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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I would like to recognize in the gallery the board of governors of Arctic College. The chair of Arctic College, Chris Brodeur and the vice chair and chair-elect, Joanne Deneron.

---Applause

We welcome you here today to the Legislative Assembly. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 49-12(3): International Women's Day

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, today is international women's day. It is a day when all countries of the world recognize, in various ways, the contributions women have made to the betterment of society.

The concept of an international women's day, recognized by the United Nations in 1977, originated 83 years ago at a meeting of the international socialist women's association. It was established at a time when women were starting to make some progress in their struggle for better wages and working conditions as well as for the right to vote in elections.

Much has happened since those early days and there is a great deal to celebrate in respect to the contributions women, from all walks of life, are making in today's world.

There are also still a great deal of challenges and problems which must be resolved in order to make sure family units and values are protected and remain strong in this period of rapid social, economic and political change.

In the Northwest Territories women are playing an increasingly strong role in identifying issues and in shaping community and territorial direction. However, this is not a job for women alone. All of us, parents, family units, churches, community leaders and government must share in the work which has to be done.

We have to work harder to help ourselves. Together, we have to develop enhanced support systems for victims of spousal assault. At the same time, we must make sure everyone understands that the chronic alcohol and substance abuse

problems, family violence and sexual abuses that are plaguing society in the Northwest Territories simply cannot be tolerated.

We also have to address other matters such as gender equality, pay equity and the need for affordable and expanded child care facilities and services, particularly for single parent families trying to raise their children and work at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, women of the north are participating as equals to help make sure that these and other problems and inequities are resolved so that all individuals have the opportunity to live a life of honour and dignity.

Whether they are involved in traditional pursuits or the wage economy, northern women are helping to make a difference in today's world and they will continue to do so every day of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to recognize in the gallery our Member of Parliament for the western Arctic, Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 50-12(3): Nursing Diploma Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is working hard to create a work-force which reflects the population it serves, and to help northerners get the education and training they need to access jobs. My colleagues and I believe that many more northerners should be working in the health care system.

There are more than 370 registered nursing positions in the Northwest Territories. Less than six of these are filled by aboriginal people. To encourage more northerners and aboriginal people to enter the nursing profession, Arctic College will be offering a nursing diploma program this September.

The program will be developed and delivered in cooperation with Yukon College, the NWT Registered Nurses' Association, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, hospital boards and aboriginal organizations.

The nursing diploma program will consist of two years of registered nursing instruction, and a practicum which will likely

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run for an additional semester. When students have finished the program, they may write the national registration exam, and if they are successful, enter the work-force. Students interested in continuing their education may enter the final two years of a bachelor of nursing program at university.

The program will be tailored to meet the needs of individuals. Students who lack the academic background to enter the program directly will be able to take a year of upgrading. Candidates who have a grade 12 advanced diploma may enter the first year of the program, while certified nursing assistants may enter the second year directly based on individual assessments. Mature students will have their previous education assessed, and will be placed at an appropriate point in the program. We also wish to encourage health care workers presently employed in the health care system to take advantage of this program.

Mr. Speaker, special attention will be paid to student support, particularly in the areas of accommodation, child day care, academic and cultural support and career counselling. Students will be eligible for funding under the student financial assistance

program. This flexible approach, which allows students to work towards their specific career goals, has already been successful in areas such as teacher education and social services.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this program we expect that 300 northerners will be trained and placed in nursing positions across the Northwest Territories over the next 20 years. As a result, health care services will largely be provided by people who understand the language and the culture of the people they care for. We expect this will result in better communication, an increase in preventative health care and help lower costs in the long run because of anticipated reductions in staff turnover and recruiting costs. We expect the financial benefits to this government will exceed the annual costs of delivering the program in less than ten years.

Mr. Speaker, the health care system touches the lives of everyone in our society. I believe the nursing diploma program will play an important part in increasing the participation of northerners in health care, and in making the system more responsive to the needs of northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Minister's Statement 51-12(3): Meeting With European Parliamentarians

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide Members with a report on my meetings in Charlottetown with the four representatives from the European parliament.

It is fortunate that we were able to arrange a meeting at the last minute with the representatives from Britain, Germany and Greece. We learned of their visit through an indigenous survival international delegation which was in Brussels on February 23.

Since that time, my staff had numerous contacts with the international fund for animal welfare, who had invited and arranged the meeting with the European delegates. It was not until shortly before my departure that my attendance at the meeting was confirmed.

Altogether, I spent over five hours talking to the European delegates. My presentation was very well received and corrected a great deal of false information they had been provided with.

As a result, I believe the parliamentarians are returning to Europe with a much better understanding of our northern cultures and lifestyles. I explained that the Arctic is not a frontier for other people to exploit. The Arctic is our homeland and we expect others to respect and support our customs and lifestyles.

In addition, both myself and Mannassie Audlakiak of Clyde River explained how important harvesting renewable resources is to our residents and how harvesting forms the basis for our cultures.

The parliamentarians did not know about the devastating social and economic impacts of the 1982 European seal product ban on Inuit communities. They did not understand that the most effective way to maintain healthy and productive stocks of wildlife is to allow residents to benefit from those resources and remain the caretakers. They had been led to believe that seals in Canada needed protection from harvesting so they would not become endangered. I told them there are well over three million harp and ringed seals in Canadian waters.

Mr. Speaker, I was also able to have a private meeting with two of the delegates. We talked about the state of our northern fur industry and our relationship with the European market.

I learned that there are different goals among animal rights organizations. Some wish to see a total ban on killing animals, some wish to see humane harvesting techniques adopted and some have environmental beliefs that are similar to our aboriginal philosophies.

By knowing more about their goals, we can actually have some organizations assist our objectives to use resources wisely.

There are also other actions we can take in response to European concerns about harvesting. First, we must continue to develop and adopt humane harvesting techniques. Second, we must find ways to separate our renewable resource products from those produced in other regions. Third, we must increase our involvement with other governments so we can ensure that their decisions do not negatively impact our life-styles or aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Audlakiak for coming with me. He was an excellent spokesman for Inuit harvesters. The children's posters on wildlife harvesting which he provided will be part of the parliamentarians' press conference in Brussels.

The European delegation had separate meetings with representatives from the Canadian sealer's association, indigenous survival international and Fisheries and Oceans

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Canada. They promised to give further consideration to the points we discussed.

Another delegation from the European parliament is scheduled to visit Canada at the end of April. Their mission is to report on Canadian issues and I will be encouraging them to include a visit to the Northwest Territories as part of their trip. I will keep Members of this Legislative Assembly informed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Alloo. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Conference On Circumpolar Trade

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday there were several questions about economic development. I note this weekend in Edmonton at the Hotel MacDonald, the Canadian Polar Commission met and the subject of the conference was circumpolar trade and the Canadian agenda. Mr. Speaker, I raise this today because this polar commission, which has been in existence for over a year, has chosen economic development as the focus for its work. The workshops which were held on the weekend included large scale interests of some major companies, the issue of export readiness, the natural resources of the north, tourism, and trade among the circumpolar nations. Mr. Bailey, the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism attended this meeting. It is of obvious interest to our government.

I raise this issue, not because I question what the Canadian Polar Commission's mandate is or how it chooses to use its resources, because they chose this subject of economic development as the focus for

their work and their major recommendation was that the federal government develop an economic development strategy for the north. This is worrisome because our government has this kind of mandate. This commission, and all the players who took part in this weekend conference, decided that there was a vacuum and that something should be done. I urge our government to get on with it, so that we can have a clear idea of where we are going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Death Of Mr. Kolola

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A tragedy occurred on February 27, 1993, in Montreal, Quebec. A resident of Lake Harbour, Mr. Novoalia Kolola was severely beaten to death in a house he was occupying. The family was notified in Lake Harbour regarding his death and his sister was notified in Vancouver. The family was not able to afford the plane ticket for his sister to attend the funeral. Fund raising efforts were immediately started by the community of Lake Harbour. I have been requested to approach the Minister of Social Services for assistance. We have not been able to acquire any funding assistance from Social Services.

This tragedy is compounded, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that Mr. Kolola's parents both died within one week of each other a few years ago. I would like to express my deepest disappointment in the Department of Social Services for their total lack of assistance, despite meetings with the Minister, her officials and myself. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation to the people of Broughton Island, Coral Harbour, Pangnirtung and Clyde River. I also want to thank the hamlet of Lake Harbour as the hamlet is paying the difference of the fund raising shortfall. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Lake Harbour because they were able to raise some funds to enable the sister to attend the funeral.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pudlat, the allotted time has lapsed. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, that was the end of my statement. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On The Manufacturing Of Fibreglass Tanks In Yellowknife

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday it was my privilege to be present when a local company, Fibreglass North, passed a northern business milestone. This company is comprised of some of those enthusiastic entrepreneurs of whom Mr. Pollard spoke earlier this session. They are now, with some assistance from Economic Development and Tourism, manufacturing fibreglass tanks at their factory here in Yellowknife.

On Friday, Mr. Speaker, the first water and sewer tanks were shipped from their factory to Fort Franklin, where they are destined to become part of Northwest Territories housing units.

---Applause

To date, Fibreglass North has won tenders for over 200 tanks and they expect to be successful on many more. Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that Fibreglass North has won tenders, which required tanks to be shipped to Churchill and Montreal for housing units in the eastern Arctic. In other words, they can manufacture in Yellowknife and still be competitive across Canada. Their goal is to supply, not only the north, but to compete in the provinces as well.

Mr. Speaker, this sort of enterprise is good for the north. Fibreglass North uses local suppliers in Yellowknife, the Patterson sawmill for their lumber, and they will use the rail line from Hay River to deliver their products across southern Canada. They have hired inexperienced people, trained them on-the-job, and now have a staff of 12 to 14 people, including five from Dettah. Their goal is to grow to an operation of 25.

Fibreglass North is owned by Sandra Elliot and Greg Mason, and managed by Bruce Elliot. Mr. Speaker, I wish them success and continued growth and I hope we will see more entrepreneurs starting businesses such as this to replace southern imports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Public Meeting In Fort Smith
Re Inquiry Of Fort Smith Health Centre

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my thanks to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Rebecca Mike, and the many constituents who attended last night's public meeting in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, the meeting was held to receive feedback from residents of my constituency regarding the decision not to proceed with the public inquiry into the Fort Smith health centre.

It was a very well attended meeting, despite the short notice, with over 70 people in attendance. I know that the people of Fort Smith were very pleased with the fact that the Minister came into our community and that she showed a definite willingness to listen to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the people in attendance were generally accepting of the decision not to proceed with the inquiry. However, many of them expressed some strong ideas about the delivery of health services in Fort Smith.

There were strong sentiments, for instance, that a new board should be formed as soon as possible to manage the health centre. There was a definite interest in giving consideration to an elected board concept. I know that changes to legislation would probably need to take place in order to address this suggestion. It is critical that some strategy be developed to ensure the hospital board fully represents the diversity which exists in the community, including representation from the town, the Metis local and the band. It is important that the component of this concept continue.

There was also recognition of the need for formal orientation and training programs for board members who serve on any health centre board. Participants felt, as well, that members of any new hospital board should be able to select their own chairperson. There were concerns expressed about the current operation of the health centre, particularly about the high turnover in medical resources created by the many

locum physicians on which the health centre has had to rely upon.

I indicated to my constituents that during the next month, I will be surveying the Fort Smith population for additional ideas and will be looking forward to seeing a new board in place at the earliest opportunity. I was pleased that their comments provided a strong foundation for moving ahead for delivery of health services in our community. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Another very well timed Member's statement, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Meeting Of Western Region
Chiefs

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I want to say something very important today about the western region. The Dene Nation is starting over and there was an all-chiefs meeting. I would like to make a few comments about that meeting. (Translation ends)...representation of all the bands in the Mackenzie Valley. All the communities were represented, and this is the first time in a long time that they have met together.

The purpose was to closely examine the organization itself and make decisions about its future. It was a very successful exercise, Mr. Speaker, with an open sharing of views and several resolutions passed, which I believe will go a long way towards preparing the Dene Nation for its future challenges. During the meeting, for instance, chiefs passed a motion to establish a special committee to review and suggest options for constitutional renewal of possible structural change within their organization. A new role has been established for regional vice chiefs, including assisting in financial review and deficit reduction.

Important progress was also made with respect to the development of the mechanism for resolution of dispute within the Dene Nation. In keeping with traditional Dene ways, the Dene Nation is resolved to deal with any future disputes without interference from other political entities, or from non-aboriginal governments, but with the full involvement of our

elders. Work is proceeding with documentation of elders' understanding of agreements made with the Crown and Treaties 8 and 11, and a motion of support for the Sayasi Dene was carried. The chiefs are going to be meeting in Fort McPherson starting tomorrow to deal with health issues.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I note that the Dene Nation has passed a motion directing the territorial government to commence core funding to the Denendeh national office. As a Dene, I am pleased with the progress that the Dene Nation has made in revitalizing itself as a national organization working in the interests of all Dene people.

As an MLA, I am happy to see the chiefs from all regions of the Denendeh come together and, again, work in unity. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Member's statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On K'amba Carnival On Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, the Hay River Dene Reserve held its annual K'amba Carnival. I would like to congratulate the carnival organizers on another job well done. Every year the carnival gets bigger, better and more organized. This year was no exception. The carnival has become so popular that it attracted people from as far north as Fort Norman, as far south as Fort Smith, as far east as Snowdrift and as far west as Fort Liard. The carnival opened Thursday and ran until Sunday evening. One of the biggest attractions was a two-day dog race which featured about 20 teams. It was a spectacular sight, Mr. Speaker, to watch so many teams in a mass start.

Coinciding with the carnival was the opening of the reserve's senior citizens' home on Friday at 1:00 pm. I would like to thank former Social Services' Ministers, Jeannie Marie-Jewell and Tony Whitford, for their efforts on behalf of the senior citizens.

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When I was first elected in 1983, one of my first goals was to provide shelter for senior citizens on the reserve. I am glad this has finally become a reality, however, I must point out for the record, Mr. Speaker, we have not addressed all social housing issues.

Once again, I would like to thank chief Pat Martel, his counsellors and the Dene volunteers who organized the carnival and made it a success. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Item 3, Member's statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On International Women's Day

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise and also recognize international women's day, and like the honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I agree that northern women are taking leadership positions in Canada, in the Northwest Territories and in my constituency, and they should be recognized. I am just going to name a few, Mr. Speaker, although this list is by no means exhaustive. First we have to, once again, be proud that we have selected the first woman Government Leader in the history of the Northwest Territories. We have to be proud of people like Rosemarie Kuptana, named by McLean's magazine as one of the 12 who made a difference last year to Canada; Ethel Blondin-Andrew, who has a very significant national stature; and, Susan Aglukark, whose reputation is growing in Canada as a musician with a message, just to name a few, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to acknowledge that women from my constituency are making their contributions on the Northwest Territories Power Corporation board, and the Arctic College board of governors, which is now very well represented by women in contrast to its composition in earlier years.

---Applause

I would like to join in the congratulations to Joanne Deneron, who I know will be a very capable chairperson like her predecessors. Women from Iqaluit are also working on the NWT arts advisory council. I want to express my pleasure that this government has recently appointed an Inuk woman, who was formally the superintendent of Personnel, to the position of assistant regional director in the Baffin.

I would like to mention, once again in this House, the wisdom and inspiration of the late Leah Nuturaq. We must do more than improve the representation of women, we must ensure that they have an increasing influence on our public policy initiatives. The voice of women must be put, as we consider issues like the

Justice House report, family law reform, the battle against family violence.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. History has been made in this session. This is the first time, since I have been Speaker, that we have gone through Members' statements without seeking unanimous consent.

---Laughter

Congratulations.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 339-12(3): Social Assistance For Salomonie Family

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question, asked by Mr. Arvaluk on February 24, 1993, regarding social assistance for the Salomonie family.

The department, through their regional office, is working with the municipality which delivers social services in Iqaluit to address the concerns raised by the honourable Member.

Mr. Salomonie would need to meet the eligibility criteria for fuel subsidy before he could receive fuel under the policy.

The criteria for eligibility is as follows: the person is 60 years old or older; is the owner of and lives in his or her own home; depends on wood or fossil fuel as a primary source of heat; and, is a resident of the Northwest Territories.

The allowable amount is five cords of wood, 2,275 litres of fuel oil, 3,105 litres of propane or 76,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Fuel can also be considered as a need if Mr. Salomonie and his family are assessed as eligible for financial assistance under the social assistance guidelines.

Due to the confidential nature of client case information, the department and the municipality are unable to respond with specific client information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. On Friday, in committee of the whole in the Minister's opening remarks to the department's budget, the Minister made reference to Arctic College. Specifically, I quote from unedited Hansard, "in recognition of the division of the Northwest Territories, the college is decentralizing into two institutions, one in Fort Smith and one in Iqaluit." Can the Minister elaborate on his statement as to what he means by two institutions?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very clearly, there will be two boards and two colleges, one in Nunavut and one in Denendeh.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

MR. KOE:

From the Minister's response, I assume that once decentralization or division takes place, we would have two separate college systems. I assume, by his statement, that Arctic College headquarters for the west will be located in Fort Smith. What is going to happen to all the campuses that presently exist in the west and in the east?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this particular juncture, all those campuses will remain. What is clear is that there will be one headquarters in Nunavut, and one in the west, the Denendeh. It is our intention not to, in any way, reduce the campuses. Hopefully, we can improve through clear identification, programs and services in those campuses, both in the western communities and in the east.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. For the record though, my constituency still has concerns and has heard rumours as to the future use of the existing Aurora Campus. Can the Minister, for the record, state that we will not be closing down this campus in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 432-12(3): Division Of Arctic College Into Two Institutions

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can indicate to the honourable Member that no decision has been made by Cabinet to close down any of the campuses. In fact, we have been encouraging the development of programs in those campuses.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 433-12(3): Ministerial Action For Changes To Social Assistance Regulations

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 5, 1993 the Minister in her return to my oral question, stated that Social Services staff has reviewed existing regulations and identified potential changes. Clients are penalized if they earn extra money and their benefit is jeopardized. When is the Minister going to take action to the identified potential changes in the system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 433-12(3): Ministerial Action For Changes To Social Assistance Regulations

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I am done stick handling all the items I inherited, and I have more time with my departments, I will make an effort and work with the departments to resolve some of the concerns that have been raised in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated in my closing remarks on Friday during the review of the Department of Education, that I will be pursuing the rest of the questions I have through correspondence to the Minister. However, reviewing the unedited Hansard on page 2146, my questions on page 2154 and reading the Minister's answers, how can I pursue information through correspondence, if I have not really been answered? An example is, if Arctic College in a number of communities will be accommodated when the schools are overcrowded, then Arctic College has to be kicked out all the time. I used Coral Harbour as an example. What is the plan for the construction of the Coral Harbour school renovation expansion? Of course, the answer is 1994-95, but in the meantime, the kindergarten children are coming in and grade 11 extension is coming in, right now we are teaching some of our regular classes in the school gym. What are we going to do this fall? I did not receive a very clear answer on that. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister

today is, will there be any kind of emergency measures taken to accommodate these students both in grade school and in Arctic College? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we are not confused, we are working with the school board to consider renovations and other methods so we can respond to the honourable Member's question and concern. It is also a concern of the department and Arctic College, in terms of delivering programs. We are working with the divisional board to respond to the concerns the honourable Member has raised.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is also regarding how Arctic College will be accommodated when, to date, 30 per cent of their classrooms are now used by regular students. How will they be accommodated once that renovation is completed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

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Further Return To Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that until we have a clear plan as to the programs which are going to be delivered, the number of students, a recommended plan for renovations and what areas need to be renovated which is the responsibility of the school board, it makes it difficult for me to respond because the school board has not concluded which recommendations they wish to make. I hope they will

have the plan to meet the needs of construction and of the students. That is their intention and it is our intention to work with them to accommodate both Arctic College and primary school students.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This winter we received a strategic plan through Arctic College. Last week we received a ten year plan from the Keewatin divisional board, including a year to year plan. Mr. Speaker, does the Department of Education have a capital plan to coordinate with those two plans which Arctic College and the Keewatin divisional board have made?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 434-12(3): Emergency Measures To Accommodate Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to have a capital plan which corresponds with an approved and agreed to plan, under the primary and secondary program and Arctic College. Once we have the plans put into place we will, hopefully, have a capital plan which responds to those needs. That is my intention.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a follow-up to Mr. Ningark's question to the Minister of Social Services regarding welfare reform. Mr. Speaker, I was intrigued to hear the Minister say that before she can deal with the issue of welfare reform within the Department of Social Services, she will need to stick handle issues which she was handed by her

predecessor. This caught my attention, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to...

MR. SPEAKER:

Point of order, Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not say, "before I stick handle," I said, "Once I am done stick handling the issues, I will have more time in my hands to look into the concerns the Members raise in this House."

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am not sure that is a point of order. Although I do not have the Hansard before me, "stick handling" is a figure of speech. I think most people in this House will take it as that. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understood the Minister's statement. She is basically saying that before she can deal with the issues that have been raised in this House, she has to stick handle her way around certain issues. What are these more pressing issues the Minister has to stick handle which are getting in the way of her pursuing welfare reform with the department? What are those issues she has to work on before welfare reform?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have just finished with Iqaluit social services assistance program issues, and I have just returned from Fort Smith this morning. Those issues have taken much of my time, but things are now under control. I will have more time with my deputy ministers to address some of the concerns which have been raised in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the answer provided in this House to Mr. Ningark's question on Friday, the department has already done the work of reviewing existing regulations and identifying changes required to increase the amount of income people can earn, without jeopardizing their benefits to provide direct support for the traditional harvesting activities and to raise the asset limit. This suggests that the departmental work has already been done. I would like to ask the Minister, since the departmental work already seems to have been done, what is preventing the Minister from introducing these regulatory changes in the near future? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing is preventing me from introducing these changes. The honourable Member knows the procedures which have to take place. He has been on Cabinet before. I have yet to take them to Cabinet. Once that has gone through, I will inform this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I have been on Cabinet before and I appreciate the Member's acknowledgement of that. Mr. Speaker, I know from my experience on Cabinet that changing regulations is a rather easy matter. It does not require legislation. A Minister can move quite quickly to change regulations. I would like to ask the honourable Minister, how soon does she expect she will be able to put these regulatory changes through, which have been identified to implement welfare reform and get people more inclined to work, more inclined to participate in the renewable resource economy and less dependent on welfare? How long is it going to take? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 435-12(3): Issues To Be Considered Prior To Welfare Reform

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a funding component to it. So, if the honourable Member wants me to say at such and such a date, he knows very well the procedures in the Cabinet. It will take at least until the end of this fiscal year before I can adequately look at what is at hand. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. Mr. Speaker, on Friday I asked the Minister about the new strategy for training and construction. The Minister responded by saying that he will attempt to introduce a new strategy to this Assembly by the end of this session. In the weekly bulletin published by the NWT Construction Association on February 26, 1993, reference was made to three pilot construction worker training programs. Can the Minister advise this House as to what these three pilot construction training programs are?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the 1992-93 building season, we worked with the NWT Construction Association to implement a pre-construction training program which will be going on next year. It was designed by the NWT Construction Association. These are two different issues altogether. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

MR. KOE:

Is the Minister saying these pilot projects, which were done this past year and are proposed for next year, are

totally separate from what you intend to do in your new strategy?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possibly the NWT pre-construction training would be part of the new strategy, but it would be one small part of it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

MR. KOE:

Can the Minister comment on these three pilot projects?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the same paper as the Member, so I cannot. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

MR. KOE:

They are not in the paper, that is why I am asking the question. Can you comment on these three pilot projects which were carried out with the NWT Construction Association and this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 436-12(3): Pilot Construction Worker Training Programs

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have my deputy minister get in touch with the NWT Construction Association. I will provide this information today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 437-12(3): Categories Included In Seniors' Fuel Subsidy

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I try not to make two oral questions in one sitting, however, I am pressured with the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services' response to my previous question regarding the person living in a shack in Iqaluit. With the rising cost of living, I can envision more of these kinds of shacks being built in other communities. She stated, "five cords of wood, 3,000 pounds of propane, 76,000 cubic feet of natural gas", I am not sure if these are the correct amounts. I am trying to recall what she said. Why are naphtha gas and kerosene not included, when these are the most used in the eastern Arctic where the shack is located?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the weekend, a very important conference was held in Edmonton. I have an agenda in front of me. It contains three or four pages of names of people who were invited to attend this conference. The only person from the Northwest Territories who appears on the list is our Premier. I would like to ask the Government Leader, who else from the Northwest Territories did in fact attend? I know she was not able to attend. Who else was able to attend on behalf of our government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a couple of moments to approach the subject of commissions. Over the last number of years we have seen a proliferation of people interested in the Northwest Territories, the circumpolar regions and how we are going to interrelate with the countries who are in the circumpolar areas. Mr. Speaker, the polar commission is proceeding with its mandate. Last week there was a meeting of the Arctic council, and there is also the Inuit circumpolar conference.

Over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, each one of these bodies have sought to secure information and background from the Northwest Territories, not only through the government, but through the aboriginal organizations operating in the north. They have sought to secure information and have suggested that they did not anticipate beginning the process all over again. We have provided the polar commission with the economic strategy of the Northwest Territories. There have been numerous meetings with government and government officials, and myself, over these issues. We have had input over a number of years on these issues.

We did express to the commission that it would be highly unlikely that any Members could participate in this meeting because the session was, in fact, taking place. However, we did provide them with background and I would like to assure the honourable Member that they did take the economic strategy as a

base for moving forward on areas that are common to all Arctic communities, the economic basis of which we live, and the commission did not come by that strategy without our input.

There are a number of commissions, agencies and groups having numerous meetings and conferences. We have recommendations from every area. We have a close working relationship with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. We attempt to work with that group as well as the regional Inuit organizations which in itself ends up in support of the Inuit circumpolar conference. The Government of the Northwest Territories has, financially and intellectually, put much effort into the Inuit circumpolar conference. Not to be forgotten, we tried to put the same feeder lines into the commission as it was being formed and last weekend. We also have input to the Arctic council as well.

We are doing our best to take part in the planning level so when these commissions, conferences and committees get together, the information which has been gathered by people, over a number of years, is utilized. Unfortunately, I do not know, other than Roland Bailey, who attended the meeting this week. We would have been there had the Legislative Assembly not been sitting. This Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is the group of people who will be carrying out the recommendations, doing the job and trying to be accountable for the results of recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned regarding the proliferation of people's interests groups in circumpolar planning, and I am concerned that these efforts would become fragmented. That is my concern. This is our concern. Who is actually going to be dealing with the actual stakeholders in our communities? I am concerned about this. I am concerned about these broad bodies who seem to operate on another level, rather than the place where the job has to be done.

However, I want to assure the honourable Member that whatever commission, whatever committee forms, we do our very best to make sure that we take the time to meet with these people and take the ideas, the economic strategy and what has been developed here and have them, at least, receive the information. Certainly, from what has come out of the commission, they do not say anything different than what has been said here already. I think the residents of the Northwest Territories can be assured that the basis of

the recommendations came from the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

MR. LEWIS:

I appreciate that the meeting was held on the weekend, but it is in the middle of our session. Is the Premier prepared to accept that the federal government should develop an economic strategy for the Northwest Territories, as recommended by the polar commission from this conference?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the major issue we have is, there will be no real economic development unless the resources are provided to develop and put in place an economic strategy. At this time, we do have a federal agency which funds money into the Northwest Territories, as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories. The CAEDS organization is set up to deliver to aboriginal people, not only in the Arctic, but also in southern Canada. Unfortunately, it is apparent that we do not have many positive decisions to support the northern economy in that program. There is a

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component of federal government resources which is supposed to lead toward economic development, jointly with the Northwest Territories. I believe the only people who can carry out a Northwest Territories economic strategy and development are the stakeholders, to the people who are going to ask questions on how you implement it, are the people of the Northwest Territories. If the federal government wishes to help and place some extra resources in the Northwest Territories for that development, yes, indeed, we will accept that help. It is our job to develop that economic strategy and work with the people who are actually going to be immediately affected. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

MR. LEWIS:

I assume the people in Ottawa do read transcripts of our debates. If there is to be an economic development strategy developed as a result of the recommendation of this committee, will the Premier let the federal government know her concerns and how she believes such a strategy should be developed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 438-12(3): GNWT Participation At Polar Commission Meetings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is, yes. I believe I would be remiss in my duties, if I did not make that abundantly clear. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 439-12(3): Method Of Delivery Re Nursing Diploma Program

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased, as I am sure other Members were, with the announcement from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, about the new nursing diploma program, which is welcome. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the attrition rate for Baffin candidates for the CNA program, when it was only available at the Stanton hospital in Yellowknife, was quite unacceptable, is it the Minister's intention to see that this nursing diploma program will be delivered in hospitals and through college campuses in other regions of the territories, than just in Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 439-12(3): Method Of Delivery Re Nursing Diploma Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, no decision has been made to deliver from any particular campus yet. I want to inform the honourable Member of that.

Secondly, there are aspects of the program that are crucial in terms of regional campus participation on the campus in Iqaluit, if the honourable Member is arguing for that particular campus, in terms of the access program and also the need for communities to participate in the practicum portion of the program. The program location itself has not been determined, but I want to assure you the program we deliver has credibility, not only in the north, but across the country. It makes no sense for us to develop a program simply to fit and to provide an educational training program to just meet the needs of the communities. We have to provide a program that gives availability of employment wherever a candidate wishes to be employed. I think that is absolutely crucial.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 439-12(3): Method Of Delivery Re Nursing Diploma Program

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I was not only advocating that the Minister explore delivering the program in the Baffin regional hospital, but that other hospitals, such as the Inuvik hospital, should have that opportunity as well. I take it from the Minister's answer, that further work is to be done before the details of this program, for example, where it is going to be offered, are available. When can we expect to know in which locations this program can be delivered?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 439-12(3): Method Of Delivery Re Nursing Diploma Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will probably know, and therefore will make known to Members, where the

program could be delivered hopefully by the end of this month. I have a report that is being prepared. I should not say "I", but the board of directors for Arctic College, along with the Department of Education, is having a report prepared that would see us determine what is the most appropriate location to deliver the program itself. There are aspects in the program that require the assistance and participation of the regional campuses and the communities to be involved. Therefore, I think it is important that people in the communities know and appreciate the position from where we are trying to do it and how we are trying to deliver the program. It will not be an exclusion of the communities, nor for that matter, the other campuses in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 440-12(3): Assault In Arviat High School

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Education. In the last week of February, in Arviat, a non-student came into the high school and assaulted one of the students in the school. When the student came in, they broke out into a fight. When the fight was broken up, the administration tried to press charges on the intruder for disrupting the school and assaulting a student in the school, but they were not allowed to press charges. Is there a policy in the Department of Education for this type of action?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the situation. I will have to take the question as

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notice so I can have an opportunity to review the situation. There is no existing policy, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. This Assembly is one in which will attempt to be responsive to the initiatives that take place in various communities in the Northwest Territories. On page 2131 of the unedited version of Hansard, the Minister said, "I am interested in putting a greenhouse into Fort Smith." How does the Minister intend to do that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it was probably a bad choice of words. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is interested in putting a greenhouse into Fort Smith. It would be done by talking to people locally. I have already talked to the local MLA. In fact, we have some people who are interested in doing it, Mr. Speaker. We just have not been able to find the right piece of land yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the Minister did not mean that he personally would want to do that. Even if the department wanted to do that, it would still be someone else wanting to do it. Has the Minister then received a proposal from the people of Fort Smith, or an individual in Fort Smith, wanting to do this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

We have, Mr. Speaker. Two people re interested in doing this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS:

Has that interest gone to the extent of an individual or individuals putting a proposal together outlining what it is they want to do and how they intend to achieve it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 441-12(3): Plans To Locate Green House In Fort Smith

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Those kinds of discussions have gone on with one of the groups in Fort Smith. It is relatively specific, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. In terms of schools in my constituency where I represent a number of small communities, after a certain grade the students are required to go to a larger centre, which is Fort Simpson. They have to go into a home boarding situation where they have to live with another family. During my travels, my constituents have indicated to me they have concerns with sending their children into the unknown. There are more and more students from small communities entering higher grades, so more and more students are going into the major centres. Is the department doing anything about that to make sure the students who are sent from small communities into major centres are put in homes, or in care where the parents will be satisfied their children are well taken care of? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can indicate to the honourable Member that his region is one of two which has a home boarding counsellor who works for the divisional board. The responsibility of that particular person is to address those concerns which the honourable Member has raised, to raise the concerns and to develop a policy and program which accommodates those students who are from the smaller communities. If there are any concerns, then it would be the responsibility of that person in conjunction with the school board to develop a program and plan to deal with the concerns of the parents. That is the way in which we have dealt with that particular situation in the Deh Cho region, so we can make sure the students are not dissatisfied with the educational programming they are receiving.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. In my travels to the communities, with all the new schools going into most of the communities in the north, there are more and more students going to school. At the present time, there is a real balloon of students going through the system. In about three or four years time, we are going to have a large population of students who will be leaving their small communities for major centres. The reason for my first question is to see if the Department of Education has a policy

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focusing on this situation which is will occur in the next few years. Do you have a policy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate that we have a policy in place, however, part of the review and development of a long-term strategy for education includes the whole issue of home boarding and extension of grades in schools so we can address those concerns. Right now there is no coordinated plan or approach. We do not have a clear approach from region to region, from community to community. I hope that when I make a presentation of our education strategy this fall, it will address some of the concerns the honourable Member has raised today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

MR. ANTOINE:

Supplementary to the same Minister. The concerns which are raised to me by some of my constituents whose children will be going to school away from their home community next year, is that they do not really know where their children are going to and they do not even know what kind of environment their children are going to. Are there any plans by the department to have some sort of meeting or conference with all the parents and with the people who are planning your policies to try to have a good grip on what the situation is so we do not have any problems? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 442-12(3): Departmental Screening Of Parents Providing Home Boarding

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope we would work through the school board to address, first of all, the more specific concerns of the honourable Member because that is their responsibility. In the long-term, I can advise the honourable Member we will be consulting with parents, the regional boards, the aboriginal organizations, the MLAs and whoever is interested, so we can develop a strategy to meet the needs of the people in the Northwest Territories. Presently, we are at the end of a ten year cycle from

the Special Committee on Education and we now need to move forward. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member we will consult with the parents in this process.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 443-12(3): Subsidy For Students Taking Driver Education

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Safety and Public Services. I do not know if the Minister is aware, but the costs of learning how to drive these days have just recently been calculated in the community of Arviat at \$87 for all the permits and licences necessary. In the communities when students take a proper program which is in the school, given by a properly certified instructor, could these costs be waived or reduced?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 443-12(3): Subsidy For Students Taking Driver Education

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know. I would have to look into it. I do not know the dollar value of the concern raised by the honourable Member, but I will look into it and get back to him.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 443-12(3): Subsidy For Students Taking Driver Education

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

I do not know if the Minister is aware, I am sure he is, but in a community such as Baker Lake or Arviat where we have close to 80 per cent unemployment, these kinds of costs may be prohibitive to a family. I wonder how soon he may look into this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 443-12(3): Subsidy For Students Taking Driver Education

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. On June 16, 1992, the Government Leader announced the new directions initiative which proposed several decentralization projects. One of these was the decentralization of the headquarters for the POL division to Rankin Inlet and Fort Simpson. The Government Leader noted that this move would, "take advantage of existing infrastructure and support services." Mr. Speaker, recognizing that it has been nearly nine months since the Government Leader's new direction initiative was announced, can the Minister of Government Services and Public Works advise the House as to what progress has been made in moving the POL headquarters to Rankin Inlet and Fort Simpson? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adjustments to job descriptions have been completed. Classification of new job descriptions will be complete in time for relocation notices, scheduled for employees in February and re-staffing regional positions and staff training will occur over the summer. Program delivery is not expected to be affected, even though

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not many of the current staff are expected to move. This seems like it is scheduled. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister evaluated office space and administrative support requirements associated with this decentralization initiative? Thank you.

Further Return To Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are presently doing that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Is the Minister able to provide the House with a proposed time line for the completion of the decentralization of POL headquarters? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 444-12(3): Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide the Member with that information.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is he taking the supplementary question under notice?

MR. SPEAKER:

No, as I have said a number of times. Ministers have to actually state that they are taking it under notice.

The Minister said that he would provide information to the Member. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 444-12(3):
Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, was the Minister indicating that he would provide the information to this House? Can the Minister indicate a time frame for the completion of the decentralization of POL? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 444-12(3):
Decentralization Of Petroleum Products Division

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member asked if I would provide the information, and I said I would. I will provide the information by next week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of Local Involvement
In Negotiated Contracts

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation regarding projects within his department relating to the construction and maintenance of winter roads. For example, the winter road into Lac La Martre is already proceeding on the basis of a negotiated contract, as opposed to more standard and possibly less costly tendering practices. I am interested in whether this negotiated contract has resulted in any greater success in the involvement and hiring of aboriginal people, than if the project had been tendered. Can the Minister indicate to the House what arrangements have been made with this negotiated contract with Nishi-Khon/PCL for local involvement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of Local
Involvement In Negotiated Contracts

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the first significant economic benefit derived from the negotiated contract would be Dogrib people receiving equity in the venture. Hopefully, the employment and economic opportunities will be derived from it. The department, under my instructions, did negotiate a contract with Nishi-Khon/PCL. They negotiated it with the clear intention of providing an opportunity for the Dogrib people to receive the skills and knowledge that is necessary to be part of the economic opportunities that will arise over the coming years in that area.

It was our intention from the very beginning that this would be a one-year venture. We would look, at the end of the project, at the economic benefits to see what the net effect was to the people in that area. We made that a condition of the contract. I am confident that, at the end of it, we will be able to demonstrate to this House and to the people of the Northwest Territories, that significant economic benefits would accrue to the aboriginal people of that region.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of
Local Involvement In Negotiated Contracts

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was hoping that every opportunity would be found to hire local people from the Lac La Martre area on this project. I expect that, since this was a negotiated contract, terms would be included to allow for the monitoring of local involvement on this project. Can the Minister indicate if, in fact, the department has already assessed whether Nishi-khon/PCL was able to increase local employment by hiring Lac La Martre's work force?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of
Local Involvement In Negotiated Contracts

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the honourable Member has stated, initially in the discussions, that was one of the objectives that we were trying to accomplish. It is my understanding, from discussions with the groups

involved, there has been significant involvement of the Dogrib people in that area. I do not have the actual numbers today, but at the end of this contract, it is our intention to evaluate the cost benefits of a negotiated contract versus a public tender. I would hope, and I am confident that, the net benefits to the people, including jobs, equity participation, purchasing of services, et cetera, will be significantly higher than they have been under the previous negotiated contract because of the equity participation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of Local Involvement In Negotiated Contracts

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last September, there was an award ceremony that took place in Lac La Martre, where several young men were receiving certificates for a heavy equipment operation and air brake course that was put on by Arctic College, sponsored in part by the department and the local contractor that was building an airport. One of the highlights of my career as Minister was to be able to present these certificates. One of the things that was stated by these young people was, "Now they have trained us, will we get a job anywhere to put this into practice?" Could the Minister indicate whether or not any of these young men who received these certificates had been recruited to work on this project that they had been so diligently and skillfully trained for?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 445-12(3): Inclusion Of Local Involvement In Negotiated Contracts

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, the theory behind negotiated contracts with locally sponsored groups is that they will react responsibly and morally with regard to employment. I do not actually have the details of these young men who were involved in this particular training program. I am prepared to get that to determine how many were active or are active in this project. I would hope that, given the fact that we are negotiating with the

Dogrib people, they would see a priority and a condition of this negotiated contract was to ensure maximum employment opportunities for the people. That is the best way I can answer this question at this time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 26-12(3): Local Hiring In Construction Of Winter Road To Lac La Martre

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Minister of Transportation.

Would the Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation please indicate to this House how many of the following workers secured employment on the construction project which built a winter road to Lac La Martre: Alfred Beaverho, Ricky Beaverho, William Beaverho, Freddy Flunkie, Charlie Jermicke, Joseph Moosenose, Louis Joe Moosenose, Peter Moosenose, Alfred Nitsiza, Charles Nitsiza, Frankie Nitsiza, Charlie Quitte, Michael Romie, George Simpson, Richard Wetrade and Maurice Zoe Fish.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Petition No. 13-12(3) contains 132 signatures regarding the way in which social assistance payments are paid to social assistance clients. Small portions of the social assistance cheques are paid in cash to the client and the rest are in vouchers. This petition is from the people of Pelly Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 83-12(3), business travel undertaken by Cabinet Ministers, a document which was circulated and a reply was given to it in question period last week.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 84-12(3), long-term staff housing strategy financial implications summary. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 85-12(3), a letter to myself from Sandy Bennett of Yellowknife. It is a letter of encouragement and support for the approach on government staff housing in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 86-12(3), a letter from a constituent of mine, Mr. Larry Simpson, sent to the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, Premier of the Government of the Northwest Territories on the GNWT staff housing policy titled, "Now who will want to buy a house in the eastern Arctic?" Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. I wish to table Tabled Document 87-12(3), a message from her Majesty the Queen commemorating today as Commonwealth Day in 1993.

---Applause

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equity; 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

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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, and appearance by members of the Commission for Constitutional Development, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Good afternoon. This committee will come to order. On Friday we were dealing with Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. We concluded the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. What does the committee wish to deal with today? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we would like to try to conclude Renewable Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Thank you. The committee will find Renewable Resources in section ten. We were dealing with page 10-10, directorate, general comments. Does this committee wish to continue from there? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Does the Minister wish to bring his witnesses in?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

All right. We will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Would the Minister care to bring his witnesses in? Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Allooloo, for the record can you please introduce the witnesses.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Joe Handley, and the director of finance and administration, Mr. Rick Feil. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Welcome gentlemen. We were dealing with the Department of Renewable Resources. Are

there any general comments? Does the committee wish to go page by page? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail, directorate. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Do you have a quorum, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you for bringing that to my attention, Mr. Lewis. Clerk, please ring the bell. We now have a quorum. Are there any general comments? Mr. Gargan. Section ten, Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things which the department does for hunters and trappers is a designated amount of money is allocated the Workers' Compensation Board. I do not see it in any of the details. Could you tell me whether or not we still have such a program in place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program is in place. For this year, because the Workers' Compensation Board is defining who is the hunter and what income they should be eligible for, it is not in our budget. However, once the Workers' Compensation Board defines the hunter and the income, we will put it in our budget before the end of the fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

While the Workers' Compensation Board is looking at the definition of "principally engaged," do we not have a program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes, we do. We have a program. The existing policies still apply. Let me correct myself, when the Workers' Compensation Board knows how much they have spent on the hunters, at the end of each fiscal year, they bill the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. GARGAN:

The Minister wrote to me several months ago with regard to the tagging of animals. When Mr. Patterson introduced a motion with regard to the anti-fur movement, I mentioned the issue of tagging animals as unnecessary cruelty. We are still doing this. In your response to me, Mr. Minister, you also indicated that you will continue to do so. I do not know if there is justification having these bulky tags on the animals. I understand that moose are another animal you are going to be collaring. Is there a different way of doing that? There must be a microchip or something else that you could

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use, other than those big thick collars and bulky sensors that they carry around. Can you respond?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Allooooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information we get from radio collars on animals is very valuable. We are finding out about the movement of caribou on Baffin Island that scientists did not know before. Their movement is so vast on Baffin Island. We are finding out more about lynx that is very beneficial to the trappers and to the world. We are gathering information about the polar bear that we could never have received if we did not put a radio collar on them.

I will ask the department to bring radio collars here so we can show them. Maybe I will have them tomorrow at the caucus meeting to show the Members how big radio collars are, et cetera. Technology is changing and the collars are getting smaller. At the present time, unfortunately, we are not able to use computer chips that would give us the same information. We are using the latest technology and it is the best the market is able to give us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Perhaps I could see a reason for these transmitters in the western Arctic, but you mentioned the caribou on the Baffin Island. It is so open and there are no trees, observation should be fairly easy. The caribou are

not super-caribou, when they migrate, they do it slowly. Someone should be able to follow them and study them that way, too. Why not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even on Baffin Island where there are no trees or obstacles that would prevent people from seeing them, they are difficult to see. Especially at this time of year, the animals have adapted to the environment for a long period of time and they are difficult to see on the snow. They are a different colour than the caribou we see around here. If you attempt to follow them, they travel very far. In Cape Dorset there was one collared and it is now right across from Pond Inlet, which is 1,000 miles of travel in one year. It is providing us with very valuable information. We are looking at vegetation also. Where this particular caribou was one year ago, the vegetation was used up by caribou so they moved to a different area. It is very interesting to us.

The traditional knowledge of the people is confirmed to a large degree by these collars. I think it is very healthy. The international community can only go by the scientific data.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. GARGAN:

In 1982, there was a biologist looking at bison. At that time, there were about 2,000 in the Fort Providence area. This is ten years later and I would like to know the population of the bison?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Allooooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We think there are about 2,500 to 3,000 animals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Allooooloo. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

At what point in the population growth are you going to allow a community, Fort Providence for example, to harvest commercially?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Allooooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Chairman, we are experimenting with one commercial licence this year in Fort Providence. If that proves to be successful, I think we would allow more commercial hunts, depending on the population and the community, particularly if they want to do it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooooloo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to get an update. About a year ago, the department was looking at rewriting the Wildlife Act and calling it something else. I am wondering how that is coming along.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been looking at one section that covers the Inuvialuit in the act. It would take about three to four years to do the complete revision of the act for the entire Northwest Territories. Hopefully, the revision respecting the Inuvialuit settlement area will be completed this fall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooooloo. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the part of the act which deals with the feeding of caribou to dogs within the community or outside of the community, could that portion of the act be removed and made into regulations, rather than it being part of the act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Mr. Allooooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to respect traditional laws through local hunters' and trappers' associations. Their advice is very valuable. We have approached the regional wildlife boards, such as the Keewatin Wildlife Federation, to see if we could change the legislation to respect what Baker Lake people want to do, which is to remove that particular section from the act so the caribou could be fed to the dogs. The Keewatin Wildlife Federation disagrees with the Member. They think the Beverly Qamanirjuaq caribou herd is a very important resource and it has to be protected. They said, "Do not make any change to the act." Until I hear

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differently from them, we are not going to make a move on this one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooooloo. Member for Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the Minister is saying to me, but I also feel that the Keewatin Wildlife Federation, or any of these other organizations who are able to deal with sea mammals, such as the seal or walrus, are able to find other animals other than caribou. I am still being pressured by my constituents in Baker Lake because this is all we have. How difficult would it be to remove it from legislation and make it into regulations? Would it not be easier for the department to deal with that if it was a part of regulation, rather than legislation? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Feeding caribou to dogs is under regulation. To change the regulation is not difficult to do, but caribou at this point, is considered endangered in the act. Once we allow the caribou to be fed to dogs, international pressure will come to us because we are allowing this very valuable resource to be used for feeding dogs. I sympathize with the Member. Perhaps the department, the Member

himself and the HTA from Baker Lake could tackle this issue to find a way to solve the problem, if the Member would agree. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, the people of Baker Lake understand that this portion of our law, feeding caribou to dogs, is in legislation in the act. That is what I am asking.

The Minister just responded by saying it is in regulation, but it is actually in the act itself. I ask the question again, would it be difficult to remove it from legislation and make it a regulation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was wrong. It is not in regulation. It is in the act. The Member is correct. It would require a legislation change, which would have to come here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add to what my honourable colleague from Kivallivik is concerned about. Perhaps then the caribou was an endangered species, but recently, in my home community of Pelly Bay in the last five years, we have caribou coming right into the community, grazing casually, right next to the dogs. The Minister is aware, as the other Members of this House are, that recently hunters find that a great deal of the caribou have different diseases. One of them is brucellosis. When the caribou is not normal, and the meat is not fit for human consumption, can the meat be used to feed the dogs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that brucellosis in caribou, if the meat is cooked properly,

can be eaten by humans. For your other questions, if the caribou is diseased, should people be allowed to feed it to the dogs, I am not sure on this one. It would require my department to research in that particular area to see if that is the case. If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, to go back to the Member some other time, I would be happy to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

All right. Mr. Allooloo, you will get back to the Member separately. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many different kind of diseases. One of those abnormalities is the meat of the caribou sometimes has little white spots on it. Can the Minister clarify if the biologists know what kind of disease this is? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have seen those little white spots on the meat. The scientists inform us they are tapeworms. They are harmless to human beings. They are the kind which do not affect human beings if they are consumed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they are tapeworms they must be in the early stages because they are small and round. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo, what stage of development are they at?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

The Member is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Are there any general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already made most of my general comments in the Standing Committee on Finance. However, I did still have a couple of questions I wanted to ask the Minister with regard to the forest management review the Minister is conducting with respect to fire suppression, particularly with regard to the facility to look after aircraft which address fire suppression. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if it is at all possible to look at considering negotiations of constructing such a facility even while his forestry management review is taking place? Could it be done simultaneously? This is not saying that they must sit down and draw up the blue prints of the building because I know that is the intent of the forestry management review, to determine what type of building, the size, et cetera. However, to start the negotiations discussions with the groups in Fort Smith to be ready and able to start construction and planning as soon as your review is completed. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is prepared to meet with the groups in Fort Smith to explore options for this sort of contracting method. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last piece of correspondence from the Minister's office was to the Fitz Smith development corporation which indicated negotiations will not take place until the fire management review was concluded. Is it possible for the Minister's office to indicate that his department would be willing to meet with the groups to start the developmental stages of negotiations? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will write to the Fort Smith group as the Member has stated, and we will not go into specific negotiations prior to receiving the recommendations this review will come up with. Again, Mr. Chairman, my department is prepared to have meetings to explore options regarding how they should go about getting the contract for the facility. However, it is difficult at the present time to go into negotiations to come up with the facility. We can have meetings and explore options as to what they should do in terms of coming up with the building or facility. We can exchange some ideas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Minister's information, I would appreciate those types of discussions starting. I think there is some feeling in the community that this type of discussion will not start until after the review is completed. I think the earlier you start this type of discussions, the earlier your whole planning process to address fire suppression can be completed. I would like to thank the Minister for being prepared to make such a commitment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Are there any general comments? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

On one of my airplane trips an individual spoke to me about the methods we use now to fight fires. The method tendency is to use high-tech water bombers and helicopters. The individual mentioned that years ago all fires were fought by manpower, they used small planes, they would fly in and haul the hose and water pumps. Basically forest fires are natural. Fire fighting provided wages for seasonal workers. The individual was comparing the cost of one hour of flying time or one hour of use of a high-tech water bomber with how many men you can hire for the same cost. I thought it was an interesting analogy and comparison of the two. We spend a great deal of money on high-tech equipment and the majority of it has been from the south. We are using our own people resources less and less to fight and control many of these fires. I wanted to make this comment

because I thought it very interesting at the time. It makes sense from an individual's point of view who relies on seasonal employment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Alloo, did you wish to respond to that comment?

HON. TITUS ALLOO:

Mr. Chairman, I thought it was a useful comment. This is one of the areas the review will look at, how to utilize more human resources to fight fires and how to be more efficient at the same time. The use of aircraft and helicopters is also one of the things which will be reviewed on this project. Thank you.

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Line by line, directorate on page 10-10, total O and M, \$1.881 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Wildlife Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Wildlife management, total O and M, \$3.559 million. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, while we are on the subject of wildlife, this past winter, there was a meeting in Rankin Inlet regarding polar bears. There were a couple of representatives who went from our community to Rankin Inlet to express their concerns with regard to the decline of the polar bear population. Especially for the full-time hunters or outpost camp people, the polar bear skins supplement their income. Is the Minister aware if there is going to be a decreasing quota of polar bears? When I was in my community, the groups from southern Canada met in regard to this issue. I wonder if the Minister has been involved with the discussions regarding the polar bears this past winter. Can he give a response while we are on the subject of wildlife? The income from

the skins help the hunters and we are informed that, every year, they do not give birth to their pups. I wanted to know if he was involved in any way at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have taken the initiative by providing for the negotiations for polar bear management agreements. I was aware at the time about the quotas and how they were developed. That was not initiated from the communities, but it was initiated by the government. Polar bear management agreements were discussed at the recent meeting in Rankin Inlet, attended by departmental officials and polar bear hunters.

Next week the same group will be meeting in Iqaluit to deal with the Foxe Basin polar bear population. The Keewatin hunters will meet again in Rankin Inlet to discuss the Hudson Bay polar bear population and quotas.

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At the meeting in Rankin Inlet, our scientists presented their polar bear population findings and use of the traditional knowledge of the Inuit to verify the results.

Those kinds of meetings are fairly new, and in the future they will enable the government to make regulations and management agreements using the scientists' findings and the traditional knowledge of the Inuit. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for his adequate response. Yes, we are aware there was never a final agreement and they are still working on it. I just wanted further information to find out if he was fully involved with this process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be closely involved with this group. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Wildlife management, line by line. Total O and M, \$3.559 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Conservation Education And Resource Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Conservation education and resource development, total O and M, \$4.774 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Planning

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Policy and planning, total O and M, \$871,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Pollution Control

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Pollution control, total O and M, \$716,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last summer, there was a barge which hit some rocks and was spilling diesel into the water. Since that occurred, has the department reviewed its strategy with regard to emergency skills, or are you just leaving things as is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department has reviewed its contingency plan to respond to oil spills. We have also reviewed the equipment which is available to respond to those types of things. Also, reports of oil spills are reported to my office just about every day, anywhere from half a litre to 500 gallons. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Pollution control, total O and M, \$716,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Field operations, total O and M, \$8.615 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Fire Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Regional land use planning, there are no dollars on that one. Forest fire management, total O and M, \$21.408 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Forest management, total O and M, \$450,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Details of grants and contributions, grants, \$615,000.
Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There has been many questions and comments made on the types of traps used. Can the Minister elaborate on the type of research they are doing presently in the use of humane trapping? I know early last fall, we talked about the use of conibear 110 as compared to the 220s they are using now and why we could not use those kinds of traps in the north. Does the Minister or staff have any more information on the types of humane traps that are being used? What are we doing to ensure a good supply of humane traps for our trappers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Handley.

MR. HANDLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have continued to cooperate with the Fur Institute of Canada and the federal government on trap research. We have a number of different traps available which are considered to be quick-kill or humane traps, including conibear and others. In fact, there will

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be a display of various traps set up in the lobby of this building tomorrow. In terms of numbers of traps, we did run into a situation last year where some trappers had to wait a couple of days to get the necessary traps. We do not believe it had a large impact on the trapping activity. This year, we have taken or made plans to ensure that we are not going to run short of traps again. If it seems we are getting low, we will do as we did this year, we will borrow them from Yukon or other jurisdictions. Hopefully, we can get around that. Last year was a different year because our regulations with regard to trapping of small furbearers came into effect. I think we have gotten over that hump now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What about the use and research on different types of traps, for example, the conibear 110s? Why are they not legal or allowed to be used in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Conibear 110 is not considered a humane trap. In some experiments it does not kill the animal in three minutes, but it is an alternate trap if you run out of humane traps. The reason why the conibear 110 is not considered humane is the springs are not strong enough to kill the animal every time it catches. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. In terms of disaster compensation, I assume this includes floods, earthquakes, et cetera.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister, what does it include?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

It includes trappers and hunters, if they run into a problem of losing something. In some cases it has applied to floods. For instance, if a hunter's cabin goes down the river or is flooded, we have been able to compensate them, maybe not to the full amount but help them to establish again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do you have information as to who received these grants, both in disaster compensation and humane trap development? I know there is not much there, but I would like to know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have the information and can provide the information. Unfortunately, we do not have it right here, but I could provide it to the Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the trappers' incentive subsidy, the individual trappers do not always keep records of their animal harvests. Given that, I am wondering if the department monitors the program to make sure those individual trappers who harvest animals are given the money they deserve. Does the department monitor the program to make sure that every trapper who has trapped for the year, at the end of the year, is given the grants which are earned by that individual? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only grants we provide are, for example, if a person is selling furs we get the record and the person receives assistance from us. If a person is using the furs themselves, then we do not know how many are being used. When the hunter or trapper sells the product, then we can give them a little bit of help. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you get the record of the animal harvest through the dealer and if you get the record, automatically that individual is given the grant according to the harvest, or does that individual keep the record and apply for the grant? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the person does not have to keep records. We get the statistics from the dealer. Normally, we pay once a year usually in October. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Grants, \$615,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$2.017 million. Agreed? Member for Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask questions regarding the outpost camp program. I am wondering how widely this program is used by people in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is utilized by the eastern communities most often. I could provide the Member with a list of outpost camps that we support in the eastern Arctic. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Details of grants and contributions, \$2.017 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total grants and contributions, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Under contributions, is this where hunters' and trappers' associations receive money to hold regional conferences?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our support to regional wildlife organizations is on page 10-20. We support them to the tune of \$217,000. Also if the local hunters' and trappers' associations wish to give support, we fund local wildlife committees to the tune of \$768,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

You have \$217,000 in 1992-93 to support the regional wildlife organizations. How much of that is left for this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have that information at the present time. We give \$217,000 to regional organizations, but as to how much is left over I would have to get that information from them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Has the department received a request from the hunters' and trappers' associations in the Delta to host a Delta/Beaufort regional conference this spring?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that we know of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I have heard one is coming, that is why I was trying to find out how much money was left in the kitty, if any. Now you know a conference is coming.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

I thought that was a comment to make me aware that something was coming.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

It was kind of like a question, but I just thought I would give you an opportunity to respond. Before we proceed any further, the chair would like to recognize chief Herb Norwegian from Fort Simpson.

---Applause

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Before I hang up, I am looking for a commitment from the department to look favourably upon any requests received by the hunters' and trappers' organizations when a request comes in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. I told you it was a question. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will consider it as we consider all regional organizations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Details of grants and contributions, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 10-20, in order not to fund any organization or inactive board, I am

wondering if the complete list on this page is still active. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To our knowledge, yes, they are all active. They are reviewed annually.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for Natilikmiot.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the wildlife management board to be dissolved in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, once the land claims are finalized and the money is given out to the organizations from the federal government, the wildlife management boards will become more effective and more autonomous. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Member for Baffin South.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Baffin wildlife management board included in this page we are reviewing right now? Will they be receiving some contributions also? Are they included on page 10-20? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. We are on page 10-21. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the money which we contribute to the Baffin wildlife board is out of the \$217,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. It was on page 10-20, I apologize. Detail of grants and contributions. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question. Are communities which have a shortage of caribou in their area included in the 1993-94 budget? The communities have made arrangements to hunt for the other

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communities who have a shortage of caribou, particularly in the High Arctic. They are trying to conserve the Parry caribou in the High Arctic. How many communities will use the 1993-94 budget, and which communities are in most need of these funds? Can the Minister indicate this to me? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year the funding was \$70,000. There were more communities which needed assistance in 1992-93 than in the previous year, the 1990-91 fiscal year. I am talking about the base funding. During this year if there are more communities who are in need of arranged hunting for caribou then we will increase the funding. We had to increase the funding this year. Every year it differs from community to community. Some communities have asked for funding and others have not. During the 1991-92 season I can provide you with detailed information as to who requested funding and which communities received funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) This is not in the form of a question. I would like to make a comment to inform the Minister that in my constituency there are two communities who always need the funding. We are trying very hard to conserve the caribou in the High Arctic. As you know we have short days in the winter, there is darkness during the fall and winter. I wanted to inform the Minister regarding our situation and

particularly two communities in my constituency who will probably always need this funding. This was a comment to inform the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of the situation in the High Arctic with respect to the two communities in his constituency. We also wish to express our appreciation to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay for conserving the Parry caribou. This will let the world know people are able to manage their wildlife very well. I wish to express our appreciation to those two communities. The world will be aware of how well the Inuit people can manage their wildlife with regard to caribou management. We will assist these communities in any way we can and with the amount of funding which we have for them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Qujannamiik, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a general question. Just about every community in the eastern Arctic has a wildlife guardian position. This is a creation of the Department of Renewable Resources. Who recommends which individual should be hired? Does that person hold the job at his or her pleasure? Is the position reviewed by the department, the HTA or some other group within the community? It seems to me the person works at his or her pleasure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wildlife guardians are chosen from the local hunters' and trappers' association with input from the local or nearby officer. I am trying to change the position. I am working with the Minister of Education to see if he can identify some training monies to train local people, who are chosen by the local HTA and also with input from the officer. This year we are able to agree that four training positions will be allocated to train wildlife

officers. If we continue to do this then we can train enough local people to be officers for all the communities eventually. We would then do away with the wildlife guardians, which are part-time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From time to time we get carried away. I wonder if there is a way the wildlife guardian position could be reviewed by the local HTA to make sure this person is on top of everything and does a good job. Is there a way to get the hunters' and trappers' association to review the position if the person is not seen as doing a good job? Then, perhaps, another person could be found from within the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Chairman, yes. I thought the local HTA with the local officer or a neighbouring officer reviews the position of wildlife guardians and I thought that was being done. If it is not being done, it shall be done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. For the record, I am not saying that the person is not doing a good job, but there should be some kind of policy in place within the community to make sure everything is operated accordingly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To get the point across to HTAs, I will write a letter to each HTA who has a wildlife guardian to say that it is up to officers to review the positions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arngha'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask, under local wildlife committees, what is meant by, "which provide similar services?"

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngha'naaq. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the eastern Arctic, we have hamlet councils and we normally have

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a local hunters' and trappers' associations. In the western Arctic, they do not always have local hunters' committee or local hunters' and trappers' association. In that case, we give the bands that responsibility, and they provide similar services as hunters' and trappers' associations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We were on details of grants and contributions. The amount was \$2.17 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Grants and contributions, total, \$2.632 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

All right. We will move to information item, fur marketing revolving fund. Are there any questions on that? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is the area where I have my concern in regard to the poor fur harvest this year and the trappers' incentive program. Could the Minister explain how this fur harvest incentive works? Does it work on a percentage of how much a trapper makes in a year? With this poor trapping season and the trappers hardly going out this year, and those who did made very little, this incentive is not going to work next fall, if they want to go back. Could the Minister explain to me and everyone else how he is going to deal with the situation next fall? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Chairman, this particular one on page 10-22, is a revolving fund. We give advances to the trappers when they are going out. When they come back, after they have sold their furs, that goes back to this fund. I think the Member is questioning the ones which we dealt with on page 10-19. Particularly for this year, the Member has stated this is a very bad trapping season. I have asked my department to see if we can find ways to help these trappers who are suffering hardship. I understand my deputy minister is working with the Department of Social Services to see if they can find ways to help these people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

All right. I was not in the House when we were dealing with page 10-19, I was talking to a chief from Fort Simpson. We were discussing the trappers' incentive subsidy in the back room when you were dealing with it out here. In the Fort Simpson area, they want to have a meeting with the trappers to see how they can deal with this. Perhaps I could go back to page 10-19 on the trappers' incentive. Next fall, the way the trappers' incentive subsidy works, the department estimates how much a trapper made in a year and it gives them back a percentage for the following year to get them going in the fall. That is eventually recovered through the trapping season. With the trapping season being very poor this year, if trappers want to go back next fall, they are going to have a real problem because many of them did not

make the kind of money they made over the last five years. There is discussion going on. They want to discuss this situation. One of the options they are looking at is proposing to the department to look at the last five years, average it out and give them an incentive based on that. This year's trapping was very poor. My cousin normally makes about \$1,500 or \$2,000 a year, and this year he made approximately \$200. If you are going to give him a percentage of that it is going to be nothing, so you are going to have to base it on something. That is the direction of my questioning. Are you going to look at different ways of assisting trappers in the fall because of the trapping season being very poor this current year? If you could give me an answer to see how you are going to deal with it, I would appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we could look at those different options. Since the policy is a Cabinet policy, if there are going to be any changes I would have to go back to Cabinet to change the policy. Yes, we could look at different options. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

I would like to thank the Minister for that. The trappers in the community of Fort Simpson are planning to meet some time next week. They want to discuss this issue. They are saying they would like to make a proposal on how to deal with the trappers' incentive subsidy because they see it as a problem for next fall. If we propose something now, perhaps something might be in place by next fall's trapping season. Would you accept that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The earlier, the better. It will give us a chance to explore options to change the policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Fur marketing service revolving fund was an information item. Detail of work performed on behalf of third-parties, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total department, \$3.112 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 10-9, program summary, total O and M, \$42.274 million. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Do we agree that we are concluded with the Department of Renewable Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you and your staff on behalf of the committee. Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to deal with Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, and subsequently, Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act. If time allows, we can go into the Department of Transportation. However, Mr. Chairman, we are not prepared to go

beyond the adjournment time because there is an Ordinary Members' Caucus meeting immediately after. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We will go to Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act. Minister of Health, would you be prepared to proceed with opening remarks? Minister of Health.

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, Introductory Remarks

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act. The Mental Health Act covers patients who need to be hospitalized for treatment of mental disorders. The act is complex and has been amended twice. A number of amendments now being proposed are technical in nature. They deal with problems which have surfaced as the act was being used in the field.

We are proposing two major changes. The first deals with consent to treatment by involuntary patients. Involuntary patients are patients who are being detained because they suffer from mental disorder and may be dangerous either to others or to themselves. Right now, the act allows treatment to be administered to an involuntary patient without his or her consent. However, the courts have been threatening patients' rights to refuse treatment regardless of the patient's circumstances. In order to keep the act in line with developments in the law, we therefore propose to remove the authority to treat an involuntary patient without consent. As well, the department supports giving patients more say in the treatment which they will receive.

The second substantial change concerns the confidentiality of patients' hospital records. Currently, the act requires the patient's consent prior to release of any information about the treatment they receive or their plan of follow-up care from their hospital record. The preferred way is for the patient to sign the release

of information. However, sometimes it is difficult to get the patient's consent, especially as quickly as it is often needed. The department has identified a need in these situations to provide information from patients' hospital records to health professionals who are treating or providing follow-up care to patients in the community.

Discharge and treatment plan information is essential if patients are to be supported in the community. Keeping patients in the community has many advantages, such as support from family and friends and similarity with the local language. The department is, therefore, proposing to remove the requirement of consent where a medical practitioner, a nurse or a psychologist working outside the hospital requires information about a patient's hospitalization in order to provide follow-up care to the patient once they have left the hospital. This information would be exchanged between the hospital and the community health professional. In many instances, this information would be in the way of a telephone call or a copy of discharge records. Discharge information is routinely provided to the referring nurse or a doctor for either type of illnesses.

The act provides for a safe-guard on the release of the information. Health professionals are regulated under legislation and have an ethical duty to maintain patient confidentiality. As well, the person in charge of a hospital has the final say as to whether the information should be released. Information would only be released to nurses or doctors who referred the patient in the first place, or a health professional responsible for providing follow-up care in the community.

In addition, we are proposing to provide for an informal process for choosing a substitute consent giver for the purpose of consenting to the release of an incompetent patient's hospital record. Currently, it is not clear who can give or withhold the consent to record release in the rare case where no substitute consent giver for treatment purposes has yet been formally appointed.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments. I am prepared to respond to any questions Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation prepared to submit his report? Mr. Arnagna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation reviewed Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, at public meetings in Yellowknife on January 22 and February 17 of 1993. The committee would like to thank the Government Leader, the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, the Minister of Health, the Honourable Rebecca Mike, and the officials from the Departments of Health and Justice for presenting this bill and responding to committee Members' questions and concerns.

Bill 12 would amend the Mental Health Act in several ways. Currently, there is no procedure in the Mental Health Act to appoint a substitute consent giver for a mentally incompetent

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person when a hospital wishes to disclose the patient's health records, if no consent giver has been appointed for treatment purposes. The bill would allow the procedure now in the act for the appointment of a substitute consent giver for the purpose of consenting to treatment to be used to appoint a substitute consent giver to consent to the disclosure of health records.

This bill would also amend sections of the Mental Health Act which deal with consent to treatment. At present, the act allows treatment to be given to involuntary patients under certain circumstances, even though the treatment is refused by the patient or substitute consent giver. This bill would amend the act to remove the authority of physicians in the Northwest Territories to treat a patient without the consent of the patient, where the patient is mentally competent.

Where the patient is not mentally competent, treatment would only be authorized when the substitute consent giver appointed under the act consents to the treatment, or when no substitute consent giver is available and the situation is an emergency. These amendments are consistent with recent court decisions respecting treatment without consent.

This bill would also amend the Mental Health Act to broaden the access of health care workers to patients' health records. Currently access to health care records may be given to administrators of other

hospitals involved in a patient's care upon a written request. This bill would allow records to be transmitted to those administrators without the need for a written request. As well the Mental Health Act now allows health care records to be given to another person involved in the patient's care without the consent of the patient or substitute consent giver if the delay in obtaining consent would endanger the patient.

This bill would allow health care records to be released to medical practitioners, nurses and psychologists outside the hospital for the purpose of the patient's assessment or treatment. It would not be necessary to obtain the consent of the patient or to consider whether a delay in obtaining consent would endanger the patient. This bill would also amend the Mental Health Act to include definitions for aboriginal language, medical practitioner and a nurse to amend the French terminology.

Members of the standing committee questioned the Government Leader and the Minister of Health extensively on this bill. The committee was concerned that the provisions of the bill dealing with the appointment of a substitute consent giver for consenting to the disclosure of health records were not clear as to whether these consent givers are subject to other good faith provisions of the act. The good faith provisions require other consent givers to act in good faith to attempt to ascertain the wishes of the patient, to encourage the patient to participate in decision-making and to sign a statement agreeing to perform in this manner. The committee was concerned that the position of substitute consent givers for the disclosure of health records was not clear under the legislation. The committee questioned the rationale for not placing the new substitute consent givers clearly within the jurisdiction of the good faith provisions. Some Members of the committee also questioned the need and rationale for broadening of access to health records by health care workers outside the hospital. It seemed inconsistent to some Members that this bill strengthened the right of patients to refuse treatment while removing their ability to refuse the disclosure of their health records. Members may want to pursue these issues in committee of the whole.

This concludes my remarks on Bill 12, Mr. Chairman. I invite other committee Members to make any additional comments on this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arngha'naaq. Are there any general comments on this bill? Madam Minister, do you wish to bring in witnesses?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Madam Minister, for the record please introduce your witnesses.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The assistant deputy minister, Elaine Berthelet, and Shawn Flynn the legislative counsel from the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Are there any general comments on Bill 12? Mr. Ningark.

General Comments

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need to make a correction to my earlier comments. We will not be doing Bill 5 today. Mr. Chairman, to the issue at hand, I have no problem with Bill 12 because we have discussed this extensively in the Standing Committee on Legislation. I think the act speaks for itself. I have no problem with that. Thank you.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Are there any general comments? Clause by clause. Clause 1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 2, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 3, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Clause 4, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 5, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe, general comments?

MR. KOE:

Can we please take a two minute break in order to get copies of the standing committee's notes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe, was this for general comments or clause 5 specifically?

MR. KOE:

There were issues raised in the standing committee's report. I have heard it verbally. I wanted to make reference to some of the comments made in the report. I have asked the chairman of the committee to provide me with a copy of the report. He is doing that now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We went through general comments and we are on clause 5. We need the committee's concurrence to return to general comments. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee agrees and the committee has requested a five minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will come to order. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Referring to the Standing Committee on Legislation's report regarding this bill, the committee was concerned that the position of substitute consent givers for the disclosure of health records was not clear under the legislation. The committee questioned the rationale for not placing a new "substitute care givers" clearly within the jurisdiction of the good faith provisions. Has this issue been clarified?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe, we have to seek the consent of the committee to return to general comments.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask Members if we can return to general comments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Committee consent is being sought to return to general comments. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Mr. Koe.

General Comments

MR. KOE:

I have made my comment previously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister. There was a question in the comments Mr. Koe made. Was it clear, or should we go back to it for your benefit?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Shawn Flynn to respond to Mr. Koe's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a good question. Currently in the act, there are several fall-back provisions which safeguard the patient's information and impose duties on the substitute consent giver who is appointed solely for record purposes. If this person wants to be exempt from liability under the act, there is a provision in section 59 which requires that person to act in good faith.

There is also a safeguard in the fact that the records are in the care and custody of the person in charge of the hospital. That person has discretion as to whether they are to be released, and that is indicated in section 48(3) of the act. If these records are released to a person who acts in less than good faith, the damage can be controlled by section 48(2), where it is clear that "no person shall disclose or transmit or examine a patient's health records, other than provided in the act." So, if a "bad" substitute consent giver acted improperly, he is punishable under the act for doing so. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The other issue raised by the committee is the need and rationale for a broadening of access to health records by health care workers outside the hospital. In the committee's comments it says, "it seemed inconsistent that this bill strengthen the right of patients to refuse treatment, while removing their ability to refuse the disclosure of their health records." Again, just for the record, has this been looked at or have you any comments on this observation made by the committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

I will let Mr. Flynn respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand the committee's concern, it is that doctors and nurses in the community would be given access to a patient's records without their consent. This issue has been contrasted with the different treatment afforded to the individual to refuse treatment under the act. That decision has more significant constitutional status than a patient's confidentiality of his records, which has not yet received recognition as a constitutional right. That being the case, the statute is not contravening a right other

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than the common law one afforded to a patient in respect to confidentiality of information. That is not an absolute right, statutes can vary that right. They are doing so in this instance for the benefit of the patient to ensure that he gets better care on the basis of the information contained in his records. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is the Minister satisfied that the bill we are amending adequately covers the issues and concerns raised by the committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I have no problem with this particular bill because according to my humble understanding, the act is subject to an appeal if the act is deemed to be contradictory to a person's rights. Thank you.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Any further general comments? We will return to clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We are on the bottom of page three. It says "commencement." Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Thank you Madam Minister and your witnesses for assisting the committee with Bill 12. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing we have a few minutes left, we will allow Mr. Todd to make his opening remarks for Transportation. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Is the committee in agreement that we return to Bill 17 with Minister Todd's opening remarks on the Department of Transportation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Agreed. Mr. Todd, would you proceed with your opening remarks?

Department Of Transportation, Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the Department of Transportation's proposed O and M budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year to the Legislative Assembly.

In its O and M budget, the department proposed expenditures in 1993-94 of \$45.8 million. The Members will notice that this is an increase of \$5.8 million over the department's 1992-93 budget of \$39.9 million.

The largest component of the increase is an internal \$4.1 million transfer from the department's capital program to its O and M budget. This is an administrative procedure to account for routine, year-to-year expenditures which are necessary for the upkeep of transportation infrastructure and which are not new capital construction projects. Most of the transfer, \$3.2 million, is within the airport operations program for the regular and systematic rehabilitation of airport runway surfaces.

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The budget also includes an additional \$750,000 necessary for the ongoing operation and maintenance

of new infrastructure delivered under the department's capital program. The newly built or renovated air terminal buildings and equipment garages at Coppermine, Holman, Igloodik, Rankin Inlet and Tuktoyaktuk will require \$255,000. The department has added four new airports to its system of community airports. These new airports are at Lac La Martre, Lutsel K'e, Paulatuk and Rae Lakes and involve O and M expenditures of \$405,000.

Another new item in the department's O and M budget in 1993-94 is the assumption of responsibility for the administration and operation of the national safety code. Along with all other provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada, the Northwest Territories is signatory to the national safety code agreement. This is a national program to establish higher and more consistent safety standards in the trucking industry across Canada. Under the national safety code agreement, the federal government assumed the costs for the first five years of development, implementation and start-up of the program with the provinces and territories taking over the costs thereafter. The 1993-94 budget for the Department of Transportation therefore includes, \$396,000 and five person years for the national safety code program.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, I have been and remain a strong proponent of "hire north" and "buy north" policies.

The Department of Transportation employs 222 people of whom 42 per cent are long-term northerners and 29 per cent are aboriginal. As the Minister, I will be encouraging the department to do better in attracting more northerners for managerial positions. The department will only recruit from southern Canada as a last resort.

The department also provides employment for a large number of northerners through its contracting. Negotiated contracts have been used to undertake maintenance operations on the highway system. In these cases, local development corporations can take advantage of the business opportunities and provide employment for residents who live near the area of work.

In addition, 36 of the department's 42 community airports are operated and maintained through contracts with the municipalities which hire their staff locally. The Department of Transportation has done much to "hire north" and I will be encouraging it to do even better in the future.

Most of the department's annual expenditures are made through construction, maintenance and purchasing contracts. In the first eight months of 1992-93, the department's contract awards came to \$47.6 million. Almost \$42 million or 88 per cent of these contracts went to northern contractors and suppliers. My goal as Minister is to see more local, community participation in the department's contract expenditures.

I have already made a statement earlier this session to say that I will update the transportation strategy. The system of transportation infrastructure we build in the Northwest Territories will have a major impact on the direction and the pace our economic and social future will take. Money is scarce and new roads, airports and sea ports are expensive to contract and maintain.

I want to be sure that the department's expenditures on infrastructure developments are taking us where we want to go. I will be going to the federal government in Ottawa for significant new transportation funding. I need to have an up-to-date, practical and compelling transportation strategy that Ottawa knows has the firm support and backing of every Member of this Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Transportation's operation and maintenance budget is aimed at keeping our systems of transportation infrastructure operating safely, efficiently and reliably within the constraints of our government's reduced financial position. Through its expenditures, the department will aim at making the most of local and northern training, employment and business opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, do you have your report?

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clearly there is excitement about the potential benefits to northerners resulting for mineral exploration and development the proposed development of a new port and highway from Yellowknife to the Arctic coast. The committee supports the Department of Transportation in

ensuring it goes ahead with maximum benefits to northerners.

On a more routine basis, as the Minister knows, this committee is most concerned that the department achieve reductions in the costs of transportation which adds so much to the northern cost of living. Secondly, better access to isolated communities is also key. This can be accomplished through providing access roads in some communities or better flight services in others.

The committee recognizes that the Minister is new to the department. However, with his experience we trust he will get to the bottom line quickly and get the most out of our investment in transportation dollars. We also trust the Minister will ensure that the Northwest Territories receives its fair share of the federal government transportation initiatives of \$500 million and pursues other funding options. We note the Minister mentioned he was going after those.

Finally, the committee was surprised that the department did not know the status of decentralizing Arctic airports. This gives us further concerns about the government's communication and apparent disorganization.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has one motion which I would like to present which relates to the Department of Transportation.

Committee Motion 79-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 25

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Transportation table the listing of Northwest Territories transportation projects with the benefit/cost ratios indicated, by region/community and in order of greatest benefit to cost.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. 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

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes the remarks from the Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Are there any general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion which is not debateable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Before we proceed with item 19, I would like to wish, on behalf of all Members, a very happy birthday to Mr. Koe.

---Applause

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; Committee Report 11-12(3), Report on the Review of the 1993-94 Main Estimates; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 12 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 6:00 pm, tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the full Caucus, and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 9, 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 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 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

- Minister's Statement 34-12(2), Long-Term Staff Housing Strategy

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

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

- Appearance by Members of Commission for Constitutional Development

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19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

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

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 pm, Tuesday, March 9, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT