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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 66-12(3): Report Of The Family Law Review Committee

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, today I will be tabling the report of the ministerial working group on family law reform. This was first tabled on October 2, 1992. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our progress with the report.

The eight member family law review working group was established in 1988, by the Honourable Michael Ballantyne, then Minister of Justice, and the Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, then Minister of Social Services. The group was made up of representatives of the Dene Nation, Native Women's Association, Metis Nation, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Pauktuutit, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, advisory council on the Status of Women, the Law Society and the Departments of Justice and Social Services.

A contractor was engaged and the working group had three researchers to help them in collecting information about customary family law. The researchers conducted extensive consultations in communities in all regions across the Northwest Territories.

The contractor did not finish the project. This led to some delays. The members of the working group took over the completion of the project. Their original roles had been to give direction to the contractor. The

working group members were people who already had full-time commitments, so it was even a greater challenge for them to complete the report.

The report itself is made up of 256 working group recommendations. These recommendations are, to a large extent, based on background material contained in a lengthy appendix one, but for many of the recommendations there is no back-up material on which to proceed. A number of the recommendations have not received the consensus of the working group. Some members propose one course of action and other members propose a different solution. That leaves the Departments of Justice and Social Services with an even greater task to complete.

The report calls for the replacement of many of the current statutes with entirely new legislation. It also recommends the establishment of aboriginal justice councils to hear family law matters so that communities are able to control and govern their own lives according to the values and priorities of the communities themselves.

Since we received the report in late September, the Departments of Justice and Social Services have been reviewing the recommendations. Some of them have been identified as giving rise to constitutional issues and a legal opinion is being prepared on these. Members will have noted that one of the 1993-94 definitive objectives for the Department of Justice is to complete our consultation with interested organizations in preparation for drafting revised legislation.

Between now and the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly the Department of Justice, working with the Department of Social Services, plans to analyze the recommendations and conduct the further legal research required to produce a consultation document for Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

By the end of the 1993-94 fiscal year we expect to have completed consultation and to have a drafting plan ready for legislative drafters. This will be a major drafting project and we have not yet determined the drafting time that will be required. This will not prevent us from dealing more quickly with some areas of the law which require immediate attention. During this process minor amendments can still be made to existing legislation.

The Status of Women council has reviewed the family law review report and has forwarded their remarks to

the Department of Justice. Generally, the remarks are positive about the report. I encourage others to review the report and respond to it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

Minister's Statement 67-12(3): Minister's Absence From House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable John Todd will be absent from the House today as he is attending meetings with the Keewatin Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Re Defeat Of MLA Sharks By Media Ravens Hockey Team

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with heavy heart that I rise today ...

---Laughter

... to state, for the record, that the MLA Sharks were narrowly defeated by the media Ravens hockey team. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the unthinkable happened last Saturday evening in front of more than 100 spectators. The unsinkable MLA Sharks were benched 8-6 by the Ravens. We can take some consolation, however, in the fact that our very own Sheila MacPherson was named the media's most valuable player.

---Applause

---Laughter

Ms. MacPherson also had the distinction of collecting the first penalty of the game, a shameful fact that will probably get our lawyer disbarred. The Sharks can also take consolation in the fact that they played a good solid, and most importantly, Mr. Speaker, clean

hockey game. Since I consider myself a good sport, Mr. Speaker, I will not accuse the media of cheating, although that we all know they did.

---Laughter

---Laughter

The Sharks were also disappointed when the Government Leader, Nellie "The Puck Stops Here" Cournoyea was arrested by the caribou cops just seconds after the game began, another shameful act, Mr. Speaker.

On the positive side, Mr. Speaker, we would like to thank the following MLAs for their fine performance: Titus "Beebop" Allooloo, Rebecca "You Are Lucky I Am The Minister Of Health" Mike, Richard "Madtrapper" Nerysoo, Henry "Zorro" Zoe, James "Lee Van Cleefe" Arvaluk, and Jim "The Lynx River Trapper" Antoine. I would also like to thank the Assembly staff and the deputy ministers who helped strengthen the Sharks' roster.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize to the general manager, David "Scottie" Hamilton, on behalf of the Sharks for losing. I promise Mr. Hamilton that next year the road dog will be carrying our flag around the arena. By the way, Mr. Speaker, you will have to do a much better job at juggling the lines if you want to be a coach next year.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

One observation as a coach, on other teams people who criticize the coach are sent down to the minors and can play the rest of their career for a federal government farm team.

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Annual Meeting Of The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the annual meeting of the Gwich'in renewable resources council, which was held in Inuvik from March 17 to 19, 1993. Renewable resources councils, which have basically replaced the hunters' and trappers' association, have been established by the Gwich'in comprehensive land claim agreement. Clause 12.9.1 of the agreement states that there shall be a

renewable resources council in each Gwich'in community to encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies and research and wildlife management in the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I was very impressed with the level of commitment and the participation of the 30 plus delegates of this meeting. Many issues were discussed and some of the resolutions dealt with the compensation for hunters and trappers, and the establishment of a trap manufacturing plant. Many issues related to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. They wish to establish a fur auction house. They wish to establish a renewable resource management program in the Gwich'in settlement area. They wish to establish a tannery. They also set some restrictions on hunting of grizzly bears and caribou on the Dempster highway.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling copies of the resolutions which were adopted at this meeting, later today. Again, I wish to congratulate the organizers of the meeting, all the participants, and, especially, the chairperson, William Greenland and the co-chairperson, Morris Blake, who kept the proceedings moving and discussions on track. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. We have visitors in the gallery, the mayor and deputy mayor of Fort Simpson, Mr. Ray Michaud and Mr. Tom Wilson.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Designation of River Ridge Facility As "Secure Facility"

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and in particular, thank you for coaching the hockey game. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 18, I questioned the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, on the government's plans to make the River Ridge facility, located in Fort Smith, an open custody facility for young offenders. As members of the public may know, this facility was originally planned and built

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as a secure custody facility for young offenders. Mr. Speaker, I am cognizant of the government's desire to save money by designating this facility as an open custody facility. It is my understanding the secure custody facility is currently being under utilized. Nonetheless, I am very concerned that the government is making this decision rashly and without adequate consideration of the need for young offenders.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Young Offenders Act has two very different definitions for open custody and secure custody. Open custody means custody in a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, wilderness camp or any other like place or facility. Secure custody means custody in a place designated or the secure containment or restraint of young persons. These two definitions suggest very different types of custodial facilities. The Minister has already indicated that there will be no renovations to the River Ridge centre which will remove the bars and other secure devices which makes this facility a secure custody facility.

Mr. Speaker, in a Prince Edward Island court case, the court held that the King's County Jail was a facility for adult offenders, a secure facility and also an open custody facility. Justice MacDonald, at the time, indicated the physical characteristics of a facility were relevant to a determination of whether the facility could be designated as an open custody facility. He indicated that the physical characteristics of an institution were not conclusive and that other characteristics such as the number of staff, the qualifications of staff, and the establishment of programs set for the benefits of offenders were also relevant for determining whether a place could be properly designated as an open custody facility within the meaning of the Young Offenders Act.

Similarly, in Nova Scotia's decision...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your allotted time has lapsed.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Similarly, in Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court held that the dual designation of a jail as both an open and secure placement was improper. In that decision the court focused on the lack of facilities and the lack of programs for guidance and assistance for young offenders in determining whether the designation was valid.

Mr. Speaker, the Young Offenders Act and judges in sentencing young offenders have made a very clear distinction between open custody and secure custody. I do not believe the Minister can simply wave his wand or his hand and without proper structural alterations and other personal modifications change a facility from open custody to secure custody. I will continue to pursue this issue with the Minister until such time as the concerns of my constituents as to the validity of the Minister's actions have been fully addressed by his department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On High Quality Of Construction On Ingraham Trail

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I went for a drive on the highway out of Yellowknife. I thought at first this highway went nowhere. It is called the Ingraham Trail and 20 kilometres of it is paved. As I drove along the highway, I realized that this highway did go some place. At the end of the highway there is a mine and there is a great deal of transportation going back and forth. There are people taking advantage of that highway, they have cabins along the lakes, recreational facilities and people can ice fish and caribou hunt. This kind of highway is good for this community. As I was driving along, I realized if we had a highway down the Mackenzie Valley, there would be equal opportunity for us to enjoy the land as the people from Yellowknife enjoy their land.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER:

The eastern Arctic, too.

MR. ANTOINE:

The eastern Arctic, as well. The highway is important because people make use of the country. I was fortunate enough to run into a herd of caribou, so I took advantage of that as well.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER:

A kilometre and a half off the road?

MR. ANTOINE:

A kilometre and a half off the road, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. ANTOINE:

I also noticed that 20 kilometres of this highway was paved and I was thinking why could we not have the highway paved from Fort Simpson to the airport, which is only about 16 kilometres. If Yellowknife can have this, why can we not have this in Fort Simpson?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Senior Men's Curling Rink

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several days ago, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Inuvik made a statement in this House with regard to our representatives at national curling events. I think he commended those who had already participated in national events and represented the Northwest Territories very well. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, during the past week, as was pointed out by Mr. Koe, Mr. Delmage, Mr. Mel Smith, Mr. Ron Kapicki and Mr. Larry Elkin, who we all know very well as the president of the Housing

Corporation, placed second in our national senior men's championships.

---Applause

I think that is commendable on their part and it bodes well for our curling in the Northwest Territories, but even more than that, the kind of athletes that we have the capacity to develop in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 530-12(3): Transfer Of Arctic College Credits To Southern Institutions

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Antoine on March 18, 1993, with regard to the transfer of Arctic College credits to southern institutions.

In general, Arctic College graduates, like graduates from other colleges in Canada, may apply to enter programs offered through other post-secondary institutions. These institutions will review the courses students have taken, the credits they have achieved and determine what credits they will recognize towards the programs students wish to enter.

Arctic College does have formal accreditation agreements with seven other post-secondary institutions for specific programs. The community administration program is accredited with St. Lawrence College; university transfer programs are accredited with the Universities of Alberta and Athabasca; the eastern Arctic teacher education program is accredited with McGill University; the western Arctic teacher education program is accredited with the University of Saskatoon and the social worker program is accredited with the Universities of Calgary and Regina. Arctic College is currently negotiating with the University of McGill concerning accreditation for the interpreter/translator program and with the University of Trent concerning the accreditation of the native studies program.

In addition, the certified nursing assistants' program is recognized nationally. To graduate students must pass a Canada-wide examination. Also, the renewable resource training program is one of ten programs in North America recognized by the American Wildlife Technology Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, I tabled Tabled Document 82-12(3), which was a Press Independent article about an incident which involved a sexual assault issue of a young offender in Hay River. In the article one of the Minister's senior corrections officials, Mr. Friesen, confirmed that there can be up to four youths living in a single dorm at the Hay River facility. Mr. Friesen is also quoted as saying, "It would be ideal to have single rooms, but it is just too costly to build." Recognizing that the Hay River facility has proven to be completely inadequate as a place to provide secure custody, can the Minister tell the House why his department has now decided to use it as a secure custody institution along with an open custody institution and a remand custody institution? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the facility in Hay River can house up to 16. River Ridge can take only 14. We designated the facilities in Hay River, Fort Smith and Iqaluit to have three classifications so they can take care of young offenders who are sentenced to secure custody. These facilities are also designated to handle remand and open custody, so it gives us the flexibility we need. We are of the opinion that the facilities can legally meet the definition of closed and open custody

in each case. The new designations give us the flexibility we need to make the best use of these facilities. At the present time, the number of young offenders who are sentenced to secure custody number more than 14. So, that was the reason to make the plans to move all the young offenders who are sentenced to secure custody to Hay River.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that Mr. Friesen, who is probably one of the Minister's most experienced officials working with young offenders, has stated for the public record that a dormitory style facility creates special supervision problems, how can the Minister justify a facility such as the Hay River secure facility to be a triple designate for young offenders who are sentenced by the courts? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I missed the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Would you please re-phrase the question, Mrs. Marie-Jewell?

Supplementary To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I would like the Minister to justify the Hay River secure facility as a triple designate facility to house young offenders who have been sentenced by the courts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we have designed Hay River as a facility which could be used as an open custody facility, a closed custody facility or for the purpose of dealing with remands. As far as I know, it complies with the conditions required by the courts as to what can be designed as secure or open. What we are trying to achieve is some flexibility so the long-term planning and best use of the facilities which we currently have can be done without having to spend additional money. This is the course of action we have decided to take. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, under the Young Offenders Act, territorial legislation allows for open custody or wilderness camps. Open custody is generally for young offenders who are designated by the courts to have committed crimes such as offending the Liquor Act or break and enters. Secure custody is generally repeated offenders who have committed either sexual assaults or murder. I would like to ask the Minister, how can he justify placing these young offenders who have such a variety of crimes, in an institution with a triple designation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, we have sent the deputy minister plus the staff from corrections division to Fort Smith to meet with the union and staff to review the plans we have initiated. We will see how those discussions go. If the management of these facilities has differing opinions from our management as to whether we are meeting the spirit and intent of legislation, we will know in due course, but as far as I know there is agreement from everyone except the union. However, that may change. What we are doing is proper and probably in the best interests of everyone for the short-term. In the long-term, there will be some work completed to see how the corrections

facilities which we presently have meet with the needs of the communities that are increasingly asking for community-based facilities and bush camps to take care of young offenders. We will also be looking at communities taking responsibility for adult offenders who are remanded until court appearances and sentencing, and also adult offenders who, in many cases, the communities feel they can, with minimal or no supervision, take full responsibility for. That is the short-term objective.

As I said last week, we have some concern that since we had originally tried to open another open custody facility in Hay River and have stopped work on that project because of some local controversy, instead of spending \$300,000 opening another open custody facility somewhere in the territories, we have decided the best use in the short-term of River Ridge was to move the young offenders who are sentenced to secure custody to Hay River and to have open custody young offenders in River Ridge. That is for a period of a few months and that would give us the time required to set the basis for longer term planning.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. This is your final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe this issue is only a concern for the union, I believe it is a concern for the staff at River Ridge. They sent me a letter dated March 14, asking me to assist them to allow for their institution to be maintained as a secure facility, probably due to the number and types of training courses they have taken over the past couple of years. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister -- he did not, by the way, answer my question -- if he can tell this House whether his department has determined the extent to which the GNWT is legally liable for physical or emotional damages which are suffered by a young offender who is victimized while they are incarcerated in a territorial facility, particularly a young offender facility? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 554-12(3): Designation Of River Ridge Facility As Secure Facility

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the Member is asking for a legal opinion, but I know there was an investigation into this particular incident which the Member is referring to. The report of the investigation concluded there was no negligence or wrong doing on the part of the staff who run the facility. We are always aware...

AN HON. MEMBER:

(microphone turned off)

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I do not mind answering questions in this House, but I do not like being interrupted by the Member because on record it gives the impression that I am not answering the question or that I sit down in the middle of answering the question. There is no recording of the cat calling and the bits of petty abuse that the Member...

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, if you have a point of order, make a point of order. Point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is imputing motives such as cat calling or whatever. Many times we, on this side of the House, request clarity, but I do not believe we are cat calling. I would ask the Minister to answer the question and not make other types of allegations which are totally unwarranted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. You do not have a point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Kakfwi, in the normal course of debate the chair, everywhere in the country, allows a certain latitude and some responses on either side to statements or questions asked by the other side. When the chair thinks that those responses are getting out of hand, the chair will obviously call people to order. In this particular case, I did not think that the

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responses were getting out of hand. I will ask people, according to our rules, to respect each other and try to allow Ministers to complete their answers and, it works the other way, for Ministers to allow Members

to ask their questions. We will get back to business.
Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I think I will review Hansard tomorrow and pick up where I left off. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 555-12(3): Departmental Initiatives Re Trap Manufacturing

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have raised this issue before in this Assembly, this past year has not been a good year for trappers. There was a change of the style of the traps that are used and, especially in the Gwich'in area and the Delta/Beaufort area, the trappers, at one stage, could not get access to traps. At that time, I asked the Minister to look at the possibility of having a trap manufacturing plant in the north. One of the motions passed this past week by the renewable resource council was that they establish a trap manufacturing plant in the Gwich'in settlement area. Can the Minister please advise if his department has done any work in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.

Return To Question 555-12(3): Departmental Initiatives Re Trap Manufacturing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct. Last fall, when the trapping season opened, we were short of traps for all trappers. Even though we had ordered them, we were only able to get a certain amount which was not enough. We called manufacturers to see if we could get some more. They were not able to keep up to the level of demand that the people of Northwest Territories were demanding. We have done some exploration to see whether there could be manufacturing of traps in the Northwest Territories. I understand my department is working with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to see if that could be feasible. Up to this point, the two departments are continuing to see if the Northwest Territories

companies could start manufacturing the traps.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 555-12(3): Departmental Initiatives Re Trap Manufacturing

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister then confirm that he, and his department, supports the initiative of trying to get some kind of trap manufacturing plant in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.

Further Return To Question 555-12(3): Departmental Initiatives Re Trap Manufacturing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 556-12(3): Community Consultation Re HAP Program Changes

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, up to now, people who are living in public units are barely able to pay the rent because of low income and the high cost of living. There has been some speculation that, at some time in the future, the Minister will be reviewing the possibility of increasing the rents for public units. Will the Minister inform the public before he plans to increase the rent because, in the past, we have not been informed by the Minister? The people are complaining that they have not been informed by the Minister of Personnel when he decided to look at the long-term housing strategy. From that, I hope we learn and the Minister will inform the public of his plans. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 556-12(3): Community Consultation Re HAP Program Changes

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any change to any policy will use a community consultation process. We will develop a paper for discussion, table it and send it out to communities. There is a consultation process where you use the community advisory committees, the regional advisory committees and also the advisory committee of MLAs, so everyone will be included in the discussion and the decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 557-12(3): Water And Sewer Subsidies In Fort Simpson

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The village of Fort Simpson is the same size and even smaller than some of the hamlets in the Northwest Territories. The hamlets are fully subsidized by this government. Fort Simpson is tax-based, but it is very small. It depends on this government for subsidy. Fort Simpson was supposed to receive the water and sewer subsidy. When is the village of Fort Simpson going to receive the water and sewer subsidy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 557-12(3): Water And Sewer Subsidies In Fort Simpson

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has been working on this issue for quite a long time. We recognize the village is about the same size as some of the hamlets, which have a water and sewer subsidy program in place. It is not a 100 per cent subsidy to hamlets, but it is a subsidy. My department has been working with the community of Fort Simpson in trying to come up with a similar program that is enjoyed by similar sized communities. I have drafted a Cabinet document which I am preparing to take forward to Cabinet. I am not sure when that date is going to

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be. Once the document is approved by Cabinet, we will apply it to Fort Simpson. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

This is just a follow-up to my honourable colleague for Natilikmiot with regard to the question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, on February 19, I asked the Minister of the Housing Corporation whether he would be considering a rental increase in conjunction with the new housing strategy which was considered, and at the time I asked the question if he intended to propose these changes to the public housing rental and to review the rental scale, he indicated, yes. He also indicated, at the time, and I will quote from Hansard of February 19, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the next couple of weeks I will, hopefully, have a paper to take to the Cabinet to get approval. I will then be consulting with Members and the community people." I would like to ask the Minister, whether his paper has been submitted to the Cabinet and whether he received approval. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Can the Minister indicate if he received approval for the concept of increasing the rental scale on public units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received approval from Cabinet to do more work on the paper, to consult with the ordinary Members and the general public, and then take it back to Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

It seems ironic that the Minister would go to Cabinet and ask permission to proceed with the consulting process. However, I would like to ask the Minister whether he has received approval from the Cabinet to increase the rental scales on public units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. According to the comments he made on February 19, when does the Minister anticipate to receive approval with respect to looking at increasing the rental scale for public units? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 558-12(3): Cabinet Approval For Rental Scale Increase

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is what we are going to do. We are going to look at changing the rental scale, whether that is by increasing, decreasing or staying the same for some. We will be looking at it. There is a process in place, the advisory committee of ordinary Members as well as community consultation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 559-12(3): Extension Of Accreditation Arrangements For Arctic College

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for responding to my question of last week regarding Arctic College credits to southern institutions. Only seven post-secondary institutions have formal accreditation agreements with Arctic College. There are hundreds of post-secondary institutions in the provinces. We are limited to seven. I was wondering if the Minister could inform me if Arctic College is looking at making formal accreditation arrangements with other post-secondary institutions down south. This would enable the people in the north, who devote two years of their lives to taking courses at Arctic College, an opportunity to further themselves if they choose. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 559-12(3): Extension Of Accreditation Arrangements For Arctic College

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are reviewing this particular matter. In fact, there are other post-secondary institutions which are cooperating with us in delivering some of the programs to a number of the regions. For example, work has been done with Grant McEwan and the University of Lethbridge in the

management area. The honourable Member is aware of the management program at the University of Lethbridge. We are trying to cooperate in delivering a program similar to that particular program. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 559-12(3): Extension Of Accreditation Arrangements For Arctic College

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Arctic College graduates want to further their education and want to go to an institution other than those who have formal accreditation agreements, what do they have to do to be accepted into the post-secondary institution they choose to go to?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 559-12(3): Extension Of Accreditation Arrangements For Arctic College

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally what occurs is the student should submit or send their transcripts to the appropriate institution for review. Once that review has taken place, the institution could possibly accept all the credits they have received, some of the credits they have received or none of the credits. However, that is the normal practice across the country from one post-secondary institution to another where you are transferring from one program to another.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 560-12(3): Policy On Government Seeking Restitution From Convicted Former Employees

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether this question is to the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether a policy has been developed with regard to seeking

restitution from employees who have been found by the courts to fraud the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to open address. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had my hand up for written questions, but you probably did not see it. I seek unanimous consent to go back to written questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

I did not see your hand, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 31-12(3): Restitution To The GNWT

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Justice.

Would the Minister of Justice please provide the following information regarding restitution owed to the Government of the Northwest Territories:

a) a list of all court cases in the Northwest Territories during the past five years in which an individual was convicted of a criminal offence and ordered to pay restitution to the Government of the Northwest Territories, including the amount of money ordered to be paid in each case;

b) a listing of cases in which the full amount of restitution ordered to be paid has been received by the Government of the Northwest Territories;

c)a listing of cases in which the full amount of restitution ordered to be paid has not been received by the Government of the Northwest Territories, including the amounts outstanding; and,

d)a listing of cases in which the full amount of restitution has not been received and full payment is not being actively pursued by the Department of Justice, including the reasons that the restitution is not being pursued. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 106-12(3), Family Law Review report. The report of the ministerial working group, which was struck in 1988, and tabled in this House in September, 1992, and again today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 12, tabling of documents.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 107-12(3), a copy of the resolutions made by the Gwich'in renewable resources councils at their annual general meeting which was held in Inuvik on March 17 to 19, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 27-12(3): Extension Of Sitting Hours For Third Session

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 4, I will move the following motion.

I move seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional hours as required to assist with the passage of business before the House. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Motion 26-12(3), Appointment of Members to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing, by Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis is not in the House. That motion will be stood down for the day. Item 15, motions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to address and proceed with my motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Motion 27-12(3): Extension Of Sitting Hours For Third Session

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you.

I MOVE seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional hours as required to assist with the passage of business before the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 15, motions. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I do not know whether I have to seek unanimous consent to go back to an earlier item, but we are still on motions, is that right, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

I stood down your motion, Mr. Lewis, so I would ask you to seek unanimous consent. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to the stood down motion on the appointment of Members to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing.

MR. SPEAKER:

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Your motion is "unstood down," Mr. Lewis.

Motion 26-12(3): Appointment Of Members To The Advisory Committee On Social Housing

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Advisory Committee on Social Housing was established by Motion 21-12(3);

AND WHEREAS the terms of reference requires that the Advisory Committee on Social Housing consists of six Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable to comply with the terms of reference;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngha'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Marie-Jewell and Mr. Ningark be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing.

MR. SPEAKER:

You need a new seconder, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

My seconder is Mr. Zoe, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 24: Write-off Of Debts Act, 1993

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the write-off the debts owing to the Government of the Northwest Territories which are set out in the schedule to the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 24 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Tabled Document 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division; Tabled Document 91-12(3), Northwest Territories AIDS

Project - Review; Tabled Document 92-12(3), HIV and AIDS in the NWT in 1993; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act; Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act; Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act; Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93; 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; Committee Report 15-12(3), TD 33-12(2): Government Accountability: A Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government; Committee Report 16-12(3), Final Report on the Comprehensive Review of the Rules; Committee Report 17-12(3), Report on Television

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Guidelines; and, according to the authority invested in me by Motion 27-12(3), the committee of the whole will stay in session until it reports itself out, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Good afternoon. The committee will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we hope to conclude the Department of Social Services main estimates, followed with Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, and we will see how far we get after that. Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The committee concluded on Friday with the Department of Social Services and the section was 13-10, alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Does the Minister wish to bring in her witnesses?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, assist the Minister please. Madam Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

Department Of Social Services

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me the deputy minister, Mr. Blair Dunbar, and the director of finance, Mr. Dave Tyler. Thank you.

Alcohol, Drugs And Community Mental Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. When we concluded we were dealing with comments on alcohol, drugs and community mental health. The total O and M for this section, \$11.772 million. Agreed? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister provide us with an update as to the number of alcohol and drug committees which are currently funded in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are about 38 communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, the reason I asked this was that last week there was some comment from Members regarding the department's commitment with respect to alcohol and drugs. In reviewing Hansard, the Minister indicated that it was one of the priorities of the department. I certainly hope, as the Minister, she ensures this particular issue is a priority for her department. I would like to explain why.

In 1987 there were only eight or nine programs which were funded by the alcohol and drug committee funding division, that is only eight or nine communities

which were funded. The expansion to 38 communities was to indicate to the territories that there was a commitment on trying to address alcohol and drugs, along with the amount of alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities which were built in the north. In 1991 there were 38 funded. Now being 1993, there are still 38 being funded. I think the Minister should take it as the comments not being directed at her but at the department, and their commitment as a department to ensure that the addressing of the alcohol and drug division is to be maintained by the department as a priority. Therefore, I would like to make those comments. That is the type of commitment a department makes when you see an increasing trend of how to address these alcohol and drug committees, and not a trend which is stagnant or stays at the same level as they have been in the past couple of years.

To say the department has a commitment, I would question whether there is a commitment. I do not believe there is a commitment by the department officials. However, I think this is why we have political people in there ensuring that the commitment of the House is adhered to. So, I would like to emphasize to the Minister that with concerns to addressing alcohol and drugs, and particularly the abuse with respect to the rehabilitation centre, must come under her direction to the department because obviously the officials will not do it. I felt it was critical to make this comment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, on Friday I made comments pertaining to this issue. The agreements which the department has with groups with regard to drug and alcohol programs, is there a provision that if the allotted amount of money which is given to a group is not used up before the end of the fiscal year, they have to give this surplus back?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Is the department going to look at provisions of surpluses for the upcoming year? When people budget they try to be as accurate as they can. However, the whole area of funding for drug and alcohol programs is not adequate. I wonder if the department would take a serious look at this component of surpluses so there is flexibility within the program which is being administered by the local groups, to enable them to utilize their surpluses in various areas so they can do transfers within their budget. For instance, if they have a surplus in a certain area then they would be able to transfer it to a certain component. As the Minister will recall, the Standing Committee on Finance made a recommendation that any surpluses for this program should be put back into the drug and alcohol program. To alleviate that problem, I am wondering if the department can take a look at the question of surpluses at the community level.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the issue was raised with the friendship centre in Inuvik, related to the support and training for counsellors, they have a small building which they use for counselling after-care to people with alcohol programs, they take referrals, they offer care, maintenance and prevention. They have two people working in this place. Currently both are in training. They have to go to Alberta to take training at the Nechi Training Institute. The problem which has been brought to my attention, it is good training but it is not accredited. The training at Nechi is not accredited and once they are finished a program, the individuals have achieved personal growth but they do not have any certificate which they can use to continue in university or other institutions. The issue is whether we in the north are

going to be looking at any type of training institution or accredited training. We have heard a great deal. One of the big initiatives of this government is to provide training, develop our people, and give them some kind of accreditation and some kind of meaningful training, and not just to have training to train and to get them through the training for a week so as to build our statistics but to provide them with meaningful training which they can develop, continue and have some kind of certificate or degree which they can use nationally or, perhaps, internationally. I am wondering if in the area of alcohol, drugs, and mental health whether the department has been looking at any type of accredited training programs for the care givers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs which Mr. Koe has spoken about are offered through Arctic College. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I apologize. I missed the Minister's response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, the program which you were talking about are Arctic College programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I know that, but I am asking whether the department is involved in the development of any of these programs. Arctic College delivers training, but the department funds the organization that runs or contributes to these organizations. I want to know whether the department is working with other

departments, such as Arctic College or Education in developing these things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are working with the Department of Education and Arctic College. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Are there any comments? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the objectives is to provide support programs for community-based suicide prevention awareness programs. Any type of funding from the government to communities are always welcome, especially when the communities do not have that many resources. In most communities funding is needed, Mr. Chairman. I guess the community-based program is better than any other program because the communities know the problem. They live in the community, they know the people and they know the problem. I am wondering if the Minister would indicate to me which communities would be given some funding. Is it the municipality that wishes to use their own initiative to deal with their own problems, or is it a group, such as a youth group or a community social services committee? If any other group in the community wishes to go after funding through a proposal, what is the procedure? Does the community go through the regional office to receive some funding from headquarters or would the community group be able to apply for funding through the Minister's office? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Dunbar respond to that.

MR. DUNBAR:

Mr. Chairman, the bulk of the funds in this particular area have been used to fund regional meetings on

suicide prevention. These have been held in various regional centres over the last two years. One of the main thrusts of those meetings has been to assist the department in developing a northern-based, community-based suicide prevention curriculum which will then be taken back out to various community groups to provide training for people, not just departmental employees, but people working or living in various communities. At the present time, the contribution funding is held in headquarters as the bulk of it is going toward the development of that curriculum. That should be completed this year. At that point, we hope we would set up a process whereby funding would be initially applied for, certainly, through the regional offices.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dunbar. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having the programs and services closer to the community within the region is a good idea, but sometimes planning for funding through the regional office is not always the best way. Sometimes, things seem to stop at the regional level. That is one of the reasons why I asked the question. If a community wishes to apply for funding for this type, I wonder if the

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community could, as well, go through the Minister's office. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the community does not get a response from the regional office, then contact with my office would be quite welcome. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

For the record, Mr. Chairman, I am not putting down the Department of Social Services within the Kitikmeot region, but there are times when things

seem to stop at the regional level. That is why I mentioned that, for the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Your comment is noted. Total O and M, \$11.772 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community And Family Support Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Community and family support services, total O and M, \$40.232 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Details of grants and contributions. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this the one with social assistance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

That is correct, Mr. Antoine. It is on page 13-11.

MR. ANTOINE:

Community and family support services, the activity in one of the tasks and in there is social assistance. One of my concerns is that the food, clothing and shelter allowances are the basic needs of many people. I think it is too low. We have covered this already in other areas. I wanted to add to the discussion that went on in the past in this session, about social assistance and the food allowance, et cetera. I think it is low. There is a need to review it and possibly increase it after the review because there is definitely a need to increase that. I wanted to say that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Your comments are noted. Community and family support services, total O and M, \$40.232 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail of grants and contributions. Grants, \$290,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Contributions is an information item. Page 13-13. Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$17.888 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a couple of comments on contributions to family counselling and family violence prevention services. I would initially like to state that on the weekend I visited the safe shelter in Inuvik. They have opened their doors for business and are now serving clientele in the Delta. I would like to thank the department and the Ministers who were in that department in the past year, in getting money for this needed shelter and program. Again, the people who are working in there are presently in various stages of training, development and trying to get the program under way. I would like to express my appreciation to the people who started this project years ago and finally have something which is visible and operational.

In terms of money and availability of money, in developing new projects mistakes are made and in the development of budgets items are forgotten. In

the case of the shelter in Inuvik, various items have been missed and there has been no consideration by the department to adjust the funding. I wanted to raise that issue because it could cause some concern at later stages if they run out of money.

It is the same for the family counselling centre, family violence program in Inuvik. They have found, over the past year, that the amount of counselling which they have to do, the client load has doubled from last year to this year. The amount of funding they have is the same. They received \$200,000 and this year they have requested \$278,000 for 1993-94, but they have only been allocated the same amount as what they received last year even though the work load has doubled. The numbers are staggering in terms of the client loads they have. They currently have long waiting lists of people who they cannot see because they do not have enough counsellors.

Another thing which is happening is that the Department of Health does not contribute any money to this program, but when clients come to them they are often referred to the family counselling centre. Many of these are emergency type clients, so any time you have an emergency and you take a counsellor away, that creates more backlog. What the mental health association would like is a fair consideration of the work they are doing and of their budget requirements. I would just like to raise that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Detail of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$17.888 million.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Grants and contributions. Total, 18.178 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties.
Total department, \$535,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Department program summary,
total O and M, \$77.466 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that the main
estimates for the Department of Social Services are
concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

I would like to thank Madam Minister and her
witnesses for their assistance to the committee. At
this point the committee will take a short recess.
When we return we will deal with Bill 5, An Act to
Amend the Social Assistance Act.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Social Assistance Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We are dealing with Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social
Assistance Act. When the committee concluded on
February 18, 1993, we were on general comments.
Would the Minister wish to bring witnesses in?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms,
would you please escort the witnesses.

For the record, Madam Minister, would you please
introduce the witnesses.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy minister, Mr. Blair
Dunbar, and Ms. Diane Buckland, legal counsel with
the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Are there any general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

General Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to advise the Minister and the
House regarding the whole issue of the Social
Assistance Act, there has been considerable concern
with respect to the chairperson, the appeal
committee, the composition of it and the quorum.
Therefore, at the appropriate time, I will be moving an
amendment to clause 2 of this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Are there any general
comments? Clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 2, agreed? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Committee Motion 112-12(3): To Amend Clause 2 Of
Bill 5

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that clause 2 of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be divided into two clauses by adding the following before proposed subsection 6.3: "2.1, the following is added before section seven." Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the legal counsel for the Government of the Northwest Territories be allowed to speak to the technicality of the motion. In effect, does this change the principle of the bill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair is having some difficulty with the suggestion. It is not customary to have opinions expressed on a bill such as this from a witness. The motion is in order. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would request a ten minute recess while we consult with our legal counsel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can explain what I am proposing. Mr. Chairman, as we know, clause 2 basically looks after the chairperson...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

One moment, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. We will refer to your comments as speaking to the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I apologize, I forgot we had called question on this particular motion, Mr. Chairman. However, I thank you for allowing me to speak to the

motion. Mr. Chairman, subsection 6.2 would increase the size of the appeal committee because currently the chairperson designates the members who should hear the appeal. I think there were concerns regarding this from Members. The other point which I want to make is that this particular chairperson would also take away the area of concern of Members with regard to the quorum, where it states, "A chairperson of an appeal committee shall, for each appeal, designate not fewer than three and not more than five members of the appeal committee to sit as a panel of the appeal committee, and shall direct the panel to hear the appeal." What we are saying is that the statutory act will look after the quorum part of this and, perhaps, legal counsel can explain more explicitly how that act will look after the quorum portion of this particular panel.

There were two concerns by Members, particularly in respect to the quorum and this clause is to address the quorum part of this particular bill. It will also automatically look at the appeal committee in its totality.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, I have to interrupt you, I must refer you back to the fact that you are speaking to this amendment. Do Members agree that we recess for ten minutes so that this matter can be clarified?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We will recess for ten minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will come to order. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Question has been called. The chair recognizes a quorum. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 2.1, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Perhaps this a point of order, Mr. Chairman. With these significant changes, I wonder if the bill could be reprinted to reflect what we have just passed. Most Members are lost as to how this clause is going to read now. Section 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 are excluded now. What replaces that now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe, the bill cannot be reprinted at this stage.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, you indicated it cannot be reprinted, so we can read it as amended.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

According to the rules, the bill can be reprinted when it goes to third reading. It cannot be reprinted until it is reported.

MR. ZOE:

Could I ask the legal advisor for a clarification on section 2 and 2.1 and what that implies?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The effect of the motion that passed was to divide the existing clause 2 into two clauses, being clause 2 on its own, which has already been voted on, and clause 2.1, basically deals with the panel concept which is subsections 2.3 through 2.7. You would be voting on those two clauses separately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Subsection 2.2, "The composition of the appeal committee would be composed of not fewer than three and not more than eight members, including a chairperson appointed by the Minister," remains. Subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are currently deleted?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

No, Mr. Zoe. You are correct on the composition of clause 2. Clause 2.1 consists of parts 3 to 7 inclusive.

MR. ZOE:

All right. Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Yes, we have already agreed on clause 2. We shall return to the request to vote on clause 2.1. Clause 2.1. All those in favour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. There seems to be a bit of confusion on the voice vote. We do not recognize whether there are enough nays or yeas. I shall request a show of hands. That will conclude this. Clause 2.1, all those in favour? All those against? Clause 2.1 is defeated. Mr. Nerysoo.

---Defeated

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo. Go ahead.

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HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I would like to raise a matter on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The matter of the amendment which has been voted against clearly changes the principal that was agreed to at second reading. I would ask the honourable chair to review that particular matter and report back to this House because it does make significant changes to the principal of the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Order, please. Mr. Nerysoo's point of order is being considered at the table. A point of order has been raised. Until a decision can be made on the point of order, the chair will stand down this matter and report back to the committee. We will move on to other items. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend we resume consideration of Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, with Government Services and Public Works.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We shall continue with Bill 17, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Government Services and Public Works can be found on page 9. Is the Minister responsible prepared to give his opening remarks?

Department of Government Services And Public Works, Introductory Remarks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 1993-94 Main Estimates for the Department of Government Services and Public Works. The proposed O and M budget is \$124.9 million and 517 person years. The department also manages \$73 million through one charge back account and three revolving funds. An estimated \$22 million will be generated in revenue.

This budget represents a decrease of \$13.6 million and 35 person years from the main estimates for the two departments in the previous fiscal year.

Through the budget reduction exercise, \$3.2 million and 21 person years were cut. Consolidation of the departments yielded \$835,000 and 11.8 person years.

The expenditure reduction exercise has projected a decrease of \$10.1 million in utilities, much of which would be a result of the implementation of the long-term housing strategy. This will now be reduced. Consolidation will be completed in 1993-94 with some minor organizational changes. Planning for the decentralization of the petroleum products division to Rankin Inlet and Fort Simpson is well under way.

Mr. Chairman, the department has a broad mandate and, including management of capital projects, manages over 18 per cent of the GNWT's budget. These expenditures are in support of the delivery of all programs of this government, through a range of services to departments, boards, agencies and communities. With employees in 48 communities, we ensure, for example, that school, health and recreation facilities are constructed efficiently and maintained in good working order for all NWT residents. In short, the department takes care of many background support functions that allow governments, both territorial and municipal, to focus their energies on the delivery of good programs.

In providing these services, the department is contributing to the development of a vibrant northern economy. Not only are skills being acquired by residents, but new northern businesses are being established. For example, in our leasing program fully 90 per cent of the budget, or \$32 million, goes to northern companies each year.

In maintaining our buildings, works, vehicles and equipment, \$30 million goes to northern people through direct employment and contracts with private companies. The department also manages about \$80 million in capital, with more than 80 per cent of those expenditures going to northern companies.

Mr. Chairman, a number of new objectives have been included in these estimates. I would like to mention a few at this time.

The first year for the new training in construction strategy will be in 1993-94, being prepared with Education and the Housing Corporation. This strategy is nearing completion and will be presented to Cabinet very shortly.

Working with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, we are preparing procedures to promote the development of northern manufacturing. We will be taking a more active approach to identify and support import replacement opportunities.

In support of the community transfer initiative, a departmental steering committee has been established to direct the development of clear and comprehensive cost and service level information. Staff have participated in workshops in several communities and the transfer of the Norman Wells gas system is under way.

The department is working with Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Transportation and Economic Development and Tourism to review annual re-supply procedures. We believe the amount of work that goes to northern businesses can be increased, while reducing costs.

Several months have passed since the business incentive policy was revised. I believe the revised policy has been effective in ensuring that government dollars go to northerners. Valuable experience has been gained in using the policy. As a result, in April, I will be recommending changes to the directive to fine tune some of its provisions. We will also be working with the Department of Finance to develop an information system to allow better tracking of costs and benefits from northern preference.

Mr. Chairman, 231, or 36 per cent of the department's staff are indigenous aboriginal. One hundred and fifty eight of these people are employed in the labour and trades groups, including trades foremen and area maintenance officers. We

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also are training 36 native apprentices. There are 22 women in non-traditional occupations. In addition, women occupy two of the 11 director positions in headquarters.

The department has taken a number of steps aimed at increasing these numbers. For example, in conjunction with MACA, Transportation and the Housing Corporation, we co-sponsor a program that introduces 15 to 20 northern high school students to technical careers each summer. They take part in instruction and workshops, then they return to their home communities for a summer of on-the-job training. The department hires a number of northern post-secondary students for summer jobs. Last year, more students were hired for shorter time periods, in order to spread the opportunities to a larger number of students.

A \$75,000 affirmative action fund provides special assistance to employees to attend courses and other skill improvement opportunities. In addition, several students are supported in their efforts at post-secondary training. In 1993-94, we will review our progress and produce a revised affirmative action plan.

Internal information procedures are being improved in order to track performance and provide data as required for the new performance indicators established this year.

An extensive review of the government's office standards and inventory has been completed. As requested by SCOF during its review of capital budgets, a strategy for office space is being prepared and will be sent to the FMB very shortly.

Finally, the department is preparing a plan to transfer responsibilities for staff housing to the Housing Corporation. It is intended that the transfer will be complete by April 1, 1994, and will result in better coordination of territorial housing programs.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state my priorities for the coming year:

1. implementing the training in construction strategy;
2. revising the business incentive policy;
3. enhancing manufacturing in the north;

4. establishing an affirmative action program to enhance training of northerners for employment within the department; and,

5. contributing to the community transfer initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Dent.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department responsible for Government Services and Public Works has done a good job of setting objectives, following the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance and achieving a large 13 per cent budget reduction.

However, this is the third largest department of government with a budget of \$125 million. The department does not directly serve the public. It reflects the cost of government.

Money saved in the running of government can be redirected into important high priority programs such as housing and education. The committee will continue to urge the department to improve programs and services aimed at cutting the cost of government. It is important to note that a modest one per cent cost reduction in this department's budget would free up \$1.250 million.

In an effort to better control costs, the department should consider the following:

1. charging departments and agencies for all services rendered to them, for example, lease costs, purchasing services, et cetera, and holding them accountable for making reductions. This would be similar to the charge back system for computer services.

2. charging the full cost of petroleum products while offering subsidies to home owners and small business, similar to the system used by the NWT Power Corporation. This system would result in increased revenues from non-subsidized organizations.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has one recommendation which I would like to put forward in the form of a motion.

Committee Motion 113-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 9

I move, this committee recommends that the Department of Government Services and Public Works assess the feasibility of consolidating design, construction, engineering and architectural services through government. Further, the department should identify opportunities for increasing the degree of privatization in these areas.

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

Does that conclude your report, Mr. Dent?

MR. DENT:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, that concludes the remarks from the Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister, the committee Members have requested a short break. When we return, if the Minister wishes to bring witnesses to the witness table he may.

---SHORT BREAK

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will now come back to order. Mr. Minister, are you prepared to have your witnesses assist you at the witness table?

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HON. DON MORIN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Sergeant-at-Arms will assist the Minister in escorting the witnesses to the witness table. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses to the committee, please?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Mr. Bob Doherty, the deputy minister of Government Services and Public Works. To my right is Dave Taylor. He is the acting director of the finance division.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, gentlemen. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

General Comments

MR. ARVALUK:

The only concern I have with the Department of Government Services is that there seems to be a lack of coordination between the regions and the communities. I think it will be very important for the purpose of saving money for Government Services to keep the stock inventory as clear as possible. What is not needed in the communities should be transferred elsewhere on a seasonal basis. What is being short all the time should also be taken as a part of the priority. Sometimes, when the school breaks down, the local warehouse is not ready to respond to it, especially during a storm in the middle of the night. Those kinds of things happen. That is the only comment I would like to make on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are government buildings under Public Works and from time to time, that have to be disposed of. Mr. Chairman, when that time comes, there are community groups such as women's groups, HTAs and day care centres, that need the building, how are those buildings disposed of? Is it through the Cabinet? Is it through the regional headquarters? Does the government have

any policy whereby the community groups should be priority to be given those buildings because they need some for their own programs and services, which are required by the community? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The normal procedure is that you ask the community hamlet or settlement council if they have any use for it. If it is under \$50,000, I have the authority to dispose of it without going to Cabinet. If it is over \$50,000, it goes to Cabinet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister provide Members with the buildings that were disposed of during the last five years, how and who received those buildings, if it is not too much trouble? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I had asked the Minister in the House, under oral questions, a question with regard to the time frame for decentralization of the petroleum products division. The Minister wrote and gave me the time frames that they are considering in decentralizing petroleum products. He indicated that they plan to locate and operate in Fort Simpson by September 1 and locate and operate in Rankin Inlet by December 25. He states, these dates, however, depend on appropriate office space and housing being available. Why are they considering making housing available when in the housing strategy, they are trying to get out of housing?

Secondly, with regard to office space, when will they advise the community of the amount of time they need? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are presently working with both communities and they are both aware of the office space needed. We are negotiating office space in Rankin Inlet and in Fort Simpson. As far as supplying government housing, we are not, I believe that is Personnel's job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I know Personnel is the one that issues the requests to DPW to retrieve the housing. DPW is the one that determines the housing and finds the allocation of housing, so he cannot say it is Personnel. In his letter, he did say it was dependent upon appropriate office space and housing being available, so I would like to ask the Minister why is this one of the conditions of decentralization, when the government is trying to address their housing strategy? I am sure they are trying to do this with the coordinated effort of Personnel, DPW and the Minister of Housing. Seeing he is the Minister of two departments, why is this one of the conditions? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We went through the system to find out how many houses would be needed. We found we would need an additional 28 houses in Rankin Inlet and ten in Fort Simpson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up on the Member for Thebacha's questions. In the Minister's

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reply he just said they were negotiating for office space in both communities. Does that mean there will not be a tender call?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Minister advise us with whom they are negotiating and the process used to determine who they would negotiate with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Ilagiiktut Ltd. in Rankin Inlet, and Nahendeh Development Corporation in Fort Simpson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I had also asked about the process used to determine which groups would be negotiated with. Was this sole source, how did we determine who it was we would negotiate with?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the beginning of this process, in Rankin Inlet for example, we were approached by Ilagiiktut Ltd., owned by Inuit shareholders from the Keewatin region. They would

be the landlords of the office. I have taken their request to negotiate. Cabinet gave me approval to negotiate under the conditions that all the work is carried out in the north by northerners, all local people have to benefit. People in that community agreed that would be negotiated.

Also, the same conditions apply in Fort Simpson. The Nahendeh Development Corporation, the band, the Metis and private enterprise people are involved in the community of Fort Simpson. It is supported by the community as it is in Rankin Inlet. The majority of labour on the job should be local. Contractors are required to use 100 per cent local and northern subcontractors and suppliers. That is the condition we are now negotiating. When the department reaches agreement with these two companies, it goes back to Cabinet for approval. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Negotiated contracts have been a subject of some question for the Minister in the past. If I remember correctly, the Minister was asked if he would table the policy as to what steps are followed in terms of getting into a negotiated contract. I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, if this has been tabled, but could I ask the Minister if it has not been tabled, will it be tabled in the near future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent, yes, you may. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister if the same process is taking place with the houses? The 28 houses in Rankin Inlet and the ten in Fort Simpson, are those also going to be built by negotiated contract or are they going to go out to tender?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The same process is in place in Rankin Inlet for the houses, but not in Fort Simpson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

You will be going to tender in Fort Simpson?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be calling for proposals to lease units in Fort Simpson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the same firm that you are negotiating with in Rankin Inlet for the houses and the office space?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is one package. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I had one particular comment to make with regard to DPW. Mr. Chairman, as a Standing Committee on Finance Member I made most of my comments in SCOF, but I am still concerned as a Member at the amount of money we spend to look after the government, a total amount of \$125 million. In addition to the \$17 million, this is to look after the

operation of \$5000 for 5000 people in the territories. I think that is just too much. Does the Minister know of any way where he can look at cutting back? In a time of restraint, we go to our constituencies and see new vehicles. There is no concerted effort on the government's part to look at possibly sacrificing one year to cut back the cost of purchasing new vehicles. There is no consideration toward leasing of vehicles, as opposed to out right purchase. These are things which the government should be looking at. Has there been any consideration of how the Minister's department can try and save more money?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at different ways of cutting back to save money. We have cut back quite a bit on this year's budget. We are looking at vehicles. There is a formula for vehicles and their productive use. Once it costs more to maintain a vehicle than it is worth, we have to write it off. We encourage people not to drive around as much with the vehicles. I would be happy to take any recommendations from any of the Members with respect to other ways of saving money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, has the Minister's department considered leasing vehicles as opposed to an out right purchase? Have they look at this and considered this concept? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have looked into this and considered it, and the cost is higher.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, even if the cost is higher, when they were doing their formula to determine the costs, did they take into account the amount of repairs which you can generally get free under a lease concept, as opposed to an out right purchase? It would lessen the demands on the Department of Public Works with regard to repairing vehicles, keeping the garages fully maintained and other costs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing is free. In any lease agreement, normally in a dry lease, you pay for any repairs. In the smaller communities, where you cannot get out to do service, many of our vehicles have to be serviced right there. In general, the leases which are available in the north, you pay the first month and second month and then you lease it for 36 months, and you pay the interest on that money for those 36 months, other than buying it out right. That is the difference. Maintenance-wise it makes no difference. If it breaks, it has to be fixed and paid for. It is called a dry rental lease. That is the way in which they do them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like it would save the government money if you looked at the lease concept. However, are there other areas of DPW which the Minister has looked at with regard to saving money. The concern which I am trying to bring forth as a Member, is that this department still serves the civil servants. The amount of money that serves 5,000 people is an exorbitant amount of money. When you look at the benefits, here we are as Members trying to get an increase in social assistance food costs of \$25 million, this is peanuts compared to this amount of \$125 million which this department spends on serving civil servants. What other ways have the department looked at in trying to save money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still looking for reductions for the upcoming years, possibly reducing more PYs and reducing overhead costs. We have indicators and a formula for measuring how well we do the work to see if we can reduce some more. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I think there is a formula with respect to the amount of office space per person, per position, that is required. Would the Minister also evaluate that formula and deem if that formula is still necessary, taking into consideration the time of restraint that we are in? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be going to FMB with a new office plan and strategy by April 1 or 2, or at the next available meeting after April 1. If we can get that past FMB, I would be happy to table it for Members. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Directorate, total O and M. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions. One in the area of the training strategy under this department. I am wondering when the Minister expects to have this strategy completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have a draft ready to go to the Cabinet in April some time. We would be looking at possibly doing pilot projects this summer, one in every region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the training strategy involve department personnel or is it contractors, one or both?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The training strategy will involve local people, regional people, contractors, Arctic College and the my department personnel also.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question with regard to the transfer from this department to the Housing Corporation. In the Minister's opening remarks he stated that there are some areas of this department being transferred to the Housing Corporation, can the Minister elaborate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All our responsibility for the operation and maintenance of staff housing will be transferred to the NWT Housing Corporation, April 1, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that involve the community level personnel of this department, will they be transferring to the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those details have not been worked out yet. Thank you.

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Directorate, detail. Total O and M, \$7.248 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Project Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Project management, total O and M, \$6.423 million. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, has there been a review to consider the area of designing and constructing buildings to look at utilizing the private sector more than having their own design area within project management. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ninety-eight per cent of this function has been privatized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I do not know how the Minister can come with a 98 per cent figure when last year's revised forecast indicated 83.1 PYs and this year is 76.1 PYs. That is not a 98 per cent savings. I do not know how he arrived at that number.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Project management does not design or produce blueprints. They basically carry out the inspections of the capital projects that are carried out on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. They look after the interest of the Government of the Northwest Territories. They also go in and work with the community to team them up with the architects to design buildings that fit into the community. For example, in the past, there was the Lutsel K'e band office. The architect on that job was Pin Matthews Architects, but we had a project officer on the job who worked with us at the community level to communicate with the architect, as well as inspect to make sure the building was going well, and that payments were made on time. That is the job of project management, it is not for design. All of the design work is done by private enterprise.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, if all of the design has been done by private enterprise, I suggest the Minister, for future activities, review the summary statements. It states, "To design and construct buildings that meet client needs and provide life time cost-effectiveness", it should read, "to coordinate the design and construct buildings..."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Project management, total O and M, \$6.423 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Accommodation Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Accommodation services, total O and M, \$40.357 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Buildings and works, total O and M, \$26.542 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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Vehicles And Equipment

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Vehicles and equipment, total O and M. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

How effective is this maintenance management system under buildings and works?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The maintenance management system seems to work quite well. We have not had any major freeze-ups or any major buildings go down because of a lack of maintenance. It seems to work out quite well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Vehicles and equipment, total O and M, \$3.682 million. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, this maintenance management is perceived as the make-work project for the government, where they make sure that things are going to be maintained and operating effectively for their buildings and equipment. Is that the program's mandate? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This system scheduled the maintenance to be carried out on each and every building. It allocates the money accordingly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Vehicles and equipment, total O and M, \$3.682 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Utilities

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Utilities, total O and M, \$25.797 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

One of the objectives of the department in the next year is to turn the Sanikiluaq power plant over to the NWT Power Corporation. Can the Minister tell us if he has been successful in negotiating that out of the department yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have reached an agreement with the NWT Power Corporation to turn the Sanikiluaq power plant over to them April 1, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Utilities, total O and M, \$25.797 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Supply services, total O and M, \$8.463 million.

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Operations, total O and M, \$1.454 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am trying to tie this in with revenues. I am not sure where the money for staff housing comes in. I do not know if it is under this activity, accommodation services or buildings and works. The issues on the revenue side of things are, there is an increase in the revenues in staff housing, other recoveries. I assume they are rent increases. I do not know. I need some clarification because there were changes to the staff housing policy and it is obviously not going to be reflected in these numbers. I am wondering when the adjustments are going to be made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the amendment is going to be made by the Minister of Finance toward the end of this process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

When does the Minister of Finance expect to do this? It is just like the payroll tax where departments are

affected by the changes, but the documents we have do not reflect any of these changes. Why do you not put an omnibus change submission in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we anticipated changes that reflected the change in the housing policy. The numbers were to be provided to us by the departments at 10:00 am this morning. I understand the Department of Finance has been talking to Mr. Hamilton and a process is being worked out to amend Bill 17 at the time that the bill passes through the House, Mr. Chairman. Those amendments will be made by way of motion by myself at the time that the bill is before us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Supply and services, total O and M, \$8.463 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Operations, total O and M, \$1.454 million. Agreed?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this activity includes the task of telecommunications. As the Minister knows, I have been after him for providing a better telecommunications system into the communities of Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie River and Trout Lake. I

understand Kakisa is also interested, but it is in another constituency. However, these small communities have always wanted to know if this government is doing anything to try to provide this very necessary service to them. Would the Minister see if there is anything in this task to provide that service to these communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is under systems and computer services, not under this activity. I have written to the Member. I am setting up a meeting with the president of NorthwesTel at the earliest opportunity, to discuss this matter with him. There is no present policy right now to address this issue, but I have to meet with NorthwesTel. We finally received a reply from NorthwesTel and they have given us their interim plans once again. They want us to give them \$147,000 and a monthly guarantee of \$18,000 to provide four telephone lines to the communities of Colville Lake, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Kakisa and Jean Marie River. That is what NorthwesTel is asking for. I think we have to meet with the president of NorthwesTel, I will then be more prepared to take something to Cabinet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This government must have a very big phone bill every year, perhaps providing NorthwesTel with a profit every year, a majority of their income comes from this government. Surely, the Minister could probably use that as an argument to try to see if this company could provide a better service to the communities that really require this important service. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would use any negotiation lever that I have at all to try to get NorthwesTel to deliver this basic service to those communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Which activity are we on? Publications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We are on supply services. Sorry, Mr. Koe. We were on operations, on page 17. Total O and M, \$1.454 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Systems and computer services, total O and M, \$3.929 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Publications And Productions

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Publications and productions, total O and M, \$1.075 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

If I recall correctly, last year the Standing Committee on Finance recommended certain aspects of this division be privatized. Can the Minister advise the status of privatization of any of these activities under this section? What is the status of privatization?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is on the list along with some other privatization initiatives of this government. It will go to Cabinet next week.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Publications and productions, total O and M, \$1.075 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail of grants and contributions, information item. Information item, schedule of lease budget requirements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Information item, granular program, revolving fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Information item, petroleum products revolving fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

On page 08-26, information item, public stores revolving fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 08-27, public stores revolving fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Pages 08-28 and 08-29, computer systems and services. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Information item on page 08-30, systems and computer services. Page 08-31, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

On page 08-32, total department, work performed on behalf of third parties, \$10.924 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. We now move to the program summary, total O and M. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier, during general comments, I asked the Minister if he had tabled the policy. He indicated that he had. I have checked all of the documents that have been tabled to date in this session, and I cannot find the policy as being listed in there. The Minister has tabled Tabled Document 77-12(3), a report which outlines approximately ten or 11

negotiated contracts in the past year, but no policy. Again, I would like to ask the Minister if he would, in fact, be tabling that policy in the near future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I did that. Perhaps it was in a reply to a question. I know I gave that information to this House somehow. I will certainly do that. To make it clear, there are departmental guidelines which we follow. That is what I will provide, there is no policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Program summary, total O and M, \$124.970 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I have one comment. In the objectives, the department talks about an updated departmental training strategy for affirmative action employees. Earlier in the year and last year we received some petitions and letters from employees of different areas who were concerned about their careers with this department, with Public Works especially. Can the Minister advise us as to what is happening in the area of training, development and promotion of affirmative action employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have devolved funds to fund affirmative action employees through special assistance and skill improvement opportunities. In addition, there are several students who are supported in different ways in their efforts at post-secondary training. We have some in-house training programs. Mr. Chairman, it is my intention as the Minister responsible for this department to make sure, in the very near future, we have some sort of affirmative action training program so that when people enter into this work there is a clear career path to where they want to get to and how they can get there with the assistance of the department. That is not in place right now, but that will be there. It is one of my priorities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Program summary, total O and M. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There was a hope that you would realize some manpower savings by amalgamating both departments. Can you advise whether or not we have saved any PYs by doing this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still fine tuning the amalgamation of the two departments. We have already cut 11.8 PYs and there will be more cut.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total O and M. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a comment with regard to this department's work with projects which go into the communities, especially the smaller communities. The department is working quite well in trying to provide funding which is allocated to a community, so they can try to keep the money in the community. The money would then circulate within the community and in the region, but if the community and the region cannot handle it, then it gets out of the region. This is fine as long as it stays in the north. However, more and more I am hearing that there are a couple of instances in Trout Lake where a project is happening and a local electrical company was not made aware that the work went outside of the community and outside of the region. In fact, I think it went to a firm in Edmonton. In instances such as this, the people of the region would like to have an opportunity to be able to have a shot at the project. In this case, it did not happen. I did not catch it either. It came in after the fact. I do not know how we can remedy situations such as this. The department is working well at this, but sometimes things slide by. I wanted to bring this to the attention of the Minister and the department. Sometimes this type of approach needs to be more fine tuned. The way in which the contracts are let out in the communities, sometimes it is negotiated with a community corporation. I agree with this because it

gives an opportunity for the community to benefit from a project in their community and their region. I wanted to make this one comment. Does the Minister wish to comment on that?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct, the electrical subcontractor on the Trout Lake job slipped through. It is my understanding that it is a southern contractor. That is unacceptable for me also, but I cannot overturn that contract, if I could, I would. I cannot do this because there is protection under tender law. It should have gone to the regional person. It was a project management job. Because of the winter road, I am not making any excuses, but it was a rush. The Trout Lake job was a rush job. I learned a lesson from the way in which it was tendered. It will be refined, to say the least, for the next time around. We do many things. We do project management and negotiated contracts, where we tender with a clause for local labour, or are only able to bring in one trades person. We do that to ensure that local people benefit from the dollars spent in their communities. Some things do slip by. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

I have a concern with the maintenance department. You have quite a large work-force in the maintenance department. Different members of your maintenance staff have brought to my attention that their future, for them to continue in the work they are doing, seems to be very vague at this point. You have a quite a large staff in Yellowknife and in the other major centres. They provide this service to the smaller communities. At this point in time, there is much talk about privatizing the type of work they do. There is a great deal of concern from workers in your department. That is why I am asking this question. Can you tell me what we have to look forward to in terms of continuing employment for maintenance workers? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if people are working, doing a good job, willing to get up in the morning and go to work and produce, they have no fear, they will continue to work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Program summary, total O and M, \$124,970 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that the Department of Government Services and Public Works O and M budget is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for assisting the committee. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Members for speedy passage and thank them for their concerns and advice. I would like to thank the Members of my staff also. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that we move on to Committee Report 16-12(3).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Is the committee agreed that we move on to Committee Report 16-12(3). Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges final report. Mr. Zoe.

Committee Report 16-12(3): Final Report On The Comprehensive Review Of The Rules

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges made its report last week and moved our report into committee of the whole for further discussion.

Mr. Chairman, during the first meeting of our Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges of the 12th Assembly, the committee agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of the current rules of the Legislative Assembly. A comprehensive review of the rules had not taken place since the 10th Assembly. The committee Members were of the opinion that this review was necessary to ensure that the current rules allow Members to best perform their Parliamentary duties in a consensus system. Some Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly had also expressed the view that the rules could better reflect the cultural traditions of the people of the Northwest Territories. It was also decided that the review should focus, as well, on eliminating grammatical inconsistencies and terms reflecting gender bias.

The standing committee consulted with all Members of the Legislative Assembly to obtain their views and recommendations as to improvements that could be made to the rules. A questionnaire was sent to all Members in May, 1992, to request Members' opinions. As well, the committee received further referrals for its consideration during the time frame of the review.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges presented its Interim Report on the Comprehensive Review of the Rules, Committee Report 15-12(2), to the Legislative Assembly on June 26, 1992. The committee reported on the topics that were suggested for its consideration by Members and staff, and solicited further comment. The committee also reported its decision to undertake a re-

assessment of the rules to simplify their language and sentence structure.

In its interim report, the standing committee also noted that a referral had been received from Caucus that the committee

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review and report on the conduct of Members. The standing committee has been examining this issue in depth, and will report on its progress to Caucus.

Since the interim report, the standing committee has also received a referral from Caucus, requesting that the committee develop guidelines for the impending use of television within the Chamber, for review and adoption by the House. Our committee, Mr. Chairman, has made this report and it is in committee of the whole for discussion during this session.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges has met on numerous occasions since its last report to consider rule changes that might enable the House to perform its duties in a more effective and efficient manner, and that might better reflect the cultural diversity of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Members' Statements

A referral was received from the Ordinary Members' Caucus asking that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges consider extending the length of Members' statements within the rules from two and one half to three and one half minutes. A survey of all Members also produced several comments on this issue. These included suggestions that the time allowed for each Members' statement should be increased, that the time should not be changed and that the time should be increased for statements in the aboriginal languages.

The time allotted for Members' statements within the rules was increased from two to two and one half minutes on November 2, 1989.

The standing committee requested that an analysis of Members' statements be undertaken to determine how often unanimous consent had been requested in order for Members to conclude their statements.

The standing committee found that from the First to the Second Sessions of the 12th Legislative Assembly (to November 17, 1992), the percentage of statements for which unanimous consent to conclude

was sought rose from approximately six per cent to approximately 21 per cent.

The standing committee recognizes the wish of ordinary Members to be accorded an adequate amount of time to communicate their constituents' concerns. However, the committee is also mindful of the decision to televise the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in the near future. The committee is of the opinion that all Members must participate in efforts to have the business of the Assembly proceed in a timely fashion.

The standing committee notes that there has not been a tendency for Members' statements given in the aboriginal languages to be longer than others. With the requirement that all statements be simultaneously interpreted, the committee was of the opinion that the time allotted to all statements should be equal.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges does not recommend an amendment to the rules in relation to the length allowed for Members' statements at this time.

The standing committee would like to add that it might be of assistance to the interpreters if each Member provided a copy of his or her statement, including those given in English, to the interpreters in advance. By preparing statements in writing, Members may also be better able to estimate and adjust the length of their comments. As well, the committee takes this opportunity to remind Members that pursuant to Rule 23(3), Members' statements are to be confined to one matter only.

Further Returns To Oral Questions

The Speaker referred the matter of "further returns to oral questions" to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. The practice of some Ministers at times is to give a partial response to a question, with an offer to provide further information. This information has been provided as a "further return."

The Speaker's rulings have made it clear that unless a question is specifically taken as notice by the Minister, it will not be recorded as such. The official House record will indicate that the question has been answered. As well, when a Minister answers a question in this matter rather than taking it as notice, supplementary questions may be allowed on the same subject.

However, the standing committee recognizes that on occasion, a Minister may inadvertently give incorrect or incomplete information to the House in response to an oral question and may wish to provide additional information at a later time. The committee was of the opinion that the current practice of providing a "further return to an oral question" is an appropriate method of dealing with such situations. A "further return," where necessary, should be given under the item "returns to oral questions" on the orders of the day.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges is of the opinion that an amendment to the rules is not necessary to accommodate this procedure.

Committee Reports

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges received referrals from the Government House Leader regarding consideration of the reports from standing and special committees. Currently, when reports of these committees are presented to the House, the rules allow the report to be read into the record and by motion be moved into committee of the whole for further discussion.

The standing committee was informed that Cabinet was concerned that reports may be automatically put on the orders for committee of the whole for the day on which they are received by the House. If the House wishes, reports may be considered and recommendations approved on that day. Although serious problems have not yet arisen, there is a potential for reports to be considered and approved in committee of the whole before Ministers have had an adequate opportunity to review the reports, to consult with their departmental officials and to make significant contribution to the debate. This could also be a matter of concern to those ordinary Members who are not Members of a committee that

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is presenting a report, as they may wish to review the report to be in a better position to contribute to the debate.

It was suggested to the standing committee that a rule specifying that reports moved into committee of the whole may not be considered until two sitting days have passed would avoid such problems. This is the case for bills reported to the House by a committee. The rule could be waived by unanimous consent for routine reports to avoid unnecessary delays.

The standing committee consulted with the chairs of the standing and special committees by correspondence, and did not receive any objections to the request of the Government House Leader. The committee was of the opinion that a rule delaying the consideration of reports of standing and special committees would allow a more comprehensive debate of the issues before the House.

Committee Motion 114-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 1

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to specify that reports of standing and special committees shall not be taken into consideration until two sitting days have passed from the presentation of the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Zoe.

Sitting Hours

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges discussed at some length the question of the sitting hours of the Assembly, and the suggestion of leaving one day each week open for committee and constituency business for Members.

Several concerns have been raised in the past regarding the schedule of Members during session. Often meetings are held during each morning and evening around the sitting hours of the Assembly. Although attempts have been made to curtail the number of committee meetings, the schedule and work load of each committee often requires several meetings to be held during session.

The standing committee recognizes as well, however, that many Members are unable to return to their constituencies for lengthy periods of time while the House is sitting and that proceeding with the business of the House in an efficient manner is a priority.

The standing committee was of the opinion that a provisional amendment to the rules, to be in force for a limited term on a trial basis, would be an effective means of addressing the scheduling problems. This would allow further input to be provided by Members on the issue, based on their experience with the amendment. Therefore, on February 17, 1993, a motion for a provisional rule change for the sitting hours was moved by the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, and was carried by the Assembly.

Until the prorogation of the Third Session, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly each Wednesday until the next sitting day upon the completion of oral question period.

The standing committee would welcome the comments of the Members on this provisional amendment.

Mr. Chairman, you may recall last week the provisional rule was rescinded. Our standing committee would like comments pertaining to that particular issue.

Responses To Oral And Written Questions

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges considered the issue of whether time frames should be instituted for responses by Ministers to written or oral questions. As well, the committee discussed whether returns to written questions should be required to be filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during extended adjournments.

The standing committee is of the opinion that there should be no time frame incorporated within the rules for responses to oral questions. Where an issue is uncomplicated and urgent, a Member may wish to raise the issue again rather quickly to request that a Minister address the issue and provide a response.

Where a response is more complex, a Minister may indicate, when questioned, that more time is required to investigate the issue. As the oral question period allows Members to raise issues of immediate concern, the committee is of the view that flexibility

should be maintained. Accordingly, the standing committee does not recommend an amendment to the rules in this area.

With respect to written questions, the standing committee is of the opinion that a rule specifying the time frame for a response would assist the efficient functioning of the House.

The standing committee holds the view that a time period of 21 calendar days would allow sufficient time for responses to be provided to most written questions. However, accommodation should be made for complex matters. Where 21 days is not adequate, the committee is of the view that the rules should provide a method for the Minister to indicate to the House in writing that more time is required, and to specify a date upon which the response will be provided.

Committee Motion 115-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 2

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to incorporate a requirements that returns to written questions be provided within 21 calendar days, unless the Minister indicates to the House in writing that more time is required, specifies the

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reason for the delay, and indicates the date upon which the information will be provided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. The standing committee was also of the view that the current procedure by which returns to

written questions are provided should be clarified. Currently, rule 56 provides that the Minister must file a return to a written question with the Clerk, who will inform the Assembly, distribute copies to all Members and have the reply printed in Hansard. The Minister may also choose to read the reply in the House.

The standing committee is of the opinion that the requirement to file a return to a written question with the Clerk applies as well to returns which are provided during an adjournment.

Oral Questions

The standing committee considered several issues relating to oral questions. Some suggestions received by the standing committee were to expand the time period allowed for oral questions, to leave the time period open, and to allow a sufficient preamble within the rules.

The standing committee is of the opinion that no amendment to the rules is required with respect to the length of the oral question period. The question period has been extended from time to time by unanimous consent, but the committee is mindful of the general need to ensure that the business of the House continues to proceed efficiently. Given the large amount of business regularly before the House, extension of oral questions should occur only in exceptional circumstances.

As well, as the Speaker has frequently reminded the House, both ordinary Members and Minister carry responsibility for being concise in their questions and answers so as to ensure sufficient time for others to be heard. Oral questions should be used in those cases where the answer might reasonably be expected to be within the knowledge of the Minister; written questions should be used for more complex issues.

The current rule allows for some explanation of an oral question to be offered as a preamble. The appropriate length of a particular preamble is subject to the ruling of the Speaker, and the standing committee holds the view that it is not necessary to add any further restriction within the rules. The present rules are clear that arguments and opinions shall not be offered. It is also not appropriate to frame questions so that they seek the personal or professional opinion of a Minister.

The standing committee also recognizes that while rule 55 does not specifically reflect this, parliamentary

convention also allows a Minister to refuse to answer a question where circumstances require. For example, other conventions of the Assembly may require that the matter not be discussed in the House.

Procedure For Assenting To Bills

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges discussed the current procedure by which the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories assents to bills. At present, assents are granted in the chamber.

The standing committee reviewed the practice for giving assent to bills in other jurisdictions. In most provinces, assents are granted in the chamber, but occasionally, assents are given in the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

The standing committee is of the view that in most cases, the current procedure for assenting to bills in the chamber, in the view of the public, is the most appropriate. However, where circumstances require, the committee agrees that it may be appropriate for assent to be given outside of the House, with the Clerk reporting to the House that assent has been given. While this procedure would not require a rule change, the committee desires to bring it to the attention of the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

Committee Motion 116-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 3

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the procedure for assenting to bills in the Legislative Assembly chamber continue as the usual practice of the Assembly, but that assents be given elsewhere when circumstances dictate, and be then reported to the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. 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. Zoe, please continue.

Election Of Speaker And Executive Council

MR. ZOE:

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges deliberated whether the procedure for the election of the Speaker and the Executive Council by the Territorial Leadership Committee, as established in 1991, should be incorporated within the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee holds the opinion that it is not necessary to amend the rules to incorporate the procedure developed by the Territorial Leadership Committee at present. The procedure is evolving, and the committee does not recommend that the Assembly be bound to a specific process at this time. The committee is also aware that the question of the appointment of Ministers of the Executive Council by the Government Leader has been raised by some Members. The

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committee is of the opinion that this issue may receive further consideration, but not by this committee.

Emergency Debate

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges considered the practice of other jurisdictions which allow the orders of the day to be stood down to allow an emergency debate on an urgent issue. The committee felt that the development of such a practice within our rules would be of value.

Currently, the rules may be stood down for emergency debate upon unanimous consent. However, debate on an important issue may be blocked by one Member. The committee is of the opinion that rules should be developed to allow emergency debate upon one hour's notice to the Speaker. Debate as to whether the issue is an emergency could be allowed by the Speaker, and the decision as to whether emergency debate is appropriate would be the Speaker's.

Such a procedure would allow for full debate on an urgent issue, one that cannot adequately be dealt with by the Assembly within the usual House rules and procedures. Although the question of what would constitute an emergency in certain circumstances would be subject to debate and the ruling of the

Speaker, the committee anticipates that the procedure would be used for an unexpected event of urgent public importance, rather than an emergency related to issues of political importance.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to include a procedure for emergency debate on matters of urgent public importance, upon one hour's notice being provided to the Speaker;

and further, that the Speaker shall rule on the question of whether debate should be allowed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe, for clarification, you used the word "should" and it was written as "shall." Do you wish to change it?

Committee Motion 117-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 4

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I will read my motion again for clarity. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to include a procedure for emergency debate on matters of urgent public importance, upon one hour's notice being provided to the Speaker;

and further, that the Speaker shall rule on the question of whether debate shall be allowed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. 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. Zoe.

Order And Decorum

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, during our survey of Members, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges was requested to review the order and decorum within the chamber. Two specific matters raised were the reading of newspapers within the chamber, and whether the committee might provide coffee within the chamber during committee of the whole.

The standing committee is of the opinion that no rule amendments are necessary to deal with order and decorum, as each Member may assess its importance on an individual basis. The committee is also unable to agree with the suggestion that coffee be allowed within the committee of the whole.

Official Languages

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges reviewed the rules in light of the Official Languages Act. The Official Languages Act establishes eight official languages of the Northwest Territories.

The act provides that everyone has the right to use any official language in the debates and other proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Acts, records and journals of the Assembly must be printed and published in English and French, as well as other specified documents, orders and regulations.

The standing committee discussed whether requirements should be included within the rules for the translation of documents or motion into specific official languages. For example, rule 21(2) requires that Ministers' statements be filed with the Clerk, "complete with translation." The rule does not specify the language or languages into which the document must be translated.

The standing committee was of the opinion that the procedures of the House in this respect should remain flexible. The Speaker has ruled that currently, House documents must be translated into Inuktitut, and the committee is of the opinion that this addresses the issue sufficiently.

Tabled Documents

Currently, the item "tabling of documents" appears on the orders of the day for the Legislative Assembly, but nothing in the rules indicates what the item is, or whether a statement is allowed when a document is tabled. The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges is of the view that a simple

rule should be included to indicate that a Member may table a document under the appropriate item, and may make a brief factual statement identifying the document.

Committee Motion 118-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 5

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to include a rule allowing the tabling of documents and allowing a brief statement to be given which identifies the document.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. 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. Zoe.

Rules On Private Bills

MR. ZOE:

Currently, the rules of the Legislative Assembly set out a procedure by which a private individual may bring legislation before the House, as a private bill. In addition, ordinary Members of the Legislative Assembly may introduce private Members' public bills, dealing with any matter except the expenditure of public funds or the imposition of a tax. Cabinet Ministers may introduce public bills for the administration of government, including the collection and allocation of public funds and to set public policy.

The current section within the rules dealing with private bills dates back to a provision adopted by Britain in the 1800s. Historically, this type of rule evolved in England as a means for the establishment of private schools.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges recognizes that the rules for private bills

have only once been used in the Northwest Territories, by a trust company which had declared bankruptcy. In that case, the bill was eventually taken over by the government.

The standing committee is of the opinion that it is not of assistance to include within the rules a procedure for the introduction of legislation which bypasses the elected Members of the Assembly. In any event, support of the Members is necessary for passage of any legislation.

Committee Motion 119-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 6

Therefore, I move that this committee recommends that the rules establishing a procedure for the introduction of private bills by members of the public be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, I may have misread it. Does that mean there will no longer be a Member's bill allowed in the House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

No. Mr. Chairman, there is a provision within the existing rule which was established in the 1800s in Britain, primarily to establish private schools. The general public can present legislation to be discussed in the Assembly. To my knowledge, it has been used only once where a trust company wanted to declare bankruptcy. Any legislation which comes forward needs support by elected Members, so this provision we have in our existing rules is redundant. It is not used at all, so our standing committee is suggesting that we delete that particular rule.

Members' private bills will still be there. That provision is still there for elected Members to bring forward their own legislation. That does not exclude them at all, but this is for the general public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Member for Kivallivik. He is satisfied. 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

Do you wish to continue, Mr. Zoe?

Petitions

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During our comprehensive review of the rules, it was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges that the current rule dealing with petitions is not clear. Our Rule 57 provides that a petition to the Legislative Assembly may be presented at any time during a sitting of the Assembly by filing it with the Clerk or by a Member presenting it from his or her place in the House.

However, it is not clear whether any member of the public may present a petition by filing it with the Clerk, or whether only a Member of the Legislative Assembly may present a petition by either method.

To date, this rule has been interpreted to be consistent with usual parliamentary practice, so that petitions may be presented to the Legislative Assembly only through a Member. However, the standing committee is of the opinion that this rule should be clarified.

The standing committee holds the view that it would be consistent with the principle of open government to adopt a rule allowing members of the public to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly, by filing it with the Clerk. Such petitions should contain a minimum of 25 signatures, and should address a public matter. The question as to whether these conditions have been fulfilled would be subject to the ruling of the Speaker.

The rules would continue to allow Members to present petitions as well, by filing the petition with the Clerk or by presenting it from his or her place in the House.

The standing committee does not propose any change to the present procedure in this area.

Committee Motion 120-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 7

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the rules be amended to allow members of the public to present petitions to the Legislative Assembly by filing them with the

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Clerk, provided that such petitions contain a minimum of 25 signatures and address a public matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Question has been called. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, through you to the chairman in regard to this ruling, is this the standard practice for public petitions in other jurisdictions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

It varies from province to province. In the Yukon I cannot recall exactly what the procedure is. When our committee was discussing this issue, we felt the existing rule has to be clarified and there was no mechanism in place for the public to bring a petition to the House. We had a lengthy discussion on this. My understanding on the question you asked, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, in regard to petitions to other jurisdictions, it is not commonly done, but our standing committee considered it and we thought we should consider this type of recommendation in light of our open government concept. We thought this rule could benefit us and the general public as a whole. That is the main reason we have included this provision in this report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I am not against the concept of open government, but I am wondering, what are the rules or procedures used in other jurisdictions compared to this, seeing this is a new ruling. That is what I want to find out. It does not seem to be clear to me as a Member. It is my understanding the process now used for tabling of petitions is through elected Members. I guess we are going away from that and that is what I am trying to find out. Now, we are saying that any petition can come in through the Clerk of the House. That will be the public process for petitions. I need some clarification with regard to the reason for the committee's decision to make this particular decision. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

We ran into the problem where the current rule, rule 57. In our existing rules, it was not very clear if the public may present a petition by filing it with the Clerk or whether a Member of the Legislative Assembly may present a petition by either method. So, we were not sure, there was no clarity. We think there was a provision there for the public, but it was not clear. With the concept of open government, we decided that clarification and simplification of the rule should be included so it could be specifically spelled out that the general public could file a petition by filing it with the Clerk. That option is still there, if the general public wants to give their petition to their elected official, that option is also open to them. There is nothing preventing them from giving a petition to their elected official. It is more open and makes it more clear as to the type of petitions we can receive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges indicating to this House that currently our process allows for petitions to be tabled by the public through

the Clerk? Can that process be used now in the existing rules? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

The existing rule, Mr. Chairman, is not clear whether any member of the public may present a petition. That is why we included this recommendation for consideration, to make it more clear. There have been concerns raised by committee Members as to whether the conditions we are placing on the new rule would be subject to the Speaker's ruling. For example, if they do not have 25 signatures and if it does not address a public matter, then the petition will not be laid in the House. It has to meet certain conditions before it is laid in the Legislature. There are some qualifiers there for the general public before it is tabled in the House. There are provisions there for the general public to participate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to find out is, what are our existing rules with regard to the process of tabling a petition or presenting a petition to the House?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Clerk to look up rule 57. I do not have my book in front of me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Just give us a moment.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two methods, in the existing rules, for petitions to be presented to the House. The first method is by a Member presenting a petition in the House under the item on the orders of the day entitled "petitions" where the Member will stand and present the petition to the House. When a Member does this, the Member is

required to endorse his signature on the petition and then present it to the House.

There is also a provision in the rules which permits a Member to file a petition with the Clerk. Members may receive petitions they may not necessarily be endorsed and this allows a Member to not necessarily endorse a petition, but does allow the Member on behalf of his constituents to file the petition which will then become House records and become the property of the House. There are only two ways now of filing a petition in the Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. General comments. Member for Nunakput.

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HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I think the question is, at what point is the public able to file petitions? I know part of the reason for this one area of concern was that there were some petitions which were asked to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and none of the Members were willing to table the petitions because of disagreement on what the petition said. So, what is the access to public? My understanding was it is a public matter, but I thought it was a public policy matter which we were talking about when we were trying to address the issue. I think it is a matter of what gets tabled and what are the issues, otherwise anyone could come in and write up a petition -- and you know and I know how easy it is to get petitions signed -- for a nuisance factor or try to cause some mischief. My understanding was it was more specific to a certain area where you would say it was a public policy matter rather than just a public matter because a public matter can be anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, as the Clerk indicated, right now our rules are not clear. It has been interpreted that a member of the public may not present a petition except through an elected MLA. With the concept of open government, we are saying this should be a provision for the public to develop petitions and have an opportunity to table them in the Legislature, but they have to meet certain requirements: one, they

have to have a minimum of 25 signatures; two, it has to be subject to a public matter, although as the Premier indicated it could be anything. That is why we are suggesting that the Speaker would have the ultimate responsibility to determine if that petition should be forwarded to the Assembly or not. It is these conditions that have to be met before it is even tabled in the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an amendment. I would think it would be very difficult if a petition came about on the Speaker's personal conduct in the House and he had to table it. What I would like to suggest is that the rules be amended to allow members of the public to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly by filing it with the Clerk, provided that such petitions contain a minimum of 25 signatures and addresses, and I would like to move that we insert, "a public policy matter."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have an amendment. The amendment is in order. The amendment would insert the word "policy" immediately following the word "public" in between "public" and "matter." To the amendment. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, what is a public policy matter? Is it current government policy pertaining to the public's interest? Is that an interpretation of what is being alluded to? That would restrict Members receiving petitions from their constituents. That is why we left it in a general nature. If you restrict it to policy, it will make it difficult for anyone to present petitions to the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the amendment. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

What I was hoping we would do is to make it matters of relevance. What could happen is that this would mean in terms of a public matter, and I do not know if I have done anything better when making it a public policy matter. You could say that everything is a

public policy matter. The concern I would have is the number of petitions. We have a response mechanism for petitions where government has to respond to petitions within so many days. Does this mean that all of the petitions which are filed by the public follow the same rules where government would have to respond as though it was tabled by a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I was trying to restrict it, but if it does not then I will withdraw it. It is my understanding that it does not help anything by inserting "policy."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the Member wish to withdraw the amendment?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I have a general concern about petitions that are not presented through a Member and someone who will take responsibility for the petition. If anyone with 25 signatures can file a petition, the rules require us to deal with that petition. I do not know whether the Legislative Assembly or the committee of the whole is trying to make that provision. If we receive 100 petitions, which we could easily receive on every matter, we are obliged to respond to them, and it is not even the will of the House to respond because obviously if the petition is going to be filed through the Clerk, there is no one sponsoring that petition or in the position to oppose that petition. If you cannot get anyone in the House to deal with the matter, who are we responding to. I have a general concern regarding this one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. Mr. Zoe and then Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, if we do go with the recommendation that is being proposed, after being ruled on by the Speaker, then the Speaker basically tables the petition in the House. The government is not obligated to respond to the petition.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Order. Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Zoe was clarifying a point. Mrs. Marie-Jewell then Ms. Cournoyea.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to our rules currently under petitions, the Speaker or Minister

responsible shall provide a response to a petition within 60 days of its presentation and such response shall be tabled at the earliest opportunity. The government has no choice but to respond to a petition. The chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges should be cognizant of the rules. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, this recommendation basically instructs our people drafting up the new rule book. If recommendation eight is approved, we are going to redraft a new rule book which will have to be dealt with in this Assembly, line by line. What this recommendation does is instructs our staff to redraft a rule book into the simplest language, so that Members can understand it. With regard to

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the section on petitions, we notice that the current practice of the House is that petitions can only come through the Members elected and there are no provisions for the general public to lay a petition in the Assembly. So, what we were trying to do is to say that if the general public wishes to table a petition without going through an MLA, then that provision should be available to them. The MLAs have an option to either file it with the Clerk or to present it from their seat in the House. I realize that the government has to respond to it within a certain time, but this does not mean that the petitions which are being laid by the Speaker would have to be responded to. We could instruct the drafters of the new rule book to draft a rule so that provisions would not apply to respond to petitions from the public. It could be addressed in that manner. I do not see a problem with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the Leader's concern. I do not think it is not so much a public matter, I think of the number "25." If you already have that number in your rule book, you will be swamped with petitions every day from my community because that number is not very high.

---Laughter

Anything they want, they will be sending it by fax. If we say 100 or 200 signatures are required for legitimate petitions, that will leave out the smaller communities. Maybe what we can do is go by percentage, rather than the actual numbers. For example, the populations between 100 to 500 will require half the signatures, 500 to 1000 will require one third, 1001 to 2000 will require one quarter, 2000 and up such as Yellowknife, will require one eighth. That would be more acceptable, rather than the number "25." Those who are in the construction crew want to have their meals paid by the government, rather than the company, they will be sending petitions right away. Is it a public matter, I do not know. If the people in Coral Harbour want to have us build a wharf because they are losing many boats, if they have one third of the population signing the petition, that is legitimate. I think we are going to have to look at recommendation seven more carefully. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The chair recognizes Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Morin and then Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important for Members not to confuse the idea of the rules being amended to allow the public to present petitions. The problem that I am finding right now is there are a number of concerns that have arisen, but I do not find it so important an issue that it takes up all this time for debate. I would suggest to my colleagues if the concept is good, then maybe we have to go back to the drawing board and redraft a solution so we can satisfy the concerns that Members have raised. We have to be clear and satisfy the concerns, not only of Members, but also the public. I agree with my honourable colleagues, we do not want the public to use the process for frivolous matters, but at the same time they may be issues that are important for us to raise and address as a Legislature. I have been sitting here and listening to Members and I can appreciate the concerns that you have raised, but I am going to ask my colleagues if you are not happy with this, maybe you could recommend that we review it and report back to the Members again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. The chair recognizes Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we should also make it clear that any petitions should go through the Member to the House and that will solve the issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Zoe, Ms. Cournoyea, then Mr. Antoine.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I was going to defer it, but the chairman has indicated to me that he would rather withdraw it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, it was never the intention of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges to require these petitions to be responded to. They would have been separate from other petitions which are being filed by Members, the way we have been doing it under the existing rules. It was a thought that this method would provide a mechanism for the public, but in the interest of the committee, which wants to have further discussion on this issue, I will just withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman. I will continue on with the report.

---Withdrawn

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe has withdrawn Committee Motion 7-12(3). The chair recognizes Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Zoe has withdrawn his recommendation, but if he is going to review it, perhaps he could also review recommendations seven and eight. It says that a petition be referred to a standing or special committee and reported to the Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe, do you wish to continue?

Security

MR. ZOE:

It was suggested to the standing committee that consideration be given to a tightening of the rules with respect to security and the objects that are allowed to be carried into the chamber.

The committee discussed this issue, and is of the opinion that rules changes are not necessary at this time. The committee

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understands that the new building, which will soon accommodate the Legislative Assembly, may be better equipped to meet any concerns respecting security.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Cultural Issues

MR. ZOE:

Several suggestions were made to the committee with respect to the cultural relevance of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. The committee recognizes that the membership of the Legislative Assembly reflects the cultural diversity of the people that we represent. That is one of our strengths. Within this diversity there are also many areas of common ground.

The committee holds the view that it would be appropriate to amend the rules to better reflect this cultural diversity. While many of the traditions of Parliament are valuable and respected, aboriginal values might be better reflected within our rules.

The standing committee considered this issue in detail, but recognizes that further discussion is required among all Members of the Assembly before amendments are incorporated within the rules. Therefore, the committee is not prepared to make any

specific recommendations on this issue at present. However, the committee is willing to give further consideration to these issues, and would welcome any further suggestions by Members. At this time, Mr. Chairman, we propose some specific subjects for further discussion.

Some Members of the Legislative Assembly expressed a view to the standing committee that the requirement to bow to the mace should no longer be included within our rules. The committee recognizes that the symbol of the mace reflects the right of people to govern themselves freely. As well, the mace used by our Assembly uniquely incorporates many symbols of the history and culture of the people of the Northwest Territories, including copper from the central Arctic, whalebone carvings of northern wildlife and people, musk-ox horns, narwhal tusk, gold and porcupine quill work.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. ZOE:

The standing committee also recognizes that should the requirement to bow be removed, those who choose to continue to recognize the symbol of the mace by bowing may do so. The mace could continue to function in its current role in House proceedings.

The standing committee is of the view that further consideration should be given to the means by which the Assembly acknowledges the authority of the Members to govern within the chamber.

The standing committee also discussed options by which proceedings of the Assembly might better reflect the tradition of aboriginal people. The committee noted that the fire is symbolic for significant gatherings of people in aboriginal culture throughout the Northwest Territories. The standing committee is of the opinion that consideration should be given as to how the proceedings of the Assembly could embody this symbol.

Other symbols presently used in the Legislative Assembly were also raised for the standing committee's review, including the bells and the dress of the Speaker and the Clerks.

Consideration was given to the possibility of dress that would reflect aboriginal traditions. The committee recognizes that the current dress of the Clerks hold

some symbolism, as does the mace, and is mindful that this Assembly represents all groups who make the Northwest Territories their home. It is also important that there be a distinction within the Chamber between the elected Members and the Clerks who serve and advise the House, and a difference in dress is appropriate.

It was also suggested to the standing committee that drums, in alternating styles, might be used instead of the bells to call Members to the House. The committee is of the view that this option is also worthy of further consideration.

The standing committee recognizes that rule changes are not necessary in order to make alternations to the decor of the Assembly, or the dress of House officers. As these matters fall within the legal responsibility of the Management and Services Board pursuant to section 37(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, they might properly be given further consideration by the board.

Gender Bias, Grammatical Inconsistencies And Simplification Of The Rules

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges included a focus on eliminating grammatical inconsistencies and gender bias during its comprehensive review of the rules. The committee is also of the view that the rules should be examined with the objective of using simple and direct language.

The standing committee feels that the rules of the Assembly should not be drafted as if they were legislation, but should be in plain language so that they may be readily understandable by Members and by the public. Plain language would also make translation of the rules considerably easier. The standing committee has been reviewing the rules with these objectives in mind.

The standing committee is of the view that a redrafting of the rules, to be presented to the Assembly for approval in the form of a new rule book, is the most appropriate means of accomplishing these goals. The new rule book could be presented to the Assembly during this session, and would include revisions to correct grammatical inconsistencies and gender bias, and to simplify the language and sentence structure of the rules. The new rule book would also include the amendments recommended within this report that have been approved by the Assembly.

Committee Motion 121-12(3): To Adopt Recommendation 8

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that a new rule book be drafted and presented to the Assembly for approval prior to the conclusion of the Third Session;

And further, that the rule book incorporate the amendments approved by the Assembly from this report;

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And further, that the rule book incorporate revisions to correct grammatical inconsistencies and gender bias within the rules;

And further, that the rule book incorporate revisions to simplify the rules.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion. 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. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the final report on the comprehensive review of the rules of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mahsi cho, Mr. Zoe.

---Applause

Does the committee agree that Committee Report 16-12(3), Final Report on the Comprehensive Review of the Rules, is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest we hear the opening remarks from the Minister of the Housing Corporation, resuming with Bill 17.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Is the Minister of the Housing Corporation prepared to give his opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly, today I am pleased to present the 1993-94 O and M budget for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

The fiscal year 1993-94 will be a landmark year for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Many of the new initiatives that were developed in 1992-93 will be implemented.

One of the most important and exciting initiatives is the access to home ownership programs approved by this House in December. The first access units will be delivered across the NWT this spring and summer.

Public reaction to the access to home ownership programs has been very positive. District staff have held public meetings in 56 communities, and we have over 1,000 applications from interested families.

District staff are now meeting individually with these families as part of the corporation's "one-stop shopping" service. Applicants are receiving information and counselling about the different programs that are offered by the Housing Corporation. This allows families to choose the program that best fits their needs and financial situation.

All in all, 427 families will receive some form of home ownership assistance from the corporation in 1993-94. This is much more assistance than we expected to be able to provide, given the deep cuts to CMHC funding, Mr. Chairman, but I know it is not enough. New program options are being developed to try to assist as many families as we possibly can to become home owners.

The access to home ownership programs were designed to meet the housing needs of a broader range of northern families. We will be monitoring the access programs very closely this year, to make sure we identify any problems with the programs. If changes are needed, they will be made.

Mr. Chairman, we have to make sure we listen to the people in the communities and that we pay attention to what they tell us about how our programs are working. The corporation will implement an expanded consultation framework in 1993-94. Last December, Members passed motions endorsing the consultation framework, and recommending that it be implemented in 1993-94.

I would like to thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions for their help with developing the consultation framework. When we presented the proposal for the consultation framework to the standing committee, Members suggested a number of changes. The consultation framework was revised to include their suggestions, and I believe it will be more effective as a result.

The consultation framework will provide more opportunities for public input. We will be holding an annual public meeting in each community to deal with people's housing concerns. In addition to the public, representatives from the local housing organization, community government, band council, Metis local and community development corporation will be invited to attend these meetings.

We will also hold an annual meeting in each district with representatives from the community housing

organizations. If a community does not have a housing organization, representatives of the community government, band council

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and Metis local will be invited to attend. These meetings will deal with regional housing concerns.

Mr. Chairman, meetings are already held in communities on a regular basis, and also at the regional level. We will simply be expanding these existing forums to include more representatives from communities.

Another key part of the consultation framework is the formation of an Advisory Committee on Social Housing to ensure the input of MLAs on territorial-wide social housing issues. I have tabled terms of reference for this committee, and given notice of motion to establish it as soon as possible. Advisory committee Members will be asked to advise us on the policies and programs of the Housing Corporation and will be kept up-to-date on territorial-wide social housing issues.

I am looking forward to working with the advisory committee. I think it is a very positive development in our Legislative Assembly. I have always said that housing is everybody's problem and no one person has all the answers. I welcome the opportunity to work with Members on the advisory committee and I know our housing programs and policies will be better because of their advice.

A review of the public housing rent scale has begun. The present rent scale was designed in 1983 and has not changed since. Changes are needed, Mr. Chairman, because there are some serious problems with the current rent scale that must be resolved. These problems include:

- The current scale is not fair and equitable. There are unfair differences in some of the rents charged within and between communities.
- The current scale does not encourage home ownership.
- The current scale does not reduce rent enough for working families with low incomes.
- CMHC does not accept the NWT rental scale, and reduces its funding to the corporation as a result.

I hope to release a discussion paper on the proposed new rent scale during this session. If the House rises early, the discussion paper will be circulated to all Members, housing associations, authorities and the public. I plan to work closely with Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Advisory Committee on Social Housing, and the communities on this issue.

I want to assure Members and the public that we will take time to explain the changes we feel are needed, both to this House and to the people in the communities. Meetings will be held in each community, with the local housing organization, community governments, and the public to explain why and how the rent scale needs to change.

The consultation framework I proposed to Members last December is already being implemented. Public meetings were held in all communities in December and January to introduce the access programs, and to share information with the communities about the results of the 1992 needs survey. District staff also explained how the needs study results affected the number of homes the communities receive. It is important to us that the public understand what the allocation process is based on and how the Housing Corporation makes these decisions. This is an important part of our consultation process.

The corporation is also doing more to support northern and local construction companies this year. In 1992-93, the corporation originally planned to deliver 12 rent supplement units in Yellowknife. We actually delivered 60 rent supplement units in five communities in 1992-93, Mr. Chairman. The rent supplement allocation was expanded so we could maximize the economic benefits associated with the program in more communities. In 1993-94, we will deliver 121 rent supplement units in 16 communities.

Not only does the rent supplement program allow the Housing Corporation to do more with less, it also provides a number of important business opportunities to northern companies and community development corporations. We will be combining staff housing requirements with public housing needs to create more attractive opportunities for local and northern developers.

Mr. Chairman, the Housing Corporation has been working actively with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, as well as the Department of Government Services and Public Works, on a training strategy. The purpose of this strategy will be to take maximum advantage of the

building construction-related opportunities for training and for employment at the local level. The strategy is nearing completion, and I expect to be able to make a Minister's statement on the strategy before the end of this session.

Mr. Chairman, as I advised the Standing Committee on Finance in January, these are all positive steps forward in the way the corporation provides homes. We must all bear in mind, however, that unless we receive enough money to do the job, we will still have a serious shortage of housing on our hands, as well as the health, social, educational and other problems that are a consequence of a housing shortage.

The Government Leader had also planned to raise this issue in her meeting with the Prime Minister. It is very unfortunate that

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this meeting has been deferred, but the proposed CMHC cuts will remain on the agenda for the Government Leader's meeting with the Prime Minister when it does take place.

I know Members are very concerned and disappointed about the threat of further CMHC funding cuts. I share this disappointment and concern. I will make a Minister's statement on the status of the funding cuts as soon as the numbers are confirmed by the federal Minister. I assure you we will not take any new cuts laying down.

I would like to bring your attention to the report of the federal Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. The standing committee's report, "A time for Action: Aboriginal and Northern Housing" was released this past December. I spoke to this committee on behalf of the NWT, and I can report to you that they listened to our concerns. The committee has recognized our immediate and critical shortage, and has recommended that, at the very least, the 1992 federal funding level be reinstated. I will ensure the federal government is kept aware of the recommendations of the standing committee.

Mr. Chairman, this sums up the key activities of the NWT Housing Corporation for 1993-94. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The Standing Committee on Finance will now present its report. Mr. Arvaluk.

Comments By Standing Committee On Finance

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is clear to the committee that the corporation is working hard to develop a strategy and methods to significantly change the delivery of housing. We appreciate that.

We also note that the corporation is more active in its pursuit of the transfer of responsibility to communities than are other departments. The committee would like to see:

1. Report cards on the housing associations to see how ready they are to successfully deliver more housing programs;
2. More GNWT departments following the corporation's lead in the community transfer initiatives and program improvements;
3. Consideration given to different needs in the Nunavut area, including the possibility of a Nunavut directorate; and,
4. A follow-up review by the Auditor General of the previous comprehensive audit.

The corporation must ensure that it is serving the housing associations and authorities well by providing suitable support, direction and training programs by keeping systems simple, and by having an early warning system to prevent serious problems.

Concern was expressed about the need for timely information explaining changes in housing programs to be delivered to the people affected. This would include the coordination of changes to the government's staff housing policy. Currently, there is a great deal of misinformation floating around and we wish to lessen the confusion. We refer to his further under the Department of Personnel.

We will continue to monitor the corporation's progress and achievements, and assess communities to which responsibilities have been successfully transferred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the remarks of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 17 and 5, Committee Reports 11-12(3) and 16-12(3) and would like to report progress with nine motions being adopted and Committee Report 16-12(3) being concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Media/MLA Schmockey Game

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add a few comments with regard to the second annual media/MLA schmockey match. First, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that Saturday's game raised approximately \$800 for the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital's intensive care unit.

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---Applause

I would like to thank each and every fan who came out to Saturday's game to donate to this worthy cause.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on Sam "Grumpy" Gargan's slanderous accusations regarding the alleged bone-crushing body check that I inflicted upon Ms. Paquette. All Members of this House know that I have nothing but the deepest, deepest respect for our friends in the media and that I would never intentionally inflict bodily harm on a reporter. The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that my collision with Ms. Paquette was purely an accident and I had nothing to do with the highly critical news reports that she wrote about me earlier this year. I hope this clarifies matters, Mr. Speaker, and I will be looking forward to our game again next year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

With the consensus of your team mates, Mr. Morin, it might be helpful if you attended charm school. Item 20, third reading of bills. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to tabled documents.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 108-12(3), a letter from the Fort Smith Metis Nation, the president Earl Jacobson in conjunction with a chief of the Fort Smith native band, addressed to me with respect to River Ridge secure facility for young offenders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of Caucus at 9:00 am tomorrow morning, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Finance. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 23, 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 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division

- Tabled Document 91-12(3), Northwest Territories AIDS Project - Review

- Tabled Document 92-12(3), HIV and AIDS in the NWT in 1993

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

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

- Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Public Printing Act

- Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

- Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act

- Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act

- Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1992-93

- 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

- Committee Report 15-12(3), TD 33-12(2): Government Accountability: A Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government

- Committee Report 17-12(3), Report on Television Guidelines

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

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20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 pm Tuesday, March 23, 1993.

--ADJOURNMENT