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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. James Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Rebecca Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Before I proceed with the orders of the day, I would like to provide the House with my ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Thebacha, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, on February 22, 1993.

Speaker's Ruling

I have taken some time to provide my ruling on this matter as I feel it is important that this ruling, as with all rulings, are well reviewed as they become precedent on which future rulings are based. Often times rulings are more complex than they originally appear.

I would like to advise the House that the Speaker's responsibility in ruling on a point of order is to base his decision on the facts as presented in the House and recorded in Hansard. The chair should not take into account any influences that may or may not take place inside or outside the House except when hearing debate on a point of order.

I feel it is important that I lay out the events that led up to the point of order. Upon my review, the matter was initiated with the Member for Thebacha's Member's statement on Friday, February 19, 1993, and recorded on pages 1430 to 1432 of the unedited Hansard. The Member's statement was regarding the Housing Corporation Minister's handling of a complaint. As the events unfolded before the House on Monday, February 22, 1993, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Honourable Don Morin, under the item Minister's statements, made a statement in response to the Member for Thebacha's Member's statement. These comments are recorded on pages 1491 to 1492 of the unedited Hansard. I will make

comments on the content of these speeches in due course.

On the same day, the Member for Thebacha, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, under the item Member's statements, made a statement on the Minister's statement regarding his handling of the complaint. This is recorded on pages 1495 to 1497 of the unedited Hansard. Later the same day, the Member for Thebacha, during oral questions, raised a point of order which is recorded on page 1507 of the unedited Hansard. The point of order raised by Mrs. Marie-Jewell was that the Member for Tu Nedhe had called her irresponsible. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin, also raised a point of order that the Member for Thebacha had called him ignorant. Mr. Morin's point of order was resolved, as the Member for Thebacha apologized for using the word "ignorant."

To the point of order raised by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on the use of the word "irresponsible" being unparliamentary, I would like to put it into context and indicate how the word was used by Mr. Morin. I quote from page 1492 of the unedited Hansard, "I welcome constructive criticism from Members of the House, but I will not allow myself to be abused in an irresponsible manner by a Member who, on one hand, expects to be dealt with in a courteous and professional manner but, on the other hand, is not willing to act that way herself." There are a number of parliamentary authorities that I reviewed on this matter. Comments made by both Mr. Morin and Mrs. Marie-Jewell certainly provoked the exchange that occurred. I would like to provide the House with some of the citations that I took into consideration in preparing this ruling.

From Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th edition, "Citation 481 - It has been sanctioned by usage that a Member, while speaking, must not: impute bad motives or motives different from those acknowledged by a Member; make a personal charge against a Member."

Under the matter of referring to Members in debate, I quote Beauchesne's 484(3), "In the House of Commons a Member will not be permitted by the Speaker to indulge in any reflections on the House itself as a political institution; or to impute to any Member or Members unworthy motives for their actions in a particular case; or to use any profane or indecent language; or to question the acknowledged and undoubted powers of the House in a matter of privilege; or to reflect upon, argue against or in any manner call in question the past acts and proceedings

of the House, or to speak in abusive and disrespectful terms of an act of parliament."

I feel these citations could be applied to the matter before us. To put the matter in context, I would like to quote from Mrs. Marie-Jewell's Member's statement contained on pages 1430 to 1432 of the unedited Hansard, and I quote, firstly, "I had faith that the Minister would take the issue seriously and would take responsibility to find an appropriate resolution;" secondly, "I am so disappointed and concerned with the cavalier manner in which he dealt with my constituent's concern;" and thirdly, "I believed that he would take a professional approach and attempt to resolve the matter, however, he did not." I would like to quote the comments of Mr. Morin as contained in his Minister's statement, "She claims that I am not taking my job seriously, I am cavalier, unprofessional, forgetful, unhelpful, lazy, irresponsible and unconscientious."

I find that the comment of Mrs. Marie-Jewell provoked Mr. Morin's Minister's statement and his interpretation of the

Page 606

comments made by Mrs. Marie-Jewell. On the use of unparliamentary language, I would like to offer citation 486(1) of Beauchesne's 6th edition, which is also relevant to the matter under consideration, "It is impossible to lay down specific rules in regard to injurious reflections uttered in debate against particular Members, or to declare before hand what expressions are or are not contrary to order; much depends upon the tone and manner, and intention, of the person speaking; sometimes upon the person to whom the words are addressed, as, whether the person is a public officer, or a private Member not in office, or whether the words are meant to be applied to public conduct or to private character; and sometimes upon the degree of provocation, which the Member speaking had received from the person alluded to; and all these considerations must be attended to at the moment, as they are infinitely various and cannot possibly be foreseen in such a manner that precise rules can be adopted with respect to them."

In making my ruling, I was guided also by the following citation 494, from Beauchesne's, which is an important principle, "It has been formally ruled by Speakers that statements by Members respecting themselves and particularly within their own knowledge must be accepted. It is not

unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by Members as being contrary to the facts; but no imputation of intentional falsehood is permissible. On rare occasions this may result in the House having to accept two contradictory accounts of the same incident."

Prior to providing my ruling, I would like to convey to the House that it is the right and responsibility of ordinary Members to question the actions of Ministers as they carry out the responsibilities they have been charged with. Mrs. Marie-Jewell was exercising her rights as a Member by making her Member's statement. The Minister, Mr. Morin, was well within his rights to defend his actions in undertaking the most fundamental aspect of government policy, that is how government Ministers respond to the requests of MLAs. However, both Members must use language appropriate to this House when doing so. As indicated earlier, it is impossible to lay down any specific rules in regard to injurious reflections uttered in debate against particular Members or to declare before hand what expressions are or are not contrary to order.

Much depends on the tone and manner and, more importantly, the intention of the person speaking and, sometimes, upon the person to whom the words are addressed. I feel that Members' responses are sometimes influenced by the degree of perceived provocation in other Members' comments. It is not unparliamentary to criticize statements made by Members as being contrary to the facts, but no imputation of intentional falsehoods are permissible. As outlined in citation 494, "on rare occasions, this may result in the House having to accept two contradictory accounts of the same incident." I feel that this may be the case in the exchanges between Mrs. Marie-Jewell and Mr. Morin. I would caution Members that the process both Members used were within parliamentary procedure, but the tone and words used by both Members caused the matter to escalate to a point unacceptable to this House.

To the point of order on the use of the word "irresponsible" by the Minister, Mr. Morin. Even though the Minister did not directly refer to the Member as irresponsible, he referred to the "irresponsible manner" of the Member. The words "irresponsible Member" were ruled unparliamentary on May 8, 1969 in the House of Commons. Taking into consideration the authorities I have reviewed, I rule that the use of the word "irresponsible" by Mr. Morin in this incident is unparliamentary and will request the honourable Member to withdraw that

word. Mrs. Marie-Jewell has apologized for her use of an unparliamentary word. Mrs. Marie-Jewell has apologized to the Speaker and, at the appropriate time today, I will table the letter to the Speaker from Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I feel it would be appropriate if the Minister also apologized.

I would hope that all Members will take my words to heart and conduct themselves in a constructive manner that is in the best interests of the people of the Northwest Territories. With this ruling, this matter is now closed. The House can return to its business and the chair will not entertain further comments on this matter. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to withdraw the words "irresponsible Member." Mr. Speaker, in my statement on Monday, February 22, 1993, I in no way intended to insult this House by suggesting that one of its Members was irresponsible regarding their general duties in this House. If it was taken otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I will continue to work closely with Members of this House to resolve the many outstanding and serious challenges facing the north. I hope we can all rise above personal conflicts to meet these challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The matter is now concluded. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 45-12(3): Review Of Workers' Compensation In The Northwest Territories

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will table the review of Workers' Compensation in the Northwest Territories. The review was prepared by Mr. Garnet Garven, former chairperson and chief executive officer of the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board and presently a research fellow at the National Centre for Management, Research and Development at the Western Business School, University of Western Ontario. The review was initiated by the former Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, the Honourable Dennis Patterson, on the recommendation of the Standing

Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. In their interim report under workers' compensation, the committee recommended "that the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board prepare a legislative action paper outlining proposed areas for amending the Workers' Compensation Act..."

Mr. Speaker, this review is not meant to serve as a legislative action paper. The time lines and scope of this review did not allow for the development of such a paper in the short two months that Mr. Garven was given to complete his work. Rather, it is intended to serve as a blueprint, identifying the broad policy considerations to be included in the legislative

Page 607

action paper. It is my intention to develop and present this paper to the Legislative Assembly prior to the end of this current sitting.

Although the primary focus of this review has been the interim and final reports of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, the chief commissioner also reviewed previous reports on the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories. Meetings were also held with employer and labour organizations, past and current directors of the board, management and staff of the board and the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada. I will stress, Mr. Speaker, that this consultation process was not meant to be exhaustive. It is important that the amendments to this very important legislation be done in consultation with all stakeholder groups. These groups will have other opportunities to provide their views on the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act during the review of the legislative action paper and the review of the proposed new bill. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Outbreak Of E. coli In Keewatin Region

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Between June and October, 1991, the Keewatin region experienced a devastating disease outbreak caused by E. coli 0157. This epidemic will go down in history as the largest incidence of gastro-enteritis caused by E. coli in the world. Mr. Speaker, a total of 521 cases were recorded, six settlements were affected, Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet and Sanikiluaq.

Tragically, two little children died as a result of the disease, Mr. Speaker. Many more suffered painful symptoms and a disruption of community living that lasted through the entire summer. It was a dreadful experience, Mr. Speaker, one that reminded many Keewatin Inuit of the devastation our people have suffered through disease epidemics in the past. Now that the critical period has passed, it is vitally important that we learn everything we can about how these terrible things happen. We will never be able to bring back those two little children and we will never be able to replace those painful summer months but, hopefully, a careful review of the causes of the outbreak and the response of the health system will help us deal with similar threats which may face us in the future.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the Keewatin regional health board has completed a major report which documents scientific findings related to E. coli outbreaks. As well, this report contains 20 recommendations which, in my view, must be implemented without delay. As you will note, Mr. Speaker, the report also singles out Obed Anoe, a community health representative in Arviat, for special praise. Noting that, "His hard work, good humour and willingness to be proactive was critical in helping to control the spread of the epidemic." I believe Mr. Anoe and all the staff of the Keewatin regional health board deserve special recognition for the work they did during those difficult times.

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mr. Arvaluk, your allotted time has elapsed. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling this important report later today. Tomorrow I will be asking the Minister of Health for a status report on the recommendations that have been made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Regarding Apology To Constituents

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe your ruling today will create an environment where this entire incident can be drawn to a conclusion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I thank you very much for your ruling. However, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to apologize to my constituents who have been without public representation in this House for the past two days. Mr. Speaker, the circumstances that caused me to be absent certainly have been, indeed, regrettable. I believe, Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons the people of Thebacha have sent me here is they know I have strong principles and will not allow myself to be placed in situations where those principles are compromised. I would like to thank them very much for their support over the past two days. I certainly hope they accept my apology for not representing them in this House. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Development Of Park At Campbell Lake

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an agreement which was made between the Government of the Northwest Territories and an aboriginal group. A memorandum of agreement was signed on November 7, 1991, between the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The two groups agreed to establish a territorial park at Campbell Lake just a few kilometres south-east of Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, the planning and management of the park at Campbell Lake, originally named Gwich'in Territorial Park,

Page 608

offers some valuable opportunities for local employment and training. I believe this local involvement should begin immediately and should include making some budget allocation decisions for the upcoming fiscal year in both this government and the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The memorandum of agreement between the two groups states, "The council shall be involved in the production of a park management plan." The agreement further states, "The council shall be responsible for developing and operating the park under contract to the Government of the Northwest Territories." This agreement specifically mentions the development of outdoor recreational activities, outdoor orientation and interpretive programs and a plan for the protection of the natural environment of the park. The Gwich'in Tribal Council is ready to begin this important work immediately. The council has invested in state-of-the-art satellite imagery of the Inuvik and Campbell Hills areas. The council is also acquiring computer equipment and the expertise to make use of other geographic data, including aerial photography, as a need for park planning, promotion and management. The Gwich'in Geographics, the geographic information system company, and the Gwich'in council are establishing and cost-effectively managing all of the GIS needs...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe, your allotted time has elapsed.

MR. KOE:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. In meetings with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the council was informed that the government will allocate about \$75,000 to the Gwich'in Territorial Park for the upcoming fiscal year. Among the planned work tasks are many which can best be performed by the new company, Gwich'in Geographics. However, Mr. Speaker, Economic Development and Tourism representatives stated that this work will be done by government employees from Yellowknife. This approach minimizes the opportunities for local people to directly benefit from this work. Furthermore, I do not believe this approach makes fiscal sense. On the contrary, we believe that awarding the geographic information systems work to Gwich'in Geographics will result in significant cost savings to this government.

In light of the above, the council believes that local involvement in park management must include decision-making power regarding next year's budget. We believe this level of involvement is in keeping with the intent of the memorandum of agreement. Mr. Speaker, I fully support the tribal council's initiatives, especially their attempts to create economic opportunities and jobs for their people. I also support this government's initiative to make these types of opportunities available and give the government support to do the things they wish to do. However, I believe this government should live and abide within the spirit, intent and the environment in which the agreement was signed. It seems that when agreements are made between senior departmental staff and other groups, the intent, the understanding or agreement is not communicated to the working staff, those officers in the department and especially the regional staff.

Thus when a group is trying to get the work done, they continually get caught up in bureaucratic red tape. Mr. Speaker, this has to stop. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

I do not want to single out Mr. Koe on this next observation, because other Members have actually been doing it also, but it seems the trend of late is that a majority of Members' statements are going beyond the two and a half minutes. Even though that is

allowed in the rules, by asking for unanimous consent, ultimately it begs the question that, if no one follows the rule, why do we have the rule? I would ask Members if they could try to consider that the rule does state two and a half minutes. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Clean-up Of DEW Line Sites

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will obey your command. I will keep my comments to two and a half minutes or less. About a year and a half ago, I made a presentation to a national commission on peace and security. In my presentation to Iona Campinola and her colleagues, I pointed out there were not many people in the Northwest Territories who could remember the second world war. That is a vivid demonstration of how important it was to have some defence force.

Everywhere in this world, national governments assume the responsibility for defence. I also pointed out to the commission, Mr. Speaker, that in a rapidly changing world, we should be looking not only in our own narrow interest to defend our own country, but to keep the world a secure place. I am happy to see our own government now seems to be moving even further in the direction of ascertaining that. One of the things we do well in, and have a reputation throughout the world, is peace keeping, and as demonstrated last to early this week, when there was a presentation on the clean up of the DEW Line, the military is also playing a role in helping us preserve our environment, because that also is threatened and very much relates to the need to have peace and security. Mr. Speaker, I know there are some people who worry about the action of the military, but I believe they are on the right track in looking at our world role and the role of preserving the environment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Professionalism Of Honourable John Todd

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to talk about an important leadership issue within the Department of Safety and Public Services. In case the Minister needs a reminder, this is a serious issue.

Mr. Speaker, for about the past ten years Kit Bell has worked for the Government of the Northwest Territories, serving most recently as the territorial fire marshal. Regrettably, he has decided to resign his post. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned

Page 609

about the circumstances under which he left the public service. I am even more concerned that his reasons for leaving may have shaken the public confidence in the government's commitment to effective fire safety service. I am especially concerned about the perceived way the Minister's leadership style may have damaged the morale of

the public servants in the Department of Safety and Public Services.

Previous Ministers of Safety and Public Services, including myself, Mr. Patterson and Mrs. Marie-Jewell, have always done our best to hold the department and its staff in high esteem. Mr. Speaker, they are hard-working professionals, trained and competent in their positions until proven otherwise. I am worried, Mr. Speaker, that the comments made by the Minister do not appear to share that reception. I am worried about the fact...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford, I would like to caution Members that words made by a Member before they become a Minister are irrelevant to a Minister's performance. Perceived management styles within this Legislative Assembly are not an appropriate judgement for Members to make. I wonder if I could please caution the honourable Member in the comments he is making about the honourable Minister. Thank you. You may continue, Mr. Whitford. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Power Failures In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am receiving strong expressions of concern from my constituents about incidents of power failures in Iqaluit this week. Constituents are concerned that there were three interruptions on February 23, including a 90 minute power failure in the evening. They are anxious to find out the cause of these problems. I want to give the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation notice that tomorrow I will be asking for some explanations as to why these frequent breaks occurred and what might

be done to prevent this from happening again. It is unusual, power has been reliable over the years in Iqaluit, but incidents this winter have caused my constituents some concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 262-12(3): Review Of The Fire Management Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Zoe on February 18 regarding costs for the review of the fire management program.

Mr. Speaker, the estimated cost of the contract issued for the review of the fire management program is \$290,000. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 309-12(3): Medical Counselling And Information Services For Women

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 23, 1993, regarding medical counselling and information services for women.

The Department of Health in conjunction with Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and regional health boards is closely monitoring all aspects of the abortion implementation plan. In the new fiscal year the Department of Health will prepare a summary of progress and specific actions taken to implement the recommendations.

Stanton Yellowknife Hospital tabled their "abortion recommendation response plan" at the December 1, 1992, public board meeting. The board has directed administration of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to provide a quarterly update; the next update is due at the April 20, 1993 board meeting. In addition, there will be an evaluation of the response plan at the end of one year. Stanton Yellowknife Hospital does

conduct reviews to ensure patients are provided with appropriate information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome, in the gallery, Pam May and her grade six students from Sissons school.

---Applause

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 346-12(3): Deadline For Strengthening Roles Of Deputy Minister And Comptroller General

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. On June 25, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled its report and recommended that the Minister should take action and strengthen the roles of the deputy minister and comptroller general and make them more independent of each other. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Minister of Finance about this issue on several occasions. The last time, I believe, was November 20. He indicated to me, at that time, that he was trying not to "overload the system" and that they were moving a little slowly in this area. He did state, however, that he would complete the restructuring of the duties of these important senior officials by "certainly the end of this fiscal year." Recognizing that the fiscal year is almost over and that we have not seen any formal action yet on this matter other than a very brief reference he made last Monday, will the Minister tell the House whether he will now meet the deadline he indicated last November?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 346-12(3): Deadline For Strengthening Roles Of Deputy Minister And Comptroller General

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will, in fact, meet that deadline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 347-12(3): Review Of Social Assistance Allowances

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. I received a letter February 11, 1993, from a person who was concerned about social assistance. In our constituency it is much more costly than in the south. Because many items are more expensive than they are in the south, I wonder if there could be a review done to see if these individuals should be receiving higher social assistance? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 347-12(3): Review Of Social Assistance Allowances

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the matter the Member is questioning. Until the appeal committee reports or tables their concerns to us, there is nothing we can do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 347-12(3): Review Of Social Assistance Allowances

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the committee you mentioned, do you have any idea when they will put in a request? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 347-12(3): Review Of Social Assistance Allowances

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to answer the question again. There is a policy with regard to how much a person is supposed to receive as social assistance. I believe that without the committee requesting this of us, we cannot do anything. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 348-12(3): Time Frame For Changing Social Assistance Policy

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand the response given by the Minister of Social Services. I believe the question was when is the committee, which she mentioned, going to submit how the policy will be changed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 348-12(3): Time Frame For Changing Social Assistance Policy

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee which I mentioned is the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. I am waiting for them to submit their report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 348-12(3): Time Frame For Changing Social Assistance Policy

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are you expecting them to submit this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 348-12(3): Time Frame For Changing Social Assistance Policy

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps you should speak to our colleague, Charles Dent, who is the chairman. I do not know when they are submitting their report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 349-12(3): Ministerial Action On Review Of Social Assistance Rates

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a further question for the Minister of Social Services regarding the issue of social assistance rates. The Minister should be aware that an interim report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services has already recommended that the rates paid for food, by her department, come no where near meeting the real costs in communities, and particularly isolated communities of the Northwest Territories. Is the Minister, in her response to Mr. Arvaluk, suggesting that she is going to take no further action on the issue of social assistance rates until she gets the final report of the special committee?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 349-12(3): Ministerial Action On Review Of Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I did not suggest that. We have a Social Assistance Act which we are regulated by. I am hoping that the final report will indicate to make changes to the legislation. I can then do something about it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 349-12(3): Ministerial Action On Review Of Social Assistance Rates

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am not satisfied with the honourable Minister's answer. Mr. Speaker, the special committee has recommended that rates be reviewed on an urgent basis and that they are not adequate to

meet the real costs in our communities. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that legislative amendments are required to change or improve social assistance rates. Is the Minister going to review those rates or is she going to hide behind the delay required to receive the final report of the special committee?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Page 611

Further Return To Question 349-12(3): Ministerial Action On Review Of Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent five per cent increase in the social assistance food allowance, which occurred on October 1, 1992, only covers the increase in the consumer price index. I will look into this further and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like clarification from the Minister of Social Services. In 1992 we were deliberating regarding the bill. The bill refers to the secretaries of those committees in the communities. To date, I have not seen it. Have they done anything about the social services workers' alcohol committee abstaining from alcohol consumption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get further clarification. Are you asking about the alcohol committees, or is it the people who are on the committee with regard to social services? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill seems to be directed to both parties. The alcohol committees seem to be included in the bill also. Have they pursued the issue of abstaining from alcohol completely, if you are a worker for those parties?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) The policy is the same as it always was, the workers in the communities have to completely abstain from alcohol consumption. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The secretaries of the committees are not actually counsellors. They are just secretary-treasurers of those committees. They also want the secretary-treasurers to completely abstain from alcohol consumption. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there was a question. I think he just made a statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

It was a question, Ms. Mike. Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the statement the Member just made, there was no question in Inuktitut, from what I understand. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

My understanding of it was that there was a question. It is whether the secretary-treasurers of these organizations are subject to the same policy. Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 350-12(3): Social Services Workers' Abstention From Intoxicants

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is still the same. There have not been changes to it. I will look into this and get back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 351-12(3): Involvement Of Gwich'in Tribal Council In Establishment Of Park

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I referred to the memorandum of agreement between the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to develop a territorial park at Campbell Lake. In the agreement it states that the Gwich'in Tribal Council shall be responsible for developing and operating the park under a contract to the Government of the Northwest Territories according to the park management plan. Why is the department not willing to utilize the expertise and technology being offered by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to establish this new park?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 352-12(3): Timetable For Input Into The Domestic Workers' Regulations

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for providing me a copy of the draft "domestic workers' regulations" and the offer to have staff assist my constituents who are concerned about this, I will take him up on his offer at a later date. How long do we have to deal with this matter? Is there a timetable for public input, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Page 612

Return To Question 352-12(3): Timetable For Input Into The Domestic Workers' Regulations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any timetable as such. Right now we are at the consultation stage. The draft of the legislation has been provided to interested groups in the territories. It has also been provided to the members from Yellowknife because that seems to be where the majority of domestic workers and nannies are active. At this time, I see the process as relatively open until such time as we can get the appropriate input from those people who are concerned about this particular issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked a question to the Minister of Finance. He said he would be meeting the deadline, which he indicated to me on November 20, with regard to strengthening the role of the deputy minister and comptroller general and to make them more independent of each other. Mr. Speaker, when the Minister was commenting on the proposed estimates for the 1993-94 budget this past Monday, he stated "There is a plan which has been put together. It rests with Madam Premier and

myself at the present time. As I promised Mr. Zoe last year, it will be reported to the Assembly this session." Mr. Speaker, I checked back to November 20 and that is exactly the same thing he told us then. He indicated the plan is in place and was being reviewed by Madam Premier. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to explain what has held up this decision at the political level.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a bit more complex than just a plan. It is true that I presented it to the Premier last year. She had some comments for me that I had to take back and examine. That has been done. Her concerns have been addressed, I believe. As I said, the revised plan is at work and still rests with the Premier and myself. We will meet the deadline of making those adjustments by the end of the fiscal year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Our standing committee recommendation did not require major reorganization of the department. It wanted to strengthen and separate the roles played by the deputy minister and the comptroller general. This should not be an overwhelming task. The fact that the Department of Finance and Cabinet have been unable to achieve a relatively simple restructuring exercise suggests to me, Mr. Speaker, that something must be very wrong. That is why it is taking them so long to resolve this issue. Can the Minister indicate why he has decided to make this change in authority part of a much longer and drawn out process, rather than just dealing with it right away?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think it is very drawn out. I did say we would address it by the end of this fiscal year and we certainly intend to do that. Mr. Speaker, when you are trying to address the concerns of the standing committee, which we are doing, we also have some issues which we want to address in the departments of government and one area is in the Department of Finance. We decided rather than just make some adjustments and later down the road make more adjustments, we would look at the overall situation to see how we could satisfy all the needs of the Executive and of this Legislative Assembly. We are not dragging it out, we are just making sure what we do will work and making sure what we do addresses the concerns that Mr. Zoe has brought to this Legislative Assembly. As I said, it will all be done by the end of this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, during the budget speech on Monday, I listened very carefully to the Minister when he brought his budget before the House. I noted he told my colleague from Inuvik that the problem with the real definition of the deputy minister and comptroller general has been resolved in the short-term. What short-term action, Mr. Speaker, has he taken in this regard which he made reference to in his budget speech?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 353-12(3): Status Of Comptroller General And Deputy Minister Positions

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, just being aware of the concerns of the committee and the concerns raised by the Auditor General, I have directed people in the department to be cognizant of those concerns during their jobs and

carrying out their duties as they are at the present time. I did not make any structural changes, but just merely being aware of the concerns was enough to impress upon the individuals in the department what their responsibilities and roles should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 354-12(3): Cost Of WCB Security System

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, I understand over the past year that the Workers' Compensation Board has purchased and installed a high-tech security system. As a matter of fact, I understand it is a very

Page 613

secure system and may make the Workers' Compensation Board office not the sort of place you want to be when you need a bathroom in a hurry, unless you have a special card. While I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Member for Keewatin Central was not the Minister at the time when this equipment was probably ordered and purchased, he is now and now is the time that the full effects of this administrative spending are being felt. Could the Minister indicate if he has been informed as to the cost of this new high-tech security system?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

First of all, I agree with the honourable Member, it does seem somewhat an intimidating environment. I have asked the new management of the WCB to take a hard look at it because it does seem somewhat intimidating when you need a card to get into the loo as they would say. With respect to the cost of this security system, I do not have that information at hand but I am prepared to provide that information to the honourable Member and will take the question as notice. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER:

That is correct, Mr. Todd. The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 355-12(3): GNWT Actions Preventing Bank Closure In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism but, Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat concerned about questioning because of our conflict of interest guidelines. I have not had time to check with legal counsel of the House on my questioning because I have been in intensive meetings right up until the bell rang in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want the Members to be aware that there was a fairly significant announcement made in Fort Smith this morning. No doubt the community and the residents are very disappointed and probably devastated that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has decided to close its operations effective Friday, June 4. The reason why I have trouble with my questioning is the fact that our conflict of interest guidelines may come into play. I would like to know what the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and Finance, has done to advise the community what this government has done in regard to preventing the closure of that bank in Fort Smith?

MR. SPEAKER:

Before the Minister responds to the question, I would like to remind Members if they have any doubt about the possibility of running into problems with the conflict of interest legislation or regulations, they should seek legal advice themselves. It is their responsibility to do that. I would just like to caution Members always on that particular issue. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, knowing that, would you still like the question to go forward? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I think it is of critical importance for my constituents to determine whether this government did anything to prevent the bank from closing. That is basically what I want to know. I believe I would be on safe ground to ask that question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 355-12(3): GNWT Actions Preventing Bank Closure In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, before I answer the question I should tell you that Mrs. Marie-Jewell and myself have spoken on this issue several times and she has never been more than forthright with me with what may be perceived as a conflict. She was upfront with me in my discussions with her during the past three months.

The issue is the closure of the CIBC in Fort Smith. It has been rumoured for some time. I have been in contact with the bank. They, first of all, contacted me last year, Mr. Speaker. They agreed to go into Fort Smith and hold a public meeting before making any decision and that was supposed to happen in January or February of this year. They advised me in January they were not prepared to go into the community because last time they were there they felt they were abused. There has been, I believe, two groups in there who have asked the bank to leave the community. I do not have copies of that correspondence, Mr. Speaker, but I have been advised by people in Fort Smith that there have been two groups who have asked the bank to leave. Grant Wilson from the bank phoned this morning at 8:40 am, he was in Fort Smith and was advising me they would be closing their operations in June. We have not done anything at the present time to prevent them from doing that. There is no hold of the government over that particular branch to make them stay there, however, I am still prepared to go to Fort Smith at my earliest convenience to meet with the people there to see what they would like to do. I have been advised in the past, Mr. Speaker, that there are residents in Fort Smith who believe there is another commercial bank willing to move into the community. Before I am willing to do anything I would like to visit Fort Smith and hold a public meeting and discuss with the residents what they would like to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources.

The Keewatin people have expressed concern with respect to the environmental damage that may be caused by the proposed hydro development of the Great Whale River project. The honourable Members may recall, when the Minister was in Inuvik last December, he announced that \$438,000 in funding had been provided through the federal environmental assessment and review process for the Sanikiluaq environmental committee and that an additional \$25,000 had been provided to the Nunavut Environmental Coalition for Keewatin. This funding will enable these community organizations to prepare submissions for the review panels. I also realize that Mr. Minister had answered some questions on Tuesday, the 23, with regard to this.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the input from these community organizations I think our territorial government should be taking a leadership in this area. Can the Minister advise the House

Page 614

whether or not the Government of the Northwest Territories is also planning to intervene directly in the environmental assessment process?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, does this mean the government will be carrying out any independent research activity in order to prepare a submission for the environmental hearings?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the time comes to appear before the panel, we have sufficient staff that have had experience in dealing with environmental assessment panels. Also in-house we have an environmental protection section which deals with the pollutants that may come into the Northwest Territories or that may be generated within the Northwest Territories. Any research we do will be done in-house with the existing people who are doing this kind of environmental assessment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the Minister is aware that ITC and TFN have both expressed a strong interest in this process. I am wondering what consultation will be made with the communities in the Keewatin?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 356-12(3): Environmental Assessment Process

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the area of environmental assessment, our government does not have full jurisdiction. The environmental assessment is done by Environment Canada through their environmental assessment branch out of Hull, Quebec. When the proponent makes an environmental statement on their project, that generally goes to the panel and the panel makes the decision on whether the information is sufficient to go into a public review. When the public review takes place, our government will be one of the witnesses that will be appearing before the panel. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery, Mr. James Eetoolook, the acting president of TFN.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Once again I will be asking a question -- having swallowed a bitter pill in Seville. I am speaking, of course, about our experience with Expo '92 in Seville, Spain. Mr. Speaker, I am really hoping to find something positive that we can point to as a result of our participation in this venture. On March 6, 1991, when my honourable colleague for Yellowknife Centre questioned the Minister's predecessor, the House was told, "The arts and crafts have gone into a major recession along with the North American economy. If we are going to expand our markets, we must look to Europe and Japan. Seville in 1992 offers a major venue." Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise this House as to whether there are any new contracts or arrangements for arts and crafts marketing in Europe or Japan that can be directly attributed to our involvement with Expo '92?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Seville, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Did you say Don Pollard? Mr. Speaker, there are some new developments in Europe. I will get the information and provide it in written form to the Member. There are some new contacts and new galleries that are a direct result of Expo. As I said, I will get the information to the Member in written form, then if he has any further questions I will answer them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

MR. DENT:

I did not hear the word "notice" on the other side of the House, so I do have a supplementary for the same Minister. This is on the same topic, but not related to the information the Minister has offered to provide which I am looking forward to receiving.

Also on March 6, the former Minister indicated that our government would be able to expand its capacity to attract tourists, particularly from Germany and the United Kingdom, as a result of participation in Expo '92. Can the Minister indicate to the House whether his department has completed an evaluation of the impact of Expo '92 on our northern tourism market? Did it make a substantial difference?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Page 615

Further Return To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it made any difference with regard to tourists visiting the Northwest Territories. We have not finished the audit and the evaluation yet, but it would be wrong of me to stand here and say we are going to get hoards of visitors coming to the Northwest Territories as a result of Expo. I do not think that will happen. There were not nearly as many visitors from northern Europe to the fair that we were hoping to attract here, so I would not run out and build a new hotel based on the results from Expo. I will bring the analysis of that back when we bring the audit to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I welcome the information being offered by the Minister. There were many economic benefits which were touted as being a result of our involvement in Expo. These were referred to on June 23, 1992, by my honourable

colleague for Yellowknife Centre when he noted that we had heard benefits would include a projection of \$1.4 million in staff salaries, an income of \$800,000 for producers of arts and crafts, \$650,000 in the hands of food producers and a net benefit of \$2.8 million into the territorial economy. I was wondering if the Minister could indicate if we are examining the results of Expo to see whether any of these economic benefits are going to be realized?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the audit bureau is doing an audit which will give us the financial picture, the revenues and where that money was spent, et cetera. A comparison could be made at that time. I do not have those numbers right off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, but they will be in the audit report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. This is your final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

MR. DENT:

Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When the bill was put to this House to fund Expo '92, it was suggested by our honourable colleague for Deh Cho that we should use this forum as an opportunity to educate people about the fur industry and counteract some of the unfair animal rights campaigns that have taken place in Europe. Can the Minister indicate whether there was any evidence that we were successful in carrying this out?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 357-12(3): Economic Benefits Resulting From Expo

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to say "no" to that one, too. I can say, however, there were many people who came through the pavilion who learned a great deal about the Northwest Territories. Did they learn about some of the cultures and the art and crafts in the Northwest Territories? The answer to that is "yes." Did they learn about some of the food that we have here? Muskox has become very popular, we have some technical difficulties in getting it to Europe, but nevertheless, it was very well received. Maybe we did not make a real dent into the fur issue, but we certainly exposed the Northwest Territories to the European people who attended the pavilion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The question is about tourism and I hope that many of the Spanish people signed the guest book in the new facility I am going to talk about. In the budget address the Minister of Finance stated that the planning for the Inuvik regional visitors' centre is well under way. I am glad to hear that planning is well under way. What is the current status of this project?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the lot has been chosen and plans are under way to develop the area. We are talking to Parks Canada to see if they are going to participate with us, we have discussed an arrangement with them similar to the one we have here in Yellowknife. We are in discussions with the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in on the building and operation of that particular facility. That aspect has not yet been resolved, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It has been local understanding and the Minister referred to the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and also the town as having been involved in this project. It has been the local understanding that the design, construction and ownership would probably be local. Can the Minister advise when he expects his department and the potential local owners will come to an agreement on the terms of ownership and operation for this new facility?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Page 616

Further Return To Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we are preparing a work plan right now to itemize dates, times, places and people, so that everyone knows what the schedule will be. The problem we are running into with the ownership is, we are prepared to sit down and negotiate an arrangement for ownership and operations for that particular facility but it must meet the Department of Public Works' test. That is that it is not costing us more over the 20 year term, than it would be if we built the facility ourselves. I have been quite frank with Chief James Firth about that. If it is reasonable, if it will stand DPW's test, then we are prepared to enter into an agreement with them. That is the issue at hand. Can we come to an arrangement that suits both sides? I am hoping that will be resolved in the next six weeks, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

MR. KOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister and his department committed to local ownership and the majority of the construction and design to go to local groups?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 358-12(3): Status Of Inuvik Regional Visitors' Centre

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, if it is fiscally reasonable, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 359-12(3): Status Of Fur Industry Defence Program

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, in December of this past year, this Legislature unanimously supported urging the Government of Canada to restore full funding to the fur industry defence program and from it to continue to support ISI international so that the defence of the Canadian fur industry in Europe and elsewhere may be supported and continued. I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources, who I was pleased supported and spoke in favour of the motion last December, whether he can tell this House the current status of the fur industry defence program and the efforts of ISI to restore their core funding for the coming year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question 359-12(3): Status Of Fur Industry Defence Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I met with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and I informed him that the Legislature was concerned. I gave him copies of the resolution that was passed and also the debate that went on in this House. I also informed him that ISI required core funding. He thought the restored fur industry defence program could provide core funding to ISI. Those were his words. He indicated it was his understanding that FIDP would fund the ISI. Since then, a letter was sent to ISI from Indian and Northern Affairs stating that no core funding would be provided to them. There has been renewed appeal through

letters to Indian and Northern Affairs. I have written a letter to the Minister responsible for Indian and Northern Affairs. To date, we have not received a response as to whether ISI will be given core funding. I expect Indian and Northern Affairs will respond to us. I am still working to see if the federal government can provide core funding to ISI, however, they have not confirmed this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 360-12(3): Consultation With Keewatin Region Re Environmental Assessment

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources I asked what consultations would be made with regard to their particular research and their input into the environmental assessment panel on the Great Whale River. Will there be consultation with the Keewatin region? Will they be making their presentation from reports?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 360-12(3): Consultation With Keewatin Region Re Environmental Assessment

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, for the text which we will be providing to the panel, we will consult with the communities. At this point, I cannot say which communities we will be visiting or consulting with. We will keep the communities informed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 360-12(3): Consultation With Keewatin Region Re Environmental Assessment

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before they draw up the text for the presentation will they know which communities will be consulted? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 360-12(3): Consultation With Keewatin Region Re Environmental Assessment

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will inform the communities and the MLA.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 361-12(3): Study Done By Kitikmeot Inuit Association

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Some time ago there was a study completed which was initiated by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. The study was completed in order that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association could take over

Page 617

economic development in the Kitikmeot. Has the Minister received a copy of the study? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 361-12(3): Study Done By Kitikmeot Inuit Association

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the study. The suggestion that the region take over the role of Economic Development and Tourism will fall within the community transfer arrangement. Mr. Bailey has been up there and had some discussions. I know he intends to return there. We are interested in seeing exactly what could be done under the community transfer agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 361-12(3): Study Done By Kitikmeot Inuit Association

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the community transfer take place? Do we have a date when the community transfer will be taking place within the Kitikmeot region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 361-12(3): Study Done By Kitikmeot Inuit Association

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, this falls under Mr. Kakfwi's jurisdiction. I do not know if there has been any suggestion from the communities in the region that they are interested in taking on aspects of this government. I will check with Mr. Kakfwi. I will make sure Mr. Kakfwi gets a copy of the study so his department is aware of the interest from the Kitikmeot. I will advise the Member of Mr. Kakfwi's response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 362-12(3): Social Services Debt To Town Of Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I understand there have been concerns expressed to the Minister of Social Services by the mayor of Iqaluit regarding lagging payments under the Social Services agreement which the department has with the town of Iqaluit. I further understand from the mayor that there is \$800,000 in arrears from last year's Social Services agreement, plus accumulated interest which is still unpaid. I wonder if the honourable Minister would acknowledge this debt? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 362-12(3): Social Services Debt To Town Of Iqaluit

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mayor of Iqaluit has not contacted me, either through correspondence or by telephone, to inform me that this has not been met. The last time I had a meeting with them was in the

middle of January, when the mayor was in town. I will look into it and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 363-12(3): Progress Re Training Programs

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. During the last session the Minister indicated there were training programs being created for specific projects. What progress has been made in this area?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 363-12(3): Progress Re Training Programs

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still working on the design of the training strategy to present to Cabinet. This will be presented to Cabinet very shortly. Hopefully we can table this in the House prior to the end of the year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 364-12(3): Update On Contaminants Study

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the environment. Was he involved in the study regarding the contaminants? Is the Minister informed regarding this? Can he update me on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of what has been occurring to date in the Sanikiluaq area. I will get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister has taken the question as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 365-12(3): Reduction Of Student Financial Assistance

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. I know there is a plan to get rid of the student financial assistance board. This was a recommendation which I think has been followed through on. Is there any plan to reduce the level of student financial assistance in any of the categories as outlined in the act?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 365-12(3): Reduction Of Student Financial Assistance

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that the matter of the student financial assistance is now under review. We have not made any final decisions on this particular matter. I am conducting a review at present to assess whether we are over-funding, or whether there is a need to re-assess the

Page 618

funding levels which are being provided in all categories.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time allotted for oral questions has expired. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 59-12(3), a review of the Workers' Compensation in the Northwest Territories final report

of the chief commissioner, February, 1993. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to table Tabled Document 60-12(3), a report of the Keewatin regional health board on the 1991 gastro-enteritis epidemic in the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 61-12(3), a letter dated January 14, 1993 which was circulated to the Members of the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Bell, the outgoing fire marshal of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this letter deals with the reasons for Mr. Bell's resignation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 62-12(3), a collection of clippings from the Monday, February 22, 1993 edition of News/North which deals with the resignation of the fire marshal.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 63-12(3), a copy of transcripts of an interview with the former fire marshal of the Northwest Territories recorded from a CBC Mackenzie radio broadcast from Yellowknife at 7:50 a.m. on February 22, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 64-12(3), a letter dated February 11, 1993 addressed to me concerning the amount paid by social assistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. I wish to table Tabled Document 65-12(3), a letter I received from Mrs. Marie-Jewell, the Member for Thebacha, dated

February 24, 1993, where the Member apologizes and clarifies her Member's statement.

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 15-12(3), Tabled Document 3-12(3), Report of the Commission for Constitutional Development to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 15-12(3): Tabled Document 3-12(3), Report Of The Commission For Constitutional Development To Committee Of The Whole

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs has tabled the Report of the Commission for Constitutional Development titled, Working Toward a Common Future;

AND WHEREAS this document should be fully discussed by the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Tabled Document 3-12(3) Report of the Commission for Constitutional Development be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, your 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

Tabled Document 3-12(3) Report of the Commission for Constitutional Development will be entered into committee of the whole. Item 16, motions. Motion 16-12(3), Tabled Document 49-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Koe.

Motion 16-12(3): Tabled Document 49-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy To Committee Of The Whole

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Minister of Personnel has tabled the long-term staff housing strategy on February 17, 1993;

AND WHEREAS this document should be fully discussed by the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that Tabled Document 49-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe, your 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

Tabled Document 49-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

Page 619

will be put into committee of the whole. Item 16, motions. Motion 17-12(3), Appearance by Members of Commission for Constitutional Development in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion 17-12(3): Appearance By Members Of Commission For Constitutional Development In Committee Of The Whole

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Commission for Constitutional Development, also known as the Bourque

Commission, has presented its report titled, "Working Toward a Common Future";

AND WHEREAS the report has been tabled by the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs;

AND WHEREAS the report has been moved into committee of the whole to permit its report for consideration;

AND WHEREAS it would be beneficial to have members of the commission appear as witnesses when the report is being discussed;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Keewatin Central, that the members of the Commission for Constitutional Development be invited to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole during the discussion of their report.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Your 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

Members of the Commission for Constitutional Development will be invited to committee of the whole.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, 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; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act; Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; Minister's Statement 34-12(3), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy; Committee Report 10-12(3), Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3): Payroll Tax Act; Committee Report 11-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

This committee will come to order. What does the committee wish to deal with today? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be concurring with the budget. Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94.

Bill 17: Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We were dealing with Economic Development and Tourism and we are going to deal with this after the ten minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

This committee will come to order. Would the Minister like to bring in his witnesses at this time? Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Proceed, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses at this time?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Roland Bailey, the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism and also Mr. Jim Kennedy, the director of finance for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Business Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We are on page 15-13, business development. Total O and M, \$12.788 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I do not believe there is a quorum in here, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thanks a lot. Clerk, please ring the bell. Now this committee come back to order. I believe we have a quorum now. We are on page 15-13, business development. Total O and M, \$12.788 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask the committee's indulgence to go back to tourism and parks?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The Member would like to go back to 15-12. Is this committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

Page 620

Tourism And Parks

MR. KOE:

Thank you to the committee and chairman. One of the objectives or activities within tourism and parks is support for tourism industry associations. Can the Minister advise as what kind of support the department is giving to tourism industry associations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the majority of the support we give to tourism associations is by way of financial assistance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any further comments on tourism and parks? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

How much financial support and to whom exactly does this financial support go?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the total GNWT contribution to tourist associations is in the amount of \$616,000. It is comprised of a number of members: the Arctic Coast Tourist Association, \$46,733; the Baffin Tourism Association, \$68,648; Big River Tourism Association, \$104,260; Nahanni Ram Tourism Association, \$65,720; Northern Frontier Visitors' Association, \$116,960; the Sahtu Tourism Association, \$76,876; Travel Keewatin, \$61,847; and, the Western Arctic Visitors' Association, \$74,956. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The tourism and parks division also supports development to create employment and income and, I assume, tied in with this are opportunities for training to facilitate training of tourism operators. The trainees assist the zones and the operators in the territories. Currently the Northwest Territories tourism training group is composed of one individual. I have asked

some questions over the last few days about the level of funding and support they are getting from this government. I know there will be a meeting some time in the next week or so, the deputy minister is chairing that meeting and other deputy ministers are going to be invited. I understand that currently there is a new EDA agreement and a great deal of money involved for training, but their current funding the tourism training group cannot meet the demands that are expected of them. I am wondering what else is the department doing to support the tourism training group.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, those funds come out of the economic development agreement. Our contribution to that is some 30 per cent. The training is \$1.4 million over the life of the agreement. In the next two fiscal years, the group is short about \$175,000. I think the Member referred to a meeting that is going to be chaired by the deputy minister of ED&T and at that meeting the government is going to try and address the \$175,000 shortfall over the two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Tourism and parks, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Over the years the tourism section, in coordination with the various zone associations, had tourism plans for each zone. Are there strategies and plans existing for each zone and are they being used as plans and guidelines by the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned a contribution from the Government of the Northwest Territories to the associations in the amount of \$616,000. Each of those budgets which I read out individually, are a result of a work plan budget that has been presented to us. There is a work plan in each of the associations with regard to what they intend to do,

how they intend to do it and where they will spend the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7.608 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In terms of establishment of parks and the coordination between our government and the federal government in terms of any new parks established in the Northwest Territories, is there a good working relationship with Parks Canada in developing parks in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, many times in the House we talk about the evasiveness of the federal government, or non-cooperation, but I am pleased to report to the House that in this regard Parks Canada works very closely with us and we rarely disagree. They are cognizant of the kinds of things they have to do, the community and local consultation they have to do when they want to put forward a park. I would venture to suggest we have an excellent working relationship with that particular department of the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There is a significant amount of O and M dollars in this activity, \$4.3 million. Over the years I know the department has been actively involved in a major marketing strategy involving people from the south in marketing tourism in the north. Are there still a significant amount of our dollars being utilized in hiring southern experts to do our marketing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have a major contract with regard to tourism marketing with a local company from

Yellowknife. If memory serves me correctly, the contract is in excess of \$1 million. They are associated with a southern firm and we knew that at the time we made the arrangement with the local company.

As far as using other southern experts, we are finding it is much easier to bring people in to experience different tourism ventures in the Northwest Territories and I am talking about, for example, writers or wholesalers, so they can experience first-hand and then go away and promote the product. We are still

Page 621

bringing in people from the south who we try to indoctrinate and ask them to take the message away with them. That is not costing us a great deal of money. Obviously, when we bring in a tourism wholesaler there will eventually be some percentage to that particular company if they are successful in selling packages into the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is also an activity called "product development" and there are a few people involved with \$300,000 or \$400,000. My concern is what types of new products are being developed for the north to attract tourists?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, these people are involved in development and they coordinate the licensing and regulatory activity in cooperation with the private sector people. You will recall about one year ago, I was talking about cruise ships in the Arctic and you probably heard today that Blythe and Co. are talking about numerous trips to the Arctic this year. That is one of the areas where they have been looking at new product development. When someone has a new idea on something they would like to do, these people are available to them to suggest whether it is a good idea or to do some research to tell us if it is a good idea. Those are the kinds of activities they do. From the information I have requested from them, I

have been impressed with the detail and research they have done on my behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In terms of maintaining parks and facilities and even developing parks and facilities, is it still the department's intent to try as much as possible to totally use local labour, local experts, local contractors and local goods and services for the maintenance of all parks and facilities in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In that regard, is it also the intent and the policy of the department to, where possible, train and develop local staff to run, maintain and enforce the rules and regulations relating to parks in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, we have two training positions in our budget this year. I do not have any more training positions but we try to employ local people; we try to give them some training in this aspect of maintenance of facilities. It is our intention to keep hiring and improve local expertise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Tourism and parks, total O and M. Kenoayoak.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister a question regarding tourism and parks. In Lake Harbour there is a park named Katannilik Park. I wonder if there will be a manager there to operate this park. If there is going to be a manager, will he have a budget or will there be funding for maintaining this park? If they get funding, when could we expect to see this funding available for this particular park maintenance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are \$60,000 and .5 PY in this budget for the hiring of a park manager, the operation of the park office, administration and some clean up in the Katannilik Park. That money will be available, assuming the bill goes through the House, on April 1, 1993, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where will this manager be hired from? Will he be locally hired or will you have to bring up someone to manage this park who has knowledge about parks? Is there already a person in mind who you can hire in Lake Harbour? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we will not be bringing anyone up from the south. It will be a local person who is hired. I am prepared to accept someone who needs a little training because this is a new park and if we can train someone along with this new park opening we will do that. We want to hire somebody local, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware this is just getting off the ground, so will you be training this particular person in Lake Harbour how to operate and maintain the park? When will you be able to train this local person? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we will advertise for this particular person, we will look at the resumes of the people who apply for the position. If there are local qualified people, we will pick the best person and add on whatever training is required for them to do their job in the park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Tourism and parks. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You indicated there was \$60,000 in funding for this particular park. Will this be available during this fiscal year or during the next fiscal year? What year is this funding allocated for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the \$60,000 will be available to be spent April 1, 1993, this year. Thank you, Mr.

Page 622

Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

What activity are we on? Are we still on parks and tourism?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Your colleague wanted to go back to 15-12, that is tourism and parks. Tourism and parks, total O and M \$7.608 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the activity of research, I have travelled around the north quite a bit and once in awhile when you cross a ferry or step into an airport there is somebody there with a form and they ask if you are a visitor, here on business, for pleasure or whatever else. Is this still a strategy of the department? Do they still carry out these types of research activities in trying to determine who is visiting, where they are coming from and how much they are spending?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the kind of information we are still putting together. With that kind of information, when someone comes forward to us for assistance to start up a project or tourism activity in a particular area, we then have some data which has been acquired over the years which we can supply to that person or make use of ourselves to see what the level of usage has been, or the level of interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can the Minister give me a profile of the average visitor and how much the average visitor spends in the north? Is it still a 62 year old couple in a car or what is it today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it varies across the Northwest Territories and it varies by the activity. I cannot give you one definition of one visitor to the Northwest Territories. Some of the data which is included is actual travel within the Northwest Territories, as well, of our own residents. I can provide last year's

numbers to the Member and he can look at the data which provides how many visitors travel to the Northwest Territories, how much they earn, where they are from, what they do and how old they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

One of the concerns last year from the Standing Committee on Finance was trying to correlate the amount of money we are spending on facilities in various areas to the number of visitors. The question is, are we getting our bang for our dollar in many places in the north? I know it is nice to have a nice facility or park, but for the amount of money we spend in some of these areas are we getting our moneys worth in terms of investment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, without talking about specific areas there are some facilities which we maintain and operate across the Northwest Territories that are probably not producing the kinds of numbers we would like to see. I guess it is the old question of what comes first, the visitor or the facility? In many areas of North America, first the visitors came and then the facilities followed behind them. What we have been doing over the years is trying to place strategic facilities in regions so we can accommodate visitors when they do come into a particular area. To say that all of them are producing and are viable operations, I could not say that, Mr. Chairman. Let us hope that seeing as we do have the facilities in place that as the visitors increase we will be able to take care of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

This is a concern for a private entrepreneur who wants to start up. It is very difficult to start a business, especially with our short tourism season, and wait for customers. This is concern which I always hear. We need some kind of support or more new

developments. This is why I asked the question earlier. I know research is costly and developing new packages is costly and that you need operators. It is the old chicken and egg. Unfortunately, we do not have many entrepreneurs with big buckets of money who are waiting for visitors to come. I wanted to make this comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, when I was responding to the question with regard to facilities, I was talking about the operation of our own facilities. With regard to the private sector, there are undoubtedly operators out there who could use more business. Mr. Chairman, what we are doing now is being very realistic with people and saying to them, "Here are the facts. If you want to invest your money, this may be marginal and it may not be the right thing to do at this particular time." When I talk about our own facilities which are probably not producing what we want them to produce, that is a fact. The fact that there are some operators out there who are in that state is also of concern to us. We are trying to limit the exposure that we place people to be encouraging them to get into these particular facilities that are privately owned. I hope we are being honest with the industry and providing them with the information they require. At times you have to take a little bit of a risk and base it on what the visitations might be to a particular region or community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$7.680. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Business development, page 15-13, total O and M, \$12.788. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I believe the business credit

Page 623

corporation is in this activity. I notice there is some money allotted to run this corporation. Why is it not a separate entity, as is the NWT Development Corporation who are a stand-alone crown corporation? Why is this not set up in that manner? Why is this still in our overall O and M budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I have said this before to the Standing Committee on Finance, ultimately that is where we would like to get this to. At the present time, the operation of the board is at arm's length from myself. What the department does is supply support services to the Business Credit Corporation for its operation. It will take the BCC some time to evolve. As they evolve, we will be prepared to look at giving them more of the responsibility so they can operate more independently from the department. This is our intention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I realize this is the intention of the government. How long will this take? Is it going to be next year or the following year? When do you anticipate this thing happening?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we are making some progress. It was last year that we put an independent person in the chair of the Business Credit Corporation. It was just recently that we developed a memorandum of understanding with them on the kinds of services they would require and how we would provide it to them. Now, having met with the board recently, they are formulating and have gotten back to me, some plans for the next move. I think they are talking about credit and collections and perhaps the legal aspects. They

feel, as a board, they could probably do a better job of looking after their own collections on their loans than we are doing at the present time. It is moving along. I would hope that within 24 months they would be independent from us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, what is the current turn around time on applications which are submitted to the BCC?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are all kinds of times. Where we get confused on the turn around time is from filling in the forms and sending them in and whether or not they appear before the board. Sometimes that can take a long time because the forms go back and forth as more information is required to enable us to present it to the BCC. Part of this is our fault because of our EDOs, perhaps they are not asking the correct questions in assisting these people. We are trying to improve on this. Once a loan application is filled out properly then it does not take that long to get it before the board. I would say that the board could turn those kind of things around in 30 days, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated he figures the board can turn around these applications within 30 days, however, in reality this is not the case. Both he and I know it because of the problems which he has just outlined. With those problems in existence, what are we looking at, is it six months, three months: it is not 30 days. What is the average current turn around time? This is what I am asking. As the Minister has indicated, I realize part of the problem is the collection of information to go along with the application. Regarding the current turn around with all of the problems which exist, do you understand what I am trying to say, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to differentiate between how long it takes the board to make a decision and how long it takes an application to set the stage where the board can make a decision. That is two components. The board is quite fast. It can be days. It certainly is not longer than 30 days, to my knowledge. If you take the overall time, though, we have measured as long as 84 days, from the time the person fills in the first application form until they find out from the board if they have been successful or not. Much of that time is taken up in all kinds of things, such as getting the legal description of the asset which you are going to place as collateral, stating how much you have in the bank, how much your existing business is worth, and providing an audited statement. It takes a long time to put those things together. We have measured that time as high as 84 days, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister outlined the type of problem which various clients are encountering. I hope the department is seriously looking at trying to rectify this particular problem. Part of the problem could be the application form itself. I am not sure if they use a proposal type of application which they submit to the BCC or if it is an actual printed form by our government. If this is the case, perhaps these type of questions should be incorporated into these forms. That way you would not have to go back and forth to retrieve the various information. Perhaps a second look at our forms should be considered. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is already being done. Not wanting to be defensive, when you are applying for \$10,000 or \$200,000, there has to be a little bit from the client also. There has to be some responsibility on their part to provide the information to our staff. I admit that sometimes people do not understand exactly what they have to supply. We are

trying to make it easier for them. I would stress again that there has to be some responsibility on the part of the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

I agree with the Minister that some responsibility has to lie with the client. On the other hand, we have economic development officers who are there to assist. I

Page 624

would hope these individuals would have the knowledge, when they are utilizing these applications, of what the requirements are in order for the application to go through the system smoothly. The Minister is aware of these problems within his department.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn to another area, short-term employment programs. If the Minister recalls, I think it was last year we passed a motion with regard to the level of funding for this particular program. With the UIC requirements today, the length of time which is required to get on to UIC, we suggested that the Minister take a serious look at reviewing the length of the program. For instance, if community "A" puts in an application for "X" number of people to work on a program, we have asked the Minister if he can stretch it out to whatever the UIC requirement is, so that after that project is over they will be eligible to qualify for UIC benefits. I am not sure as to what the Minister has done in this area. If I recall correctly, Mr. Chairman, we also asked the Minister to increase the level of funding. I do not believe that this is in the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that was a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the funds for the STEP program, which were previously in Economic Development and Tourism, have been transferred to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Although the funds are shown as \$412,000 in our budget, that amount will be transferred to Education.

The administration will be done by Education effective April 1, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the Minister is not passing the buck to the new Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. I hope he would advise his colleague of the concerns that were raised by Members on this side of the House with regard to the suggestions which were made, particularly for this program. It is a very popular program in the smaller communities. Every community, that I know of, has taken advantage of this program. It is quite popular. I hope the Minister will convey this to the Minister of Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education has been in this House a long time and has paid attention to the debates which have gone on. I will impress upon him one more time the importance that Members attach to the STEP program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Inuvik.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Business development is a fairly large section, it encompasses small business, renewable resource sectors and arts and crafts. I have a few issues to raise under each. In terms of renewable resource sectors, what is the department doing in terms of coordinating activities and projects with other departments in this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the task is natural resources, and it includes fisheries, wildlife, harvesting, forestry, agriculture and Arctic foods. We also administer the fish freight industry support program; coordination

with EDA, Agriculture Canada and other federal agencies; Renewable Resources, because we do cross over into their area at times, and Alberta Agriculture, with the meat inspection people from the federal government. We work with Forestry Canada and, of course, with all the groups in the Northwest Territories who are interested in harvesting or making use of some of the natural resources in the Northwest Territories. So, it does play a role. Recently, the development corporation has become quite involved through its ventures in many of these areas. There is another role that we play in making arrangements with the development corporation on who is going to do what in each particular area to make sure that we are not duplicating each other's efforts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like to ask your opinion. Do you feel that there is enough activity and development work going on in trying to start up new industries relating to natural resources?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. That is hypothetical, but if the Minister wants to respond to that, he may.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there has been much uptake on these programs in the last year and a half. There is no question about that. There are more people coming forward and making suggestions to us. Do I feel we are paying them enough attention, or do we have enough resources to do the job? At the present time, we do. I think we can stretch the dollars further by making use of the other programs. There could be some federal programs. There is EDA. By defining who is going to do it and how we are going to approach it and which areas are going to be approached for funding, I think we are able to handle the volume of work that we have before us at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. In terms of financial assistance programs, last year or a year and a half ago, the intent of the department was to try and consolidate financial support programs and establish a one-stop shopping mechanism and have only one form to complete. Can the Minister advise as to where they are in implementing this strategy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that has been done except for the fish rate subsidy program, because it is a unique program and we could not find a way to get that on the one form approach. The majority of applications, though, are done on one form except for the fish rate subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Member for Inuvik.

MR. KOE:

In terms of financial assistance and for businesses,

Page 625

there is a lot of money available for start ups. There is money for modernizing or expanding existing businesses, but one area of concern is that there is usually no money available to buy existing businesses. Yet, in our smaller communities there is very little opportunity to start up new businesses. The opportunities are there, but for the small one-man, one-family or two people type businesses, the convenience store, the video shop, the arcade, the taxi business, there are only so many of these we can establish in each community. The business that exists with good ownership and astute management can probably survive. By surviving, they keep one or two people alive and viable. What is the department doing to try to provide money to purchase existing businesses? We all know there are very few banking facilities in many of these smaller communities, so they have to come to the department in many cases. They do not have an option.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The honourable Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Koe raises a very good point. From going back through the records, in the last three to five years, it has always been someone who wants to come along and start up a new business. I have been telling people in the communities for the last year that they should be considering buying an existing business, because chances are, if that business has been there for four or five years, then it is profitable. It can survive. It has some goodwill. All the bugs have been worked out of it. I want to tell the House that we do not preclude the buy-out of existing businesses from our assistance. If someone wants to come to us and suggest a loan from the BCC to buy out an existing business, we will process the application just the same as we would process a new business. Sometimes, buying out an existing business is much easier for us politically because we do not have to get involved in the politics of market disruption, Mr. Chairman. We are not opposed to assisting people to acquire existing businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. Under this activity, is responsibility for regulating coops still under this division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

We are still the agency that the cooperatives deal with when they want to deal with government. We are the department responsible for coops. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Basically, we are the public government. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

If that is the case, during the past year several Members, including the chairman, have raised questions about the establishment of credit unions in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister advise as to what the status is of development of credit unions in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, originally, I was approached as the Minister of Finance and I have been handling it through the Department of Finance at the present time, because it deals with finances and banking. We were originally asked for assistance in arranging meetings with the federal government because the cooperative people wish to access federal funds. I think they said their start up number was about \$7 million. They had part of that money themselves. We helped them to get in contact with the federal government. My understanding is that the federal government has not yet indicated whether they would like to participate to the tune of \$5 or \$6 million to assist the credit union movement get off the ground in the Northwest Territories. The other aspect is that some communities are greatly in favour and some communities are not particularly interested. So the situation rests with the fact that the credit union movement through the cooperatives is short of cash at the present time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Does the department support the development of credit unions in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Was there a question? I was taking notes here. Mr. Koe, was that a question? Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the credit union movement in the Northwest Territories has failed once in Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife. I am somewhat leery of setting up more financial institutions unless it could be proved in no uncertain terms that they are viable and that they will ultimately prove to be profitable. The other situation that we have to look at is whether the people of the Northwest Territories are in favour of having credit unions in their communities, to what extent are they in favour and to what use will they put those facilities. We have just had the announcement

today that a bank is pulling out of Fort Smith, which is a fairly large community. To be able to put those kinds of facilities in communities costs money and, of course, I am interested in whether or not those kinds of things can survive. I have said, to the cooperative movement, that we do not have \$5 million to make available to them as start up funds for their operations. Do I support them? I do not have enough information at the present time, Mr. Chairman, to say whether or not I could support or not support the project. I will say this, however, I do recognize that there is a need for financial institutions in the communities because there are some examples in the Baffin where there is just not enough cash in the community to allow people to have money in their pockets. It is all on deposit at either the cooperative or else at the Bay, or Northern Store, I should say. They are experiencing some financial difficulties with the logistics of the money moving around. We do recognize the need for financial institutions in the communities of the Northwest Territories. I need to get a little closer to this cooperative idea before I can say whether I support it or not. I would have to see the hard numbers, Mr. Chairman, and until there is a funding source I do not think we will be able to get those hard numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On my Speaker's list here I have Koe and Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of arts and

Page 626

crafts, in the last session we had the new arts and crafts strategy tabled. What kind of feedback are you receiving on this strategy, if any?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

(Microphone turned off)...on Baker Lake, there is no question about that. There seems to be many people in southern Canada who are taking exception to the Baker Lake Arts and Crafts Centre. As far as our marketing strategy and what kind of reception it is receiving, it seems to be working. I think I have said before that at the end of this calendar year, which is 1993, we should be able to put some data together on

how we are doing. From what I am hearing myself as I travel around, production seems to be on the rise and that indicates to me that we are managing to sell those products. I think initial indications are that we are beginning to move some of those arts and crafts out of the Northwest Territories. We are not moving enough, I want to tell you that, but it is starting to pick up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are all aware that arts and crafts are one of our stable industries, especially the area of Inuit art. It is a growth area in terms of fine arts. There are many painters and many fine, fine artists; there are jewellers and other arts and crafts businesses and entrepreneurs developing. Last year, I think it is this department or through some of the financing sources, the source of monies to the Northwest Territories arts and crafts council was reduced. Does this department provide any financial resources to the arts and crafts council?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Not to our knowledge, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Business development, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

If you are not providing any financial resources, you have, just quickly running here, seven, eight, nine, nine PYs in the two arts and crafts sub-activities. Arts and crafts development and product development. Do any of these PY's provide direct support to the arts and crafts council? They do many good things. They coordinate, set up and establish many art shows and festivals across the Northwest Territories and they attract a great deal of international attention. I was wondering what type of support this department is providing to them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, either through E.D.A. or through our contribution agreements, we have assisted people to go to those kinds of shows, et cetera. If the arts and crafts council wants to make application to us directly they can do that. I would stress though, Mr. Chairman, that we are trying to stay at the actual production of arts and crafts and the marketing of arts and crafts, the physical hands on, get it made and sold. If the arts and crafts council was looking at some kind of show or doing some more marketing, we would certainly be willing to sit down and talk to them about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In terms of arts and crafts and production, there is still a need throughout the territories for workshops and for places for people to produce other than their homes. I know most producers work out of their kitchen or porch. On our last trip, especially to Lake Harbour, people were working outside and it was 45 below and you have carvers standing outside, the wind is blowing and they are carving away. Is the department doing anything to assist, where there is a large group of producers in a community, to get them good facilities to work out of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are funds available under EDA this year for that specific purpose. People will be able to apply to EDA for assistance to enable them to set up various kinds of facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is it for individuals or do they have to form a co-op or group of people? It does not make sense for one person to build a workshop, but if there are ten people in a community can they join forces and apply for funding for a workshop?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, if there is going to be something done in a community, I would prefer if it was a group of people who got together so we could make multiple use of a particular building as opposed to one person wanting one workshop. I think we are interested more in the collective than in the singular. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I hope your staff in the regions are aware of that and working to develop these types of co-ops, groups of people. In terms of marketing, I see one of your objectives is to implement marketing plans for NWT arts and crafts products in Europe, associated with the opportunities identified during participation at Expo 1992 with a view to generating \$500,000 in new sales. That is a fairly straightforward objective. I wonder how certain you are of doing this and how are you going to measure the \$500,000 in new sales?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

If you do not set goals you will never attain them, Mr. Chairman. It is a goal. Because of Expo we have made more contacts in Spain, Italy and Europe, in general. We are hoping, in fact, one of the consultants which was working for us has formed a new company over there that is going to be dealing with arts and handicrafts from the Northwest Territories. That is what we have been told is a reasonable number to try to shoot for in this particular year. How will we monitor it? We know these people and when they come to purchase, whether it is from us or from the co-op in Winnipeg, they generally let us know what they are doing and

Page 627

how much their sales are. So we will do it by monitoring these individuals and seeing what the results are, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the status of the development, or where are we with the establishment of the kiosk in the Toronto airport to market arts and crafts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is not in the department, it is under the development corporation. The kiosk is operational, it has been since last year. Sales are not as high as we had anticipated. I think we are running about 50 per cent of our projected sales. The market information we are receiving from the kiosk is telling us a great deal and we are passing that information on to the artisans in the Northwest Territories to tell them what is selling and what is not selling, how their packaging was, what people think of their pricing and so on and so forth. We have an agreement to lease that space for 24 months, Mr. Chairman, and we will probably use up the entire 24 months. In the last six months of that particular period we will do an assessment through the development corporation and they will have to make a decision whether or not they want to renew the lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do you have agents in the north who are buying products to supply this kiosk in Toronto? How do you supply the kiosk?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the manager of the kiosk has been here and is getting to know many people in the Northwest Territories, albeit sometimes just over the telephone. She may buy directly or she may request from the development corporation some assistance in acquiring some products. The development

corporation may ask the department what we know of different products. We may have some new products we would like to try out and we would send them over to the development corporation to send to the manager for assessment. Things are acquired through any one of those means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Back to the development of natural resources. The development of packaged foods, meats and fish, especially meats, one of the concerns of mass production of caribou is the lack of meat inspection facilities or services in the north. What is this government doing to develop the ability to have inspectors in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, regarding the muskox harvest conducted by the Inuvialuit in Sachs Harbour, we actually brought in the meat inspectors from Agriculture Canada and they are on-site. There is the ability to bring these people in, although it is expensive. The actual meat inspection falls within the Department of Renewable Resources and we have been working with Renewable Resources in that regard. One of our big problems is that when you have to meet the standards required by the federal government for shipment of meat products across territorial, provincial or international borders, the task becomes somewhat onerous. The standards of the buildings and so on are very high and we have not had much experience in trying to work with them to bring a plan together whereby it would be a federally inspected plant. At the present time the only federally inspected area is in the muskox harvest by the Inuvialuit. In other areas we are just working with the Department of Renewable Resources to come up with the standards and work towards the meat inspection protocol. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Business development. Total O and M \$12,788 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development Agreement

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 15-14. Economic development agreement. Total O and M \$8.443 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Under EDA and previous EDAs, one of the criticisms from the clients in the communities was the ability to access program monies. Previously, there have been many committees which you had to go through in order to access the money. Committees met perhaps once every three or four months. Does this new EDA agreement streamline the application process and committee process so funds are more easily accessible by clients?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is better than it was, but it is still not as fast as everyone would like to see it. There are a number of federal agencies involved with us in this EDA agreement. Of course, they have their input into how these funds are going to be accessed and who will get the funds. There are regional subcommittees, but they still have to deal with a central agency. If you remember the old EDA, and I am sure Mr. Koe does, you had to send the documents down to Ottawa to get them signed. That is not the case any more. They are at least signed in the Northwest Territories. It is better

than it was. It is not as good as we would like it to be, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do you have any idea of the time frame it takes from the date of an application to cheque issuance? I know, in certain sub-agreements, it used to take in excess of 60 to 70 days. These statistics were kept.

How streamlined is the process now in terms of the number of days?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Page 628

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Not as short as the BCC, Mr. Chairman, or our contribution agreements and not as long as CAEDS. It does take some considerable time because there are specific banking days and so on and so forth. It could take as long as three months, Mr. Chairman. There is no question about that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Economic Development Agreement, total O and M, \$8.443 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 15-15, finance and administration. Total O and M, \$1.524 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Grants, \$435,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We will go to page 15-18. Contributions, \$14.01 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Grants and contributions, Mr. Koe.

Business Development

MR. KOE:

I go back to business development, grants, arts and crafts, tools and equipment. How many applicants have you had to access tools and equipment for production of arts and crafts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell you the exact number of applications that we have received. I could try and get that information for the Member. All I can say is that it is lots, Mr. Chairman, but I will get the exact number as close as we can get it, if the Member requires. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is there a limit to the amount of money an individual can access under this activity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the limit or ceiling is \$5,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In business development, core funding to organizational support, you have \$207,000. Who are some of the groups that you provide core funding to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Baffin regional chamber of commerce, Keewatin chamber of commerce, Keewatin junior achievement project, the NWT chamber of commerce, the NWT chamber of mines, fishermen's federation of the Northwest Territories, prospects north last year, territorial farmers' association, territorial forestry group, territorial forestry organization society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Contributions, \$14.01 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do these groups, or any other groups that want money, have to apply annually, or are these granted automatically?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, there has to be an application annually, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Contributions, \$14.01 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Grants and contributions, \$14.445 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Total department, \$193,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Page 15-9, program summary, total O and M, \$33.67 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does this committee agree that the Department of Economic Development and

Page 629

Tourism is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I would like to thank the witnesses at this time. We will now go on to Municipal and Community Affairs. Would the Minister like to make an opening remark?

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs,
Introductory Remarks

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

The Department has been responsible and accountable for underwriting and/or providing municipal, capital and operation and maintenance assistance programs to community governments for over a quarter of a century. These programs have

evolved and have generally been effective in meeting the basic needs of municipal governments for infrastructure, administration and service and program delivery.

For the 1993-94 fiscal year, estimates for operations and maintenance of \$65.104 million are proposed, an increase of 9.6 per cent over 1992-93. There are 147.8 permanent person years proposed in 1993-94, a decrease of one person year from 1992-93. My department continues its efforts to look at better ways of utilizing its financial and human resources. We are continuing to ensure that value for money is obtained in all of the department's programs.

For this year, the department's budgetary growth is largely directed toward the following major areas.

The first major direction supports community self-government. On February 16, 1993, the first ever municipal block funding agreement was signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the city of Yellowknife. Funding of \$4.1 million is proposed for this agreement in 1993-94. The block funding agreement is a three year agreement, designed to devolve full authority and responsibility to the city council to manage and, if desired, re-shape its regular municipal capital and O and M programs. We view this agreement, which takes effect April 1, 1993, as a major milestone in the advancement of the priority of community self-government. We are optimistic that the agreement will prove itself and will serve as a model for the eventual negotiation of block funding agreements with other municipal governments.

Mr. Chairman, we are also proposing increases of \$610,00 in transfer payments to hamlet to take account of O and M needs resulting from infrastructure growth and community population growth. To assist the continuing political and administrative development of small communities, increased funding is proposed for support to settlements. This winter I am also developing a policy on assistance to settlements and other small communities which do not have municipal status.

Mr. Chairman, this government has consistently emphasized the role of recreation facilities and programs in promoting good community life and well-being. In 1993-94, increased funding of \$418,000 is proposed for the recreation facilities operating subsidy, as well as an increase of \$122,000 for the facility maintainers program. An increase of \$23,000 is proposed for the aquatic program operating contribution.

Regrettably, it has also been necessary, in a time when the government continues to face severe financial pressures, to propose certain expenditure reductions. A reduction of \$315,000 in utilities funding, as part of hamlet transfer payments, is proposed for 1993-94. My department, in cooperation with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Government Services and Public Works, will be offering regional workshops for municipal and housing association staff in energy and water conservation.

We are also proposing a reduction of \$390,000 in 1993-94 for the subsidy to commercial users under the water and sewage services subsidy program. This adjustment will correct a situation in which commercial users in hamlets and settlements enjoy a significant advantage over commercial users in tax-based municipalities, where only half of the commercial users' water consumption has been subsidized. The changes to the water and sewage services subsidy program will, over a three year phase-in period, establish the same level of subsidy for commercial users in hamlet and settlements.

We are also attempting to work in partnership with municipal and community governments, and the bulk of my department's O and M funding continues to be directed in transfer payments to these governments so that they may take effective charge of their own affairs. Mr. Chairman, I will now be pleased to answer your questions in detail. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does the chairman of the Standing Committee of Finance have any comments? Mr. Zoe.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I am not the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, the chairman has requested that I respond on behalf of the committee from our report pertaining to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance feels that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has performed well in responding to our past concerns and in developing materials such as strengthening our partnerships. For these efforts we highly commend the department. Much of the discussions and many of the recommendations

contained in this report relate to providing leadership within the territorial government. These suggestions and recommendations are equally applicable to this department's responsibility to provide leadership to municipal governments.

Several departments suggested that the community transfer committee of the Department of the Executive is a bottleneck in terms of implementing this initiative. Further, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs indicated that they are not aware of the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs' plans and do not have the funds to conduct training on a large scale if such is required. It is time for the two ministries to start talking and planning. The committee sees a very important role for Municipal and Community Affairs to play in

Page 630

community development and that committee of the whole motion 163-13(2) was not acted upon by the government.

The department must continuously review the municipalities and provide support and directions to them as necessary. The committee could see from the hamlet fiscal report that some communities were in need of significant help in managing their affairs. Other municipalities are highly developed and need little support and direction. The department must ensure that it is serving the municipalities well by providing suitable training programs, keeping system simple, and providing early warning system to prevent serious problems. Members noted that the most problematic areas are in bookkeeping, financial management accountability. The department must provide more support and more effective monitoring in these areas in an attempt to prevent problems. The department can assist the communities that are experiencing difficulties by helping them put a plan in place. Every municipality should have a plan, a vision.

With greater emphasis on the community transfer initiative, additional funding should be provided to the Northwest Territories association of municipalities, as communities of various sizes will want to turn to that agency for support services and advice when they are looking at community transfers.

The committee also wishes to commend the Minister for providing block funding to Yellowknife. We understand that all of the tax-based municipalities and a number of hamlets have expressed interest in

obtaining block funding in order that they may exercise control over how the monies are spent. We think this fits nicely with the community initiatives and encourage the government to consider this kind of formula for other communities.

The committee still believes that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs should play a larger role in the community transfer initiatives in the eastern Arctic. Mr. Chairman, this concludes our statement with regard to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Committee Motion 74-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 15

Our committee would like to make one recommendation. I move, that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs improve its community development activities, develop situational leadership model for departmental staff and a more relevant management training program for municipal councils and staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. The 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

Does the Minister wish to bring in his witnesses?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you please introduce the witnesses?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Al Menard, deputy minister and Mr. Jim France, director of finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

General Comments

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the eastern Arctic most of our work has been with MACA. We have enjoyed the working relationship between MACA and the hamlets. How much participation will MACA play in the role of the community transfers? The community transfer program is handled by a different department and we are having a hard time adjusting to dealing with a different department. I would like to get assurances from the Minister regarding the major role they will be playing in the community transfer in the eastern Arctic.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The role we play is that the deputy minister, the superintendent and other people are involved in the community transfers. We have a steering committee which our department is also involved with. We also have a person seconded to the working group from the department. This person is doing the community transfers full-time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When Mr. Kakfwi's department visited Coral Harbour and met with the hamlet council and other community representatives regarding the community transfer discussion, the attendance from the government side was the

regional director of the Keewatin for the GNWT and a community transfer working group member from the government side. The superintendent of MACA for the Keewatin region was not present. Why was this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know why the superintendent of MACA for the region was not involved in the Coral Harbour visit. In headquarters we have a steering committee and the deputy minister is a full member. In the regions we have committees consisting of the regional director and superintendents of the department. During visits to communities the superintendent should be involved in those discussions. I do not know why the superintendent was not involved at that time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Page 631

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, will the Minister ensure, and not only in the Keewatin but in other regions, that the superintendents or MACA staff attend those community transfer discussion meetings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make sure they are available for the community meetings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments or questions? Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, one of the objectives in the lands area is to implement a computerized land application tracking system to facilitate more efficient processing of land applications and the preparation of land contracts. How is this coming along? I wanted to

raise this as there are still some members in the communities, such as Baker Lake and Arviat, who are going through much time trying to complete their applications for land, and others who are in arrears because they had let go of their land and are still being charged. I would like to know how this is progressing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Chairman, it is coming along. We are trying to streamline within our department to see if we can be more efficient in delivering our services to communities. Once this is done, we will work on communities to make sure they are tied into our system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

I would also like to know if at some point in time where the processing of land applications will ever come to either the regional or community level. Is that under MACA's plans?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is already in some of the regions. In some areas, once the training is provided to regional people it will be transferred to the regions. Also, when the land claims are implemented they will be in the regions and also in the communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions, which I believe should be asked of this department, to do with the implications of the new long-term staff housing strategy. They have to do with the implications of new customers for residential water and sewage subsidies, customers who are changing from

government to private residential, the cost of the subsidies, the impact on municipalities and whether the administrative costs will impact on the financing formula which is in place. There are also implications on land development in that part of the government's strategy is to encourage home ownership, particularly in the more remote communities. If this is to succeed and be pursued, we will need to know the availability of private residential lots in communities where the impacts are going to be felt, and what the costs might be to develop those lots if they are not presently available.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to mention those issues because I think they are issues that the department should be dealing with as we consider the implications of this new policy. I am not sure if the time is now while the main estimates are being considered for this department, but I am sure the Minister has taken note of those questions and will be prepared to answer them along with other related questions when the staff housing strategy is considered in committee of the whole later on in this session. I just want to note those concerns in my general comments. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to use Coral Harbour as an example because I am well aware of the community and this may be the same case in other communities. When they start doing community planning they never look at the condition of the land. When the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, does land planning, the engineers should look at the condition of the land before they start designing land lots.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

(Translation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is left up to the community where they are going to make the lots available. We generally do not give them advice as to where to put their lots. It is up to the communities to decide where the lots are going to be. We also assist them through funding and the technicians do the land surveys.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the purpose of geotechnical tests of the soil when, in fact, in the end they just ignore them and build houses there anyway. The Housing Corporation's expensive houses crack, especially in today's building construction as plaster walls are very rigid and easily cracked when the house moves. Can the Minister tell me why they cannot find out that this ground is unstable after the soil is tested, or geotechnical testing is done? In the construction process the ground is not yet stable but they proceed with it anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the geotechnician has surveyed the area, he provides advice as to what type of foundation the house should sit on in any particular area. They should know the type of foundation a house or building should have on any one of these surveyed lots, and how much fill is required for the pad. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern is that when the town's plan was established, for Coral Harbour for

Page 632

example, the hamlet requested MACA make different town plans because this particular soil was not suitable for building. However, MACA's reply was that the town plan has been completed and you have to use all these lots first before we establish a different plan. As a result, we had difficulty with the home owners in convincing them that these are the lots which MACA assigned, because they do not want to build there either. We ended up having only hamlet staff housing and one HAP house built there. As a result, those buildings are cracking. I do not know what the community's power and responsibility is in influencing MACA where the houses should be built.

The story is different from what the Minister says. Much of it is from the region and the regions insist that it be done this way, contrary to the hamlet's advice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated to the Finance Committee about one month ago, I committed to visiting Coral Harbour to talk about this. There was a community plan and my department recommended an area to place the lots. Unfortunately, the new lots are not stable. The community plan is in place now and it is very costly to come up with community plans. The department apparently advised them not to go into that particular area. Again, Mr. Chairman, I will visit the community and talk to them to see how we can improve this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this government is in a difficult financial situation with restraint programs across the board. Subsequently, the hamlets and municipal corporations are in tight budget situations as everyone knows.

Mr. Chairman, I hope the users of the municipal services such as water delivery, garbage pick up, et cetera, would not have to bear the cost of having to pay extra. Mr. Chairman, I hope that the government will not, as a result of the financial situation, curtail the delivery of water, garbage pick up, et cetera. We are talking about health and sanitation. What is the Minister prepared to do when the community appropriation is in a tight situation? Would MACA ensure the community that the delivery of water and garbage pick up will not be reduced? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The water/sewage program is a closed system. If the community spends one dollar, they get back one dollar. Even if the user-

pay is applied, the municipality will not lose money. They would have to bill two places, the tenant if they start paying and also the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to the Minister of MACA. As a result of the financial situation of this government, territorial-wide, the municipalities across the NWT will not reduce the delivery of municipal services. As I indicated, we are talking about health and sanitation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is not going to be any reduction in the delivery of water and sewage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of MACA a question with regard to home owners who have to pay for their own lots. I have found that they do not like the foundation they have been provided. I am wondering if the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provided those lots? They also have to pay so much per year for those lots and that is the only way they can stay on the lots they built their houses on. It seems like people do not have a choice of where to build their houses. Because they have to pay for the lots annually and they have to be there for so many years, if the condition of the lot is not good, it can affect the house they own. Is MACA the one responsible for providing those lots? Many people end up on lots they do not want to be on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) People who buy their own homes write a letter to the hamlet council requesting to be on a certain lot. The hamlet then lets them know whether that lot is available. If they approve the lot the home owner wants to be on, they write us a letter. Our department does not tell them where the lot will be for the home owner, it is the hamlet council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did find out about some people who did not seem to have a choice. This is just a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. KOE:

Thank you. One of the objectives of this department, I assume, is to assist communities in developing themselves. Years ago it used to be the Department of Local Government. We used to have settlements and now we have graduated to municipalities, villages and towns. How much effort and what emphasis on priority does the department put on the area of community development?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of hamlets, we give workshops to the hamlet councillors every year. In other types of government, it is a community request. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

Page 633

MR. KOE:

Some groups within communities do not have leadership abilities to mobilize themselves and, in

turn, mobilize community groups to get things done for them. Some are good at it, obviously, many are not. There are also many communities, and my colleague Mr. Antoine is not here, but he has several unorganized communities. The question is how do these communities get organized in terms of community development?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a community request by these communities. We do not go out and say you should do this and do that. It is a community request. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

For some of them it is a "catch-22" situation. They want help, but if they are not organized and they do not request it, you do not go in. One of the things we are finding in our travel is a need for general community development. I guess it is difficult to put it into simple words but communities need ability to mobilize themselves. There is a lot of groups within a community and many of them are not together and do not seem to have the ability to meet and pull themselves together. There has got to be some ground work done at the community level, some mobilization of groups to get them together so they can make the requests that you are asking for. I am just wondering what we can do to help some of these communities. You know, there are band councils in place, there are hamlet councils in place, there are Metis locals in place, there are hunters and trappers, education councils, they have all these things but in some places they are not able to mobilize themselves to form a good lobby group.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my view, this is where each M.L.A. becomes very useful. All of the M.L.A.s are very able and they know what is going on. If they want to see their communities develop I think it should

be an M.L.A. initiative. The department visits all the communities three or four times a year and in those meetings we offer them any help we can provide and we also talk about fiscal responsibilities of each community. Right now we are holding a workshop in Fort Simpson on band councils and Metis locals. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

From your statements, are you offering professional assistance to M.L.A.s to do some of this work?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

I was just bringing it to your attention, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Under areas such as the settlement of land claims, I am just curious as to what the impact is on your lands divisions, or the department. How is the department coping with the settlement of lands and the ability to transfer lands to the new land claimant groups?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo. Would you like to answer that or have your witness answer that? Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is struggling with that. It is not an easy thing to do because it is quite far-reaching. However, we are part of an overall committee to assess the impacts on land claims and implementation. Part of that is that we play a big role in identifying community needs, both in the training area and also in the eventual transfer of lands to the communities. There is a great deal of preparation work to do and we are starting it slowly. We have to deal with the federal government. We are getting some money to do extra surveys so that land is easily turned over to the communities. I think we

are getting ourselves well-positioned. We have a special person in the department assigned to coordinate it right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

One of the things that used to be a problem area, I guess, is the responsibility of lands. I know we should be discussing it under lands but it is a departmental issue. Up until now, total responsibility for land administration has been in headquarters, or most of it. Is there a move to decentralize most of this to regions or the regional headquarters?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been working on decentralization of the land administration for the last four years. We have now fully decentralized in the Baffin region. We have fully decentralized the Inuvik region. We are just about fully decentralized in the Keewatin region. We are just in the process of dealing with the Kitikmeot region and we still have to deal with the Fort Smith region. It is a bit awkward in the Fort Smith region because it is sort of split into three areas. It is a bit more awkward. We have a presence in the area offices but it is not fully decentralized. The intent is to fully decentralize that service as well as the assessment process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

In terms of some of the training and administration of lands, you mentioned in your previous statement that you are doing some of that. I imagine there are some business opportunities for groups and entrepreneurs in terms of land mapping and land surveys. Is the department utilizing as much as possible the technologies available in the regions to do land administration, land surveys and land mapping? Are you utilizing the local businesses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

Page 634

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all of the mapping surveys done through contracts administration are still within the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Are the contracts with local groups, and not people from the south with the technology? I am aware of certain groups who are developing the technology that can be used in these areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where we can we use the local contractors. There are some cases where local contractors cannot do it. Also, in the area of new development of producing maps, we are using new technology.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooloo. The time is approaching 6:00 pm. The chair will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing before the committee.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 17 and Committee Report 11-12(3) and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconded, Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 am tomorrow morning. Orders of the day for Friday, February 25, 1993.

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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act

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

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

- Tabled Document 3-12(3): "Working Toward A Common Future" Commission for Constitutional Development

- Tabled Document 49-12(3): Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

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

- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act

- Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

- Minister's Statement 34-12(3): Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

- Committee Report 10-12(3): Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3): Payroll Tax Act

- Committee Report 11-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates

- Appearance of Members of the Commission for Constitutional Development

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands

Page 635

adjourned until 10:00 am Friday, February 26, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT