted was in the Charlottetown Accord. I wish we had been more successful. In the north, we received support. That is a good indication of what we negotiated in the Charlottetown Accord. I wanted to make those comments before we dealt with the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Are there any general comments from the floor? Does the committee agree that we go into recommendations as motions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 350

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we have, as a committee, made three recommendations to the committee. It is our wish that Mr. Gargan move the three recommendations as motions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

Committee Motion 49-12(3): G.N.W.T. Undertake Review And Assessment Of N.W.T.'s National Constitutional Priorities And Objectives

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. The first recommendation from the committee is, I move that the Government of the

Northwest Territories undertake a review and assessment of the N.W.T.'s national constitutional priorities and objectives. A medium and a long-term strategy should be developed to achieve them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

Committee Motion 50-12(3): G.N.W.T. Preserve Role In Intergovernmental Affairs In Relation To Constitution

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the second recommendation is, I move that the committee recommend that the Government of the Northwest Territories should take any necessary action to preserve and enhance its role and status in intergovernmental affairs in relation to the Constitution, national institution reform and the economy in particular.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

Committee Motion 51-12(3): Concerns Of Pursuing Implementation Of Charlottetown Accord

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. The final recommendation, Mr. Chairman, is, I move that the committee recommend that, prior to pursuing either constitutional or non-constitutional means of implementing any part or parts of the Charlottetown Accord, the Legislative Assembly and the government should consider, in the context of the strong mandate given in the northern referendum results, the priorities and means of achieving our objective, bearing in mind the political, social, economic and fiscal implications of this course of action.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Thank you, Special Committee on Constitutional Reform. Does the committee agree that its report is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree we deal with the Student Financial Assistance Board?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

This is Committee Report 7, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Report 7-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report On The

Proposed Elimination Of The Student Financial Assistance Board

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, I have read the report in this House. I have two recommendations. I will do them in a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would appreciate it, Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 52-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 1

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend to the Minister to proceed with the proposed elimination of the Student Financial Assistance Board, and further that the Minister should introduce a corresponding amendment to the Student Financial Assistance Act during the Third Session of the 12th Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Page 351

Proceed.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions also has the opinion that the Legislative Assembly should continue to be advised of the department's progress in this regard.

Committee Motion 53-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 2

Therefore, I move that this committee recommend that, in accordance with the Rule 94(4), the Executive Council table the comprehensive response to the recommendation contained in the report to the Assembly within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Are you ready for the question? A question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Identify the comment, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on the Student Financial Assistance Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree that Committee Report 7-12(3), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. What does the committee wish now? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I recommend that the committee deal with the report from the Special Committee on Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is it agreed that we deal with Committee Report 5-12(3), Special Committee on Health and Social Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 5-12(3): Special Committee On Health And Social Services, Interim Report No. 3

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

General Comments

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just prior to my colleague, Mr. Dent, proceeding with recommendations, there was one item where we were dealing with recommendations that we are not proposing as a motion here today, but I would ask the government to consider the suggestion of ensuring that in the consultative process, where we were dealing with the matter of assessing the health and social services programs, that those were involved in the delivery part of that consultation process. All too often, we do not involve them in the consultation and sometimes we forget that they are an integral part of determining whether or not a particular program is successful and whether or not in the communities they are being treated in a fair and reasonable manner. That could be the basis for some of the misunderstanding that occurs in the delivery of programs and services to the communities. So I would hope that we would ensure that it is an ongoing process that we would ask and ensure that those who are delivering the services are, in fact, consulted on an ongoing basis. It is not a recommendation but it is a suggestion to our government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I am going to present some of our recommendations in motion form. I think one of the things we noted in the report was that workers in the Departments of Health and Social Services, in the

field and in the communities are really quite concerned about what is going to happen when the two departments are combined. It is very important that the government, in order to ensure that morale is maintained at the best possible level and that people are spending their time being concerned about delivering health and social services products to clients rather than worrying about their jobs or their future, consult with and inform these front line workers as to what progress is taking place in terms of the joining of these two departments.

Committee Motion 54-12(3): G.N.W.T. Work With Departmental Staff In Health And Social Services Amalgamation

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the government start working together with the Health and Social Services staff and clients to hear and make use of their respective ideas in any integration or amalgamation of the two departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee Members were also very surprised to find when we were talking to social workers in the Keewatin that the social assistance manual was

Page 352

not available to them in Inuktitut. This is totally inappropriate. The committee found this to be an unusual situation.

Committee Motion 55-12(3): Provision Of Social Assistance Manual In Inuktitut

Therefore, I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Social Services ensure that the social assistance manual is available in Inuktitut for social workers in those areas where it is appropriate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Dent, I am confused.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I may have to write that motion out and have it translated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Before I rule the recommendation we will take five minutes. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps we do not necessarily have to introduce it as a motion. So as not to stop the process, it would have, in our view, been more appropriate as a recommendation to the department and to the government to provide the manual. We would hope that our Cabinet is listening to this matter. To ensure that social assistance...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Nerysoo, first I will rule that recommendation, after that you may speak to it. I did not rule it yet. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

In order to speed the process up, Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. The motion has been withdrawn.

---Withdrawn

Are there any further comments? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

As Mr. Nerysoo was pointing out, while we had not, in our report, brought this forward as a motion, we think it is extremely important that the social workers and the clients have access to the social assistance manual in Inuktitut just to ensure that everybody understands the program to the best level possible.

As Mr. Nerysoo was saying, we are hoping that the Minister will pay attention to that and respond appropriately.

I think, Mr. Chairman, if I may carry on, one of the other areas that we touched on in our report had to do with respite care. In every centre that we were in we heard people tell us of the need for respite care. People need some assistance; they need to have a break from caring for people that they are looking after. In fact, the committee has had a letter, since our trip there, reinforcing this recommendation.

Committee Motion 56-12(3): G.N.W.T. Review Proposed Respite Care Policy

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the government review the proposed respite care policy developed by the N.W.T. Council for Disabled Persons and move to implement it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also noted in our committee report was the issue of community counselling. In every community different people told us that they thought that people within the community could provide a service to others in that community. They thought it was important to have people who were culturally aware, involved in counselling and that it was more important that they be aware of the culture in which they are working than that they have professional training. For the most part, they suggested that these counsellors could work with trained counsellors and, perhaps, both sides might learn from each other. I think this is a novel idea but I think it is something that really needs some careful investigation. It might not only be cost effective but it

might be a lot more effective than what we are getting right now.

Committee Motion 57-12(3): G.N.W.T. Review Pilot Project Of Para-Professional Counselling

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee urge the government to look into a pilot project involving the provision of para-professional counselling at the community level. The project must include the provision of ongoing training and support to community care givers to ensure maximum benefits. An evaluation component needs to be built in to ensure that assessments can be made as to the success of the initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this recommendation, when it is being implemented, will touch on the problem that the care givers are facing with Social Services, especially in the area of payments to the care givers. For example, in Coral Harbour, one care giver was not paid for six months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we found when we were talking to the people in the communities is that elders are often involved in counselling. One of the concerns was that while these may be effective people, it is quite an imposition on them and their time to do it voluntarily. This is only happening voluntarily. Our intent with this was to suggest that these people should become an active part of the Social Services network. They would not be expected to do it on a voluntary basis but be considered a real part of the whole counselling system in the Northwest Territories. I think that this would address the concern which Mr. Arvaluk has brought up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arnagna'naaq.

Page 353

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Dent has pointed out that there were a number of concerns in this particular area. The other area which is of concern to people in Baker Lake and Arviat is about the caring of elders who remain in their homes. In the fall before the elders' centre opened in Arviat, there was an elder who was not able to care for himself. He died in a fire because there was no one in the house with him. The relatives who were taking care of him had gone out on an errand and then a fire started. It is essential to have these types of services available to people who are unable to do anything within their households. I will give this my support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Are there any further comments? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree that Committee Report 5-12(3), Special Committee on Health and Social Services, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that the committee proceed to deal with the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Report on the Elimination of the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree that we deal with Committee Report 6-12(3)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 6-12(3): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Report On The Proposed Elimination Of The Board Of Directors For the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there opening remarks? Mr. Koe.

Introductory Remarks

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a fairly lengthy report and I am going to utilize the help of my colleagues. I will start with the introductory remarks.

One of the advantages of the consensus style government practised in the Northwest Territories is the opportunity it provides for Ministers and standing committees to collaborate on the development and the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving public service operations and government agencies. During the Third Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions will agree to respond to requests from the Executive Council for input respecting the proposed elimination of three boards.

The current report recommends the standing committee's review of the Minister's plans to eliminate the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Subsequent reports will deal with input requests regarding the Denendeh Conservation Board and the Student Financial Assistance Board. The standing committee received correspondence on March 26, 1992 from the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, which requested the committee's

assistance in establishing the process whereby the board would be eliminated, but replaced with a more appropriate mechanism to ensure that we have community participation and ongoing policy decisions of the corporation.

The standing committee considered this request briefly at meetings held during the Second Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly and made a decision to work with the Minister by reviewing his proposal in this regard. Accordingly, the standing committee has undertaken and has now completed a review of the principles underlying ministerial plans to eliminate the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Throughout its review process the standing committee focused on the following aspects: background developments and government directions would precede receipt of the Minister's request for committee input; the rationale for consideration of the elimination of the Board of Directors; the impact of board elimination on the potential effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations within the Housing Corporation; trends in other Canadian jurisdictions with respect to the organization of housing agencies; and, the development of an alternative framework for ensuring appropriate levels of community and regional input into policies and decisions made within the Housing Corporation.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions considered these matters in lengthy meetings with the Minister and his Housing Corporation officials on October 27, 1992, and December 2, 1992. The committee wishes to acknowledge the significant amount of information provided by the Minister and his officials that the committee requested and a constructive fashion in which this review was proceed.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ningark will continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Ningark.

Page 354

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will cover the background of the report. Section 4 of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act establishes a corporation which may provide, develop, maintain and manage housing for:

- (a) senior citizens;
- (b) families and individuals receiving social allowances or social assistance;
- (c) individuals requiring minimal nursing care;
- (d) families and individuals generally;
- (e) students or apprentices and their families;
- (f) staff, such as employees of the G.N.W.T. or its agencies; and,
- (g) cooperative or non-profit organization housing accommodation.

The affairs of the Housing Corporation are to be conducted by a 13 member board of directors. The concept of eliminating the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and replacing it with an alternative structure has been under consideration in some format or another since early in the 12th Legislative Assembly.

The Cabinet's "Strength at Two Levels" document argued that "a separate Housing Corporation has been viewed in the past as necessary to attract C.M.H.C. funding, but the G.N.W.T. Cabinet should make it an earlier priority to counter such a position if it still exists. A separate Housing Corporation is adding to the cost of government in the north (in a time of shrinking resources) and is not conducive to the transfer process. Similarly the Reshaping of Northern Government statement delivered on February 1992 by the Government Leader supported the immediate "elimination of the board of the Housing Corporation." Cost factors related to the board of directors has been discussed extensively within the Legislative Assembly. The Minister informed the House on February 17, 1992 that in addition to the estimated direct costs of \$290,000 and estimated indirect cost \$340,000 for the board operations, there was an additional consideration that "because it is a board of directors, they are responsible for paying goods and services tax on their supplies and materials. That cost is \$775,000."

During the Second Session of the 12th Assembly, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation brought forward Bill 16, an Act to Amend the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act. This bill would have eliminated the board of directors.

The bill was defeated at the second reading on March 3, 1992. Several Members spoke against the

principle of the bill and in each case commented that the initiative has been undertaken without an adequate opportunity for review. In addition, concerns were expressed that at the present time, Mr. Chairman, contact with the board of directors is the only method that the communities and regions have to influence government housing policy. Without the board, formal mechanisms for receiving and considering public input could have been limited.

Following the defeat of Bill 16 during the Second Session, the Minister wrote to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions to request assistance in examining a process for eliminating the board and replacing it with an alternative vehicle, for community participation and input. This examination has now been completed.

During the Third Session, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation has again introduced amendments to the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act. Bill 3, which would effect the elimination of the board of directors, was given first reading in the Legislative Assembly on December 4, 1992.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Before you conclude your speech, almost at the end of the Housing Corporation Act, did you say Bill 13 or 3?

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will repeat the last paragraph of the background report.

During the Third Session, the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation has again introduced amendments to the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act. Bill 3, which would effect the elimination of the board of directors, was given first reading in the Legislative Assembly on December 4, 1992. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my section on background. I will now turn this over to the other Members of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions devoted considerable attention to an understanding of the specific reasons why the Minister was inclined to

eliminate the Board of Directors for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

In general terms the rationale for eliminating the board seems to be based on the following factors:

- The existing corporate structure and board structure is seen as not being consistent with ministerial government;

- The role of the board is perceived by the Minister to have changed to the point where it is no longer significant. Frequent debates over the role of the Minister and the board of directors have occurred to the point, where the process of managing housing in the Northwest Territories can be seen as overly complicated and expensive. Reportedly, there have been difficulties in establishing clear lines of authority and accountability;

- The Minister has argued that the decision to eliminate the board of directors can be justified on cost factors alone. It has been estimated by the Minister that the total annual cost of board operations is approximately \$600,000 with additional fiscal considerations related to goods and services taxation. This has been described as particularly significant in light of the federal government's decision to reduce base funding for new housing construction in the Northwest Territories by 59 per cent over the next two years;

- The high number of boards and agencies in the Northwest Territories was identified in the "Strength at Two Levels" document as a major issue to be addressed in reducing costs and ensuring effective Ministerial responsibility and accountability. This initiative is seen as

Page 355

corresponding closely to the model proposed in that report;

- Elimination of the board of directors would allow for greater ministerial involvement in ensuring that the housing policy is closely coordinated with economic, social, health and educational policies;

- Across Canada in response to increasing concern over housing and the cost of providing housing programs, the trend seems to be towards greater direct government control. The Minister advised the standing committee of his perceptions that most provinces including Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have

converted from corporations to departments, to achieve greater operating efficiencies. The standing committee, while fully understanding the Minister's position on the larger issue of eliminating the Housing Corporation Board, did want to take issue with certain of the specific assumptions which seem to underlay his stated rationale.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was somewhat concerned with the Minister's comments that the persistence of boards and public agencies might be seen as inconsistent with "ministerial government". Boards, agencies and public committees have been creations of successive governments within the Northwest Territories for many years and should not be seen as mutually exclusive of the trend towards increased clarification of departmental mandates and ministerial accountability.

The Minister's "blanket statement" that this board should be eliminated because it represents a structure which is not compatible with ministerial government risks sending a message that other boards and agencies will need to be eliminated simply because they can "get in the way" of ministerial objectives. Such a message is not acceptable to the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

The standing committee takes the position that there is a role for these agencies to play in the Northwest Territories and that, with open communication channels and clearly established roles, board functions can continue to complement the Minister's responsibilities and accountability by providing community input that would otherwise be lacking from departmental decisions.

This general argument should not be used as part of the rationale advanced for the elimination of the board of directors. It should also not be applied generally when considering any potential elimination of other boards or agencies. Public boards and agencies are not, in the standing committee's view, inconsistent with the principles of "ministerial government".

Similarly, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was concerned that the Minister presented his plan to eliminate the board of directors within the context of complying with principles outlined in the "Strength at Two Levels" document. That report concludes that there are too many boards and agencies, and that they represent

"one of the greatest areas of structural inefficiency in the G.N.W.T."

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions takes the position that the "Strength at Two Levels" report contains statistical inaccuracies with regard to the number of government created boards and agencies, over-emphasizes cost and inefficiency factors and gives inadequate consideration to the importance of ensuring input from the diverse and widespread communities across the Northwest Territories.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions wished to emphasize that the "Strength at Two Levels" report has never been endorsed by the Legislative Assembly as the planning document for which government reorganization should flow. The Minister should not be attempting to justify his decision to eliminate the board of directors at the Housing Corporation by referring to plans laid out in the "Strength at Two Levels" document.

With regard to cost factors, the Minister has also indicated that by eliminating the board of directors very significant cost savings can be realized. This may be true. However, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions question whether tighter, internal controls might have resulted in lowering board costs as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While a plan to eliminate the board of directors will certainly represent some savings to the housing corporation, it is inaccurate to assume that it will automatically freeze \$600,000 to be applied directly towards building houses. Indeed, the standing committee was interested to note that the elimination of the board of directors will mean that the number of staff PYs within the housing corporation is only reduced by one.

While it is a factor to be considered, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was of the opinion that arguments about cost savings would be insufficient on their own to justify the elimination of a well working board that is accomplishing its statutory mandate and providing appropriate public input into agency decisions.

This should be considered not only with respect to the current initiative, but as a general principle that should guide Cabinet decisions about restructuring boards and agencies in the future. The standing committee will not wish to support planned elimination of downsizing of effective, representative boards only on the basis that "they cost too much." The standing committee is aware that, within the budgets of most public agencies, the cost of board activities usually represents only a very small percentage.

Undoubtedly, cost considerations are important, but they should, in all cases, be assessed as only part of any rationale for board restructuring. In general terms, if a board is providing full "value for money" in carrying out its assigned duties and responsibilities, then it is an asset well worth the cost to government.

On the other hand, where the management of a government agency is being hindered by the board or corporate structure, prompt action should be taken to change it. This means that board effectiveness and efficiency should form the key

Page 356

elements of any decision to eliminate or restructure government created boards and agencies in the Northwest Territories.

During its review, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, was provided with evidence that the current board structure of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is conducive to neither effective nor efficient management.

Although the act states that the affairs of the Housing Corporation are to be conducted by the board of directors, its role in recent years has shifted to one which involves the cursory review and "rubber-stamping" of complex policies, plans and agreements developed by the salaried management of the corporation. Indeed, because the board meets only four times per year, important priorities have often been delayed.

Neither the quality nor the amount of community input into these corporation initiatives and policies seem to have been enhanced by the current model for a board of directors. Indeed, direct consultation with community leaders and local industry may, in some cases, have been impeded by uncertainty over whether this function is most properly performed by

corporation officials, the Minister or the appointed members of the board.

Presently, there are 47 active housing associations and authorities across the Northwest Territories. The corporation is in the process of developing new strategies for strengthening partnerships with these bodies. Already, the housing associations have strong, consultative links with the corporation on issues surrounding the housing needs survey, new housing designs and the delivery of new units. They are also represented on the community H.A.P. allocation committee. New communication channels have been recently developed to facilitate corporation consultation with community governments, band councils and Metis associations with respect to land acquisition, block funding arrangements and other operational issues.

In many ways, direct and effective community contact has been established between corporation management and local authorities quite independent of any board involvement. Elimination of the board of directors would remove confusion about the public input process and reinforce community use of these new and more efficient consultation channels. This will be a key component in future plans to transfer increased responsibilities and accountability to local authorities and community governments. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nerysoo will continue from here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister advised the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions that the current board of directors has been inactive for almost one year. He reported that, in that time, he has not received a single request from any individual, group or community asking that the board of directors meet. This suggested to the standing committee that management's direct approach with communities has been generally effective in ensuring that input is received from local authorities and governments.

The standing committee indicated to the Minister that this model of direct consultation should be strengthened and that a mechanism should be found for ensuring that community concerns are dealt with at the senior management policy level. This has been

addressed in the new consultation framework which the Minister developed at committee's request.

There are other aspects that need to be considered as well. Many of the factors to which the corporation has had to respond with, shifts in housing policy have occurred as a result of Cabinet initiatives related to economic development, the delivery of health and social services or employment programs. The board of directors has been distant from these developments within other government departments and from the planning for interdepartmental coordination which takes place in Cabinet. This has led to inefficiencies both with respect to the representation of corporation interests in the development of global policy for this government and with respect to the translation of global policy into action. In many ways, it would be preferential to see housing issues dealt with in an organizational structure that operated more like a government department than a corporation. In practical terms, this shift has already taken place on its own. Eliminating the board of directors would merely formalize the organizational framework that has already evolved.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, in considering the Minister's rationale for elimination of the board of directors, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions took serious issue with some of the principles advanced.

However, upon examining the role and the function of the Board of Directors for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation, the Standing Committee came to the conclusion that it was not in the best interests of the government to maintain the existing board or corporate structure.

In making this finding, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions would in no way wish to diminish the hard work and commitment demonstrated by current or past members of this board. Certainly, their contribution has been very much appreciated. The fundamental reality is that at the present time the development and implementation of housing policy and programs in the Northwest Territories is better served by a management framework which places direct control with the Minister. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Koe will be continuing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like to thank my colleagues for assisting me. Mr. Chairman, we have some recommendations and I would like to start with recommendation number one.

Committee Motion 58-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 1

I move that this committee recommends that the Minister proceed with the proposed elimination of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

Page 357

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to carry this out the Minister will need to amend the N.W.T. Housing Corporation Act. A bill is presently before the Legislative Assembly which purports to achieve this. While the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions approves of the principle of eliminating the board of directors, it was beyond its mandate to comment on the substance of the bill. The above recommendation should not influence the requirement for a full and open legislative review by the appropriate standing committee.

Indeed, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions believed that it was important to ensure that an adequate understanding of the implications which these amendments might have on territorial access to federal programs and funding. The Minister indicated that arrangements would be made to establish a "shell corporation" to ensure that access to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding would continue unabated. Although the standing committee requested further details related

to this so-called "shell corporation", it was not received.

The Standing Committee was of the opinion that further elaboration on the legal and structural parameters of the proposed "shell corporation" might be valuable to the Standing Committee on Legislation in evaluating the policy implications of this bill.

Committee Motion 59-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 2

Mr. Chairman, I have recommendation number two. I move that this committee recommend that the Minister table in the Legislative Assembly a description of the proposed "shell corporation" model, including comments on its standing as a legal entity, its structural organization and its status relative to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other federal funding systems. And further, that this information be tabled prior to the review of the bill by the appropriate standing committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Bernhardt will continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Bernhardt.

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was of the opinion that in the absence of the board of directors there must be a well developed framework through which community concerns, suggestions and priorities can be considered at the senior management level of the N.W.T. Housing Corporation.

At the request of the Standing Committee, the Minister has proposed a comprehensive framework for community consultation on housing issues. The goals of the proposed framework are as follows: to make clear the corporation's commitment to consult with communities and M.L.A.s on an ongoing basis to address housing issues; to create increased opportunities for effective consultation and strengthened communication between the corporation and the communities and peoples it serves; to ensure more regular sharing of information and consultation with M.L.A.s, local housing organizations, community governments, band councils, Metis locals and community development corporations; and, to formally consult with communities and M.L.A.s on all major policy and program issues or new initiatives that meet either of the following criteria: policy or program issues which have a universal application and will affect all the Northwest Territories or all the communities in a region; or, policy or program decisions which will affect most or all existing clients.

The proposed consultation model includes strategies that would lead to improved communication with local organizations, with the public at large and with Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister is proposing to institute a process through which the corporation would hold an annual meeting in every district of the Northwest Territories. Representatives of local housing associations and organizations within the district would be invited to participate. In communities where no local housing organization exists, representatives of the community government, band council, Metis local and any community development corporation would be invited to attend.

The purpose of the annual district meetings would be to provide a forum in which housing issues and concerns common to all communities in a district could be raised. The meetings would also provide an opportunity for the Housing Corporation to share information about its initiatives and programs.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions took the position that a system of annual district meetings would be a very positive approach to community consultation and could be an even more effective measure for ensuring regional input than is presently provided by the existing board structure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 60-12(3): To Adopt
Recommendation No. 3

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have recommendation number three. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Minister proceed to implement an ongoing

Page 358

program of annual district meetings to commence during the 1993-94 fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The Minister also proposed holding an annual open meeting in every community with representatives of the local housing organization, local government, community stakeholder groups and the general public.

The purpose of the annual meeting would be to provide a forum for local residents and community leaders to raise housing issues and concerns directly with the corporation. It would also provide an opportunity for information to be shared between the corporation and members of the community at large. Since community consultations have already planned, with respect to the housing needs survey and other matters, this initiative could likely be undertaken with little additional cost to the corporation.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions responded to this element of the consultation model with enthusiasm. The concept of bringing interested parties in every community

together for discussions of housing policy and programs was seen as a potentially effective approach to two-way communication. It was also noted that this would be in keeping with the northern tradition of holding community meetings to consider important subjects.

The need to maintain a continuing yearly commitment to the process in all communities should be emphasized. However, since there is always a risk that the initial motivation for such meetings may lessen over time, the Minister will need to take an active overseeing role to ensure that the annual public meetings are, in fact, organized for each community every year and that information generated within the meetings are transmitted clearly to his senior management.

Committee Motion 61-12(3): To Adopt
Recommendation No. 4

Mr. Chairman, I have recommendation number four. I move that this committee recommend that the Minister implement an ongoing program of annual public meetings in communities across the Northwest Territories to commence during the 1993-94 fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Proceed, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

With regard to consultation with local authorities, the Minister indicated his recognition that, in the absence of a corporate board of directors, greater emphasis would need to be placed on direct consultation with the local housing organizations and local governments in communities across the Northwest Territories.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions agreed with the importance of ensuring that such a process should be developed. Local housing organizations should continue to be consulted on matters such as the housing needs survey, new housing designs and new corporation policies, programs and procedures. Input on matters pertaining to the delivery of new units and transfers of responsibility for housing programs to the community level should be considered essential. Adequate representation of local housing organizations on the community home ownership recommendations committee must be guaranteed. The corporation should be available to discuss strategies for increasing operating efficiencies at the community level. The Housing Corporation should also take a serious approach to consulting with community governments on housing issues as well. This is particularly important with respect to issues surrounding block funding to community groups and band councils, the acquisition of land for new housing construction and transfers of responsibility for housing programs to the community level.

Committee Motion 62-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 5

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend to the Minister that he regularly seek input from and consult with local housing organizations and community governments, band councils and Metis locals on matters of housing policy and program development, and further, that the Minister provide a summary and assessment of consultations with local authorities in the annual report of the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

With regard to communication with M.L.A.s, the Minister's consultation framework proposed two strategies for facilitating the involvement of the Members of the Legislative Assembly: the establishment of a special advisory committee on housing; and, regular briefings for M.L.A.s.

The seven member special advisory committee on housing was proposed as a vehicle that would provide ongoing advice from the elected representatives to the Minister responsible for the

Page 359

N.W.T. Housing Corporation on broad territorial housing issues. It would be comprised of three eastern Members and three western Members with the Minister serving as Chairperson.

The Minister proposes that this body would be established pursuant to the rules of the Legislative Assembly and would apparently be a formal committee of the House. Funds would be provided from the Legislative Assembly's appropriations, and administrative support would be provided by the office of the clerk. To reduce costs and facilitate administrative functions, the committee would be mandated to meet only during sittings of the House.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was generally supportive of the principle of involving M.L.A.s in such an advisory body. It has pointed out that this approach is definitely in keeping with the consensus-style government and would represent the sort of collaborative approach that has been highly effective throughout the history of the territorial legislature. The standing committee saw particular value in making this special advisory committee receive input directly from the annual district meetings and the annual public meetings in communities in order to ensure that community based input was duly considered by the Minister and senior management of the Housing Corporation.

The standing committee did hold certain reservations about some of the specifics outlined in the proposed structure for the special advisory committee on housing. Questions arose for instance, about the propriety of using Legislative Assembly funds and resources to perform a function that is clearly departmental in focus. Similarly, there were questions about whether it would be appropriate for a Minister to chair such a committee.

It was uncertain, as well, from the Minister's presentation of the concept, as to whether the special advisory committee would have the authority or the responsibility to report to the Assembly on its deliberations. The degree to which committee agendas and examinations would be dictated by the ministerial preference as opposed to Members' priorities would need to be clarified. Several Members were concerned as well that restricting committee meeting schedules to sessional periods would result in a limited opportunity to discuss complex issues and would preclude committee participation in annual district and annual public meetings outside Yellowknife.

Notwithstanding these significant concerns, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions concluded that there were definite merits to the concept of establishing the special advisory committee on housing. The standing committee emphasized, however, that organizational considerations will need to be better specified and possibly revised at the time when a formal motion is brought forward in the House to establish the special advisory committee and its terms of reference.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 63-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 6

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have recommendation number six. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister introduce a motion establishing a special advisory committee on housing during the February/March, 1992, sitting of the Legislative Assembly; and further the draft terms of reference for this committee should be tabled prior to this motion in order to allow adequate opportunity for review and discussion of the committee's structure and mandate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleagues on the standing committee would want me to elaborate on this motion. When the standing committee requested additional information about how

community input into housing policy and programs can be guaranteed, the Minister returned with a very comprehensive consultation framework. One of the elements of this framework was a concept of establishing a special advisory committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Minister suggested that this would be comprised of three western Members and three eastern Members and that the Minister responsible for Housing would chair it. The Minister also suggested that this committee would operate during periods when the House was in session. The cost then would be borne by the Legislative Assembly. It would provide input to the Minister and his housing officials on policy matters.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee both liked and disliked elements of this plan. The fundamental concept that involves setting up a committee of M.L.A.s was seen as a novel and effective approach. Members noted that this was one of the activities that fits better with the consensus style of government we have in the Northwest Territories, than it would in partisan legislatures in the south. For this reason, the standing committee felt that this concept had a lot of merit. At the same time, however, the standing committee had many questions about what this sort of a committee structure would be involved in, in an operational sense. Some of the issues outlined in the committee report include concerns over the Minister's role, the committee's authority to report and the rationale for using the Legislative Assembly budget to fund an activity that may fall more properly within the departmental mandate. The standing committee liked the principle, Mr. Chairman, but Members were concerned about the lack of information which existed about the specifics.

For that reason we brought forward a motion to suggest that the Minister go ahead with his plan. Before doing so, however, he should provide this House with a tabled document which more clearly specifies what this committee would do and how it would operate. The standing committee is suggesting that this tabled document should take the form of a draft terms of reference. Once the draft terms of reference are tabled, the Minister would then proceed with a motion to establish this committee. Problems may result at that time since there is no existing structure known as a special advisory committee within this House. This would have to be addressed at the time when the Minister brings forward his motion. The tabled document which includes his draft terms of reference may assist in clarifying that point.

Mr. Chairman, should the Minister's motion pass, the committee of M.L.A.s could then be established. At that time the committee could then establish its own terms of reference and bring them back into this House. This may be somewhat

Page 360

different than the tabled document. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was excited about the idea of proceeding with this initiative, however, it was worried about some of the aspects which I mentioned. I believe that the current motion will provide a useful process for seeing this new structure develop. I urge all Members to support this motion. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, our final statement is about a comprehensive response by the Executive Council. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions was of the opinion that progress on all the recommended initiatives should begin immediately. The standing committee also wished to ensure that the Legislative Assembly remains aware of the steps taken by the Minister in implementing the necessary process to replace the Housing Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Chairman, I have recommendation number seven.

Committee Motion 64-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation No. 7

I move that this committee recommends that in accordance with Rule 94(4) the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to all recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. I would like to thank all my colleagues, committee Members and the staff who worked hard on this report. Also the Minister and his staff, who worked so hard on their part in coming up with new, novel and innovative ideas. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Chair would now like to recognize Mr. Morin, the Minister responsible for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions for their advice, patience and recommendations. It did not all come from the Housing Corporation. Ideas of how to have community consultation and input as well as regional and M.L.A. input into policy and programs came from a lot of different people. I have mentioned in committee meetings that the idea of regional workshops on policy and programs came from meetings in Whale Cove, and the idea of a committee of M.L.A.s came from the committee Members themselves, Mr. Nerysoo played a part in that. Once again, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank yourself and the committee Members for your support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 6-12(3) the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, can we deal with Bill 2 and Bill 7?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of this committee to deal with these items? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Condominium Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Bill 2 is an Act to Amend the Condominium Act. Mr. Kakfwi, do you have any opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

...places the federal act which is to occur as early as January, 1993. At the same time, the bill would amend the Condominium Act to bring the procedure for the preparation and approval of condominium plans into line with the Territorial Land Titles Act and the current practice. At present, the Commissioner delegates the authority to approve plans to the Minister responsible for the Planning Act or officials within the Minister's department. There are no legislative standards which must be met prior to obtaining approval. This bill provides that condominium plans prepared in accordance with the requirements prescribed by regulation must be approved by the Minister responsible for the Planning

Act or an individual to whom the Minister delegates the authority to approve the plans. This is the substance of the proposed amendments to the Condominium Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq,

Standing Committee on Legislation.

Page 361

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act, at its public meeting on December 7, 1992. The committee appreciates the attendance of the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, and his officials and their responses to the questions of the committee. This bill would amend the Condominium Act, as mentioned by the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, to remove references to the Federal Land Titles Act and replace them with references to the Northwest Territories Land Titles Act.

This Legislative Assembly passed a territorial Land Titles Act in 1988 in anticipation of assuming legislative responsibility for land titles once the federal government had repealed its land titles legislation. The Northwest Territories Land Titles Act has not yet been proclaimed as the federal act has not been repealed. The committee was informed that it is expected that the federal government will proceed toward repealing the legislation early in 1993. This bill would make the Condominium Act consistent with the new territorial land titles legislation. The amendment would be declared in force at the same time as the new N.W.T. Land Titles Act.

This bill also transfers the responsibility for approving plans for registration under the Condominium Act from the Commissioner to the Minister of Justice and would add new regulation making powers to allow regulations to specify the requirements for plans submitted for registration and the procedures to be followed during the preparation of plans. The committee had no difficulty with the proposed amendments and carried a motion on December 7, 1992, to report Bill 2 to the Assembly as ready for the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

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

General Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to that Land Titles Act, the Minister indicated that the federal act would be repealed and the Northwest Territories Land Titles Act would come into effect at that time. Do we have a draft bill on the Land Titles Act? Has it been approved by this House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the N.W.T. Land Titles Act was dealt with in 1988 and will come into force by order of the Commissioner which we believe is going to be done in January.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

It is interesting that, when we first got elected, whatever happened during the previous Assembly did not have any bearing on this new Assembly. I am wondering whether or not, with a whole new government in place and the bill not being assented to by the Commissioner, it still has the same kind of force as it did.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, part of the act says that the day on which it would come into effect is to be fixed by the Commissioner. Because it is being done in connection with the Land Titles Act in the Yukon and the federal government repealing its own act, we could not fix a certain date, so that is the way it was done. As of this week, we are going to work on a certain date with the federal government and the Yukon government to fix a date when it can be done, an appropriate time for everyone concerned. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the general laws of application are. In 1993, this act that has not been assented to will be five years old. Can we get a legal opinion on that time lapse of five years? This act was reviewed five years ago. I am wondering if that act is still applicable at this point in our history.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the act has been approved so it has been assented to by the Commissioner. What is contained in the act is a section that says the date when it will come into force to replace the federal Land Titles Act is to be fixed by the Commissioner. There is no particular date. It has taken us up until now to get agreement with the federal and Yukon governments. The act has been assented to. It is law. It just has not been put into effect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps we can ask our Law Clerk about that. The bill has been assented to, but that does not necessarily make it law unless he puts the dates down when it becomes enforceable. You already said that is going to be put in force in January, five years later. It is not enforceable as of yet. I am wondering whether or not that allows for some implications because of the time lapse of five years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. I will ask our legal advisor to comment on that particular matter.

MS. MACPHERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gargan is right. The law is not enforceable at this time because it has not been declared into force. It is, however, still a law that exists and has received the approval of this House. From my recollection of the Land Titles Act,

when we did it in 1988, it did not have a sunset clause which would give it a limited life span. Until such time as this House repeals that act, it is still the law of this House even though it is not enforceable at this point in time as it has not been proclaimed in force.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 1. Agreed?

Page 362

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 10. Agreed? Thank you. Mr. Gargan, Clause 10.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What exactly does this mean? Under this section there is a date put with regard to when it comes into force, but, what it says here is "this act comes into force on the day the Land Titles Act comes into force."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, Clause 10, says "this act" and is referring to the Condominium Act. The Condominium Act comes into force the day that the N.W.T. Land Titles Act comes into force, which is whatever day the Commissioner fixes it to be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Bill as a whole. Does the committee agree that Bill 2 is ready for a third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. We will deal with Bill 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Locksmiths, Security Guards And Other Security Occupations Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Bill 7 is an Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act. The act itself, Mr. Chairman, was passed in 1991, but proclamation of the act did not take place pending development of regulations. During the drafting of the regulations a few housekeeping changes were identified as well as the deficiency in the licensing process. It is our intention to proclaim the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act together with the proposed amendment, if passed, and appropriate regulations, simultaneously to effect on or about April 1, 1993, Mr. Chairman.

In addition to some minor housekeeping changes this amendment will provide that security other than a bond may be provided by an applicant for licensing as a security business to the registrar of security occupations. It also adds powers to make regulations respecting those other securities.

The other significant amendment in this bill will allow investigations into convictions against the person applying for a license but only when that person authorizes such investigation or inquiry. The investigation will be in the form of requiring the applicant to be fingerprinted and the registrar of security occupations may use the fingerprints in or for the investigation.

Applicants for a security business licence or a security employee license who do not authorize such an investigation

Page 363

are not entitled to be issued a license. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed Bill 7, an Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act, at a public meeting on December 7, 1992. The committee would like to thank the Hon. John Pollard and officials from the Department of Safety and Public Services and the Department of

Justice for presenting this bill and responding to the questions and comments of the committee Members.

The Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act was passed by the 11th Assembly and received consent on April 18, 1991. The act established a regulation and licensing scheme for agents and businesses which provide locksmith, private investigation, security guard or security alarm services. However, it has not yet been proclaimed in force. Bill 7 would amend the Locksmith and Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act to clarify applications for security business licenses to be made by partnerships and corporations as well as individuals operating a sole proprietorship. It would also allow the registrar to accept a security other than a bond from an applicant for a security business license. Regulations would specify the types of other security which may be accepted as well as the conditions under which the bond or other security may be forfeited. The bill would also provide that a security business license would terminate if the bond or other security provided by the license holder was forfeited or no longer met the requirements of the act or the regulations.

Members may recall that this Assembly dealt with a similar issue when it passed amendments to the Real Estate Agents Licensing Act in June, 1992. Concerns had been raised about the difficulty experienced by business people in obtaining bonds from insurance companies in the Northwest Territories. This amendment has been proposed in order to avoid the difficulty experienced by the real estate agents.

An example of another type of security which might be provided to the registrar would be an irrevocable letter of credit, issued from a financial institution which could be drawn upon by the government if necessary, according to the regulations. This bill would also provide authority for the registrar to investigate the criminal record of applicants for security business or security employee licenses. Currently, applicants for these licenses must report any criminal record but the registrar does not have the authority to investigate the accuracy of the report. This bill would allow the registrar to take the applicant's fingerprints and investigate his or her criminal record, if the registrar receives written authority from the applicant. Any applicant who does not provide this authorization will not be issued a license. The registrar will still have the discretion to issue a license to an individual with a criminal record, if the conviction is not relevant to the fitness of the applicant to carry out the security

business. Decisions of the registrar may also be appealed by the applicant under the act.

The bill would amend the act in one final area. A subsection would be added to the act, to deal with proof of criminal convictions, allowing certificates to be accepted as proof of convictions in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

In general, the committee was satisfied that these amendments would add some flexibility to businesses interested in obtaining a security business license, while maintaining an adequate level of consumer protection. At the public meeting on December 7, 1992, the Standing Committee on Legislation carried a motion to report Bill 7 to the Assembly as ready for the Committee of the Whole. I invite other Committee Members to add their comments. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Any general comments? Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Page 364

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

The bill as a whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is ready for a third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 19, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 2, 7, and 14, Committee Report 3-12(3), Committee Report 5-12(3), Committee Report 6-12(3), and Committee Report 7-12(3), and wishes to report that Committee Reports 3-12(3), 5-12(3), 6-12(3), and 7-12(3) are concluded, and that Bills 2 and 7 are ready for third reading and that Bill 14 is ready for third reading as amended, with 17 motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 10: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 10, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The 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 10 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1991-92, be read for the third 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? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 13 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No 1, 1993-94 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The 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 1 has had third reading. Item 20, Third Reading of Bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, Orders of the Day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Management and Services Board after adjournment this evening, and also a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at 6:00 p.m. Meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, at 11:00 a.m. of the Territorial Leadership Committee and at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Legislation. Orders of the Day for Wednesday, December 9, 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 Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 2-12(3), Appearance of the Languages Commissioner

- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Public Trustee Act

- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act

- Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Commercial Tenancies Act

- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act

- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act

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

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT