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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, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 48-12(3): Fort Smith Public Inquiry

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, last September there was a great deal of debate in this Assembly about the need for a public inquiry into the administration and quality of medical services at the Fort Smith health centre.

The debate was prompted by a review of medical services at the health centre in June of 1992 by two doctors from Saskatchewan and the subsequent report of those physicians, the Saskatchewan Report.

Much of the discussion in the Assembly was initiated by concerns over: the suspension of Dr. Uma Viswalingam's privileges to practice medicine at the Fort Smith health centre; the referral of the Saskatchewan doctor's report by the government to a medical board of inquiry established under the Medical Profession Act; and, public concern over the future status of Dr. Viswalingam's practice in Fort Smith.

After a lengthy debate, a motion was passed in the Assembly requesting a public inquiry into the issues surrounding the administration and quality of medical services provided by the Fort Smith health centre to the residents of Fort Smith.

In considering the motion passed by the Legislature and the debate that took place in the House, the

government came to the decision that a public inquiry would be established. It arrived at this decision because of the growing demand that a public procedure would help to resolve various issues surrounding Dr. Viswalingam and the operation of the health centre.

As a result, the Honourable Ted Hughes accepted a Cabinet appointment to conduct the inquiry. He in turn appointed Mr. Brian Barrington-Foote as inquiry counsel. Together they undertook the preliminary investigations and organizational planning required to begin the public inquiry Monday of next week.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a recent and significant turn of events that places the need for the inquiry into question.

Earlier this week the government, the Fort Smith health centre and Dr. Viswalingam resolved a number of outstanding issues and have signed a settlement agreement that has resulted in Dr. Viswalingam's resignation as an employee of the Fort Smith health centre. He has been paid a sum of \$195,000 which is consistent with his years of service with the government and his professional status.

In return, Dr. Viswalingam has agreed to undergo the assessments recommended in the Saskatchewan Report. The assessments will be conducted by McMaster University in accordance with its physician review and enhancement program. They will include both a medical competency and psychiatric assessment.

Following the assessments, Mr. Speaker, the medical board of inquiry will conduct its investigation under the authority of the Medical Profession Act.

Upon successful completion of the McMaster's assessment and compliance with any treatment and upgrading that may be required, and subject to the results of the medical board of inquiry, the doctor will be allowed to practice in Fort Smith as a private practitioner.

Mr. Speaker, with the settlement of these issues, the government believes that one of the primary reasons for establishing a public inquiry has been satisfied.

In addition, there have been problems associated with introduction of the Saskatchewan Report as evidence before the public inquiry because it falls under the protection of the Evidence Act.

As Members know, we were invited by Mr. Hughes to consult with his inquiry counsel about the Evidence Act, and have done so.

Mr. Speaker, when the inquiry was established it was hoped the events surrounding the preparation of the Saskatchewan Report could be introduced into evidence with the consent of all counsel involved. It was subsequently learned that this simply was not possible without an amendment to the Evidence Act.

In addition, as Mr. Barrington-Foote conducted his investigation and gathered evidence, it became increasingly apparent that a significant portion of proposed evidence would be

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inadmissible as a result of the protection afforded by the Evidence Act.

This is something that would have been difficult to determine at the beginning of the inquiry as, at that time, we did not know what the evidence would be.

After careful and serious consideration, Mr. Speaker, the government is not prepared to amend the act in order to gain access to the report for the purpose of the public inquiry. That would be a dangerous precedent.

The section of the Evidence Act in question is in place to foster candid disclosure of information in quality assurance activities by hospitals. These statutory provisions are not unique to the Northwest Territories and similar provisions can be found in the Evidence Acts of other jurisdictions for the same reasons.

In discussing this matter with Mr. Barrington-Foote, he confirmed that exclusion of the Saskatchewan Report would make it extremely difficult for the inquiry to fulfil its terms of reference. He added that evidence he had collected indicated there was no conspiracy or wrong-doing in the preparation of the report.

Mr. Speaker, the settlement with Dr. Viswalingam and our position in respect to the Evidence Act leaves little, if anything, to examine under the auspices of a public inquiry that could add a further \$400,000 to the estimated \$80,000 in costs that we have incurred to date.

As a result, I am informing Mr. Hughes that the government does not intend to proceed with the public inquiry. The Minister of Health and the Member for Thebacha will meet with the residents of

Fort Smith and, if requested, the government will use a more conventional process to settle any remaining concerns about the quality of health services and its administration in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Public Inquiry Into The Fort Smith Health Centre

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to briefly comment on the Government Leader's statement with respect to the public inquiry into the Fort Smith health centre. Mr. Speaker, when this issue was first raised in this House my constituents had a great deal of concern with respect to all of the events surrounding Dr. Viswalingam and the Fort Smith health centre. These concerns were communicated over and over to me in many forms. At that time, Mr. Speaker, I believed that the only way this matter could be fully and completely resolved was by way of a public inquiry. Over the past few months I have been involved in the events leading up to the inquiry.

Because of this, I wish to rise and state for the record that I concur with the Government Leader's decision that a public inquiry is no longer required. I concur with this decision for two reasons. Firstly, it has become increasingly evident that a critical piece of evidence, the Saskatchewan Report, and the events leading up to the preparation of this report, cannot be entered into evidence at the inquiry. Mr. Speaker, the report and the events leading up to the report were fundamental to the successful conclusion of an inquiry. Without the report the inquiry loses a great deal of its focus and direction, and I do not believe the Evidence Act should be amended to allow this report to be received into evidence. The social policy concerns surrounding the Evidence Act are simply too important to be lightly swept away.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, my constituents' concerns, with respect to the way Dr. Viswalingam was treated have been adequately addressed through the government and Dr. Viswalingam reaching a voluntary agreement. This agreement was reached on Dr. Viswalingam's own volition and I believe that

my constituents would be satisfied that Dr. Viswalingam has now been treated fairly. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I concur with the Government Leader's statement and I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with the Minister of Health and my constituents in a public forum in Fort Smith. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Inadequate School Facilities In Coral Harbour

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Coral Harbour the community education council, parents and young people have a great concern regarding the size of the school. Last year I stated that the students, particularly kindergarten students, have been doing their schooling in a gymnasium. They also have to use the adult education centre for students because there is no room in the school. I am concerned that the kindergarten students, who will be starting this fall, will have inadequate schooling. They will also have a grade 11 extension in the school. Looking at the situation in the school in Coral Harbour and the grade 11 extension, there will be a lack of space for all the students in the school. I have been in contact with the community education council to discuss improvements or plans for the school year, and the council indicated they were in the planning process, however, they have not come up with a solution to this problem as of yet. (Translation ends)

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Education questions regarding the issues I have just raised. Also, I will be tabling a document on the ten year plan of the Keewatin divisional board of education, 1993-2003, stating exact requirements of the Keewatin.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The allotted time for your Member's statement has elapsed. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to seek unanimous consent to conclude this statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to say in reviewing the 1993-94 Main Estimates and

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plans, there seems to be an imbalance regarding education funding as well as the staff housing policy, they seem to be contradictory. These are the main problems which are created within the schools. The government has to seriously consider that students are a priority. If they can work well together, the problem will be solved. I will be pursuing this matter further in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Member's statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Safe Haven For Boats In Lake Harbour

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be making a statement regarding DPW. Every year, in my constituency, there are boats anchored in the harbour which have sunk due to bad weather. We are requesting a safe haven for boats be built in the harbour. They are in the planning process of this safe haven. There can be very rough waters in that particular harbour. We sometimes get gale winds. So, we are requesting that a safe haven for boats to be built. Perhaps the Minister of MACA or DPW can look into this matter because this is a very great concern to the people of Lake Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Nunavut Business Conference And Trade Show

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House that the Nunavut business conference and trade show will be held in Iqaluit March 18, 19 and 20. Mr. Speaker, the theme of this year's conference is

Nunavut and business, identifying the economic opportunities in Nunavut. This year's business conference and trade show is promising to be a great success. The Baffin regional chamber of commerce, which has organized this conference, had originally set aside 65 booths. They have been forced to expand to 72 booths, due to the high degree of interest, and there is still a waiting list. Over 100 delegates are confirmed to attend.

They include senior people from the Toronto Dominion Bank, who are coming to look at banking opportunities in Nunavut. The president-elect of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, Mr. Paul Quassa, will also be making a key-note address. Senior representatives of Nunasi Corporation, the NWT Development Corporation, the Workers' Compensation Board, the Federal Business Development Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce will be among the territorial organizations represented.

MLAs are also very welcome to attend. I am also hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that our Minister of Economic Development and Tourism can find a way to attend this very important event. I would like to congratulate the Baffin regional chamber of commerce for their hard work in organizing what promises to be the largest meeting of its kind ever held in Nunavut. Qujannamiik.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Economic Strategy For NWT

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have been concerned lately with the comments the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism has been making in the House regarding the economic strategy of this government. Mr. Speaker, during the past three to four years the Government of the Northwest Territories and this Legislative Assembly have devoted a great deal of thought, time and money to the development of an economic plan for the Northwest Territories. There was a Special Committee on Northern Economy of the last Legislative Assembly which was established in 1988 to examine how a sound economic base for the Northwest Territories could be developed. The committee conducted extensive public hearings and workshops and, in October of 1989, outlined 30

recommendations for the implementation of a strategy designed to meet the needs of developed and underdeveloped communities. One of the underlying principles of the strategy was that economic development must be community-based. Following this, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism of that time tabled documents which outlined the economic strategy of the government. This strategy was detailed and comprehensive. It was developed as a result of extensive consultation with communities and interest groups. The people of the Northwest Territories were told that this is the way the government is going to go and this will provide hope for the future.

Again, one of the core elements of the economic plan for the Northwest Territories was that there must be concentration on the needs and potential for development in the disadvantaged communities. There was a definite direction to development of our economy. We were going to build on our community strengths. Mr. Speaker, the development of communities is a future for our young people. Our youth are suffering from many social problems. The reasons for these problems are that there are no jobs and our people have lost hope. The communities have resources to draw upon, but this takes time. Already, this government seems to have lost its commitment to this solid, long-term development strategy in favour of boom and bust, mega projects that often do not benefit many northern people. Now, we hear from the Minister that this long-term strategy is only one of the documents we are using. The direction which was provided to this government by the people of the north is being ignored at this time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine, your allotted time has elapsed.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my last sentence.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. The commitment to our people must be a priority of this government. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

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**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Koe on February 25, 1993, regarding the involvement of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the establishment of a park.

Mr. Speaker, regional officials are developing a work plan which will detail the tasks and priorities and will guide the development of a park management plan. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the park management plan will be reviewed and agreed to by the parks committee and then recommended for approval by my office. The parks committee is made up of two representatives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, chief James Firth and Albert Adams. Two representatives from the department, regional superintendent Doug Doan and parks and visitor services manager, John Cournoyea, and is to be chaired by an independent party, Joe Benoit.

Once approved, the plan will be implemented. Where contracts are required in park development, the Gwich'in will be given every consideration, subject to price and performance, in accordance with the memorandum of agreement. With specific reference to Gwich'in Geographics, the department already has in its possession recent air photography and air photo mosaics from MACA, and topographic maps and satellite imagery from Renewable Resources. These resource materials are sufficient for the preliminary planning of the park. Future requirements for geographic information and mapping have yet to be determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 391-12(3): Status Of Review Of Social Assistance System

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My response is to the question asked by Mr. Ningark on March 2, 1993, in regard to the social services social welfare.

The employability enhancement accord, commonly known as the SAR agreement, between our government and the federal government, was signed in 1987 in order to create employment opportunities for social assistance recipients.

Effective April 1, 1992, the budget for this program was transferred to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs in order to allow for better targeting of clients and to ensure effective career planning.

The Department of Social Services staff are also currently working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs to develop a strategy for providing increased training opportunities for employable social assistance recipients. This is the first part of a more comprehensive review of income support for these clients, which is being undertaken jointly by the two departments.

In addition to these cooperative initiatives, Social Services staff have reviewed the existing regulations and identified potential changes. This includes increasing the amount of income which people could earn without jeopardizing their benefits, providing direct support for the traditional harvesting activities and raising the asset limit.

Further work to determine the financial impact of these changes and to ensure continued cost-sharing with the federal government will be completed in the coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 420-12(3): GNWT Undertake Survey As To Exact Location Of Fort Smith

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not cleared this question with OMC, but I see that the chairperson is out of the House. In any event, I know she has a very good sense of humour, and this being a Friday, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, in light of the very expensive and time consuming

political issues that seem to continuously arise from the constituency of Thebacha, and since Fort Smith is very close to the Alberta border, will the government consider commissioning a survey to find out whether Fort Smith just might be inside the Alberta border and not the responsibility of the GNWT after all?

--Laughter

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member plays politics on the edge.

--Laughter

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 420-12(3): GNWT Undertake Survey As To Exact Location Of Fort Smith

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, the Department of Renewable Resources has the ability for satellite imagery. Before I went down there for the meeting with the community on the banks, I did consult with them and we did, in fact, confirm that Fort Smith is in the Northwest Territories, and we are glad of that, Mr. Speaker.

--Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Taking my life in my hands, I would like to ask a supplementary to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister is spearheading an initiative called community transfer...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson, if you are asking a question to a new Minister, it is a new question, and you will have to take

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your place in the batting order. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Northwest Territories.

Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort Smith is one of the oldest communities in the Northwest Territories, may I remind the honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I did have a question with respect to the housing issue. I would like to direct it to the Minister of Personnel. Mr. Speaker, at the last session the Minister of Personnel indicated surplus housing would be disposed of to the public through the real estate agents. I have been advised recently by my constituents that many of the surplus units which will be identified will be turned over to DPW, Government Services and Arctic College. Is the Minister of Personnel aware of this intention? Is this now the intention of Personnel to address surplus housing in this manner? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of that. We have asked Arctic College to articulate their needs. Once we have a good understanding of their needs we can begin the process of making the units available for sale through real estate agents.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, is it clear that there has been no decision, as of yet, to identify surplus units to the Department of Government Services and Public Works and Arctic College? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education for Arctic College have not determined, as of yet, their needs. Once this is established we will indicate to DPW what units should be for sale and what units should be offered to the tenants, and begin the process of disposal of the units.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, is this a change from the intended process to dispose of surplus government units than what the Minister had stated last fall? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 421-12(3): GNWT Surplus Housing Turned Over To Departments

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, we have a campus in Fort Smith. The students in the Arctic College have a huge need for units at this time. We have always intended to consider their needs to make sure their needs are met before we proceed to dispose of units.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 422-12(3): Details Of NWT Workers' Training Fund

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. In the budget address, reference was made to a new Northwest Territories workers' training fund. When does the Minister intend to provide the details of the \$6 million in one time funding to

establish the Northwest Territories workers' training fund?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 422-12(3): Details Of NWT Workers' Training Fund

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide specifics regarding the particular dates. To inform the honourable Members of this House, a statement announcing the program was concluded, however, I wanted to provide everyone with a complete package including information and application forms, so that upon announcing the program it would be a complete package and not a separate package which might confuse people. As soon as we complete this package, it is my intention to make the statement in this House. We have not completed this package as of yet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 422-12(3): Details Of NWT Workers' Training Fund

**MR. KOE:**

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister expect that to be completed within a week, two weeks, a month, or two months? Does he have any idea of when this will be completed?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 422-12(3): Details Of NWT Workers' Training Fund

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am hoping within the next week for sure, two weeks at the maximum. I can indicate to the honourable Member I have reviewed the actual package two weeks ago and have made the appropriate amendments. We are now improving and clarifying the documentation.

**MR. SPEAKER:**



Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

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Question 423-12(3): Status Of Funding Request For TEP In Lac La Martre

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Mr. Speaker, from 1990 to 1992, the Dogrib divisional board of education ran a very successful teacher education program in Rae Edzo in conjunction with Arctic College and the Department of Education. Mr. Speaker, the board has requested funding for an extension of this successful program for the community of Lac La Martre. Can the Minister advise the House as to the status of this funding request?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 423-12(3): Status Of Funding Request For TEP In Lac La Martre

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that no approval has been given to this particular program, except to suggest that approval and support has been given through the aboriginal language program, a matter which was discussed yesterday. There are three programs which are being supported, the Delta/Beaufort teacher program, the north Baffin, and the program in the Dogrib area, particularly in Lac La Martre.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis. Mr. Whitford.

Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance and Economic Development and Tourism combined. Mr. Speaker, many of us are pleased to hear of the re-opening of Colomac mine because it will provide jobs in the north for northern people. It will be good to see the stimulation of the

economy as a result. Is this government involved in financing the re-opening of Colomac mine?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we are not. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At one point in time we had an agreement or act in this government which provided for the securing of loans. What is the status of that act?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, as I recall that act is no longer on the books. It was repealed last year by this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has this government been approached for any financial assistance to re-open Colomac mine?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 424-12(3): GNWT Involvement In Re-opening Of Colomac Mine

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we have not been approached by anyone with a view to assisting in re-opening the mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 425-12(3): Status Of Research On Malikjuaq Park

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In Cape Dorset they have initiated a tourism centre and they have requested the park, Malikjuaq. Would the Minister indicate to us in the House today the status of the research? What stage is it at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 425-12(3): Status Of Research On Malikjuaq Park

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we are still proceeding with that particular park. As far as what stage it is at physically, I will get that information and provide it to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 426-12(3): Status Of Training And Construction Strategy

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works and Government Services. In the budget address reference was made to the new strategy for training and construction. When does the Minister propose to introduce the new strategy?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 426-12(3): Status Of Training And Construction Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education and I will have that strategy in place for this year's building season. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 426-12(3): Status Of Training And Construction Strategy

**MR. KOE:**

Traditionally the building season is in June and July, and this House ends hopefully by the end of this month. Does the Minister intend to introduce his new strategy before this House prorogues?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 426-12(3): Status Of Training And Construction Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will make every attempt to do so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On Friday, February 26, 1993, I asked the Minister some questions regarding the building on strengths package tabled in 1990. The strategy that I am referring to is based on the model of identifying and building on community and regional strengths. In one of the responses, the Minister indicated the building on strength package was only one of the documents

he is still using. What are the other planning documents being used by the department? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, when you cling to one document and you say this is the strategy you are going to adopt, you cannot preclude other opportunities as they arise. So, we take the input from communities, from regions, from our offices, and from people who go to our offices and we take their aspirations and the direction they would like to travel in and put that together and say, "Here is more information that is available to us." We are trying to use that information to support economic development in the various communities and regions across the Northwest Territories.

The other documents we might be using are studies we would be completing, whether they are to do with parks, visitor information or statistics which are provided to us which indicate tourism is on the increase in a particular area, or on the decrease in a particular area. All those documents, figures, facts and data may make us perhaps change our thinking or tell people that they should be changing their direction as a result of the economy. It is a moving thing and we use all of those documents to help us try and provide more jobs and a better economy in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated here that he is using a moving target approach on our economy. He also indicated that the documents which I referred to are still being used, which is good. My point is that there does not seem to be a real overall strategy by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the north. The economy is very poor in smaller communities and it seems to me that the approach here indicated is first come, first serve and those who can fend for themselves are

listened to. There are small communities which do not have those kinds of resources. Is there anything in the Minister's department which would help these communities that cannot come forward and fend for themselves? Could he explain to the House how he is approaching the situation? I would appreciate it. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, the programs of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism are directed at level II and III communities. They get a better break on programs than level I communities. Some of the level I communities do not think that is fair, Mr. Speaker. So, already we are directing better access to level II and III communities. All of the communities in the Northwest Territories have access to the programs and they have access to our people. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, and I have said this before in this House, the direction we are taking right now is that we will allow the communities to tell us what they would like to do. We are doing that in a number of ways, by either listening to the communities or allowing them to direct their own economic development officers to set the priorities the community wants to address. That is another way the communities can go along at their own pace and do the kinds of things they want to do. We are not doing that everywhere yet, but that is the growing trend across the territories. At this time, I think there are at least six communities involved in this process, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if there are communities that do not feel they are being paid enough attention, if they have aspirations they do not think are being addressed, I would like to know which communities they are and I will make sure that EDOs travel into those communities to sit down and discuss their problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In one of the Minister's responses of last Friday, he indicated the department has found that the views of the community and the department may differ. According to the unedited Hansard on Friday, February 26, 1993, the Minister said, "If the communities are in agreement with us on what we feel is their potential, that is the basis for us to provide them with assistance and the direction we would like to take them." Mr. Speaker, this sounds like the department is somewhat calling all the shots. Is the Minister's position that it is the role of his department to make the decision as to the potential and the appropriate direction for the growth of each community? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we would like the communities to tell us what they want to do, but we are not going to sit idly by and watch a community do something that we do not think is in their best interest. Yes, we will take their direction, but we will not take their direction at all costs. There has to be a workability and some economics as to what the community wants to do. I want to impress upon Members of the House that we are not particularly interested in going to a community and saying, "This is what we think you should do." We might make that suggestion to them, but if they choose not to go with us in that venture, or whatever it is, then we just will not do it, Mr. Speaker. We are not going to force anyone into anything. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last supplementary. The documents that I made

references to, in the past, the SCONE report and the documents from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, from the last Legislative Assembly, these documents were developed through a long and complicated process from community and regional interest groups. This set direction for the government to take in trying to deal with the big problem of economic development in the north. The Minister is saying he is using just one of these documents and he is concentrating on each community. It seems to be a bush fire approach or first come, first serve approach. Could the Minister tell the House if there is going to be an overall plan for the Northwest Territories, perhaps through a consultation process or a conference of some sort, just to get a good picture of the entire north and see where we are heading at this time? It seems to be we are all over the place and there is no real clear direction on where we are going in terms of economic development. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 427-12(3): Planning Documents For Economic Development In The NWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, it is not the first time I have heard we do not know where we are going or there is no clear direction. We know where we are going, Mr. Speaker. We are going ahead. We are trying to get those people jobs. We are trying to create a better economy in the Northwest Territories. We have decentralized in order to get some of those smaller communities going. We still have our contribution programs going, but we are trying to get people into manufacturing. We are changing in housing and breaking down packages so manufacturers in the Northwest Territories can build items which can be used in our housing units. We are negotiating contracts so more people in the Northwest Territories get jobs from the money spent by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Our business incentive policy is becoming more and more effective. More of our money is being spent in the Northwest Territories. In the resource industry, we know where we are going. We are suggesting a corridor between Yellowknife and Coppermine with a port at the end of it, whereby mines can get to those minerals. However, we are saying to the mining companies, "You have to hire in the north and you

have to do business in the north." In the oil and gas area, in the Sahtu, there has been an agreement reached that there will be some seismic data shot next winter. That is encouraging. The people up there are saying to us, "After that, perhaps we will look at some land issuance and get some more wells being drilled in that particular area, but, we want to be included and we want to be hired."

In the Delta, the same sort of thing is going on. There is a possibility of a small diameter pipeline coming out of the Delta and going down to Norman Wells. Hondo Oil has just been in here talking to us and no one said no to Hondo Oil, but they were told the same thing, "You better do business in the Northwest Territories, and you better hire people from the Northwest Territories." In the renewable resource sector across the Northwest Territories, we are selling more fish. That is what we want to do. We are processing fish in the Northwest Territories. We are marketing more arts and crafts.

I know Mr. Dent is constantly giving me a hard time about the store in Toronto, but we are moving more products out of the Northwest Territories. That is what we intend to do. Mr. Speaker, perhaps we do not have a plan with "I"s dotted and "T"s crossed and we cannot tell you what is going to happen on Tuesday in August sometime, but we do cling to those principles of doing more business in the Northwest Territories, encouraging more people to get into business in the Northwest Territories, stopping the southerners coming in here and taking those jobs, and training our people so they can work in those industries, whatever they may be. We think we know where we are going. We are solidly behind the Northwest Territories, its people, its businesses and its communities. We will do whatever it takes to make sure the economy expands.

This thing changes drastically every week, Mr. Speaker. The last one was a question in the House today on Colomac Mine. That came out of the blue. Obviously, we are looking at that now and saying, "How can we turn that around to assist people in this area and get the Dogrib people back to work? How can

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we work it into the Dogrib's plan of generating electricity so they can sell their hydro power?" We believe we know the direction we are going in. Perhaps I have not been clear enough before, but,

Mr. Speaker, that is where we are at, that is where we are going. We are going ahead. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 428-12(3): Radio Transmission Difficulties In Lake Harbour

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1992, we had a concern. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs a question with regard to radio. Mr. Speaker, it is a mountainous area in my community and there are houses on top of and below the mountains. In the higher part of our community, the radios the people use are not receiving messages adequately. Could the Minister look into this problem of the high altitude not receiving adequate radio messages? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 428-12(3): Radio Transmission Difficulties In Lake Harbour

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not certain about the issue, but I am prepared to have my officials look into the matter and hopefully resolve the concern of the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 429-12(3): Direction Of Economic Development In NWT

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism a follow-up question from my honourable colleague from Deh Cho. He indicated the direction of economic development in the Kitikmeot, Sahtu and Delta regions with respect to the renewable resources sector on selling more fish and marketing more arts and crafts. However, he did not give an indication of his plan for the Deh Cho, South Slave, Baffin and

Keewatin regions. What is the Minister's plan for these regions? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Return To Question 429-12(3): Direction Of Economic Development In NWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I guess if I start with the Baffin, that is where much of the fish is being sold out of, Arctic char and turbot. That fishery is becoming a major industry for Pangnirtung and some of the benefits overflow into Iqaluit as well. In the south Baffin, the big thing that is taking off there, Mr. Speaker, is tourism. There are many people who are coming to the two parks there. Although one, Kitannilik, is not even built yet, people were there last year and they are coming in quite sizeable numbers again this year. Just recently, there was an announcement that will affect all of the Arctic, from Baffin all the way across to the Kitikmeot. The Blythe and Co. will be bringing cruise ships up in those areas this year. It looks like it is going to be successful. We could look for more of those visits from offshore dollars to the communities along the Arctic coast.

Mr. Speaker, in the Keewatin, the decentralization aspect which I referred to, has really done a great deal for Rankin Inlet, helping develop their fishery as well and their new fish plant. Baker Lake's arts and crafts centre is also contributing. All of those communities will be sending fish into Rankin Inlet for processing. They will also be harvesting caribou this year and reselling into the local market. The relocation of the resupply point, which is now Churchill into Rankin Inlet, is being looked at. Rankin Inlet is looking at a health centre there which would handle many of the cases that are presently going to Winnipeg, which will keep more of the dollars in the Northwest Territories. Tourism is not as strong in the Keewatin, but it is not bad either, Mr. Speaker. We will keep working with those people to get more visitors up into the area.

When we get into the South Slave region, we are actively pursuing the opening of the Fort Resolution sawmill again. Lumber prices are extremely high this year. We are also looking at receiving lumber from Fort Providence. Fort Providence has expressed an interest to us. That would create some jobs for local people in the area. We would hopefully be exporting

some of that lumber out of the Northwest Territories to increase our exports.

In Fort Smith we are interested in tourism, but I think one of the things which must be addressed is the likelihood of a road south. The Department of Transportation recently attended a meeting in Fort McMurray. There has been all kinds of suggestions from Fort Smith about a road, linking it to Alberta. Some people say it will let more dollars out, but in the long-term, we at Economic Development and Tourism believe it will be beneficial for the town of Fort Smith, and that more dollars will come in than go out. I am interested in putting a greenhouse into Fort Smith. I have had recent discussions with some people from Fort Smith. I think it has the potential to become a place where we can grow green vegetables, lettuce, et cetera, and sell it into this particular area.

Mr. Speaker, when you move across to the Deh Cho, in that area the Inuvialuit petroleum corporation and the Dene reserve in Hay River are actively looking at participation in the Cameron Hills project, and being participants in the ownership of the company. This is very exciting because it is a major development.

The community of Fort Simpson is giving us a great deal of cooperation as far as decentralization is concerned. I would say that in the South Slave, decentralization also affects Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Simpson. Fort Simpson and also the Deh Cho Tribal Council, have recently had talks to see about extending the gas pipeline from the Pointed Mountain gas wells into the Deh Cho region. The Deh Cho, in our opinion, has good potential for lumber. There will be a test cut this year, Mr. Speaker. It also has excellent potential for gas in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, we have run into a snag with the tanker base going into Fort Smith. It came up as a result of us looking at a long-term plan about how we intend to fight fires in the

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Northwest Territories. That came about when we thought about how can we get more dollars into the hands of northerners, and are we fighting fires properly. Mr. Speaker, if I am going on too long you can stop me. Obviously, you will. How we can fight fires more effectively in the Northwest Territories is another way to get northerners jobs because the more people we hire up here, the better it is for us.

So, we are still committed to putting that tanker base in Fort Smith. We just do not know the dimensions yet, what its capabilities need to be and Renewable Resources are conducting a study for us in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, in the Delta, they are already looking at a tannery. Mr. Zoe has an experimental project going on in his communities with the tanning of hides. If we can correct the problem of the tanning, then we may be able to do some tanning in the Northwest Territories and stop people having to ship hides out. There has been some activity in this area and this will be the next challenge for us in that renewable resource area, our ability to tan in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, here and there, we are trying to build on the strengths of communities. We are trying to build on the resources they have around them. I did not mean to leave anyone out before, but I was going on at some considerable length, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. I would like to remind Members that if Members want to ask a complex question to consider using written questions, because complex questions lead to long detailed answers which takes up much of the time in question period, and takes away the opportunity for other Members to ask questions. It is a matter of balance and fairness on both sides. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 430-12(3): Status Of Decentralization Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

I hope this is not too complex. During the previous session, Cabinet announced decentralization initiatives, the moving of staff from various departments to various communities. The Minister of Finance, in his speech, also made reference to this initiative. I have a question for the Premier. What is the status of these decentralization initiatives?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 430-12(3): Status Of Decentralization Initiative

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we are on track. Training programs are in place. There has been one change in the Keewatin, in Rankin Inlet, since the presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance last year, that is we have dropped our requirement from 32 housing units down to 28. As far as the numbers of people who are moving around or out of Yellowknife for the new positions which are being created, everything is going according to the plan, which we laid down to the Standing Committee on Finance last year, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 430-12(3): Status Of Decentralization Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Some of these transfers were to be done and completed by April 1. Can the Minister confirm if initial timetables are going to be met?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 430-12(3): Status Of Decentralization Initiative

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not been advised that any of the timetables will not be met. Mr. Speaker, I still anticipate that there will be a snag or two, which we will have to work out. However, at the present time, it is my understanding that we are on track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 431-12(3): Organize Competition For Artists In The West

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, in his capacity as Minister responsible for Arctic College. A few days ago, a notice was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, which announced a major 1993 fine arts and crafts

competition for the eastern Arctic. I think this contest is an excellent initiative. It is a way to recognize new artists, rediscover old ones and encourage fine art development. This is a good way to promote young people in fine arts. This contest is open to residents of the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions of the Northwest Territories as well as residents of Greenland, Labrador and northern Quebec. It is coordinated by the Nunatta campus of Arctic College in Iqaluit. Will the Minister ensure that a similar fine arts competition is organized for arts and crafts people in Denendeh? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 431-12(3): Organize Competition For Artists In The West

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that I have no difficulty in reviewing the program and finding out whether it would be available in Denendeh. However, I do wish to indicate to the honourable Member the ability for us to deliver that particular program would obviously be affected by the financial resources that we have. I will look into that particular matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 431-12(3): Organize Competition For Artists In The West

**MR. ANTOINE:**

The notice indicates there will be a total of almost \$12,000 in prizes associated with this competition for the Minister's information. Can the Minister indicate whether

this is all money contributed from the Government of the Northwest Territories? Mahsi.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not know the details with regard to that particular event. I will take the question as notice and return the report to the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

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

Mr. Speaker, return to Written Question 19-12(3), asked Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Government Leader, concerning business travel undertaken by Cabinet Ministers.

Return To Written Question 19-12(3): Business Travel Undertaken By Cabinet Ministers

I have circulated today a report on business travel undertaken by Ministers of this government during the last twelve months. The following information is contained in the report: business travel undertaken by all Ministers, past and present, during the period February 1, 1992 to January 31, 1993; dates of travel; destinations; and, purpose of travel.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

**ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would repeal all references to the student financial assistance board in the Student Financial Assistance Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**



The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had second reading. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Bill 20: Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin central, that Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Commissioner, or the Minister acting on behalf of the Commissioner, to make loans to municipalities for municipal purposes for the fiscal year 1993-94. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 20 has had second reading. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

Bill 18: An Act To Amend The Public Printing Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would amend the Public Printing Act to allow the Minister of Justice to appoint an editor

and deputy editor of the Northwest Territories Gazette to expand their regulation-making powers to provide for regulations governing the contents of, and frequency of, publication of the Northwest Territories Gazette, and to allow the territorial printer to charge for publications.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order, Mr. Kakfwi. To the principle of the bill.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading. Bill 18, 19 and 20 have had second reading. Accordingly, the three bills stand referred to a committee. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; 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), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy; Committee Report 10-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates; Committee Report 11-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates; and, appearance by members of commission for constitutional development, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Will this committee now come to order? What does the committee wish to deal with this morning? Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, we are willing to attempt to conclude the Department of Justice. Once that is concluded, we will go to the Department of Education's budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Does this committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Would the Minister like to invite his officials at this time? Does this committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms. I believe the Minister of Justice and his officials are not in the House at the moment. Therefore, let us take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Justice

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We are on page 6-17, details of grants and contributions, \$2.057 million. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Minister, would you bring your witnesses in to assist you? Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the Minister.

For the record, please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is the deputy minister of Justice, Mr. Geoff Bickert, and on my right is Mr. Mike Rudolph, the director of finance and administration for the Department of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. We are on page 6-17, details of grants and contributions, \$2.057 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I am sorry, that is grants and contributions, \$2.103 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-19, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, there is the "official languages - aboriginal", with the announcement of a ten per cent cut in the Canada-NWT agreement for languages, is there going to be a cut in this budget at this time? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I understand that although the federal government has announced these cuts, we have not necessarily accepted the cuts. We are presently having discussions with the federal government about these proposed cuts. In any case, we are looking at ways in which we can continue to provide the program we have in Justice, especially the work for legal interpreters, to make sure we can carry on that service.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Detail of work performed on behalf of third-parties, \$1.074 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Program summary, total O and M, \$63.733 million.

Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Is it agreed that this concludes the Department of Justice? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I would like to thank the Minister and his officials for their assistance.

Is it the wish of the committee that we move on to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Is the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs ready with his opening remarks?

Department Of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, Introductory Remarks

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am ready and prepared, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the 1993-94 O and M estimates for my department.

As you know, the Department responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs was established in August of 1992. Two of the priorities of the new department will be improved public access to programs and services, and improved accountability to the public. To reach these goals, and to establish clear direction for the future, we are developing a strategic plan. Consultation with MLAs and the people and organizations affected by Education, Culture and Career Programs, will guide the development of our plan. I want to improve coherence among all activities of the department and ensure there are better links between resources and priorities. Consultation on our plan will begin this month, and I expect to be able to review a draft plan with you, as Members of this Assembly, this fall.

The department has already identified program areas which should be more accessible. This year, training and employment-related programs from other departments are being consolidated for delivery through career centres.

These "one-stop shops" will help people develop the skills they need to find a job, and will provide information on training programs, post-secondary education and student financial support. There will be a career centre established in each region during 1993-94. Similar services will be offered to people in smaller communities in a variety of ways.

This year we are also introducing a one-time \$6 million program called "NWT Works." This initiative will provide funding for communities to promote, develop and select employment and training initiatives submitted by local individuals, businesses, band councils, co-ops, boards and committees. The program criteria and application packages will be sent to community governments later this month. As I indicated to Mr. Koe earlier, I am in the process of developing the packages and, in fact, have received the second version of that particular package this morning.

This year we are again proposing further extension of high school grades in communities where there is a need and the support of the community and the boards. Improved access to senior high school programs is essential if we want to see more students graduating from grade 12. To improve the quality and increase program options for students in remote communities, we are developing a distance education strategy which will enhance student learning.

Training northern educators is another strategy which is critical to improve the delivery of education. Aboriginal educators play a key role in culture-based schooling.

To plan for future needs and to make teacher training more accessible to more aboriginal people, we are re-shaping the structure and the delivery for teacher training. Plans are to offer community teacher education programs in the Beaufort/Delta and the north Baffin starting in September, depending on availability of funding from the Secretary of State or, for that matter, decisions that might be supportive of these two initiatives.

As I have already mentioned, improved accountability is one of my priorities. Evaluating divisional boards to ensure they are operating efficiently is one way of improving accountability. This year, the Baffin and Kitikmeot boards are being reviewed.

Arctic College is also working to improve accountability, and to ensure college programs meet the needs of students and employers. The college's trade programs will be reviewed this year, and the community administration certificate program will be evaluated. In recognition of the division of the Northwest Territories, the college is decentralizing into two institutions, one in Fort Smith and one in Iqaluit.

Further to improving our accountability, recommendations for restructuring the delivery of the language bureau's services to increase its effectiveness will be reviewed and implemented this year.

Local participation and control are essential if education and cultural projects are to meet the needs of northerners. Developing direction for the development of regional and community museums is also one of our priorities.

In 1993-94, cultural affairs programs will be reviewed in order to determine ways to increase support of local cultural projects and to enhance support to the arts. This year, radio and television services will focus on community services and broadcasting in aboriginal languages. In 1993-94 literacy projects in all official languages will continue to be supported with a continued emphasis on literacy in aboriginal languages. With our partners in education we will continue to emphasize and promote the important role parents play in encouraging their children to read through a special campaign called "read to me."

This year the Dene Kede curriculum, which is currently being piloted in the western Arctic, will be implemented in kindergarten to grade six. The department is also beginning the development of the curriculum for grades seven to nine. Inuuqatigiit, a new curriculum which will enhance and enrich the first language and culture of Inuit students, will be piloted this year. The fine arts curriculum for kindergarten to grade nine, and French as a second language curriculum, will also be piloted.

In conclusion, today I am presenting a budget of \$199.451 million for the 1993-94 fiscal year, which represents a 4.5 per cent increase over the department's 1992-93 Main Estimates. The two areas in which the department is introducing new funding are grade extensions and the new community-based employment and training program, both of which I believe are key to helping northerners find jobs.

Most of the increase in this budget I am presenting is due to forced growth. For the past two years, school enrolments increased by approximately five per cent. An increase in students also results in an increase in teaching and support staff.

Similarly, the number of NWT students applying for funding to attend college and university has climbed steadily over the past several years, causing forced growth in the student financial assistance program.

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Recognizing the importance of education, culture and career programs, I believe this is a responsible budget in these times of restraint. That, Mr. Chairman, concludes my opening remarks. I will answer questions respecting this particular budget once the Standing Committee on Finance has made their presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Merci, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson will present the Standing Committee on Finance review.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the comments of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs budget for 1993-94.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear to the committee that the department is working hard to develop a strategy to significantly improve success in education. We appreciate that. We have noted, particularly with respect to the \$6 million employment fund, and for all education programs, that the department cannot simply provide funding and delegate totally to communities. Some communities need support and direction to create improvements in education and employment programs. We need to ensure that long-term benefits are realized and that initiatives do not become make-work projects.

The goal is to try to get meaningful programs working that will see people gain skills which will enable them to keep and obtain long-term jobs. Further, it appears to us that the department should sit on the community transfer committee, since training and employment issues are so critical to its success. We also note that the Government of the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada without a management training program tailored to its own civil service. We have noted this with the Department of Personnel and we urge the Department of Education to encourage them to move quickly in the development of a management training program. Government priorities should drive staff development, training and educational leave programs.

Mr. Chairman, the education budget is the largest, some 20 per cent of this government's resources. Continued improvement is an urgent matter. We must improve literacy and employment rates. We should be accessing available unemployment insurance commission, UIC, funds for training, literacy, et cetera. The pace of change in the communities should be accelerated. Parent and community involvement in education must be increased. This committee will continue to push the department to accomplish more and await the education strategy to be put forward in the fall. The committee would like to see teachers' performance reviewed along with that of their students. We would like to see all of our students meet established educational standards and promote consistency in education across the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding these comments, I will now put a motion to the committee. It is the only motion for this department.

Committee Motion 78-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 5

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs provide more leadership, support and direction at the community level to inspire students, teachers and parents to acquire more education on a life-long basis. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Thank you. Are there any general comments for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Mr. Arvaluk.

General Comments

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister provide us with a copy of his opening remarks? Before I proceed with general comments, perhaps the Minister would like to invite his witnesses in, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I neglected to ask the Minister if he wanted to invite his witnesses in. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, yes, I would like to ask the permission of the Members of this Assembly to allow witnesses. I am prepared to provide copies of my opening statement to all Members of this House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will have copies handed out as soon possible to the Members. Sergeant-at-Arms would you please assist the witnesses to the witness table.

Mr. Minister, for the record would you please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister, Mr. Hal Gerein and the director of finance, Mr. Paul Devitt.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Welcome gentlemen. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to commend the Minister for proceeding with the education strategy, as he mentioned on page one of his opening remarks. I feel this is very much needed, especially for a high standard of education and successful completion of secondary schools in the communities. That is very urgently needed, especially in the small communities because, as I stated before, it is no longer acceptable for federal day school policy. A federal government employee stated to his colleagues, and I overheard it, "If some Eskimos are given grade nine education and some training, they could make good office clerks and

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rolls abouts." I think this is outdated and I welcome very much the Minister having higher hopes and goals with his opening remarks.

Also, I welcome, on page four of his opening remarks, again this year, "We are proposing further extension of high school grades in communities where there is a need and support of the community and the boards." However, as I stated in my Member's statement this morning, there is still a need for a coordination between the main estimates capital plans and other departments responsible for establishing such facilities.

I could use a few examples, Mr. Chairman, of the lack of coordination, not necessarily just because of the Department of Education, rather the government as a whole, that the Department of Education is responsible for in those programs. Although I want to be stating this in general comments, Mr. Chairman, I think examples will not hurt.

In Coral Harbour, we are introducing grade 11 extension this year. We are also expecting a fair

number of kindergarten children entering in the fall season. As I stated a year and a half ago, we were utilizing gymnasium spectator areas for Inuktitut language programs and we have taken up 60 per cent of the Arctic College classrooms for regular grade students, whereas Arctic College pays 100 per cent for those facilities. A lack of coordination also was stated in yesterday's question period about staff housing for teachers, which we will also need for grade extension this year and for kindergarten children. We are talking about two more just in one community. We are already utilizing one staff house for two teachers who are not related. They do not even come from the same place.

We have been unfair to single people. We have been trying to hire married teachers only so we can accommodate them in the houses. We do not have any units for single people. I do not know how that would work well with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. Chairman, I have no hesitation in commending the Minister for very good opening remarks, but I must emphasize that there has to be coordination between the Department of Education, divisional boards, Public Works and the Department of Personnel, in making the opening remarks workable. It is not a good idea to state them in the House and to the people of the Northwest Territories when we will not be able to make them come true as goals and objectives. I also note, in the main estimates, the departmental goals, these are very well worth looking at and pursuing. I certainly will be pursuing, in my term in this office, to have them realized at the community level. It is too important to ignore that once these are stated in the House, they are not realized at the community level. I will not speak too long, Mr. Chairman.

When we make capital projects, the government does not allow the department to properly plan, which is in the main estimates. For example, Chesterfield Inlet, a four year old school is overcrowded and there is no library or gymnasium. The industrial and home economic sections are used for regular classrooms because there is no space in the school. This seems to be discrimination against small communities. They do not get the same consideration for those essential facilities, such as phys-ed, science labs and libraries, as other schools in larger communities. With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move to my general comments on the Arctic College.

It seems to be a disease throughout the Northwest Territories that Arctic College is given a second consideration as a priority for education for young people, especially young adults. Every time there is a lack of space in the schools, that Arctic College also occupies in the adult education sections, Arctic College is removed from the school so regular classes can be utilized there. An example is Coral Harbour. It is important that the government as a whole realize, in order to achieve the goals and objectives in creating Nunavut and Denendeh governments, education must be a top priority, not as an expenditure, but as reaching out to the communities. It could be 20 per cent of the total budget of the government. Perhaps, we should look at it this way. That 20 per cent may be too small. Perhaps, it should be 40 per cent. Just because it is large does not mean it is large enough. The success of society depends on good education in both aboriginal languages and culture in the academic world. I will be asking questions later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are there any general comments or questions? Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments under capital projects. First of all, I would like to thank all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the previous Minister of Education and the present Minister. A school is being built in Lake Harbour. I think it is going to be opened in the fall, the beginning of the next school year. I would like to thank the Department of Education for this and also the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I recently asked a question in this House regarding the three communities which wanted grade extensions in their communities. Teachers will have to be brought into the communities for grade extensions and housing will have to be provided for the extra teachers. I know the government is in a deficit at the present time. However, there are many students who would like to take their schooling in their home community if they can get the grade extensions in the communities.

For example, in my community of Lake Harbour students must leave the community and go to Iqaluit to take grade ten. There are a great deal of students who go to Iqaluit from Lake Harbour. There are more

students going to Iqaluit all the time. Lake Harbour is very close to Iqaluit. We have encountered numerous problems. For example, there are more students from Lake Harbour than from any other Baffin community going to Iqaluit for school. We are now getting a new school which will be opened next fall.

I have been a member of the education council and was the chairman in 1995-86. We stressed the need for a new school and grade ten extension in the community of Lake Harbour. Although we worked hard for this type of assistance, I do not know whether or not we are going to get it. Before we go on to capital projects, I wanted to mention this.

I do not know whether I am within my rights to talk about this or not, but the money which is being distributed to divisional boards of education throughout the territories is going to be

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distributed monthly. I am only making general comments at present. Later on I will be asking questions of the Minister.

I feel that education is very important in the communities, especially when we are working toward a Nunavut government. I feel that the aboriginal people who are working in the Northwest Territories will have to be better educated to manage their own affairs in Nunavut in the future. We cannot say that we will all get territorial employees from the communities. I feel we have to look toward educating our young people. If we keep cutting the education budget I think we are going to be in a difficult position where we cannot train our aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories.

I am not against people coming from the south to work in the territories and our communities. I am saying that we have to make education a priority in the north. I feel there should be some money put aside in the capital estimates to build more schools. It is very important for our students to reach the high school level and to go on to college. I wanted to say that the capital budget must be in place for the future development of all schools in the territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Just a reminder, we are dealing with the O and M. We will not be discussing capital projects as such but, perhaps, the O and M

related to capital would be in order. Mr. Minister, is there anything which you wanted to comment on? We will continue with general comments for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Detail, directorate, general comments? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions I would like to ask the Minister before we get into detail. At the beginning of the budget section of the book there is a section which shows the program structure chart. Where is child day care going to fit into the department?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

The new organizational structure has not been concluded. We will respond to day care being in the department April 1, 1993.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister advise how child day care has been accounted for in this budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

That particular responsibility has not been dealt with in this budget. It will be dealt with in the supplementary appropriation which is coming forward. The interim relationship in future will be under advanced education. That will be an interim area of responsibility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

One other comment, to carry on with child day care, the department at present is undertaking to prepare a strategic plan which is expected to be finished this year. Is the department cognizant of the fact that day care is moving into the department? Has that been taken into account and does the strategic plan include an integration of day care in the department?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that will be a consideration in the development of the strategic plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's opening statement, and several times during the session, we have heard about the \$6 million program to develop employment, especially in the Standing Committee on Finance. We welcome this kind of initiative, particularly if we are assured that it is not just a make-work project, but is, in fact, one that will stimulate people to learn how to get jobs in the future. Several times, we have been promised more information on it, but we keep getting little bits and pieces as we go along. I noticed, in the statement, that the Minister promises to have the details out and application forms to communities by the end of this month. Is the Minister planning to present a cohesive picture of what this entire package looks like to the Legislature before it goes out? Can the Minister advise us as to when that might take place?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been reluctant to release other details of the program without having a complete package available to Members. One of the problems that I find in releasing concepts about new programs is that people do not understand them, nor do they get the total package so they can make those presentations to the communities. I can indicate to the honourable Member that, this morning, I received a second part of that particular package that I want to



present to my Cabinet colleagues. Once approval has been given by my Cabinet colleagues, I will return to this Assembly and announce the details and the total package, including the application forms. It is all part of that particular package. I can indicate to the honourable Member that I have been concerned about it. As a result of that, the department, along with Mr. Alvarez, has been working to ensure the package is finished. This morning, I received the second portion of that particular package.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

I appreciate that it is a package in development but, if it is planned to be ready to be sent out to communities by the end of this month, can Members of the Legislature expect to see it in one, two or three weeks, or have you got an idea of when we can expect it?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I am working with a schedule of one week. However, I indicated this morning, it could be up to two weeks. It will be, without any question, before this Assembly rises. I will make that particular statement in this House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the heading of schools, it deals with increases for grade extension. I would like to speak to that very briefly. Mr. Chairman, we are not producing high school graduates, especially in the native population. I do not know why. I do not have the answer. I know though, Mr. Chairman, that we have good staff in the territories. We have very good facilities. I think we have a very good curriculum in our education system. Where is the problem? I do not know.

Part of the problem is that we are not providing choices for our students. I say that because most of the students who get their education at the community level, once they have passed their grade eight or nine, have to leave that community to get full education in the larger centres. I think that is where part of the problem lies. Either they have to go to larger communities for higher education or they go to Yellowknife. My communities are Pelly Bay, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. The parents and the students prefer to go to Yellowknife, rather than Cambridge Bay. I am supposed to be representing Cambridge Bay, but I am being honest about it. If there was a high school in one of my communities of Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay, I think we would see more successful rates of graduates in all of those communities.

Education is the responsibility of everyone, the parents and the students. Education begins at home. As soon as the child is born, it is up to the mother to educate that baby. I think it is very important that education is brought to the community to the student and not the student to education. There are parents and students who would rather have their higher education in other communities, perhaps Yellowknife, or other respectable locations. A good majority of those students, especially in my riding, would rather have their high school facilities or grade extension right at home. That is just a point, it is not a question. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question before we go into detail. From my statements, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know where grade 11 extension students in Coral Harbour will be placed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

There has been no indication yet as to where the students will be located, other than the fact that the high school will hopefully be renovated to accommodate those students. It is a matter that still needs to be dealt with with the board of education from the Keewatin, because it is really the one that is

the driving force behind the request for the extension of grades in the communities. We are open and prepared to work with them to address this matter, but we are not clear yet as to how we are going to address it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you are already aware, from the divisional boards' reports, that Arctic College gave up one of the two remaining classrooms to house the kindergarten to grade ten students without grade 11 extension. We are fairly active in the educational programs in Coral Harbour and we are also conducting a full-time adult basic education sponsor program. I feel, when the classrooms are no longer available for adult students, after 4:00 p.m. is not an option as adults have the right to have access to normal course of instruction as do the kindergarten to grade 11 students. I think we will need to know, from the department, how this arrangement will be made because the adult education section is also very active. I would like to have an answer some time before this session is over.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk, perhaps you could ask a question.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, is there a tender process for these renovations or new construction so that it can be open by the next school season in September?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arngna'naaq):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I can indicate where there are renovations that are proposed for this particular school year, the tenders will be issued. For any new construction which is proposed for 1994-95, the only work that is being done this year will be the planning with the regional board of education to identify and ensure that we meet the needs of the students in Coral Harbour.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

I have four more questions. Nunavut must prepare our students to take jobs in high tech industries. Students in small communities are at a disadvantage, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, by not having proper science labs. Why do small schools like ours not have properly equipped science labs?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arngna'naaq):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. I am not sure why they do not have properly equipped science labs. It is my assumption that because we have a core curriculum that says we have to deliver particular programs, the schools and the boards are supposed to have that type of equipment available to the students. If the honourable Member can provide me with some details, I am prepared to address the concern with the school board so we can find a solution to that problem.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a few questions regarding the planning money in the main estimates. We have been forced in Chesterfield Inlet to turn our library, home economics and arts classrooms into regular classrooms to accommodate our student population. We are overcrowded at 94 students and our projected enrolment for next year is 105 students. What is going to be done about rectifying the overcrowding of our essentially new school? It is four years old as I stated in my opening remarks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to say what will be done because the regional board of education is crucial in responding to the needs of

students in their particular region. They have to be a part of the planning process and involved in finding a solution. I will be meeting with the Keewatin board of education at their next board meeting. We will raise the concerns that the honourable Member has and find ways of helping the board or propose solutions that will accommodate the Member. I think he has some very legitimate concerns.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, I will be pursuing some of these questions through correspondence to the Minister in the area of capital and O and M planning. There are so many other questions I think should be dealt with and things that are enjoyed by other larger centres. They are taken for granted by them, but they are very valuable to us in the small communities. With that, I will be pursuing this with correspondence. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are there any general comments? Mr. Antoine and then Mr. Ningark.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment on home boarding, student residences and grade extensions. During my travels in my constituency, I was approached many times by parents of students who will be going away to a larger centre, in this case to Fort Simpson, to pursue higher education. There is much concern raised by the parents because they are sending their grade ten into the unknown. It is very disturbing for many parents. There is cause for many questions. At the present time, the situation in Fort Simpson is that students coming in from other communities are home boarded, no matter what grade they are in, but mainly grade nine and ten. The concern by the parents is there is no coordinated effort to deal with the parents of the students who are going into home boarding.

I have thought about it and I have four children of my own, fortunately, the school goes to grade 12 in Fort Simpson now, so I do not have to worry about it. If we all put ourselves in the place of a parent in Fort Liard, whose daughter is going to be in grade ten next year, it causes great concern. This is the type of problem that has been brought to my attention. Home

boarding and grade extension in the smaller communities helps, especially in Fort Simpson, but for the outlying communities with building new schools and better classrooms, there are more students going through the system. There is a balloon of kids going through the system. In about two or three years time, you are going to have a large population leaving the smaller communities, not only in my constituency, but all over the north.

I am sure that this department has thought about it, I hope, and there should be a plan in place to try and deal with this situation. At the present time, I do not see any plan to deal with it. The problem we have should be a part of a long-term plan. The parents are very concerned. They are wondering where they are sending their children to next year and there is no information out there telling them exactly how their children are going to be handled in terms of discipline, a place to stay, what kind of families are they going to live with, and so forth. I know there are parents whose children are sent to home boarding and they have never met the family their children are staying with. If you have a child and you have a certain way of disciplining them in your own home, if you send him to home boarding in grade ten and 11, what kind of discipline is used in these homes? There are many cases, at present, where the child is placed in home boarding and the home boarding parents have never met the child's parents. Where is the connection to deal with ongoing home atmosphere and so forth? This causes me great concern. I think perhaps one way of dealing with this situation might be to look at this particular issue. We have done it for a number of years in Fort Simpson and perhaps in other communities. Why do you not get together and try to look at the problems which arise from this? We should get the parents together to see if we can deal with this situation. I see a major problem down the line with these kids and the anxiety and fear of the unknown of the parents which exists today. It is a policy issue that I am concerned about. It deals with the long-term planning as well as the need for short-term action at the present time. I need to see something done right away to deal with the situation for next fall. Not only in my particular constituency, but all over the north. If the Minister would like to respond to this, I would appreciate it. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two elements which are important in how we deal with this particular matter. For the Fort Simpson and Deh Cho region, one of the reasons we established a coordinator for home boarding was to address some of the concerns which the honourable Member has raised, specifically for the communities where we are delivering high school or school programs. I will obviously raise the concerns which the honourable Member has raised and find a way of ensuring that we can address this matter for the 1993-94 school year, so that at least we have a plan in place in that particular region.

From a long-term planning perspective, which the honourable Member

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has raised, our secondary schooling plans hopefully will accommodate some of the issues related to home boarding, or boarding matters which affect each particular region. I believe part of the plan will include methods by which we can address some of the concerns the honourable Member has raised. In each region through the divisional boards, there should be a coordinated plan of attack and problem solving rather than just trying to address crisis situations, so that the regions understand and at least know where and how we are going to deal with these kinds of issues.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other issue I have is with regard to grade extension in Fort Simpson. We had a meeting with grade 11 students and they were asked whether they would like to go to Yellowknife to finish grade 12 or if they would prefer to stay in Fort Simpson. After a little bit of discussion the conclusion was that they would prefer to stay in Fort Simpson. This was the direction given to us. From the parents' and students' points of view, grade extension is welcome in Fort Simpson. My concern is for the other communities in my constituency, and Fort Liard specifically. They have an extension of more classrooms. Is there a plan in place to provide grade extension to the community of Fort Liard, and if so, when? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Fort Simpson will be delivering a grade 12 program this upcoming year. On the matter of extensions in other communities, we have not had a request from the Deh Cho regional board of education to provide extension of grades in Fort Liard. Normally, the process would be a discussion from the community to the regional board and then the regional board would develop the plans to present the arguments on behalf of the community. We have not heard that discussion yet. It would be my suggestion to the honourable Member, and most Members, that I would rather have the actual decisions being made by communities and in the regions before I intervened on their behalf. It is my belief that the regions and the communities should have a say in these decisions. Secondly, I think the secondary schooling strategy will address the concerns of long-term planning for high school extensions, generally across the Northwest Territories, and will lay out some plans and guidelines, so that we have some rules which will see us providing the same kind of programs and decision-making processes to all regions and all communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to wrap this issue up before we go page by page. One of the problems which some students are experiencing when they are exposed to another community, especially when they are going through the higher education process, is home sickness, they are in a strange environment. If students are not able to measure up or keep up with the other students who have been in the larger centres, and not having the physical support of their relatives and parents, these are contributing factors to a student's poor performance. Mr. Chairman, what is good for one student, does not imply that it is good for another student. Exposure is good for some students, but others are not able to get used to the strange and new environment.

Most of the parents that I have spoken with in my community and in my constituency have no problem with their kids going to a high school, but sometimes it is very difficult for both the parent and the student to be separated for long periods of time. The department is very aware of the problems we have had. I know the honourable Minister is also aware.

The standard of education in some of the smaller communities is not as good as it is in larger centres because the students who attend high school sometimes have to undergo upgrading before they may enrol in the regular program. This is where the problem lies. This causes stress upon students. I do not have a question, just a point I wanted to make. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Are there any general comments? Page by page. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to pursue some questions from the Minister's statement. I know they could come up in the page by page. On page five, there is a note of the reviews of the Baffin and Kitikmeot boards, which are timely. Are these reviews concluded? Will MLAs have the opportunity to learn the results of these reviews and consider the recommendations which may come out? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, no, we have not concluded the reviews. I will ask the deputy minister to give the details on those reviews.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Gerein.

**MR. GEREIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review process we are using this year is much broader than has been used in previous years and will, in fact, involve consultation with each of the schools and parents who have children in the school system. We expect to have the review completed around middle to end of April of this year. Once the review is completed, we would certainly see the review being shared with all constituents of that particular region. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Gerein. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is another reference to decentralization of the college. When we get into the college activity, will the Minister be giving us details on the timing and the progress being made on that decentralization of the college into two institutions?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Gerein.

**MR. GEREIN:**

There are a number of issues that are a factor in providing actual detail. However, we would hope to complete the decentralization by July 1 of 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is an O and M budget, but I was pleased to see the reference, in

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the Minister's opening remarks, to developing direction for regional and community museums. I think the Members know this is a concern of mine. When we come to cultural affairs, will we be able to get some progress on the development of the work toward developing the policy which was recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance at the budget session late last year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. During the budget review, you will recall, I made the offer of having the presentation of the broad policy guidelines which we were going to use to develop more specific policies. That particular offer has not been taken up yet by the Standing Committee on Finance. It is still an offer I want to give to the standing committee so they can review, in more specific detail, that particular policy. Only after we have concluded our discussions with Cabinet on the actual details, can we move forward with the actual implementation. I hoped we could have the advice of the Standing Committee on Finance. That has not occurred to date.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Perhaps that is something, as a Member of that committee, I will take up with the committee because, one way or the other, it will be useful to have some input into the development of that policy.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to conclude my general comments by saying, once again, although I know this is an operations and maintenance budget, since the capital budget was finalized last fall, there has been the unfortunate fire in Apex. I may take the liberty of asking the Minister, when his schools' budget is presented, for some progress on the plans to construct a replacement school. I would like to give him some notice of that at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo, you do not need to respond to that at this time, it was just a comment. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am extremely proud of this budget. Therefore, I would like to move to go page by page. Thank you.

Directorate

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have a motion to move page by page. We can move on. We are on directorate on page 16-14, if there are no other general comments. Total O and M, \$3.368 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**MR. PATTERSON:**

If I may, Mr. Chairman, is this where the...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Patterson, we are going to go page by page. We are on page 16-14, directorate. Is this general comments?

**MR. PATTERSON:**

No, is this where the planning activity occurs for new schools?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Yes, Mr. Nerysoo, would this be under this particular category?

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson, it would be the proper place.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to give the Minister a little more notice than a few minutes, but I would like to get an update on the progress of constructing a new school in Apex. I want to repeat, briefly, my comments the other day. I am very pleased with the speed with which the department has responded to this unfortunate situation. We have had support given to the community to plan a new school and to renovate a temporary accommodation, people have worked above and beyond the call of duty. I think the community, along with myself, are very grateful for the efforts which have been put in place toward having that school reconstructed this summer.

My immediate concern is, as the Minister knows, the school which burned down had a gym. Members of the community were shown a plan of the Paulatuk School, which seems to be adequate for their needs of a four classroom school and it could be built quickly because it is an existing design. The plans the community saw included a small gym. I have tried to explain to them, since this was an unbudgeted item, they should be realistic about accepting the small gym and it would be the most they could expect. It happens to be about the same size as the gym that burned down. I realize this matter may not have gone to Cabinet for final approval, but can I give my constituents some assurances that the Minister will be recommending a gym as part of the new school? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Perhaps you should talk to the individual next to you and ask him about the gym in Chesterfield. No, Mr. Chairman. We move quite quickly in this particular area. I understand the concern the honourable Member has with regard to the idea of a gym being included in the proposed school. I would like to indicate what has been approved so far. We still have to come back and make some additional decisions as to what approaches we take to accommodate the idea of the activity room that was actually in the school that the honourable Member can recall. We are trying to address that matter. It is a four classroom school which we are talking about. The Cabinet has asked me to re-assess the project with a view that we address the concerns that the honourable Member has raised, but that is the level to which we have approved this project. We have tried to move as quickly as we can in trying to accommodate the needs for the 1993-94 school year.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the community feels strongly about the gym because their old school which burned down had a gym. As they have been told, the insurance policy on the school provides for replacement of a like-facility. So, their expectations are high, since the old school had a gym, the new one should have a gym also. I understand from the Minister, it is being considered by Cabinet or will be considered by Cabinet and I am pleased to hear that. I know the Minister has been asked to look into this and I do realize that may require additional funds. Could I have an indication from the Minister, since I am sure he knows as well as I do the tight timing that will be required in order to meet sea-lift deadlines if construction is to take place this coming year, when he expects this issue of the gym might be resolved by Cabinet? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I cannot be specific on the date at this juncture, only to suggest to the honourable Member concern has been raised about this matter and hopefully we can address it so that we can accommodate sea-lift and the needs of the community. I just ask that the Member understand the position we are in, in terms of trying to respond positively. We are trying to be positive to meet the needs and requests of the community of Apex. That would include the need of providing a gym, if that is necessary.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am somewhat encouraged by the Minister's commitments to make it a priority to deal with this issue. I am aware that the school in Chesterfield Inlet did not have a gym. I think I was responsible when that school was constructed, but fortunately that community does have a community gym. There is a gym in the community. I am sure the Minister knows the community of Apex is a very well-organized and close-knit community. They have traditionally used that school gym for community events, meetings and feasts, and it is a very critical issue for them. I am under some great pressure to get them an answer on this outstanding issue. I do not want to be ungrateful because I know tremendous efforts have been undertaken to deal with this emergency situation for which the community is extremely grateful. However, it is this one final pressing issue that is now of concern and I can tell the Minister that I am quite confident the project must be tendered before the end of this month if we are going to meet sea-lift deadlines. I am quite confident in saying that from my experience with other projects. In fact, that will be very tight timing. I will accept those answers, but perhaps put the Minister, and Members of Cabinet, on notice that one way or the other the issue is going to have to be resolved while this House is in session. I may be pursuing it further in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I believe that was a general comment. Page by page? Directorate, total O and M, \$3.368 million. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, before we approve that, because of the lack of Members, I am not comfortable with proceeding page by page without the rest of the Members. I would like to make a motion to report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is not debateable. Question. All those in favour? Do we have a quorum? Please ring the bell. I believe you, Mr. Arvaluk, when you say there is a lack of interest.

There was a motion moved by Mr. Arvaluk to report progress. The motion is not debateable because of lack of interest in the House regarding Education estimates. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is defeated. Where were you guys anyway?

---Laughter

Page 16-14, directorate, total O and M, \$3.368 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Advanced Education

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The next page, advanced education, total O and M, \$57.142 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Culture

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Culture, total O and M, \$8.256 million. Agreed? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, is it his intention to have the new policy on museums in place in order to assist in the development of the capital budget for the coming fiscal year in sufficient time, so that it will be available to guide the finalization of the capital budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Culture, total O and M, \$8.256 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Schools

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Schools, total O and M, \$136.685 million. Mr. Dent.

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**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it the task for special needs funding is in this activity. I believe it is about \$8.6 million. Could I get some detail as to how that level of funding was set? Why is it \$8.6 million and not \$6.6 million or \$10.6 million? Is there a formula used based on how many special needs children are in the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the funding is allocated through formula. I would like to ask Mr. Devitt to explain the formula.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:**



Mr. Chairman, the majority of special needs funding, under this activity, is determined by formula. I will briefly indicate the categories of funding, and we could provide additional information on the formula if requested. There are categories for special needs consultants, teachers and assistants. Funding is also provided for other O and M to cover travel, supplies and some funds for training. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have any statistics to indicate what proportion of the total school population are special needs children?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. NERYSOO:**

We are now beginning to assess this information throughout the Northwest Territories and for each particular school. We are hoping to have this information concluded by the end of April, 1993.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department feel the number is in the ball park of more than five per cent, more than ten per cent or more than 15 per cent? You have approximately five per cent of your schools budget in special needs funding. Does the department believe, right now, that this is in proportion to the population?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I do not want to put anyone in a difficult position, nor do I want to put my Cabinet colleagues in a difficult position in terms of making some of their decisions. I can tell you that from our initial assessments and from our historical experience, we are probably working approximately 50 per cent of the actual needs in terms of financial resources to accommodate the

numbers which we presently know about. We cannot be specific until we can conclude the actual assessment which I spoke about earlier.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it from the Minister's last response then that you believe you are receiving approximately 50 per cent of the funding of what is required to adequately deal with the present situation. If, for instance, the Department of Health community health profile for Fort Simpson is accurate, and that there are indeed 25 per cent of the region's children either FAS or FAE impacted, what is the implication in terms of your department? How are you going to deal with it? How are you going to deal with the fact that we may be looking at 25 per cent of the school population with special needs?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

There are probably three considerations when we are dealing with this particular matter: the need to assess the needs; the need to address the specific programs which would be required to address the individual; and from that we would be able to address what it would cost to provide those services to those individuals, both in terms of numbers and the extent of the program we have to offer. Until we have the assessments completed, it is very difficult for us to say that we need X amount of money as compared to the dollars we have now, or for that matter it could be far more in terms of the dollars we would require. Only after our assessments are concluded can we better address this particular matter with the honourable Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Schools, total O and M, \$136.685 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Details of grants and contributions. Grants, \$12.567 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how the department is proposing to administer the child care program which is coming on April 1, and in which activity will it be placed? I apologize, Mr. Chairman, the question has already been asked.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Grants, \$12.567 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Contributions. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I understand the budget includes provisions to deal with the cost of the housing strategy. Where are these costs reflected in the budget? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I believe this particular matter is dealt with in the area of salaries. I would like to ask Mr. Devitt to explain further.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Devitt, would you like to go from there?

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**MR. DEVITT:**

Mr. Chairman, the change in the budget is to reflect the housing strategy. It is, as the Minister stated, reflected throughout the budget and salaries. Most of the additional funding of approximately \$1.2 million

was for the additional cost of accommodation allowance. As well, there is about a \$270,000 reduction in household allowances as a result of this strategy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Contributions, \$159.917 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

All right. Grants and contributions, \$172.484 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, we have just covered the contributions to divisional boards. I have a question to the Minister about hiring practices for divisional boards. I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the department has informed the Baffin divisional board that they will not be allowed to recruit outside of a certain geographical area in southern Canada. Is that correct? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was made aware of that particular situation by Mr. Enook at a meeting I held with the chairman of the Baffin divisional board of education. I can confirm that particular instruction was given to the divisional board. It was as a result of concerns relating to the economy with regard to recruiting and the availability of teachers in eastern Canada. I also indicated to Mr. Enook that I would raise the particular matter with my colleague and see how he might address it or maintain the policy as was instructed. That is the extent of our discussion so far.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister about his attitude toward autonomy with the divisional boards of education. I think the direction was heavy-

handed to assume that it would be cheaper for the divisional board to recruit in western Canada than in eastern Canada, whereas I think an examination of the costs will show that it may cost less to recruit and travel in the maritimes than in western Canada. It is well known that southern personnel, who are hired in the Baffin, often come from the maritimes because they are in the same time zone and they feel closer to family and relatives. As long as we have to hire in southern Canada, the policy was rather heavy-handed. Is it not the preferable option to inform the boards that they have a fixed budget for recruitment, that they should spend the money wisely and they should obviously avoid travelling or recruiting from too far a field in order to conserve their budget, rather than giving them arbitrary guidelines about where they should recruit? Is that not a more respectful approach in keeping with the principle that people in the region are quite capable of governing themselves without big brother from headquarters nickel and diming them on every travel warrant?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. If I could talk to brother Patterson, I just want to make one thing clear. It was not the Department of Education that gave the instruction. I still believe, despite the concern that was raised, and I appreciate the position of Mr. Enook on this matter, that we all have to recognize that there is still a need for us to address the matter of our financial concerns in this government and with the boards that deliver programs and services on our behalf. The final comments he made is the direction the Department of Education is going right now. We are, in fact, already on that road. We are singing the same tune on that issue. Still, I would continue to be concerned as Minister if I thought the boards were not being prudent about their expenditures, but I am not interested in running the day to day business of school programs only to have them recognize that there is a core program. There are financial resources we provide to them and they must be accountable and responsible for those financial resources. If they are not, as Minister, I would have to intervene on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. Generally speaking, on the matter of policy, I concur with the remarks made by the honourable Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I have always liked the diplomatic relationship between you two brothers. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, if I have accused the wrong Minister of being a trifle heavy-handed, then I apologize and I will save my comments for the Minister of Personnel, but I am satisfied with the response of the Minister of Education. I believe, from what I recall of positions he has taken on the autonomy of health boards in his former incarnation as an ordinary Member, that he will be hard pressed to erode the autonomy of the divisional boards without being reminded of his strong positions when he was on this side of the House. I am confident that this issue can be worked out in the Baffin, from what the Minister has said. Mr. Chairman, what is the policy now on the method of payment for contributions to divisional boards?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy still remains where we would provide monthly payments based on historical cash requirements. In those times, when there was a significantly high requirement for financial resources, then they would be available at that particular juncture. It is still carrying on. It is a matter that has been raised with me by the trustees and also by the boards, as to how we address that. I know the honourable Member has been made aware that boards still would like to go to the quarterly payment, but that may not be the case. We can accommodate the monthly payments to address some of the concerns these boards have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand the Government Leader has taken over responsibility for administering language funding. Does that mean the budget of this department includes the reduction for the transfer of funds which were formally in the contribution agreement with Canada for aboriginal languages? Are those funds now transferred to the Department of Executive?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

The responsibility which has been transferred is the coordination and policy role. There have been some PYs moved from this department into the Department of Executive to deal with the matter of the languages agreement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand correctly that the actual language fund money -- we had a debate yesterday about whether it is going to be cut ten per cent or not -- as opposed to the policies and coordination of those policies, still resides within the Minister's department? If so, could I ask where those funds are held?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the financial resources are still within our department and I believe they show up on page 16-34 and 16-35, and also under culture.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I may be taking us a step backwards, but I would like to ask the Minister about the administration of the child care budget now that I have been briefed on the answers he previously gave. Now that this budget will be administered through his department with its great physical presence throughout the regions of the Northwest Territories, is the Minister prepared to move in the direction of providing better access to community groups at the regional level to the program officers who are making decisions about these day care funds? I think the Minister may well appreciate that it has been a great frustration to community

groups from Iqaluit, let alone places like Pond Inlet or Pangnirtung, to have to deal with a well-intentioned, but very distant, bureaucracy in headquarters in Social Services in Yellowknife. It has been extremely frustrating for the staff and for community groups, especially from those distant regions, geographically as well as through language barriers, et cetera, to simply make applications, receive approvals and get cheques. Now that this responsibility is within the department, it has a presence in all regions. Is the Minister open to considering a more decentralized approach whereby groups could access this program through their regional headquarters? I think that would be a vast improvement and eliminate a great deal of frustrations quite apart from revisions to policy. I am just talking about operating the program within the present parameters. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, short answer, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$159.917 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Grants and contributions, \$172.484 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic College

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Arctic College is on page 16-25, \$5.562 million. Agreed? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's comment that the target for decentralization is July 1, 1994. This is a major shift of resources and responsibilities. Can I ask the Minister what developments will take place in the coming fiscal year to prepare for this finalization of the decentralization in the following fiscal year? Will there be some steps taken this year, and is there a plan in place to achieve this end?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, the financial staff to the two new colleges will, hopefully, be moved August of 1993. It is our plan to address the matter of office and accommodation requirements for this summer so they will be ready for the completion of that transfer July 1, 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total Arctic College, \$5.562 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, have the office and accommodation requirements been identified so far in the planning process which has been undertaken to date?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That work is being done right now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, will the Minister of Education commit to working with his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, to ensure local firms and development corporations in the region will be given every opportunity to take advantage of meeting any additional requirements which may be identified for staff and office accommodations?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. That work is now being done between the Minister of Personnel and myself, along with Arctic College and the Minister of Public Works.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total Arctic College, \$5.562 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, will the Minister be prepared to provide Members of the Standing Committee on Finance with details of the plans for this decentralization once they are firmed up?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I will provide details to all Members of the House once the plan is concluded.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total Arctic College, \$5.562 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I understand there are plans being made for management and training requirements for Nunavut. Could the Minister indicate whether he sees the college as the delivery system for these training requirements and whether the college has been involved in discussions with the federal government about how the training requirements for the new public servants can be met?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can indicate to the Member, yes, we are in fact involved. I think that Arctic College, both in Nunavut and in Denendeh, can play a significant role in providing the training and

programs necessary for individuals to meet these new challenges.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the status of the Atii program? Is it something that the college is still participating in? Is Atii still active? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

We are involved and, in fact, we met with them this week in Ottawa.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total, Arctic College, \$5.562 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is Arctic College going to be delivering the training to train alcohol and drug workers in the new treatment centre in Hay River now under construction?

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. I believe we may have had discussions with the community, but I am not certain what the results have been and I would have to take that question as notice and provide more detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total Arctic College, \$5.562 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. We go on to page 16-31, student loan revolving fund and the detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. It goes up to page 16-35. Total department, \$8.133 million. Agreed? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would have any comments on the rather strong observations of the Standing Committee on Finance that this government is the only one in the country which does not have a management training program tailored to its own civil service. I know there is a public service career training activity in the budget which we are now reviewing. Would the Minister agree we can do much better to provide coordinated training for our civil service? Does the Minister agree there should be an overall strategy developed with the Department of Personnel?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Madam Premier.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that we extend hours until we complete this department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

There is a motion on the floor. The motion is not debateable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We will continue on pages 16-32 to 16-35, details of work performed on behalf of third parties. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

This matter was a concern which I had. We are now in the process of working on it and hopefully we can report positively to Members during the next session.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Does that mean, Mr. Chairman, this is going to be an element in the education strategy being developed by the Minister?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Page 16-35, total department, \$8.135 million. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I am aware there are a number of federal government programs in place and operating in the Northwest Territories for the training of aboriginal people. Pathways is one which I am aware of. What participation does his department have in the operation of these federally funded programs, such as Pathways?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. We do not have much of a role to play. The decisions on the expenditure of the money is a matter between the federal government and the aboriginal people. We have been invited into those meetings because we are responsible for the delivery mechanisms in the Northwest Territories. They invite us to address those particular matters as well as to ensure we can accommodate the programs which they want to consider developing and improving.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

I understand there are boards set up throughout the Northwest Territories to administer these funds. Does the department have any participation, ex officio or otherwise, on the Pathways' boards?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Could I get more detail regarding the department's participation on these boards? Is it at the staff level or through college personnel? How does it happen?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

It occurs through the staff and through the regional superintendents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Do you have any more questions, Mr. Patterson. Thank you. Total department, \$8.133 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Page 16-13, program summary, Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a question about teacher discipline. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me there are problems in the Northwest Territories regarding the matter of teacher discipline. Could the Minister inform me as to who is responsible for disciplining teachers who occasionally misbehave in the classroom or otherwise? Who is responsible for this matter?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

The initial responsibility for disciplining teachers lies with the boards. If there are concerns with regard to this, I believe the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs along with the Minister of Personnel are then involved in dealing with the matter of discipline.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Does the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association have any responsibilities in connection with the discipline of members?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I believe when the issue deals with the matter of professional conduct the NWTTA has the responsibility of addressing the particular matter or is a party to addressing this particular matter. There is an appeal process to deal with that. I am not sure if this has been the case. Probably the Member will indicate he has concern with this particular matter. I will say here that it is not normal for the Minister to get involved in professional associations. I have some concern about how the organizations have been conducting themselves when they are addressing this matter of professional conduct. It is a matter which has to be dealt with by the NWTTA. When an issue comes to us, we have amended the regulations to address that particular matter. I will provide a copy of the new regulations which deal with this particular matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could note for the record that circumstances have come to my attention which have caused me to question the ability of the association to impartially discipline its members. I am pursuing the matter with the association but, if I am not satisfied that responsibility is being discharged responsibly and in the public interest, I may be, since the association is governed by legislation of this government and this Assembly,

taking the matter up with the Minister, not that he should interfere with a particular case, but rather to review the adequacy of the legislation in place and to review whether the association has the will to exercise that important responsibility impartially. I will just note that at this point and not pursue it any further at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total O and M, program summary, \$205.451 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. That concludes the department. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a final comment. As a former Minister of Education, who had spent some 11 days before this committee having my budget reviewed and then deferred, I would like to advise the new Minister that he was very lucky today. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. I would like to thank the witnesses at this time. I will rise to report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Good afternoon. Before we continue with the orders of the day, on behalf of all Members, I would like to wish another one of our Members a very happy birthday today. Rebecca Mike is at an age when she is able to divulge it, which I will not. Happy birthday, Rebecca.

---Applause

Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**



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

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 21, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Chairmen's Liaison Committee immediately after adjournment. Meetings for Monday morning, at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and at 10:30 am, of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, March 8, 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. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion

14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on General 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), 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 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 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 8, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT