



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

**Day 29**

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

**HANSARD**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1993**

Pages 719 - 724

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Rebecca Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Congratulating Josephine Weninger On Recent Appointment

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently a decision was made by the regional prairie office of Parks Canada in Winnipeg to appoint Mrs. Josephine Weninger as superintendent of Wood Buffalo National Park. She will assume this position for a three year term on April 1, 1993. Mr. Speaker, many residents of the community, and some honourable Members, will know that Josephine Weninger is a long-term resident of Fort Smith and a woman of Metis descent.

Park Canada's choice for superintendent is a very appropriate one. Mrs. Weninger's training and skills have been well known within the parks community for many years. Most importantly, she is familiar with the people and the environment of Fort Smith which will give her a definite advantage in this difficult administrative post.

In a way, Josephine is keeping family tradition alive in caring for this park that means so much to many of the people of the community. Her father, Mr. Leonard Heron, worked for parks services for many years. Her parents, elders and long-term residents in the community are very proud of her accomplishments and are looking forward to her arrival.

As an aboriginal woman, and as a resident of Fort Smith, I am very proud to see Josephine Weninger

move into her career and I am confident that she will be very successful. I only hope, as time passes, other young women will be inspired to follow her example by working hard to acquire the dedication, education and experience which opens doors to these senior positions. May I seek unanimous consent to continue?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to commend Parks Canada and the career assignment program for recognizing that such talented professionals do exist within our resident population of the Northwest Territories. I am pleased they chose a superintendent from Fort Smith, who is an aboriginal northerner and a woman. I am sure all Members will join me in wishing Josephine Weninger, formally Josephine Heron, very much success in her new endeavours. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Welcoming Pages From Rankin Inlet

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform Members of the House that two students from Rankin Inlet are serving as pages in the Legislative Assembly today and for the remainder of this week. Arlene Ford and Alissa Kusugak were selected to represent the Maani Ulujuk Secondary School in Rankin Inlet.

---Applause

Their parents, Jose and Nellie Kusugak and Simon and Beth Ford, are extremely excited and proud that they have been selected to serve as pages in the Legislative Assembly.

The experience that these two young women gain during the time they serve as pages in this House will give them some insight into the way their government operates. Mr. Speaker, I know that all Members will

join with me in congratulating Alissa and Arlene and in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Luncheon With Sheila Copps

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the announcement by the Prime Minister that he intends to resign, three prominent women in this country will take centre stage. I refer to Kim Campbell from British Columbia, Sheila Copps, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and, of course, the Leader of the NDP, Audrey McLaughlin.

I would like to tell the House that on Saturday at 12:00 noon, Sheila Copps will be in Yellowknife addressing the public at a

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lunch. There will be, however, a fee for this lunch. Our Member of Parliament will be in attendance and, if Members are interested in going, I believe there are still tickets left. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. We may introduce privatization and have paid commercials here in the House.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On The Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**MR. ZOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of my region were very glad to hear the announcement that the Colomac Gold Mine could be back in production some time in 1994. Mr. Speaker, you may recall that this mine at Indian Lake, which was shut down after only one year of operation, employed a number of workers from the Dogrib communities. Its re-opening

will again allow residents of Snare Lake, Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre and Rae-Edzo to participate in the industrial development of our region. To young families in Dogrib communities, this means more than just jobs, Mr. Speaker. It also means skill training and career advancement possibilities.

For the region, it provides a focus for the emerging infrastructure that will go hand in hand with further mineral developments. These include, of course, recent initiatives for hydro development now under negotiations between the NWT Power Corporation and the Dogrib nation and initiatives outlined by the Minister of Transportation in his announcement earlier this session. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories can be an important partner in turning this mineral development potential into a reality. An assessment of training needs in Dogrib communities aimed at identifying the kinds of programs which will better prepare local workers to work in the mining industry should be undertaken by Arctic College. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism should be aware and be gearing up to provide incentives and other support for local contractors who will be available to deliver services once the mine is up and running. Consultation, Mr. Speaker, should begin immediately between the mine owners and the Dogrib leadership to better plan for the success which eluded us in an earlier venture. I believe the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources can also be an important partner in this.

Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ZOE:**

Mahsi. By working together, Mr. Speaker, I am certain we can progress towards the re-establishment of the mine as an industry which will benefit the people of my region and the Northwest Territories in general. North Slave communities are encouraged by these developments, Mr. Speaker, and are hopeful that the mine can be back in operation at the earliest possible date. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On NWT Legal Aid Programs

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to comment on the legal aid programs in the Northwest Territories. I sat in committee of the whole yesterday while the budget was being passed and I was left with a very uneasy feeling. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the goals of an aboriginal justice system still appears to be many years away, it is important that the Northwest Territories have services in place which help aboriginal people gain an equal footing within the Euro-Canadian system of justice. The legal aid program was supposed to contribute to that purpose, and it has not.

The Auditor General of Canada expressed some very real and important concerns over insufficiencies within the system. These concerns were echoed by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts which recommended that the computerized information system, which does not meet any current management needs should be upgraded. A manager of systems was hired last month.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts committee also recommended that the eligibility criteria and means test be reworked. This has not been completed. They recommended that a simple worded code of rights and that responsibilities be developed to help clients understand the confusing policies and procedures these lawyers have set up. These recommendations have not been completed as of yet.

Several lawyers across the Northwest Territories have raised concerns about the potential to plan in-service quality with the move to in-house staffing. They are still waiting for an answer and the bottom line is that the people in our constituencies, people such as the woman which I spoke about yesterday, are not receiving the help they need. For many months, the legal aid system has had no executive leadership. The department did not succeed in recruiting an executive director until this week. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fair to give newly hired officials a chance to clean up the mess they have inherited.

I am sure honourable Members will agree that there must be some improvement to this program area over the course of the next fiscal year. I would urge the Minister of Justice...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Excuse me, Mr. Gargan. Your allotted time has expired. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I would urge the Minister of Justice to place a high priority on reworking the legal aid system over the summer and to come to this House with a comprehensive report of systems improvement at our next session. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Absence Of Mr. Ningark

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asked to inform Members of the House, on behalf of Mr. Ningark, that he will be away today and probably most of tomorrow due to his attendance at the Kitikmeot regional council in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Cournoyea.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Question 177-12(3): Assessment Of Izok Lake Proposal

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, this is a very late reply to an oral question. The question was asked by Mr. Nerysoo on December 3, 1992.

There will be approximately 250 direct jobs at the Izok Lake mine. As a first step, a skills review of Coppermine was conducted last summer. A similar review is planned for Cambridge Bay and the rest of the Kitikmeot next summer. The statistics for other NWT communities are available through the Department of Education's "ENTER system." A study on some aspects of the socio-economic impacts to the Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Hay River and Yellowknife communities has just gone out for tender. The results of this work will be available next summer.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, the federal government and the industry are studying the feasibility of using an ocean shipping route in the Coronation Gulf area. The Department of Transportation's preliminary work suggests the GNWT will realize savings in re-supply of Coppermine and Cambridge Bay of approximately \$4 million a year. A report on the results of this work will be available later this year.

The NWT Power Corporation has done some preliminary work on hydro sites in the region. Further work will be required to study environmental and economic implications. The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the NWT Power Corporation will complete this work in early April.

We have suggested a permanent road structure between Yellowknife and the Arctic Coast. Discussions with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs concerning funding for this project are ongoing. A study on the economic implications of the proposed roads was done by the Conference Board of Canada.

A review is being conducted of the goods and materials that Izok Lake and other NWT mining projects would require. This information will allow us to target business opportunities for northern entrepreneurs. A contract has been tendered and results will be available in July, 1993.

An economic development officer, recently hired by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, will be working on business opportunities including fuel storage, transportation road maintenance, camp maintenance and construction.

The GNWT will also be supporting the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and their efforts to negotiate a benefits agreement with the company. The agreement will ensure business and job opportunities to the local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ensure Members of the Legislative Assembly that the government will take actions to assure the NWT benefits from the development, while our environment is protected. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 405-12(3): Timetable For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. The Minister knows there is an urgent need to upgrade and redesign the computerized information system within the legal aid system. This has been identified as a financial management priority by the Auditor General of Canada and it was referred to in the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, brought before this House earlier in the current fiscal year. I was pleased to hear the department has finally hired a systems manager, but I am concerned that progress on this important initiative is going to continue to be slow. Does the Minister have a timetable for completing the entire overhaul of the legal aid information system?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice.

Return To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that by the end of the 1993-94 fiscal year all information requirements will have been determined by the department and the legal services board, and that we can begin the final development of the new system or the modification of an existing system, perhaps from another jurisdiction. We think it is going to take some time, because we

are in a period of change. As I understand it, the systems which are being suggested to us are intended to provide managers with the information required to monitor costs and the quality of services provided. We know that Members want some clear deadlines as to when these systems will be developed and when the systems will be put in place. I understand that the legal services board presently has a computer information system in place but it does not meet the complete management information requirements called for by the Auditor General or needed by the Department of Justice or legal services board. We all appreciate the inadequacies of the system and hope to

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upgrade the current system by October of this year. That is just a short-term measure. The long-term is going to be working towards an entirely new automated system. We will be working with the Department of Government Services and Public Works to develop a terms of reference for a new management information system. We will need to identify the costs associated with the development of such a system to save money and to avoid re-inventing existing systems. We will check with other jurisdictions with regard to available systems. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Justice again, has the department provided any projection on the capital costs of improving the legal aid information system? How much are we going to have to spend on purchasing new computer equipment?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, we will be working with the legal services board between now and the end of this

upcoming fiscal year. That is, throughout the 1993-94 fiscal year we will be working with the legal services board and with the Department of Government Services and Public Works to look at developing a terms of reference for a new management information system. Once we do that, we will start to work on identifying how much the development of such a system will cost. Once the terms of reference are developed with the other agencies, we will be able to begin developing an idea of the cost of a new system.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister refers to the legal services board, is he referring to the legal aid board itself?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, to the Minister of Justice. The Auditor General's report pointed out a number of areas in which the audit trail pertaining to legal aid transactions is incomplete. Can the Minister assure the House that the system will be sufficient to include all the information which is necessary to carry out a full audit of money disbursed under the legal aid program?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 405-12(3): Timeframe For Overhaul Of Legal Aid Information System

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, part of the work is going to be to determine both the information requirements of all boards and the agencies involved. We will look at the requirements of the legal services board. The executive director of the board will be involved along with the Department of Justice management, other territorial government management bodies, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and, last but not least, the Auditor General. The information requirements of these people will have to be taken into account to ensure the information these people require will be provided by this new system. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 406-12(3): Inclusion Of Arctic Bay In Grade Extension

**MR. PUDLUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is further to the question which was raised yesterday by the honourable Member, Mr. Pudlat, regarding education. I am directing my question to the Minister of Education. He raised the issue that there were some communities requesting grade extensions. The Baffin regional board of education stated in January that there were some communities in the Baffin which wanted to extend their grades. There were three communities which have requested grade extensions and they are being considered at this time. My constituency of Arctic Bay, I believe, has requested a grade extension. Will that particular community be considered by this government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 406-12(3): Inclusion Of Arctic Bay In Grade Extension

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been the practice of previous Ministers and myself to have the board of education receive the request from the particular community to consider extension of grades. Once the

board has reviewed the situation, they will forward that particular request to me. I do not know whether or not that request has been forwarded, but I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that I am not opposed to the request. However, I would ask for board involvement in making that decision because it does affect their financial resources.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

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Question 407-12(3): Reduction In Vehicle Inspections

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Transportation regarding recent changes to the government in Alberta and the new Transportation Minister. Not long after he became the transportation Minister, he made some changes with regard to the inspection of big rigs on the highway, where there has been a reduction in the number of spot checks and rig inspections. Mr. Speaker, the transportation industry is not at all happy with that. Many truckers take pride in their rigs and want to ensure they are properly maintained. Vehicle inspections prevented fly-by-night operators from operating on the highway, and this reduction in inspections may see a return to unsafe rigs if it is allowed to go ahead. Is the territorial government, who operates several vehicle inspection stations in the territories, planning any such reduction to follow suit with the neighbouring province?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Transportation.

Return To Question 407-12(3): Reduction In Vehicle Inspections

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, to the contrary. I am not aware of any reductions in vehicle inspections on behalf of the Northwest Territories, but I can discuss it with the department officials. As far as I am aware, there is no intention to reduce any inspections that have currently or previously been in place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. For several months last summer, one of the groups of the Great Slave freshwater fisheries raised problems they were having with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Some of the group representatives met with the Minister and the Government Leader, but -- no, this is the wrong question, Mr. Speaker. I think I asked this question already. Sorry. Mr. Speaker, my eyes are just starting to open now.

Question 408-12(3): Resolution Of Court Case With CEMA

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. For the past several years I have been raising questions regarding the marketing framework which has been imposed on egg products in the Hay River area. I understand the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, or CEMA, has placed restrictions on marketing quotas that would allow northern producers to sell eggs in other provinces. I asked the Minister about this most recently on September 10 of last year. At that time, he stated that Mr. Richardson, who is an egg producer in Hay River, has a case before the courts in southern Canada. I am sure the Minister has been monitoring this case closely because it has the potential to affect not only the Hay River venture, but also the entire agricultural marketing system in Canada. Can the Minister advise the House as to whether there has been a resolution to Mr. Richardson's court case?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 408-12(3): Resolution Of Court Case With CEMA

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, it is a complex issue. There have been a number of court cases. I believe there is still one outstanding, so I will be careful about what I say. The difficulty at the present time is that the person who markets eggs in Alberta, for the producers from the Northwest Territories, has lost his licence to be able to import eggs into Alberta from the Northwest

Territories. Consequently, there is no way of getting them into the province. There is no way of marketing them. At the same time, there was a court case lost and CEMA imposed its will and does not appear to want to cooperate with us based on the number of eggs which we can produce in the Northwest Territories. They have offered a quota of approximately 38,000 birds, Mr. Speaker, which is below the amount which already exists in the Northwest Territories. We are in the process of trying to come to some arrangement with CEMA with regard to the quota. It involves some legal opinions, the private sector, their lawyers and our lawyers. It is complex, but I believe, one way or the other, Mr. Speaker, within the next 90 days this issue will come to a head and be resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 6: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. At 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, and a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation. At 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, there will be the Ordinary Member's Caucus. Orders of the day for Thursday, March 4, are:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills



12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
  - Motion 18-12(3), Legislative Assembly's Position on the Federal Government Cuts to the Canada-NWT

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Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the NWT

16. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act
  - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
  - Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94
17. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Documents 2, The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality
  - Tabled Document 3, Report of the Commission for Constitutional Development
  - Tabled Document 49, 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, Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy
  - Committee Report 10, Report on Tabled Document 21- 12(3): Payroll Tax Act

- Committee Report 11, Report on the Review of the 1993- 94 Main Estimates

- Appearance by Members of the Commission for Constitutional Development

19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 4, 1993, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT