



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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alooloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. James Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, 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 morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Regarding Fire Safety Inspectors

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue with the statement I began yesterday. Having had the opportunity, overnight, to somewhat modify it. As I mentioned, I was concerned about the manner in which the fire marshal of the Northwest Territories left the public service. I was concerned the circumstances surrounding his department may have reduced public confidence in safety programs offered by this government.

As I mentioned, I have placed a high priority on respecting the staff of our departments as hard working, competent professionals. Recent newspaper and radio reports, and I have tabled those examples, Mr. Speaker, have pointed out instances where officials and their authorities have been criticized. Our safety inspectors, mine inspectors and liquor inspectors deserve to know that they have the confidence of the public in order to carry out their duties. They need to know that they have the support of their peers.

Our public needs to know that the national building codes and the national fire codes are going to be rigorously but fairly enforced, regardless of the economic conditions which businesses are experiencing from time to time. People need to feel

confident that when they enter a building in the Northwest Territories, it is going to be just as safe as a building in Edmonton, Calgary or Toronto. That is why we have, in my opinion, some of the best inspectors in Canada. In my view, they have been doing a first rate job. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On The Importance Of OMC

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ordinary Members are sometimes criticized because they have become very well organized and effective. During the last Assembly, a process was initiated to hold government accountable but it was not as effective as it is now. One of our failures was the unsuccessful attempt to prevent our participation at Expo in Seville. A coalition of Members of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Pollard, and the previous Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Wray, convinced the Assembly that our participation would be a good thing. I predicted it would be an unmitigated disaster. Although we await with interest the result of the internal audit, we already know it was a misguided, crackpot, ill-conceived, warped, obliquitous, grandiose misadventure of the worst possible kind. I include myself among those ordinary Members of the 11th Assembly who should be scorned, ridiculed and maligned because, despite our numbers, we failed to prevent an almost felonious squandering of millions of taxpayers' dollars.

I have visited Spain on and off since the 1950s and have a special affection for the country. When we debated our participation, I was amused at the vision of feeding gourmet meals to poor people who traditionally attend grand events with enough food and drink of their own to feed the entire family for a week. The debate over our participation during the last Assembly is a classic case of how intelligent people, in this Assembly, were blinded by a magnificent vision of the Northwest Territories competing with the nations of the world in a world market and winning.

We were blinded by Mr. Wray's persuasive vision of northern products invading the European and Japanese markets because the north American population was too small to handle our huge

economy. We behaved like a desperate third world country begging for attention. It was the ultimate ego trip.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, your allotted time has expired. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, I will not ask for unanimous consent to continue because I have made my point.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Need For Government Assistance To Underdeveloped Communities

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very concerned about this government's commitment to the development of the emerging market communities. The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism has informed us that it is the government's intention to spend a greater portion of its money in these communities. I do not see the government following through with a strategy to carry this promise out. Last June, I questioned the Minister regarding the government's decision, at the time, to locate the proposed fire

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aircraft maintenance facilities in Fort Smith rather than in Fort Simpson. The rationale was that Fort Smith had a more sophisticated economy. The Minister was not willing to reconsider that decision.

Mr. Speaker, communities such as Fort Smith and Hay River are more developed in large part because the government has spent more money in the past in those communities on the development of their infrastructure. With more development for infrastructure, it then seems to be easier for government to rationalize the decentralization of programs and the placements of new government facilities in those communities. The benefits to develop communities continues to grow. In the meantime, other communities with great potential are left out. Fort Simpson has the potential to develop a solid economic base, to be the transportation hub for the Mackenzie, but it needs coordinated government support to lay the foundation for its future.

The Special Committee on Northern Economy, in 1989, recognized that government must carry on the work of development in underdeveloped communities until it is viable for the private sector to take over. Fort Simpson needs the assistance of a government plan for the development of more lots and subdivisions to accommodate growth in the community, and a plan for water and sewer services required for the new living areas. If business and industry is to grow, alternatives for a cheaper power source for the community must be explored. The options of receiving a power supply for the hydroelectric facility at Taltson River and of connecting with the BC power grid should be explored. Fort Simpson is a tax-based municipality, but not a large one. The government must demonstrate that it is solidly behind its desire to progress. The pay off for this investment, in terms of economic growth...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine, your allotted time has expired.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my statement, thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Personal Conflict Of Interest In Closure Of CIBC In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I learned that the manager of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce branch in Fort Smith had announced the bank's intention to close the branch on June 4, 1993. This will leave my constituents with no local banking options. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I rose to question the Minister of Finance on the government's intention in this matter. Mr. Speaker, it was only as I rose to ask the question that I realized I may be perceived as being in a position of conflict. Accordingly, I did not pursue this issue with the Minister as I might otherwise have.

I wish to take this opportunity to identify, for the record, my conflict on this issue and advise my constituents how I propose to deal with this conflict,

bearing in mind the high ethical standards expected of Members and the needs of my constituents. The nature of my conflict, Mr. Speaker, is that the CIBC branch in Fort Smith rents one half of a duplex which my husband and I own. For the record, Mr. Speaker, my concern with the recent announcement of the CIBC is not the potential loss of income to us, rather my sole concern is that my constituents have adequate local banking facilities available to them regardless of which bank makes these facilities available. Nonetheless, I recognize that by pursuing my questioning this issue could be perceived as using my office as an MLA to influence the decision of the CIBC so as to further my personal interest. This is contrary to the letter and spirit of the conflict of interest provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

The concern of my constituents with respect to this closure needs to be addressed and heard in this House. Accordingly, I have asked the honourable Member for Inuvik to pursue this issue on my behalf and on the behalf of my constituents. I can advise the House that I have not thought to direct or influence this Member on the handling of this issue. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Dent on February 25 with respect to the WCB security system.

The Workers' Compensation Board's security system was installed in 1990 at a total cost of \$43,694.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 345-12(3): Children Residents In Salomonie Home

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on February 24, 1993, with regard the schooling of Peter Salomonie's children.

Mr. Peter Salomonie has one child, a daughter, registered with the Baffin division school board of education. She is presently attending grade four in Nakasuk School in Iqaluit. No other children are currently registered with the board.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 302-12(3): Additional Social Services Counsellor For Gjoa Haven

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on February 22, 1993.

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I received a letter from the mayor of Gjoa Haven on January 25, 1993, requesting three counsellors for the community. He should be receiving my response shortly.

There are presently two community social workers in Gjoa Haven and one regional alcohol and drug specialist. The department does not have sufficient resources, so I am not able to approve a third community worker, but I am pleased to note that the region is encouraging more community participation in social issues in all communities through training workshops on such matters as grief counselling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 291-12(3): Criteria For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell on February 19, 1993, concerning criteria for land tenure access to home ownership program.

Units delivered under the access program can be built on the following types of land: fee simple titled land; long-term leased land; and, band land, also known as Indian Affairs branch (IAB) land or land reserved for Indian use, as long as a band council resolution is obtained allowing long-term use of the land.

These are the same criteria for land tenure that were used in the previous home ownership assistance program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk. You are asking for a point of order, Mr. Pudluk. There is nothing in the rules. I will take it as a point of order. Please state your case, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

I would like clarification before we start asking questions. We were asking questions yesterday about social assistance, on pages 1726 to 1729. On the bottom of page 1728, a question was asked by Mr. Patterson regarding the social assistance rate increase, and the answer provided by the Minister for Social Services stated, "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." Did she take the question as notice, or will the Minister get back to us with a further answer?

MR. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order. I have ruled in the House, Mr. Pudluk, that a question is not taken as notice unless a Minister specifically takes the question as notice. So, that question was not taken as notice, and one would have to read the answer exactly as she said. I read she will get back individually to a Member or Members, but the question was not taken as notice. It is possible to pursue that question in oral questions.

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. She will know that yesterday I tabled a report prepared by the Keewatin regional health board documenting the circumstances surrounding the 1991 disease outbreak suffered by six Kivalliq communities. The report contains twenty important recommendations. Given the importance of the matter of these Kivalliq residents and all northerners, I would like to ask her some questions about the status of these recommendations. One of the recommendations is that the Department of Health prepare a list of candidates for community coordinator positions in case other communicable diseases break out. Can the Minister indicate whether such a listing has been compiled yet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe such a list has been compiled. However, I will have to check if it was circulated. The appointment of such a community coordinator would be the responsibility of the health board in the region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

MR. ARVALUK:

One of the recommendations in the report is that the chief medical officer should hold discussions with the region to clearly define roles and responsibilities in the outbreak situation. Can the Minister indicate which regions the chief medical officer has listed to carry out consultations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the chief and deputy medical health officers, I do not have a breakdown of the number of chief medical officers per region, but I will get back to the Member and provide the information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Keewatin regional health board's report also recommended that the medical directorate in the Department of Health draft a contingency plan for circulation which outlines the human and financial resources that have to be allocated in the emergency disease situation. Has the department completed the contingency planning exercise?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

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HON. REBECCA MIKE:

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk, would you like to repeat the question, please?

Supplementary To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I should repeat my preamble. Has the department completed a contingency planning exercise to prevent other regions contracting a similar kind of disease?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 46 different reportable infectious disease conditions in the

Northwest Territories that could occur in an outbreak. An outbreak of these conditions would require different resources and handling. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

MR. ARVALUK:

I realize there are many, but our concern is, is this outbreak in relation to what comes from the food, such as E-coli? The people in the Keewatin region are worried that the disease may recur over the course of this summer. The Keewatin regional health board report, which has now been tabled in this House, recognizes that as summer approaches it is necessary to carefully monitor early signs of the disease and implement a health promotion campaign. What activities are being planned for the Keewatin to carry out the health promotion and monitoring activities recommended in the Keewatin regional health board report?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 366-12(3): Status Of Recommendations From Report On E. coli Outbreak

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health promotion and monitoring activities are the responsibility of the regional health board. One year ago, the department transferred the health promotion officer to the region to oversee health education and promotion activities. Headquarters staff continued to provide back-up support to the region. In fact, they played a major role during the outbreak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In

February of 1990, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism tabled an economic strategy for the Government of the Northwest Territories. The package was termed, "Building on Strengths - A Community Based Approach." The strategy that he introduced was called, "Economy in Transition - An Agenda For Action." Can the Minister advise the House whether the building on strengths package is still the key planning document for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it is one of the documents we are still using. However, I should point out to the House that, as situations and conditions change in the Northwest Territories, our priorities shift from time to time, but it is still one of the documents we are using. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its agenda for action document, the department identified the community of Fort Simpson as having a significant potential to expand its role as the regional supply centre and to expand its local range of goods and services. A main element of the economic strategy was the plan to target communities to concentrate on the need and potential for development and to adapt programs to communities. Is the focus on targeting communities and building on communities and regional strength still a priority of the department? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker. I would point out, once again, that people have to agree. One of the problems that we found is that our idea of what a region or a community may wish to do, may not be what the community wants to do. If communities are in agreement with us on what we feel is their potential, that is the basis for us providing them with assistance and the direction that we would like to take them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister explain to this House how these principles are being implemented by the department in relation to the needs and potential of Fort Simpson? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Further Return To Question 367-12(3): ED&T Economic Strategy Document

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, if we want to talk about the Member's specific constituency, we would look at what natural resources there are, where the transportation links are, what the people in the communities are producing by way of arts and crafts and where the community is strategically located. In some instances, we would look at the expertise within the community. Building on the strength of what is around the community is the economic philosophy we would use. The Simpson area and Liard, obviously has tremendous resources. The area has wood and natural gas. Part of the constituency is on the Mackenzie River and it does have a highway system; there is a loop between Alberta and BC through the Liard highway. Those things would all be factored in and we would be trying to suggest to the people that we should be building on those particular strengths. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 368-12(3): Internal Audit Of Expo '92

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we finished with Economic Development and Tourism yesterday I was happy to see there was no indication of further extravaganzas. There is an internal audit being done on our participation at Expo in Seville. Why is it, since this corporation was set up as a body separate from government, that it is being audited by internal auditors rather than by the normal audit which you would expect from an agency of a government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 368-12(3): Internal Audit Of Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any reason why our auditors could not audit an agency of the government. We have an internal audit bureau and this was the route chosen to audit the Department of Economic Development and Tourism with regard to the expenditures they made at Expo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 368-12(3): Internal Audit Of Expo '92

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, there are two classes of auditors, in fact there are several. I know that internal auditors take specific direction. They are told to look at certain aspects, if that is the wish of the government, and then they audit the things they are asked to audit. Has the internal audit group been given specific guidelines as to how they should audit the Expo pavilion?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I will get a copy of the instructions to the auditors and provide it to the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we were all made aware of the proposed bank closure in Fort Smith. As I understand it, over the past few years the bank has slowly been reducing the services it provides to the people and especially to the business community in Fort Smith. The bank in Fort Smith does not have authority to issue loans and people must go to Hay River to apply for business loans. I think this is good for Hay River, but not good for the clients in Fort Smith. Last November the chamber of commerce made a request to the Minister of Finance asking that the Minister meet with them in Fort Smith to discuss this issue. As far as I understand it, the Minister has not acted on this request. On June 4, 1993, the bank is going to close the facility in Fort Smith. Why did the Minister of Finance not act on the community's request to meet with them on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the arrangement which I had with the CIBC, and I have discussed this with the Member for Thebacha, was that in January or February of this year the CIBC manager and myself would journey to Fort Smith and discuss this issue with the residents of Fort Smith. As I said in the House yesterday, in January I was advised by the CIBC that they wished to cancel out on the meeting because they did not think it would be very productive. I am still prepared to go ahead with that meeting in Fort Smith. I will do that as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that many communities in the north do not have banking facilities or access to cheque cashing or deposit facilities. Now one of our largest communities, effective June 4, 1993, is going to be in the same boat. Why does this government always wait until a crisis occurs before it acts on something such as this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I knew last year the CIBC was contemplating leaving Fort Smith. They phoned me and asked my opinion. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories cannot influence private business people or banking institutions. They explained to me that their problem was a lack of usage of the bank's facilities. Mr. Koe has mentioned earlier that people were going to Hay River for loans. The fact of the matter is, the bank has advised me that many people in Fort Smith are doing their banking in

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Edmonton or possibly in Yellowknife. Last year the bank advised me it was getting to the stage where that branch was uneconomic. Mr. Speaker, this triggered the discussion that I had with the chamber of commerce in Fort Smith, which caused me to suggest that the bank manager should go there with me and have a discussion with the residents of Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, I think it should also be noted that the bank has advised me that two agencies in Fort Smith, one being the chamber of commerce, have suggested to the CIBC that they should leave the community. The community has asked for it, the bank has given us indication that they were going to do it, and now all of a sudden the bank does come through on what it has been asked to do and what it said it was going to do, and the community is showing some concern.

I am concerned also, Mr. Speaker, in other areas of the Northwest Territories, as the Member correctly points out, there is a desperate shortage of banking facilities. Here we have a fairly large community which is losing its banking facility. The bank says it is because the town never uses the facility. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, I have no facts on which to base this and I have no ability to go to the bank and ask for facts. I can only go on the conversation which was given to me, and that was that the bank was not being used. I wanted to go there to find out what the bank had to say and what the people of the community had to say about why that facility is not being used. I think the situation is still the same as it was last year. The bank has now said they are going to leave the community. There is still time between now and June to discuss this issue with the bank and the community. I would suggest that if the community did realize that they are going to have to use it or lose it, that perhaps they may want to reconsider the use they are making of that facility. Time will tell as we meet with the community, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe some preventative measures could have been taken. I believe this could have happened if the Minister would have reacted and the issues could have been discussed to prevent this decision. Will the Minister act now and take the initiative to meet with the residents of Fort Smith and the banking officials to try to resolve this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 369-12(3): Lack Of Ministerial Action To Resolve Bank Closure In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of acting now. I have always planned in either January or February to go to Fort Smith. I told the chamber of commerce this last year. It is not a matter of me acting now and not having done anything in the past. I have discussed

this with the chamber of commerce, with some of the people in the community and the mayor, and I have been told by some people it is not a big deal if the CIBC leaves because we have another bank which wants to come in here. I have not had people exactly beating my door down in a panic situation saying we are going to lose the CIBC. I have been acting on it and I will follow through on my commitment to the chamber of commerce to be in Fort Smith by next week to discuss with them what they want to do about this particular issue. If they are as unconcerned as some of the people are, then there may not be anything that can be done. If the community as a whole gets together and realizes you have to support facilities if you want them to be maintained in your community, of if the bank has not been treating its customers correctly, perhaps that might come out. That could be pointed out to the bank and the bank may wish to reconsider. I have been advised by the bank it is strictly a business decision on their behalf, they are losing considerable amounts of money in Fort Smith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I met with the hamlet council in Gjoa Haven regarding the disabled people in the community who have no assistance. If the community would like to get a building where the disabled people can meet or if the community wanted to obtain a group home for the disabled people, is there a policy with regard to that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have a policy with regard to that. There is a group home in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. I will check into that policy and get back to you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since there is a group home in Rankin Inlet, can you see if the Kitikmeot region is eligible to get a group home for disabled people?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there is currently a group home in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, if there is no group home in the Kitikmeot at this time, perhaps you could consider setting up a group home in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 370-12(3): Policy Regarding Group Homes

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I will check to see if the Kitikmeot is eligible to get a group home for disabled people and I will get back to you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 371-12(3): Increase In Social Assistance Rates During Upcoming Fiscal Year

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. I was informed that the social assistance rates have been increased by five per cent. Mr. Speaker, the price of the carvings are constantly going down, and for this reason my constituents are going through hardship, especially those who are living on earnings from carving. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Social Services indicate if we can expect a raise in 1993-94? She previously answered that the policy is still under review. Would the Minister indicate to us if she will reply today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 371-12(3): Increase In Social Assistance Rates During Upcoming Fiscal Year

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated yesterday that there has been a five per cent increase. In April of 1987 there was an increase of eight per cent which was followed by a five per cent increase in 1990. The increases applied to ten communities in the territories. The number of social assistance recipients are still increasing in the communities in the north. I will check into that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 372-12(3): Process For Changing Social Assistance Rates

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday on page 17-28, the Minister of Social Services suggested that change to the Social Assistance Act will be required before social assistance rates can be reviewed. What is the process for changing social assistance rates? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 372-12(3): Process For Changing Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, we go with the agreement we have in place with the federal government and the Canadian price index.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 372-12(3): Process For Changing Social Assistance Rates

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, what agreement is in place in Canada?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 372-12(3): Process For Changing Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. National Council of Welfare is the body which determines the rate changes regarding welfare. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 373-12(3): Responsibility Of Change To Social Assistance Rates

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services. I am aware that there is no agreement with the federal government with regard to reviewing social assistance rates. That is the responsibility of the Minister and Cabinet. Does the Minister not agree? I believe that is what my honourable colleague was asking, that social assistance rates are changed under regulation and not legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 373-12(3): Responsibility Of Change To Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 374-12(3): Cause Of Power Outages In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. What is causing the power outage problems experienced this week in Iqaluit? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 374-12(3): Cause Of Power Outages In Iqaluit

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the recent power outages in Iqaluit have been related to two causes. One is equipment failure associated with the older existing generator,

and the second is commissioning of the new generating unit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader as Minister responsible for the

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Northwest Territories Power Corporation. The community of Fort Simpson is eager to develop a more sound economic base. Community leaders are concerned that if the community is to develop its potential in the area of business and industry,

cheaper sources of power must be explored. Has the Northwest Territories Power Corporation explored the possibility of cheaper power sources for the consumers in Fort Simpson and area through a link perhaps with the hydroelectric facility at Taltson River? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe a study was done regarding power from Taltson. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a study was done, would the Minister be willing to recommend to the Power Corporation that this option be explored? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the analysis that was done, at this point in time, because there are only eight megawatts available, it was not an option that would provide economic power. There could be other areas looked at, but when we did the number crunching, it was deemed that it was not feasible or an economic option. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the study was done, were the communities on the line to Fort Simpson considered to use some of the power source because eight megawatts is substantially more than what is required in Fort Simpson. Could other communities feed off that power to make it more economical? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 375-12(3): Investigation Of Less Expensive Power Sources For Fort Simpson Area

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the consideration of other communities on the line was taken into consideration. However, even with the consideration of other communities and the expense of building the line, it was still not in the ball park of providing cheaper power.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 376-12(3): NWT Education System Under Alberta Curriculum

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I had a concern expressed to me from a constituent who is attempting to enrol in one of the educational institutions in Alberta. When I went to school here, we were under the Alberta curriculum for education. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm to me that the territorial education system is still under the Alberta curriculum? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 376-12(3): NWT Education System Under Alberta Curriculum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the honourable Member that our curriculum is tied to the Alberta program.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(3): NWT Education System Under Alberta Curriculum

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, two Alberta institutions, specifically Mount Royal College and Red Deer College, have not recognized our academic courses at the grade 12 level to be equal to those of Alberta and have placed somewhat of an impediment on one of my constituents trying to attend this institution. Would the Minister be willing to review the criteria of these particular institutions and have his department determine why they are not recognizing our grade 12 courses as equivalent to those of Alberta? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 376-12(3): NWT Education System Under Alberta Curriculum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I am prepared to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 377-12(3): Priorize Arena For Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Lake Harbour have been asking to the Department of MACA to prioritize the arena in Lake Harbour. Would the Minister of MACA reconsider prioritizing the arena for Lake Harbour, although it is in the budget for 1996-97? Would the Minister indicate his thoughts in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 377-12(3): Priorize Arena For Lake Harbour

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am available to meet with the Member for Baffin South to discuss the arena and how the community can

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contribute. In these projects the communities can contribute. This would allow the government to see if items such as these could be fast tracked. I would be available to discuss this with the Member at a private meeting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 378-12(3): Status Of New Generator For Iqaluit Power Plant

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, on reflection I am not entirely satisfied with the problems of the old and new generator at the power plant in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, when the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions visited Iqaluit early this month and heard from the Power Corporation president, we were told the long awaited new generator would be on-line the day we held the hearing. Today, it is over three weeks later, and I understand there are still problems with the new unit. Can I ask if the honourable Minister could be a little bit more detailed about what the problems are with the new unit which was supposed to be on-line some three weeks ago? What are the difficulties? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 378-12(3): Status Of New Generator For Iqaluit Power Plant

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the power outage in Iqaluit, the problems began last fall with the failure of the two largest generator sets in that community. One failure related to a worn bearing and the other resulted from a faulty voltage regulator. The voltage regulator was repaired and the machine was restored to service,

and several days later the same machine was taken out of service during the evening hours to replace the regulator. The repairs to the generator bearing took longer to address, as the Member has indicated. A special arrangement was made to have a manufacturer repair the bearing over the weekend in a plant in southern Ontario. The repaired bearing was then flown back to Iqaluit and the machine was restored to service.

While repairs were being made to the generators one of the stand-by gas turbines in Yellowknife was prepared for transport to Iqaluit. An aircraft was placed on alert for that purpose. There were numerous outages in the community due to the initial equipment failure and the subsequent rotating power supply until the first machine was back in service. There were then other minor outages related to the repair of the second unit. There were a number of commissioning problems. The power outage had occurred as a result of installing the new 3.3 megawatt generator. This set arrived in the fall to replace one of the older machines to provide additional capacity. Mr. Speaker, although every effort had been made to ensure this generator set was delivered on the first ship, it was in fact loaded on the last one which accounted for the delay.

Installation and commissioning of the new unit has been a priority. Unfortunately, the connection of this new unit to the existing system resulted in a number of problems which have caused those power interruptions. Given the distress experienced by the community and the need to quickly resolve the problems, Mr. Speaker, the director of engineering and a technician proceeded to Iqaluit to direct matters for an eight day period. A Caterpillar representative was also on site during this period. At the end of that time, the power supply was believed to be stable. No further difficulties were anticipated. On February 23, 1993, during noon hour, a fault on the system caused a new 3.3 megawatt Caterpillar generator and one other to shut down. Power was restored within 25 minutes but later that day a similar occurrence during the dinner hour caused a further interruption which resulted in two outages lasting a total of one hour and fifty minutes. Mr. Speaker, both interruptions are under investigation. To limit the opportunity for a recurrence of the recent problems the director of operations, the maintenance manager, a government expert from Woodward Governors and an electrical specialist from J Keane and Associates are travelling to Iqaluit to identify and resolve any outstanding problems. The two staff members are scheduled out

on today's aircraft, Friday, February 26, 1993, and they will be joining the others in Iqaluit on Monday. It is expected that this action will result in a resolution of the concerns.

Mr. Speaker, everything is being done. At this point in time, all possibilities of what might have happened are being investigated and people will be on site until the specific areas of fault have been identified and corrected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 378-12(3): Status Of New Generator For Iqaluit Power Plant

MR. PATTERSON:

I thank the Minister for the helpful information, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for the attention which is being paid to this problem because it is causing some anxiety to my constituents. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister provide this House with a report once the analysis is completed of the causes of these problems? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 378-12(3): Status Of New Generator For Iqaluit Power Plant

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I will do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 379-12(3): Evaluation Of Fire Safety Record

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions I would like to ask of the Minister of Safety and Public Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I tabled a number of documents dealing with the resignation of the former fire marshal of the Northwest Territories, Tabled Document 61-12(3), which is a copy of a letter of resignation. It pointed out that over a ten year tenure with the Government of the Northwest Territories, the fire death rate dropped from ten

persons per year to 4.8 persons per year. The annual property loss was reduced from \$10.2 million to \$5.4 million. Can the Minister indicate whether or not he has had an opportunity to conduct an evaluation of the reasons for such an impressive improvement in the fire safety record in the past ten year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

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Return To Question 379-12(3): Evaluation Of Fire Safety Record

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to conduct a review of the fire safety performance. I want to assure this House, as I did when I was on the other side, I think it is important that the current standards continue and that we will press for even more increased standards. I want to assure the Member this is the intent of this Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 379-12(3): Evaluation Of Fire Safety Record

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Referring to the former fire marshal's period of employment with the Government of the Northwest, the number of fire safety inspections conducted annually increased from 400 in 1983 to 2,500 in 1992. This is a substantial increase, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister had an opportunity, or will he have an opportunity shortly, to undertake an evaluation to see what caused this dramatic increase in the number of inspections?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 379-12(3): Evaluation Of Fire Safety Record

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into this matter. I suspect the increase in inspections is due in

part to the former Minister's direction given to the department and I would like to commend him for it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 380-12(3): Status Of Fur Prices

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. We all know the price for fox pelts are increasing. Hunters' and trappers' hunting has slowed down. Can the Minister indicate whether the prices are increasing?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 380-12(3): Status Of Fur Prices

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this year, the price of polar bear skins has decreased. The prices have not changed for fox and seal skins. When the Nunavut agreement is in place through the TFN, the hunters and trappers will receive assistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 380-12(3): Status Of Fur Prices

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister, through the federal government, informed the people of Europe that hunting is the livelihood of the Northwest Territories? Has the Minister made people of Europe aware that this is how we live? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 380-12(3): Status Of Fur Prices

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Animal rights activists, IFAW, especially in Europe, as we stated last winter, are against sealing. The activists are very popular in Europe. Under the European parliaments, I was informed we have representatives who are monitoring the activists' work. The IFAW and European parliament members will send representatives from February 27 to March 5, inclusive. They will be meeting in Charlottetown. The IFAW will be showing, by helicopters, the sealing in that area. I have been discussing this with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Mr. Barry Hicken, and I have also discussed, with Mr. Crosbie this past week, what they are planning to do. I have been informed that Mr. Crosbie will not be involved. The Minister from Prince Edward Island, Mr. Barry Hicken, will be meeting with this group. If I am able, and if the Legislature is agreeable, I will be meeting with European parliamentarians and IFAW in Charlottetown. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 381-12(3): Status Of Water And Sewer Subsidy Funding

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. On December 2, 1992, I raised the issue of financial strain being caused to small tax-based municipalities, such as Fort Simpson, by the inequities in the water and sewer subsidy program. On December 8, 1992, the Minister provided a response to my question in this area and said that he expected to submit a policy proposal on the distribution of water and sewer services subsidy funding to tax-based municipalities in January of 1993. Can the Minister advise the House as to the status of the water and sewer subsidy funding proposal? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 381-12(3): Status Of Water And Sewer Subsidy Funding

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The water and sewer subsidy program that the government provides is still the same. It has been a closed program, and it allows

the municipalities to administer the water and sewer subsidy. It also allows the community to set up a fund for their water and sewer subsidy program, which they could use to get equipment for a water and sewer program. As far as the policy change that I am prepared to take to Cabinet, my department is still working on the document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The allotted time for oral questions has elapsed. Item 6, written questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 22-12(3): Number Of Patient Visits To Physicians At Fort Smith Health Centre

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Health. Will the Minister table, in this House, a listing which shows the number of patient visits to each of the physicians with the Fort Smith health centre during the years 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, and to date in the 1992-93 fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Continue please, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 23-12(3): Summary Of Travel For All Board Members Of The Fort Smith Health Centre

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Will the Minister of Health table a summary of all travel paid in part or full to all board members of the Fort Smith health centre during the 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 fiscal years, and to the point when the board dissolved during the 1992-93 fiscal year, organized to show: (a) the name of the travelling board member, (b) the destination to which he or she travelled, (c) the purpose for the travel, and (d) the name of the person signing spending and payment of approvals for the travel? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, written questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 24-12(3): Restaurant Closures And Hirings At Expo In Seville

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Mr. Pollard. This question is in connection with the participation in Expo in Seville by the Government of the Northwest Territories. On how many occasions was the restaurant closed because there were no customers? When the Northwest Territories staff resigned or were terminated, how many local Spanish speaking people were hired to replace them, rather than NWT residents?

MR. SPEAKER:

Another written question, Mr. Lewis.

Question 25-12(3): Firewood Offered For Sale By South Mackenzie Correctional Centre

MR. LEWIS:

I have a written question for Mr. Kakfwi. The correctional centre in Hay River has inmates who cut wood for sale to the public in Hay River. Would the Minister provide this House with the number of cords that were cut in this fiscal year? What price was charged per cord? How many cords were sold? Was there any deviation from the policy of pricing for any reason?

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, written questions. We will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I will call the Assembly back to order. We are on item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Question 13-12(3): Status Of The Ingraham Trail "No Hunting" Corridor

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 13-12(3) asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Justice concerning the status of the Ingraham Trail "no hunting" corridor.

As of February 19, 1993, when we most recently checked with the Department of Renewable Resources, no charges had been laid with respect to the use of firearms in the special management area

F/1-B, (the Ingraham Trail "no hunting" corridor) since the enactment of the regulation in 1988. Therefore there have been no trials regarding that corridor at which to consider the issue of aboriginal hunting rights.

Return To Question 17-12(3): Funding For Leadership Program

I have a return to Written Question 17-12(3) asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs concerning funding for leadership program.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs provided a budget of \$305,000 for the western Arctic leadership program in Fort Smith in 1991-92 and 1992-93. The same level of funding is being proposed for 1993-94

Return To Question 18-12(3): Lutsel K'e Student Residency

I also have a return to Written Question 18-12(3) asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs concerning the Lutsel K'e student residence.

Nineteen Lutsel K'e students were living in the Lutsel K'e student residence in Fort Smith in September, 1992. Fifteen Lutsel K'e students are now living in the residence. Two of the students who were in residence in September have returned to Lutsel K'e, three of the older students who had been living in the residence are now home boarding in Fort Smith and one additional Lutsel K'e student is now living in the residence.

I am providing the names of the Lutsel K'e student residents, as of September, 1992 and February, 1993, by letter for the Member's information.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to go back to Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER:

There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

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REVERT BACK TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Regarding The Late Larry Desmeules

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, this week we have heard about the passing away of Mr. Larry Desmeules who represented the Metis of Alberta during the multilateral talks that lead up to the Charlottetown Accord. Many of us at the political and working level had the opportunity to work with Mr. Desmeules over the months that it took to conclude the Charlottetown Accord. All of us want to extend our sympathy to his wife and his children and friends who are, I am sure, grieving the loss.

Mr. Desmeules made an important contribution to the process and advancing the recognition of Metis rights during this national process. He also took some personal interest in advancing the situation of the Metis in the Northwest Territories, even though they were not direct constituents of his. As recently as December he came to Yellowknife specifically to support Mr. Gary Bohnet in his efforts to obtain support from our government for extending the federal trilateral self-government process to the north. It is general, unselfish actions like this as well as his other public and personal accomplishments, which will give us fond memories of Mr. Desmeules. The government will send a representative to the funeral which will take place in Edmonton tomorrow morning. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 3, Members' statements. If I could return to item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Petition 12-12(3) from the people of Pelly Bay. The petition contains 95 signatures. The petition opposes any attempt to increase the rental rates in public units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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. Kakfwi.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 66-12(3), which is staff housing strategy responses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 67-12(3), which is public accounts of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. I wish to table Tabled Document 68-12(3), report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the audit of the accounts and financial transactions of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ended March 31, 1992.

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. 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; Tabled Document 3-12(3), Report of the 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), Report on Tabled Document 21-12(3): Payroll Tax Act; Committee Report 10-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates; Committee Report 11-12(3), Appearance by Members of Commission for Constitutional Development. Mr. Whitford is in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will now come to order. When we left off yesterday at 6:00, the committee was reviewing the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We are on page 11-11. Is it the committee's wish that we continue with MACA? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We should continue with Appropriation No. 2, dealing with the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Is the Minister of MACA prepared to take the witness chair?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I would like to bring in my witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Can the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses to the witness table? Mr. Minister, for the record can you please introduce your witnesses.

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Is it agreed we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe, general comments.

General Comments

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance commended the efforts of Municipal and Community Affairs in dealing with their particular department. I agree they have been doing good work, but there is always room for

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improvement. I was disappointed when I reviewed the list of municipalities and how some municipalities are in a deficit, and how they the department has been monitoring those particular municipalities. The report indicated the department needs to improve in this area. The department needs to put a monitoring system in place so that when municipalities are starting to get into trouble, the department should be aware of the problem and able to flag the municipality. They should be able to inform the municipality that they are getting into some serious problems. The department needs to put a system in place to improve the monitoring so that these type of things could be addressed at the beginning instead of waiting until the year end to find out that certain municipalities are having problems.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to emphasize the need for the department to increase their involvement, particularly at the community level. They need to do more training, particularly for councils and their staff. With regard to staff training, I know the department had a fairly good program which they used to offer. I think they still offer this program to train SAOs. One of the objectives of this department is that they were trying to create a more northern type of training program for SAOs. I wanted to get assurance from the department that this kind of training will not be watered down to the existing training that they are giving the current SAOs. I believe the one which was administered by the department was through McMaster University, the MACTO program. This was, in my view, a very good program. If the department is going to create a new program then I do not think they should water it down so that the program is not recognized across the country. If my recollection is correct, Mr. Chairman, Alberta has a program similar

to MACTO which is offered in Ontario. The Alberta program is recognized across the country. It is one of the leading jurisdictions for administrators. I wanted to suggest to the department that whatever we do, I hope it is not watered down. The MACTO program was also recognized across the country. It was the leading program and it still is. Alberta is also coming on stream and their program is also being recognized across the country. I agree our programs should reflect the northern flavour but it should not be watered down so that it is not recognized across the country.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to training for councillors, the department has to do a bit more work in this area. I know they have been working hard, but there is always room for improvement. The handbook which they are working on would enhance the knowledge of new councillor members coming in. The workshops for councillors is a requirement. Some people who get into municipal politics do not know exactly what they are getting themselves in to. Training in this area is a requirement. I would encourage the department to do more work in this area of training.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to planning for capital projects, I know this whole area has to be improved. Although MACA is one of the better departments within the government to consult with the various communities across the territories, there is room for improvement here also. The planning has changed. It is not coordinated through the Government Leader's office. Planning for capital projects pertaining to MACA, I think they have been doing a good job but the staff need to get out there and consult with individual municipalities. It is getting to the point where, although we are letting the municipalities or communities prioritize their own projects, it is hard if you do not know, for instance, what you build first or what type of capital you receive first. For instance, do you build the fire hall before you purchase a fire truck? Which one comes first in terms of priority? They have to know how to plan. I do not think that component, at the community level, is there. I think they need guidance from this department, because they have been fairly good at prioritizing various projects as to which requirement the various communities need. For instance, if they have a spare garage, it is feasible to order a fire truck before the fire hall is built. The norm is that you build a fire hall first, then you get the truck, because you can always utilize your water truck as an emergency fire truck.

The department still has to do much work in assisting the communities in their capital planning. Mr.

Chairman, as I indicated, this department, in my view, has succeeded very well. Even our Standing Committee on Finance commented that they were doing a decent job and I agree, nevertheless there is always room for improvement. Those are the areas that I wanted to touch on. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Minister, do you have a response?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the Member for a very useful contribution and also suggestions to the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 11-7, under the definitive objectives, we have one objective that I need clarification on. That is, "to develop a strategy for the restoration of abandoned quarries on Commissioner's lands." Are we talking about mines or ground disturbed by the activity of man? What are we talking about here? I need clarification from the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about gravel quarries.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Are there any general comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

I have always indicated to the House that the basic needs of all communities must be met. Basic needs in terms of basic fire protection, water and sewer services, et cetera. I know the department is trying to address these particular problems, particularly in the smaller communities, such as Snare Lake in my riding, Nahanni Butte in Nahendeh, Gjoa Haven or other places. Mr. Chairman, I have always indicated

that these small communities have to start having their basic needs met. I know the department has been trying to get these unorganized or unincorporated communities incorporated. That was one of their objectives, to bring them up. In my view, this entire area is not being fast-tracked enough. This entire area has to be seriously looked at by the department.

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For instance, when the Member for Nahendeh brought us on a side trip to Nahanni Butte, I was appalled to see their water and sewer services, Mr. Chairman. The community was being serviced by a little garden hose coming out of the side of a school. I did not think that any community, especially in the 1990s, was in that sort of condition. It was appalling to see that type of thing. That is why I have always indicated, since I have been in this House, that the basic community needs have to be addressed. In smaller communities, all their basic needs should be met. I know the department is trying to straighten this situation out, but, in my view, they are not working fast enough. This entire area has to improve. I have many concerns about this. Basic needs, as I indicated, are a requirement. I am not sure what the department intends to do except for trying to develop those unincorporated municipalities to make them more recognized. Can the Minister comment in regard to what I have been talking about? Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of unorganized communities, I would like to change the name to unincorporated communities. We are addressing the problem. The department is working on a policy to deal with capital needs of these communities, as well as the O and M needs of these communities. Also, in terms of emergency needs of the community, such as the basic needs of water and sewer facilities, I will be bringing forward, in the capital plan, strategies to deal with those items, which will be dealt with next fall for 1993-94. The department is working very hard on the policy. It has been fast-tracked so we could address the problems of unincorporated communities and look after communities such as Nahanni Butte. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The preventative maintenance is of essential importance in any given appropriation. In most of the municipalities which I represent, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and Taloyoak, the maintenance parking garages they have are not big enough to handle the fleet of equipment. When I say equipment, I am talking about trucks and heavy duty equipment. If the municipality ran their preventative maintenance program, Mr. Chairman, the consequences could be substantial in terms of costs to this government and to the municipal government. Given that, what is the department doing to ensure this does not happen and that municipalities have adequate garages to handle their equipment which are essential to the municipal services? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department provides a maintenance garage where the equipment can be serviced and maintained by the municipalities. In some cases we have unfunded equipment. This is where a community gets the equipment on their own and it is not funded by our department. We also provide parking garages for the hamlets. The purpose of the parking garage is to park the funded equipment so that they can be sufficiently housed. We try to provide adequate maintenance garages for the funded equipment and also parking garages. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a garage and a parking garage in my home community of Pelly Bay. According to me, the garage is not big enough to house its fleet of equipment. Mr. Chairman, it should either be replaced or enlarged. Is the Minister aware of the problem which is being addressed in Pelly Bay?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know of the particular problem which the Member is outlining. I will look into it. We can perhaps look after it through the area of the capital planning process, this is where the superintendent and the staff go into the community and talk about the capital planning process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a general comment, but it is not directly related to the topic. In the past five years the local government has been working with the territorial government. I am pleased about this. The local governments are much happier since the five year capital plan has been in place. The communities have been considering obtaining more responsibilities from the territorial government. For example, if the water pipes freeze, DPW does not normally pay for this, it is paid for under the hamlet. Often the hamlet is short of funding, whereas DPW has sufficient funding. For this reason, the hamlet is under a great deal of strain. Their funding for the year is insufficient. Under the community transfers I feel that it has to be prioritized. The hamlet office is eager to manage. We need to prioritize the transfers to the communities because the economy is down. The hamlet owes money. When the hamlets are requesting certain things, this must be considered and prioritized. The hamlets have been in existence for a number of years and they are capable of running their own government within their community. I had wanted to express this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for his concerns as they are very valid. Regarding the frozen pipes and the reservoir, DPW was looking after this, we were able to help the community with funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some general comments I want to make on MACA. They have to do with your departmental mandate, goals and definitive

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objectives. I have always had a concern with this department because I see this department as the territorial government department that deals with going into the communities, such as some of the constituencies that I represent, which are unincorporated, to attempt to help them get organized in one form or another. There is nothing in your goals or definitive objectives to deal with that. Perhaps that is what the problem is in some of my small communities.

How long has this territorial government been in existence? Why have these communities not been helped in getting themselves organized? The only group that helped them was the Dene Nation when they sent in some community development workers to help these communities get organized. Presently, the Deh Cho tribal council is going into these communities to help them organize. These are funds that the tribal councils get on their own because of their treaty organizations. The job of this department is to help these communities do exactly what the tribal councils are trying to do. I am very puzzled. I have been trying to figure out this department since my election. How long has this department been in existence, and why is this government not helping these communities?

I applaud the efforts of the Deh Cho tribal council because they have identified the problem in these communities and they are going in helping these communities get organized, with no funding from your department at all. This is your job, according to these definitive objectives and goals. I would like to see this department, in one way or another, help some of these communities get on their feet. The only items I see in your goals, mandates and definitive objectives are tools for the communities. I think you have to go deeper than that into real community development and get the ideas from the communities on how things should run. The bands and the tribal council are going back into our own Dene history to see how we conducted ourselves in the past to try to build on that. That is a true consensus of government at the

community level, where you go back to your roots and build on that.

There seems to be no cooperation between what the bands, tribal councils and the government are trying to do. If we could coordinate these efforts, I think you will see some of these communities come a long way. Right now there is no cooperation. I do not see any plans at all to try to help the communities in the way in which I have been trying to explain. I would like to suggest this department meet with the Deh Cho tribal council to see what they are doing, and meet with these community representatives, through the tribal council, to discover the goals they are trying to achieve in trying to get these governments more organized. This would be helpful. I am talking about the philosophy of this department. I do not see how the philosophy here, in its present form, will help some of these smaller communities unless there is coordination and cooperation with the Deh Cho tribal council and these smaller communities. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to address the issue of helping communities. We are developing a policy, which would tell this government, regardless of what kind of communities they are, to assist them in O and M and also in capital needs, whether they are bands, unincorporated or incorporated. In terms of community transfer authorities from the government, coordinated by the Minister of the aboriginal rights section of our government, any more authorities given to the community is coordinated through that office. We are there to assist the communities if we are needed. We are also here to help Mr. Kakfwi's ministry if he requires help. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned community transfer. Even before we talk about community transfer in the smaller communities, there is a need for development and training. This is the area I am concentrating on right now. There is a need for community development type of training and awareness at this community level, to bring these

communities up to a level where they might start talking about community transfer. Many smaller communities are in no position at all to even start considering community transfers at this point. This department, MACA, should help these communities try to get into awareness and community development to enable them to start talking about community transfers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We see ourselves as a group that, if requested by a community, will try to help in areas of development. In terms of community development, we are here to help communities. I agree, it has been a slow process. If we are requested by a community, we will go into a community and help the community develop. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned and would like some clarification as to what is the perceived impact in terms of cost to the department once the staff housing strategy is implemented? There are several areas that have some potential to be impacted. One, for instance, and I need some clarification on this, is water and sewer subsidies to municipalities. I understand the department charges the municipality per unit or a certain amount of money, or gives them a subsidy. That is going to be changed because the ownership of the unit may go to an individual, and then the individual may pay \$55. In many cases, there is a big difference. Has the department taken this into consideration?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our view, it is not going to cost the government any more money. The community corporations will still receive the same amount. What is going to happen is that the community corporations will bill the tenants or the

home owners the residential rate and the government will subsidize it to the same degree as we do now. The only thing which we see that will change is that DPW will pay for the bill and that money will be transferred over to

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the department for the subsidies. As to the overall impact on the housing policy, I will leave that to the Minister of Finance because I do not know the full impact. In our department, as far as we understand it, there is not going to be a significant impact on how much the community corporations receive, as my department pays for subsidies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

On the same subject, another area which would warrant some investigation is the home owners property tax rebate. Right now the policy or the contribution is \$300 per dwelling. I note you have \$1.042 million budgeted in 1993-94. One of the objectives of the new home owners' strategy is to develop a housing market. There is a potential impact. Did the department take into consideration the projected increase in home owners because of the new housing strategy? What is the projected cost to the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Allooloo. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department has taken this into account. When the home owner receives title to the land or gets the land in his name, part of the money which the government would normally pay gets transferred over to the property home ownership rebate program to make sure we have enough money to pay the rebates. The government is, in fact, probably going to end up saving some money overall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can you clarify this again. Where is the money being transferred from? From what account to what account?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present, the government pays grants in lieu of taxes for all government owned assets, including housing. The money which we have to pay grants in lieu of taxes, when the private owner gets the house in his name, we will not have to pay grant in lieu any more. That will leave us with a surplus in this account and we will take it and transfer it over to the rebate program to make sure we have some money to pay the rebates. It is revenue neutral.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe

MR. KOE:

The statements you made before intrigues me. You said, "it would probably save the government some money." Do you know how much and will that be used to reduce the deficit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

To the first part of the question, we are not sure because it depends on how many people take advantage of the housing policy. Until we know that, we will not know what the savings will be. As far as where it goes, I will ask the Minister to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are any surpluses in any program it goes back into general revenue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I will save my other questions for when we get into details. I have many concerns and comments on the home owners property rebate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize the city of Yellowknife was given the opportunity for block funding to address their capital needs or infrastructure needs and for them to have the ability to prioritize what they feel are requirements for the city. I am pleased to see the Minister's department has taken such an initiative. I would like to ask whether or not the same consideration has been given to other municipalities if they have requested to be considered for block funding as opposed to specific infrastructure planning projects? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, communities can approach us if they want to do the same as Yellowknife has done. So far we have been approached by Hay River and Norman Wells. We have not received a request from Fort Smith. The policy is in place for communities to have similar arrangements as Yellowknife. We will be talking to two communities, which have requested to talk to us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Is the Minister indicating to this House that he is waiting for the communities to go to his department to request an opportunity, or is the Minister's department making any effort to go to the larger communities to see if they want to consider this option? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

There is a question for Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a community initiative. The community would have to come to us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Even though it is a community initiative, Mr. Chairman, what prevents the Minister from initiating or formulating a letter to the larger municipalities to see if they want to consider such an opportunity? Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the policy became a policy, I sent it to each community. It is in the hands of each community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Can the Minister give the House a general outline of what is contained in the policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could table the policy at a later date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Since I have not seen the policy, does it indicate specifically that it has to be a community request in order to be considered for block funding? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I will ask again, Mr. Chairman, what prevents the Minister from developing a letter to the communities to advise them such an opportunity is available? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel the communities know it is available. Again, I am prepared to write a letter to each community to state that it is available. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that he feels the communities know it is available. I would appreciate if the Minister would develop a letter to the municipalities or to the larger communities that may want to take on this opportunity of block funding and indicate to them that such an opportunity is available. It is incumbent upon the government, particularly this department. As the government is looking at community transfer and responsibility, they should take the initiative to advise the communities what is available and not always wait for the communities to come to the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister's office has been talking to each community explaining

that this is available. Again, Mr. Chairman, yes, I am prepared to write a letter to larger communities explaining this policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another issue, the home owners or land tax rebate was cut last year from the amount they used to receive, from \$400 to \$300. It was done in an attempt to save money, taking into consideration the time of restraint we were in. However, it is also a disincentive for the people within the communities. Initially, the incentive program was there for people to try to build their homes to get some type of rebate from the government with regard to the amount of money they paid in land taxes. The amount was turned back. We may be sending a signal that we are not as supportive of encouraging home ownership, taking into consideration that this government is trying to get out of housing, being one of the biggest landlords in many of the communities, and, at the same time, taking the initiative of cutting back on the tax rebate program, which encourages home ownership, I would like to ask the Minister if he has given any consideration to reinstating the level of tax rebates it once levied as opposed to cutting back the tax rebate program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have not considered reinstating the level of rebate we used to give. We have not developed any paper for Cabinet to that effect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated they have not considered that, but, as I stated earlier in my comments, since this government is getting out of home ownership, and the fact that they are trying to encourage home ownership in the communities, it is another incentive on the government's part to

encourage individuals in the communities to build homes within the communities. They see the fact that they will get a portion of their funding back on the land tax rebate. Will the Minister take some advice and reconsider reinstating the amount of tax rebates once given to home owners as opposed to cutting back this form of incentive by this government? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where I see this could be considered is under the overall housing strategy by the government. That might be one of the things that could be looked at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, that is the problem. There has been some concern identified in this House with respect to the housing strategy not being a cohesive government plan. The concern of my constituents is, they have had to absorb many of the things with respect to the way the housing strategy was done. Now that they have been encouraged to build their own homes, they have. This government has now taken away the incentive in the form of a tax rebate, which this department used to give to home owners. There was a tax rebate of \$400. Without notice, this government has cut that back to \$300 a year for a tax rebate. You are creating a disincentive for people to want to build, and yet, the government is encouraging them to build. This is a point I am trying to make. Therefore, will the Minister reconsider reinstating the level of assistance in a tax rebate form to be increased in the future? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will look at the program again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Just to confirm one more item, Mr. Chairman, will there be no other reduction in the tax rebate program in 1993-94? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those were the only two particular items I had on this department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need a clarification. What is good fiscal management? Is it when the municipal corporation ends the fiscal year with zero balance, or is it when the municipal corporation ends the budget year with a surplus? When the municipality ends the year with a surplus, is the municipality rewarded by giving that municipal corporation the discretion to do whatever it wants with that surplus? Is the municipal corporation penalized when they end the year with a surplus by the government cutting the new fiscal year funding? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fiscal management we consider good management is when they break even or when they come out with a surplus. On the operations side, we allow the municipal corporation to keep the surplus. On the water and sewer side they have to put their surplus back into the water and sewer program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a municipal corporation ends the year with a surplus, and according to the Minister, it is good for both the corporation and the government. When this happens is the municipal corporation penalized? Is funding for the new year cut because they had a surplus the previous year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the community does not get penalized. They are allowed to keep the surplus on the operations side. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Is the community's new year funding cut because of the surplus?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government employees who are living in government units are given an accommodation allowance. Do the hamlet employees receive an accommodation allowance or utility subsidy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets are able to help their employees as they wish. It is up to the hamlet whether or not they provide assistance to their employees. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Yes, I understand your response, however, does the hamlet have to request this. Would they have to request this kind of funding from MACA? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the hamlet does not have to request this funding. The hamlet sets up their own budget in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Pudlat.

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MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a different question. I would like to commend the Minister of MACA. Cape Dorset wants to start taking over responsibilities for their own funding. I would like to congratulate the community of Cape Dorset for wanting to take responsibility. I am sure other communities will also have to look into this further. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. There is no response required. Are there any general comments? Is it agreed to go page by page?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 11-10, directorate, total O and M, \$3.630 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 11-11, community works and capital planning, total O and M, \$3.173 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Planning

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Community planning, total O and M, \$1.441 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Surveys And Mapping

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Surveys and mapping, total O and M, \$436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport And Recreation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 11-14, sport and recreation, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to declare a conflict of interest and withdraw from the House when the activity of sport and recreation is being considered. Mr. Chairman, I own shares in the radio station, CJCD, which has entered into advertising contracts with Sport North, and accordingly there is potential that my business might benefit from funds appropriated under this activity. I am declaring a conflict and withdrawing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The chair recognizes your request. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Are there any comments under this activity, sport and recreation? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he would provide to this House the proposed amounts in respect to the \$6.252 million with regard to the proposed main estimates under grants and contributions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister. I apologize Mrs. Marie-Jewell, you had not finished your questioning. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Is this what is on pages 11-18 and 11-19?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Alloo.oo. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. If that is the breakdown on pages 11-18 and 11-19, the contribution for Sport North is \$225,000, I know it was \$225,000 last year, however, the year before it was \$726,000. It is to deliver programs on behalf of the GNWT as identified under terms of legal agreement signed between the Minister and Sport North. Can the Minister indicate to this House the parameters of the legal agreement? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Minister Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the agreement with me at the moment. However, I would be pleased to table the agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Alloo.oo. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, whenever we ask for something we always get the answer that they will table the information. Can the Minister indicate to me what the parameters are of the agreement in general terms? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know. Mr. Chairman, I do not have the agreement here with me. However, I am prepared to table it in the House. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

Motion To Defer Page 11-14 Under Activity Sport And Recreation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it is somewhat shameful when this Minister's department is going to give \$250,000 to an organization and they do not know what it is for. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move to defer pages 11-14 until we can receive more of the detailed information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried to defer page 11-14.

---Carried

Municipal Operations And Assessment

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Moving along to page 11-15, municipal operations and assessment, total O and M, \$47.213 million. Agreed? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that under this activity we will find the funding for the NWT Association of Municipalities. In the opening comments by the Standing Committee on Finance it was noted that the Standing Committee on Finance feels that the association should have its funding increased. Could we ask the Minister to advise as to whether or not this has been looked at?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, because of restraint we have not changed the \$71,000 contribution to the association. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister if he agrees that this could be a very useful resource organization for municipalities especially in a community transfer initiative and ask if he will, in spite of restraint, look for a method of finding more funds to provide to this very important organization in the next year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we could look at the funding again to see if we can improve it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment just to add to what my colleague from Thebacha was saying. I think the department is going to have to re-examine its priorities when it comes to the home owners property tax rebate. If I understand correctly, this is the activity under which that would fall. I think that the property tax rebate has served a very useful purpose. I think, as came out earlier when Mr. Koe was asking questions with the new approach to government housing and increased home ownership, that this government needs to find some way to make people feel better about owning their own homes. This sort of program which was set up to accomplish this could be very important. The department's response to the committee recommendation last year, and last year the Standing Committee on Finance also recommended that this program be improved, I found paternalistic. The approach was that perhaps the rebate had not been passed on to taxpayers. I do not think it is up to the department to make comments about whether or not a municipality may have found a way to get the rebate into the home owners hands and whether or not they have increased taxes to account for the fact that the rebate is coming. The goal is that this government was intending to increase home ownership and by doing that was putting money directly in the home owners hands. It is up to the votes in a municipality to ensure that they are getting good local representation. I just wanted to make the point that I was not impressed to the response to the committee

recommendation last year which was in respect to the property tax rebate.

I would like to comment on the system of preparing this document that we are now considering. The Standing Committee on Finance noted, when we were reviewing the individual tasks, the payment in lieu of taxes -- the amount that was put in this budget for payments to municipalities for payments in lieu of taxes -- did not show any increase over what was provided last year. The Minister advised that this was because inflationary increases were not put in, but rather that the government waited until municipality mill rates were set and then would come back to the Legislature with supplementary requests for funding. I think it makes it difficult for us, as a Legislature, to assess a budget if we do not get some kind of accurate forecast. While I recognize there is no way the government could predict what mill rates would be at the municipal level, I do think that a budget is always somewhat of a guess as to where you are going to be throughout a year. I do not think it is entirely unreasonable for people to make an estimate as to what they are going to expand and to present that information to us. I do not know that there is much of an argument in this case to not present a figure that would be an expected figure where in other areas you have done exactly the same thing. It is not really a question so much, Mr. Chairman, as comments on this process. The Minister may care to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Member for his comments and we will take his comments very seriously to look at areas where we need to improve in terms of coming up with the figures. We try to forecast to the best of our ability how much we will need to spend in all areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are

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there any general comments? Mr. Koe and then Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Page 11-15.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments under this activity. There is a task under this activity called "home owners property tax rebate." This provides a \$300 tax rebate to people who own and occupy their own dwellings. There is a \$75 levy for general taxation. I am not sure what that is, but I assume it is the same as the \$300. How is this rebate administered? Is there a policy in place with administration guidelines or is this legislation? How are administrative guidelines and procedures set out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is administered under the Home Owners Property Tax Rebate Act. There is an act that administers it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Under that act then, are there procedures for administering? Who collects and how are the rebates issued? Are they spelled out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Yes, the act is quite clear as to how the process is done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Has the department looked recently at the process under this act in terms of ways and methods of streamlining it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Yes, we have in two different ways. We have been approached by the NWT Association of Municipalities who asked us to look at streamlining it to make it less confusing for the municipalities. We were also approached by the Inuvik town council to see if there was a better way to disburse the money, and we are still reviewing that with them. It seems every time we try one way there are some pitfalls and we are still trying to work those out where we will be reviewing it further.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I agree, it is very complicated and it seems as if there are many administrative procedures and people involved in trying to issue a rebate to a home owner. From my knowledge, an individual receives a tax bill from a municipality. That individual then pays taxes directly to the municipality, then there is a form which the individual has to fill out and submits it either to the municipality or the government. Your department then has to tabulate all the requests for rebate, and send a cheque back to the municipality. The municipality will then issue individual cheques back to the taxpayers. It seem very time consuming and many people are involved in tabulating, filing out forms, compiling and issuing cheques. The municipality, in the end, issues individual cheques back to the people who paid them in the first place.

The municipality should deduct the rebate at source when they issue the tax bill. They could then submit one bill to your department. You, in turn, could rebate the municipality. It seems quite simple to me but, obviously, there must be other complications which I am not aware of. That is only an idea. You can respond to it if you want, but I think it would be best if you just act. It would save many people a great deal of time and effort, especially the municipalities because every cheque which is issued by them is a cost to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good suggestions. We tried to do that but one of the problems we ran into was that it has to be verified whether the taxpayers are bona fide. The other

problem is that municipalities wanted to be the ones to give out the rebates, even though they were territorial government rebates. We could give the rebates from here or the regional office, it would not matter, but we have to work out those administrative details. Sometimes people apply for the rebate, they may get paid for it and when you look into it they are not eligible for it for all kinds of different reasons. We are trying to streamline it. What you say makes a great deal of sense and we might go that way and take our chances with some of the pitfalls.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. I would think the people who are going to try to cheat the system are going to be few and far between. When we set up a process to weed out a few bad people, we make it more complicated and more costly to administer than simplifying it. We have to try to simplify some of these items.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister, do you want to respond?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

That was a good point, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any comments on municipal operations and assessment? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my colleague's comments, I have to agree with the type of communications which we have in place, fax machines or whatever, I am sure with the computer systems we have in place in the municipalities and headquarters that this type of information can be relayed fairly quickly in regard to speeding up the process for tax rebates to the municipalities.

Mr. Chairman, in reviewing the municipal operations and assessments, details of grants and contributions, there has been a significant increase, I am not begrudging the settlements on this, over the past two years. It went from \$36,000 to \$148,000 to \$219,000,

indicating a reasonable amount of funding to settlements should be used for locally determined administrative projects. Can the Minister indicate what is determined as an administrative project?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister. Mr. France.

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MR. FRANCE:

The reason for the increase results from the increasing infrastructure in those smaller communities. This money provides the support funding to fund the street lights and the additional items they need in the community, such as roads. That is all forced growth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, is the department suggesting that, due to the increased amount of infrastructure projects a settlement may take, this department is then giving more administrative support to that particular settlement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. FRANCE:

The details of the \$71,000 are made up of the \$58,000 for Snare Lakes, and in Rae Lakes for buildings, equipment, street lights, road and solid waste. In the Fort Smith area, it is made up of money totalling \$2,160 for the Hay River Reserve, street lights, Snowdrift and Enterprise. There is a fire alarm system on the Hay River Reserve. There is a contract services for Kakisa. There is increased administration in Enterprise amounting to \$1,900. In that area, it comes to \$11,802. The total amount of the increase is \$771,000, as I have described.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, that is not what I asked for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Minister, would you like the Member to restate the question, or do you think you could respond if indeed there has not been an answer to it?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Could the Member repeat her question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, perhaps for the benefit of the Minister, would you be so kind as to repeat the question?

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I initially asked, what was the amount of funding increased from \$148,000 to \$219,000? I did not want to know the details of what projects it went to. The explanation in our books indicate, to provide a reasonable amount of funding to settlements to be used for locally determined administrative projects. I asked for the definition of an administrative project, and I have yet to receive that, Mr. Chairman. In addition, in regard to these administrative projects, I was told it was for infrastructure. Does that mean this department gives funding for infrastructure costs to settlements depending on the amount of projects that are placed in a settlement? I have two questions that I am looking for answers for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. MENARD:

The word project is confusing. The money is there to show the increases in response to an activity that happened in the community. For them to receive more street lights, we have to give them some O and M money to run the street lights. The fact that they get more administrative support and in the office, whether we call that a project or not, it is probably the wrong word to use, but that is what it is meant for. We then give money for the increase in that area. If they receive a garage, they receive O and M funding for the garage. That is what this money is for. We probably should not have been using the word project, but that is how the book was printed. It is for money that is caused in responding to the capital plan, we have some new infrastructure, and it is also

for more administrative support. It can be for more street lights or roads, et cetera. That is what is meant here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

If a municipality decided to place in a new subdivision, new street lights, et cetera, who absorbs that cost? Does that come under this particular grants and contributions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. MENARD:

If you are saying a municipality, such as Fort Smith, no. If it is a municipality, such as a hamlet, yes, but it is not out of this pot of money, it is under the hamlet contribution area. With the town of Fort Smith, the tax-based pay for street lights and a few other things to the levy of taxes. It is not a fundable program under our policies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is probably the reason why we have tax-based municipalities. Sometimes it appears we do not get the same type of benefits. However, Mr. Chairman, on another comment I have, in regard to the grants and contributions, and it was brought forth by my colleague from Yellowknife Frame Lake, that the amount of funding given to the NWT Association of Municipalities does not seem to be increasing. In fact, it has decreased over a period of time. Is the Minister considering increasing that amount? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, I am prepared to look at it again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Municipal operations and assessment on page 11-15. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

The Minister indicated he is prepared to look at it again. Can I ask when? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Certainly. Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the OPPLAN process.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear. I certainly hope he is considering increasing that amount. Mr. Chairman, I have another question with respect to the NWT Association of Municipalities administrators. There has been \$5,000 that was created in 1992-93 and it is in the proposed budget of 1993-94, basically to assist the association in providing support to its members through training seminars and meetings. I would suspect that this certainly is not sufficient. However, does the Minister's department feel this is an adequate amount of funding to assist the association in providing support to its members for training seminars and meetings? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, I think we are a bit ahead of the pages that we were working on. Page 11-15 was municipal operations and assessment. The question may be better entertained under details of grants and contributions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, page 11-15 contains \$42.724 million, which consists the breakdown of pages 11-17 and 11-18 of municipal operations and assessment, grants and contributions. In order for me, as a Member, to

give support to approving page 11-15, I have to know the details of pages 11-17 and 11-18. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Agreed. Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member. That money is probably not sufficient for them to do their programming. The association of municipal administrators is a very small organization. There are very few members. This is not all the support they receive from us. In fact, we are trying to develop some training programs with them to meet some of their needs and to meet our obligations under some of our goals and objectives. We also help them out in different ways. For example, we help pay for some of their transportation as well. This is basically some of the seed money to get them going, to encourage them to get together and keep their organization going. I agree that is not enough, but through the time of restraint, that is about all we could keep in there at this time. We are reviewing it with them as well. We help them from other areas of the department with transportation to get them together. We sponsor some of their workshops and a few other things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. If the Minister would reconsider looking at that amount, I would appreciate it. Mr. Chairman, this particular activity allows for funding to support community self-government. Additional emphasis is being placed on training and development of municipal representatives and officials. Structured workshops, courses and provision of resource material are being used to support local governments. How much of this funding is identified in this particular activity to do such a task? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. MENARD:

If the Member is asking how much money we have in the training area for that type of support, it is blended in through the entire department. In this particular

one, I think we have about \$80,000 in the budget for that, but there is also money in other areas, such as sport and recreation and community works, where we do some of the same training. This is where some of our training money is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this money identified in the form of grants and contributions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Mr. Chairman, no it is not identified in grants and contributions because it is money which is held internally to assist with training and also to do some in-house training so that we can get people trained to do the training. The money is not part of grants and contributions. It is under other O and M.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the \$42 million which is identified as grants and contributions, if you review page 11-17 and the top of page 11-18, what additional amounts are identified for grants and contributions? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amounts are identified from page 11-17 and under page 11-20.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

Community Planning

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I have only one other question. I missed it under the activity of community planning. I cannot possibly ask this question under this particular activity of municipal operations and assessment because you do have grants and contributions on water subsidy programs to the hamlets. Last summer we travelled down the Mackenzie Valley and there was particularly one small community, and it is certainly not in my riding, but it is of interest to note that they basically have no type of water system in place. That is the community of Nahanni Butte. Mr. Chairman, what has the department done to assist that particular community to make water delivery or water easily accessible to the community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has gone into Nahanni Butte. We are talking to

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them. They had a well which they were using. Apparently this well is not good enough. We are also talking with them in terms of other alternative water sources. We might have to build a road to get to the water source. We are also talking about the water intake from the river. We are still at the planning stage with the community to address the problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Municipal operations and assessment, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, when does the Minister anticipate his planning will be complete so that the small community of Nahanni Butte will have access to good water?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That work is taken into account in this budget. Some of the work will be done this summer for that community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take running water for granted. I come from a constituency where we have piped water and probably because of where we are located and the soil. We have a river running right by us, that is not to say the water we get from that river is the best water. Mr. Chairman, I was concerned about the fact that something fundamental such as the delivery of water was not given to that one particular community. Are there any other communities in the territories which do not have easy access to water that the Minister's department is aware of? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister. Mr. Menard.

MR. MENARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are other communities not as bad off as Nahanni Butte, but who we are trying to bring up to a basic standard for the water intake. There are places such as Colville Lake and Snare Lakes where we are working to address those problems. There are two or three of them which we have to bring up to a better standard. All of them have access and are not in the same situation as Nahanni Butte. The other ones have access to a good source of water and Nahanni Butte does not. It is the way in which they access it. There is also Kakisa and Grise Fiord. We are coming along. I think we are making good progress. At least now, other than Nahanni Butte, they all have a safe available water source, however, it is still a bit primitive in some areas, where they have to go cut a hole in the ice to get water. We are working on improving that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Menard. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The enforcement of municipal by-laws is essential in the area of keeping peace and for the protection of the community residents. By the same token, Mr. Chairman, the enforcement officer should also be protected when

performing his/her duties. Therefore the by-law officers should be trained and qualified to do their job. What steps are being taken by the department to ensure that the officers in municipal government are properly trained?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We train municipal by-law officers where we can. The RCMP sometimes has programs or they will provide training to by-laws officers in the communities. We get quite a bit of training done by the RCMP in that way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is indeed a training program initiated by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, I have not seen a training program in the Kitikmeot region, Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay. I wonder if the Minister or his staff will inquire into the program to find out if and when the by-law officers in my area can be trained. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a program as such, but we sponsor training for by-law officers. I will look into the Member's concern in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Municipal operations and assessment, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

On this activity there are a couple of tasks which I have brief comments on and would like some clarification. There is a new task under this activity called block funding transfer payments. For the first time there is a huge amount of \$4.1 million which will be transferred to the city of Yellowknife. I understand

it is a three year block funding arrangement for full capital and O and M responsibility for planning and delivery of municipal projects, programs and services. Does this mean, with this three year deal, that we give them this amount of money and we will not hear from the city of Yellowknife for three years, or is it \$4 million for this year, \$4 million for next year and so forth? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

The Member is correct, it is a three year contribution to the city of Yellowknife. We will see the same amount next year and the following years until the agreement has expired. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is saying there is going to be \$4.1 million this year, the same amount for next year and the following year for a total of \$12.3 over three years. Earlier in the day, I made a statement regarding Fort Simpson and the problems they are having with their funding. Is this kind of arrangement going to be available

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for other communities in the future, or is this the only community which is going to receive this kinds of special treatment? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

As I stated earlier, when the policy was approved I sent the policy to each tax-based municipality. I also said earlier this program is available to all tax-based municipalities. So far we have been approached by two tax-based municipalities, Hay River and Norman Wells. We will be speaking to them. If we are approached by any tax-based communities we are prepared to discuss the block funding issue with them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another task under this activity is senior citizens and property tax relief. There is an amount of \$81,000 in this task. Is this task to help elders who own property and who pay tax? Does this task help them pay for their taxes? Is that correct and if not, can you explain? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is to help the senior citizens who own property. In tax-based municipalities, we pay 50 per cent of the cost and the municipality pays the other 50 per cent. In general taxation areas, we pay 100 per cent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. So, if an elder in a tax-based community has to pay tax, the government will pay 50 per cent and the municipality will pay 50 per cent. Is that the way it goes? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, yes, this will be paid on one home.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any questions on municipal operations and assessment, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the important components in a communities' well-being is an emergency plan for the community. That should be the priority of MACA. What measures are being taken by of MACA, by the Minister and his staff, to ensure there are by-laws in place in the area of the

emergency measures program? Are the people in municipal corporations and people involved in this area properly trained? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is our priority. All the communities have a prepared emergency response plan, except in Lutsel K'e and small unincorporated communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Another area that involves in-training, which is essential, requires fire fighters to do their jobs. I am talking about the ability of fire fighters to do their jobs and save property. Have the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Minister instituted a training program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we do not have a program in place to train fire fighters, but we do training on a case by case basis. We also hold workshops to train fire fighters and to inform them of the new methods and new technology. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often does the Minister's department hold workshops for fire fighters? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to do it yearly. It is done through the fire marshal's office. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. The clock is approaching 2:00 pm and the chair will conclude for today and report progress to the Speaker.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the witnesses and the Minister. I shall now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of the committee of the whole.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. WHITFORD:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconded by Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

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ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus at 3:30 pm this afternoon. On Monday, March 1, 1993, at 9:00 am, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, March 1, 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(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality
 - Tabled Document 3-12(3), Report of the 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(2), 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 by Members of 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 adjourns until 1:30
pm, Monday, March 1, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT