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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, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I would like to recognize in the gallery a former colleague, Mr. John T'Seleie.

---Applause

I understand John has been drafted to play for the media hockey team. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 68-12(3): Health Billings Dispute

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement concerns the health billings dispute with the federal government. On December 8, 1992, the Government of the Northwest Territories began a legal action in the federal court of Canada against the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Health and Welfare Canada.

The legal action is claiming about \$80 million in unpaid invoices for hospital care services provided to aboriginal persons in the Northwest Territories. Payment for treatment of aboriginal persons in the NWT is a federal responsibility and is covered under contribution agreements dated October 28, 1986 and August 23, 1989.

The preamble of the contribution agreement reads as follows, and I quote: "WHEREAS Parliament annually approves the payment of a contribution to the territories (in addition to the amount payable pursuant to the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services

Act) so calculated that Canada will assume the total cost of hospital care provided to status Indians and Inuit as interpreted in the Indian Act."

Clause one of both agreements states, and I quote: "This contribution is being made available to the territories for the purpose of financing the total cost of hospital care for status Indians and Inuit."

Mr. Speaker, it is the position of the GNWT that Canada's legal obligations under these contribution agreements were not altered by the 1988 health transfer agreement, although the method of calculating the reciprocal billing amounts was affected slightly. During the year 1990, disputes between Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories arose relating to aspects of the calculation of hospital costs and the legal status of nursing stations providing care.

During subsequent discussion between officials, Canada began to advance the position that the 1988 health transfer agreement had devolved to the GNWT all responsibility for the provision and funding of hospital care for aboriginal persons.

This position is advanced by Mr. Richard Van Loon, who was then the assistant deputy minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Development, in his letter of April 4, 1991, to Mr. Bob Cowcill, former deputy minister of Health for the GNWT. Mr. Van Loon states, and I quote:

"DIAND's position is that Health and Welfare Canada transferred, and the GNWT accepted, a fully funded hospital and health care system when it took over the responsibility for the Baffin health services in 1986 and 1987 and the remainder of nursing stations and health services in the west in 1988. The acceptance of these program transfers also assumes GNWT's responsibility for the subsequent delivery and complete funding of these services to all residents from existing financial resources."

Mr. Speaker, it has always been the understanding and position of the GNWT that the effect of the 1988 health transfer was to mandate the GNWT to deliver, but not to fund, hospital care to aboriginal persons. This position was clearly articulated by the Government Leader, the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea in her letter of September 28, 1991, to the Honourable Tom Siddon when she stated, and I quote:

"In our telephone discussion, you inquired as to why the health transfer should be treated any differently than other federal program devolution's to the GNWT. The answer is simple. The Government of Canada, represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, had in place before each health transfer, and renewed after each transfer, separate contribution agreements with the GNWT so calculated that Canada would assume the total cost of hospital and medical care provided to status Indians and Inuit.'

"With each of the successive health transfers, the GNWT assumed the full service delivery responsibility for the areas affected and the financial risk for growth beyond the health transfer funding amounts received for Health headquarters costs, medical travel (excluding the non-insured co-payment for status Indian and Inuit), and for hospital and medical care services for non-natives. The GNWT was, however, afforded protection through the DIAND contribution agreements against escalating hospital and medical care costs beyond any transferred amounts received for Indians and Inuit.

"In our view, DIAND must recognize its fundamental responsibilities to registered Indians and Inuit, which were not

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altered by the transfer of health services, and the unique role of GNWT as the agent of DIAND in managing a health services delivery system on their behalf through a legal agreement. We believe we are doing so in an effective, efficient, and culturally sensitive manner."

Paragraph 32 of the statement of defence states, in part, and I quote: "The phased devolution and all associated federal funding provided a complete and unified health service for status Indians and Inuit utilizing the hospitals, nursing stations and related health services previously operated by the Department of National Health and Welfare."

Canada goes further and alleges the following in paragraph 34 of the statement of defence, and I quote: "Status Indians and Inuit groups were consulted and they approved of the phased devolution of health services from the Department of National Health and Welfare to the Government of the Northwest Territories."

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is determined it must take all lawful steps and means to resist Canada's devolution interpretation of the 198 health transfer agreement for two basic and compelling reasons:

1. Financial

If the GNWT has total responsibility for the funding of aboriginal hospital care then there is no limit to the amount of financial off-loading that can be done by Canada to the detriment of hospital care for aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

2. Historical And Political

Historically and continuing to the present day, there has always been a special relationship between Canada and aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories with respect to health care. It would be wrong for Canada and the GNWT to interfere with and change that special relationship without the informed consent of aboriginal people.

---Applause

It is the position of the GNWT that it has not been, nor will it every be, a participant in a transaction which interferes with any special relationship enjoyed by aboriginal people with Canada, unless prior informed consent has been given.

---Applause

The GNWT has made every effort to induce Canada to return to the negotiating table pursuant to finding an interim solution for the next three years. Thereafter, Mr. Speaker, tripartite discussions will have to be held by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Canada and Nunavut to transfer the Nunavut portion of health services.

In the view of the GNWT, if Canada wishes to attempt to devolve aspects of its special health care relationship with aboriginal persons, the opportune time to explore the question is during the Nunavut discussions. Mr. Speaker, Canada refuses to return to the negotiating table and continues to insist that it no longer has any responsibility for aboriginal hospital care in the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will not materially interfere with the special relationship between Canada and aboriginal peoples concerning

health care, without first obtaining the informed consent of the aboriginal people.

Accordingly, the GNWT can never acquiesce or agree to Canada's devolution interpretation of the 1988 health transfer agreement.

As a result, the Government of the Northwest Territories has instructed its lawyers to take the position that if the court accepts that the legal effect of the 1988 health transfer agreement is to devolve all responsibility for aboriginal hospital care to the GNWT, then the court must go on to rescind the 1988 health transfer agreement on the basis of mistake or fundamental error as to the nature and effect of the agreement. If the court was to order rescission the result would be a return to Canada of the hospitals, nursing stations, equipment and personnel that were transferred in 1988.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories regrets exposing the current health system to the possibility of being returned to Canada, but there is no other reasonable alternative presently available to resolve the impasse with Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 69-12(3): Winners Of The National Awards For Excellence In Business-Education Partnerships

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories strives for excellence in its programs and services. I am pleased to announce that the conference board of Canada selected Qitqliq School in Arviat as a 1992-93 winner of the national award for excellence in business-education partnerships in the elementary and secondary category...

---Applause

...and Arctic College and the NWT tourism training group as a winner in the post-secondary category.

---Applause

A community planning team made up of representatives of Qitqliq School and other partners in Arviat have been

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developing innovative approaches to secondary programming since 1990 in areas such as trades technologies, business and entrepreneurship, as well as skills for independent living.

In the trades area a local business, Leonard & Associates Ltd, has agreed to participate in partnership with the school to provide students with a mentor, job shadowing and work exposure. Students gain employment skills and practical experience in using tools and equipment. The school has also developed an office management services and local organizations have referred their bookkeeping and secretarial work to the school business program.

Qitqliq School exemplifies the kind of success we can experience when secondary programs are extended to communities. In 1992 this school graduated 12 students from the grade 12 program. Businesses and other organizations are full partners with Qitqliq School and the school's accomplishments are a source of community pride.

The winners in the post-secondary category, Arctic College and the NWT tourism training group, have been working together since 1989 in the delivery of tourism training. So far the college has trained over 400 people for the NWT tourism industry, 90 per cent of whom are aboriginal residents.

Programs such as guide training, tourism management and hospitality training are offered as part of tourism training. In partnership with the NWT tourism training group, the college is striving to develop professionalism and quality service in the NWT tourism industry.

I congratulate the community of Arviat, Arctic College and the NWT tourism group for their accomplishments. These two successful partnerships between business and education are achievements we all can be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Canadian Championship Dog Derby

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Among the other things which are happening in our city this week, up to 20 dog mushers, their dog teams and handlers are converging on Yellowknife to compete in the classic 150 mile Canadian championship dog derby. Teams may come from the United States, Alaska, Yukon, the provinces and from many parts of our territory to compete for over \$30,000 in prizes and prestigious trophies.

The Canadian championship dog derby started more than three decades ago with trappers gathering to compete on Yellowknife Bay, and racing out to the sub-islands in fairly primitive trails by today's standards. What first started out as a friendly get together to celebrate the coming of spring and to show off the strength and stamina of both dogs and their owners, has evolved into a world class event and specialized racing dogs. Yellowknife is still unique in the world of dog team racing. Few races of this class, in Canada or the United States, can boast of the stamina which is required given the overall distance and weather conditions, three heats of 50 miles a day for a total of 150 miles. Most other races across North America are anywhere from five to 20 miles and are usually held over a two day period. Only the world championship held at The Pas in Manitoba is 150 miles long and held over three days. Mr. Speaker, our NWT mushers are indeed world class in this sport. I would like to recognize their contribution to this traditional Metis sport and to the pride of the Northwest Territories in this sport.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Participation Of Business Sector In Development Of Infrastructure

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been concerned for many years about the inclination of governments across the country to seek a big bang solution to economic problems. It has long been my opinion that mega projects such as a natural gas pipeline or massive mining projects would proceed despite what governments do and not because of what

governments do. They would be largely self-financed and what they would ask from government is consistency, stability, fairness and the clear framework from which they can operate. They do very little to advance our economy for the long-term growth of our people. They often help to create a boom and bust cycle which is socially destabilizing. However, in the large Canadian context they help fill the federal government coffers where we have to recognize we get 85 per cent of our money from. It is obviously in our interest to make sure that they proceed and that we do not put unnecessary obstacles in their paths. The mistake is in believing that mega projects will provide a future for our people. We have a small population spread over a very large area. The challenge for our people is to identify some small niches where we can support the few families in every community if possible.

This afternoon, Mr. Speaker, there is a very important session at the winter cities convention dealing with the issue of transportation. I shall be absent from the House because this is of great concern to my constituents and of interest to many people of the Northwest Territories, and it may have some impact into our future economic development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Implementation Of Changes In Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few months honourable Members and government employees have been concerned about the implementation of the government staff housing strategy. On March 11, 1993 discussions were held in this House and Motion 81-12(3) was passed in committee of the whole. This motion detailed some of the strategies and directions that ordinary Members felt were fair in implementing the strategy. During the discussions the Minister of Personnel responded to the motion expressing the government's concerns regarding the motion and what they could or could not accept. However, to date we have not heard any official response from the Cabinet on this motion. Mr. Speaker, there is still much confusion in the communities and tenants are still

not aware of the official position and strategy at this time. I understand that a letter has been sent to all tenants on March 17, 1993, and it details the changes made to the staff housing strategy. In the letter, implementation dates have been specified. I believe it is 15 per cent on August 1, 1993, 15 per cent on August 1, 1994, and increased to full market rent on August 1, 1995. There were many other issues and items detailed in this letter to the staff. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that, again, this government is proceeding full boar on a strategy without consulting MLAs. Mr. Speaker, I will be raising questions on this issue at a later time today. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Results Of Meeting With Apex School Students

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of visiting Nanook School in Apex. I visited some very dedicated young people in class. At the time I visited they were discussing leadership. The children and their very dedicated staff, including the caretaker, Mr. Aku Kownirk are making the very best of their temporary accommodation at the old IODE hall. Also, they have been very closely following the political process, discussions in this House, letters from the Minister of Public Works, the Baffin Divisional Board of Education, the Minister of Education, the Niaqunguut Education Council about their new school. The students have seen the plans and they have participated in discussions about the site. This process has been a great education in the political process for these children. I do hope their involvement in this process will lead to good results.

Mr. Speaker, these children are very anxious to have a gym in their new school. They want to find ways of actively participating in the decision-making process. They have given me a package of messages they made themselves, including drawings of each MLA, including the Minister of Education. I will now distribute these. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that these young people have taken it upon themselves to participate in our political process. They also told me that in addition to these messages, they will now be

praying for a new gym. So will I. Qujannamiik. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Health Billings Dispute Affect On Treaty Indians

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance, the Honourable John Pollard, made a statement today about the health billings dispute. I am finding it very difficult to sit back and not say anything about it. Mr. Speaker, I am a treaty Indian and I am proud to be Dene. This dispute affects my immediate family and the majority of the people in my constituency that I represent in this Legislative Assembly. The people who are non-aboriginal or Metis people in my constituency understand that the majority of people in my constituency are treaty and running for this position, I indicated to people that one of the issues which has to be cleared up is the issue between treaty Indian people in the west and the federal government. This government does not take that very seriously because there are many chiefs and band councils in the west who are saying that there are programs and services which they are entitled to that are being handled in a public government forum, and they are not satisfied with that arrangement. This health billings dispute is a good example, Mr. Speaker, about that arrangement.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has made arrangements with the federal government to provide health services to treaty Indians and Inuit. In my particular case -- I am speaking only about treaty Indians -- treaty rights are in jeopardy. There is a danger and I am scared of this situation on behalf of the treaty Indians in the west. My rights are being negotiated between this government and the federal government, and the treaty Indians themselves who are going to be affected by the results of this dispute are not directly involved. They have to be involved.

---Applause

I know the federal government's position...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine, your allotted time has elapsed.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government's position says that the status Indian and Inuit groups were consulted and they approved of the phased devolution of health services from the federal government to the Government of the Northwest Territories. I totally disagree with that. Never, in my opinion, was approval or consent given. My understanding is that the territorial government will administer the health services on behalf of the federal government. Otherwise, if the treaty Indians knew this was the case, they would never have approved this arrangement in this first place. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 484-12(3): Purpose Of Licence Fee For Retailers

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell with respect to the purpose of licences to retailers.

Section 58(1) of the Liquor Act requires that all money received from licence fees are deposited to the credit of the Government of the Northwest Territories in a special account called the

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"liquor revolving fund." Subsection 58(2) states, "all other money derived from the administration shall be deposited in the consolidated revenue fund." The fact

money received from licence fees are deposited to the consolidated revenue fund implies that at least part of the purpose of the fee is to raise government revenue.

The act empowers the Liquor Licensing Board to make regulations "prescribing the rights, privileges, conditions and obligations attaching to the licences" and also to fix the fees that are payable. Holding a liquor licence is a privilege, and is a privilege for which a licence fee must be paid.

There are many other privileges for which the government charges a fee. For example, there is a fee to register a vehicle and another fee to drive a vehicle. There is a fee for a hunting licence and a separate graduated fee for hunting tags. All of these fees produce revenues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 464-12(3): Impact Of Changes To Federal UIC Legislation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question, asked by Mr. Gargan on March 11, 1993, regarding the impact of changes to federal UIC legislation.

On December 2, 1992, as part of the economic statement, the federal Minister of Finance announced a number of changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act. These changes included:

1. A freeze on unemployment insurance premium rates for employees and employers, at 1992 levels;
2. An exemption from additional UI premiums for small businesses which increase employment;
3. A freeze on average UI benefits at 1992-93 levels; and,
4. Disqualification from receiving benefits for those who quit their jobs without just cause, or who are fired for cause.

The first change will benefit all employers and employees in the Northwest Territories, including the Government of the Northwest Territories. The second change will benefit new and small businesses in the

Northwest Territories and will provide an incentive to create employment. The third change will mean that benefit levels for NWT recipients in 1993-94 will not increase. Finally, the last change will reduce slightly the number of eligible claims from what would otherwise be the case. In 1992, approximately six per cent of UI claimants in Canada fell into these categories. The corresponding percentage for the Northwest Territories is not available.

As a result of representations by various interest groups, the legislation originally tabled in the House of Commons has been amended to broaden the definition of "just cause." Nine reasons are being added to the five reasons already in the Unemployment Insurance Act.

In 1992, on average, there were 1,866 recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits in the Northwest Territories. On average, the total amount of monthly regular benefits paid out was \$2.4 million.

There will be no change in the treatment of seasonal workers such as fishermen, fire fighters or surveyors, who are laid off at the end of their employment. Seasonal employees, as with all employees in the Northwest Territories, will need 20 weeks of employment in the last year to qualify for benefits. However, if they have worked at least 14 weeks in the year before that, only 10 weeks are required in the last year to qualify for benefits. These eligibility criteria have not changed as a result of the amended legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today I raised issues related to the implementation of the long-term government staff housing strategy. A motion was passed in this Assembly on March 11, 1993, giving direction to the government on implementation of the strategy. However, it seems that the government has ignored some of our recommendations and wrote a letter to all tenants on March 17 outlining what their implementation plan is. Mr. Speaker, the MLAs were

not even given a copy of this letter, nor were they notified of the implementation strategy. My question to the Minister of Personnel is, when does the Minister intend to officially notify this House on their response to Motion 81-12(3)?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, it appears we may have had a misunderstanding. When the strategy was discussed and debated in committee of the whole on March 11, just prior to the vote taking place, I responded to the motion and indicated at that time to the Members of the Legislature that as a Cabinet we had discussed some of the concerns which had been shared with us from the ordinary Members in earlier discussions that week. As a result, I was prepared to make some amendments to the strategy. This was to reflect a definitive Cabinet position in response to the debate. The comments I made at that time are contained in Hansard and I will go through them rather quickly.

First of all, we agreed the strategy should be implemented over a longer period of time. We were concerned and did not agree that we should establish another steering committee, but I supported the idea of keeping MLAs informed, perhaps, by designating two MLAs to keep in touch with me and to work with them on an informal basis, to work through problems as they arose. Once we dealt with the motion and changes to the strategy, the matter should be handed over to officials to manage within the rules which we set. I indicated that officials would be directed to start rental increases on August 1, 1993, with further increases over the following two years until full

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rents are reached on August 1, 1995. Our calculations indicated an increase of 15 per cent per year to base rents would be required to equalize the three increases. Rental increases would only be applied to base rents which do not include utility charge costs and that was a change from the original package as we had proposed. We felt the 15 per cent on base rent was, in fact, a better deal with less impact than the 10 per cent on the full rent, as

proposed by the Members. We suggested that we would introduce the standard accommodation allowance to all level III communities this year. We would, after calculating a 15 per cent rent increase to the rents of the people in the level III communities, add that on to the base rent and then add the other base rents back on it, plus the \$450 and introduce the standard accommodation allowance, just so there is not such a large gap in the level of rents. We went on to suggest that all staff units will have an energy audit to be assessed for sale. In cases where the fuel or electrical bills, for instance, are unusually high we would go in and ensure that it would either be repaired or the rent would be lowered in a manner which would be fair. I indicated those were being made to meet the spirit of the motion.

I regret that the Member misunderstood what the intent of my comments were, but it was to meet clearly the demands of the motion. We did not meet all of them, but that was the extent to which Cabinet was prepared to go. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I was not 100 per cent certain that the comments you made on that date, March 11, were the official position, since in your preamble you stated, "We are prepared to make some amendments to the strategy which is called for in the proposed motion in which the Members are going to vote on." No amendments were officially proposed at that time. Then, you proceeded with the statements which you just quoted. I am a little confused and so are tenants as to what the official position is. One of the items in the motion passed by this Assembly, and you alluded to it, was that a working group be established to oversee and advise the government and report in the next and future sessions of the Assembly. Will the Minister be establishing a working group as per Motion 81-12(3)?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, the changes that I indicated in my response to the motion on March 11 have been approved by Cabinet. The changes are a reflection of Cabinet position. We had no intention to set up another working group to oversee the implementation of this strategy. We felt that perhaps it is time for officials to get on with carrying out the work as set out by the Legislature and Cabinet, but I would be prepared to work with MLAs or a couple of designated MLAs who may want to take on the responsibility of keeping their fellow MLAs involved and informed over the next few months. I know the intensive work load of Cabinet and MLAs and the increase in limited resources we have. The Cabinet and I felt that it is not feasible to set up a formal working group. However, we would be prepared to work with a couple of MLAs on an informal basis.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Many times the Minister has stated that he will keep MLAs informed and will talk to MLAs on this issue, yet on March 17, a letter was sent to tenants with much detail on all aspects of the implementation strategy and we as MLAs were not even given the courtesy of being informed or given a copy of this letter. Why were MLAs not informed or given copies of the implementation strategy, the details which were passed out to tenants?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there was no attempt to deliberately not inform MLAs, it was my understanding that the debate, the subsequent motion and the response to the public and the tenants gave some finality to this issue. It was my view that the issue was largely resolved, to continue to debate and seek further changes to this strategy at this time would become counterproductive and continue the unease and instability which some of the employees felt at the time. The information in the letter which the Member has referred to has not gone out yet. I think it is being drafted to go out. There is an update which was intended for employees to apprise them of what changes have occurred as a result of the debate on March 11.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One other item which was in the motion passed by this Assembly was that the NWT property tax rebate be reinstated at \$400 per year. In the Minister's response if it is the official position of the Cabinet, no mention was made to this item. Can the Minister please advise us as to their official position on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 561-12(3): Response To Committee Motion 81-12(3) Re Staff Housing Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the tax rebate was one that arose in the course of discussions by MLAs in the latter part of the debate in the back room. As the Minister of Personnel, I could not find a way, in the few days I had, to rationalize how it tied into the staff housing strategy. So, I had no mandate from the Cabinet to respond to it. That was the reason. It was not directly or easily tied into the

housing strategy and the elements which we had set out at that time.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 562-12(3): Legislation Used Re Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to Mr. Koe's questions, some of my constituents have received a letter dated March 17 signed by Ken Lovely, deputy minister of Personnel, with a seven page attachment outlining adjustments to the long-term staff housing strategy which I will table later today. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns which was expressed in the motion before this House earlier in committee of the whole was about the legality of the actions being taken by the Department of Personnel, whether they were acting in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act. The letter from Mr. Lovely refers to the Landlord Tenants Act and that notices will conform to the format set out in the Landlord Tenants Act. Mr. Speaker, in searching the statutes of this Assembly I cannot find any reference to the Landlord Tenants Act except reference to an act that was repealed in 1987. I would like to ask the Minister of Personnel, since this act is repealed and it is referred to in the deputy minister's letter of March 17, 1993, which legislation is the Department of Personnel using in determining its legal obligations as a landlord to its tenants? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 562-12(3): Legislation Used Re Staff Housing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Residential Tenancies Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 562-12(3): Legislation Used Re Staff Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is obviously a major error in the information which has been given out to my constituents about this policy, Mr. Speaker, because it refers to an act which does not exist. Mr. Speaker, this same letter also repeats earlier statements in documents tabled by the Minister that tenants will get a rent increase effective August 1, and that if they do not agree to sign a new lease, they will then have an electrical charge added to their rent which reflects average community consumption at the higher rate per kilowatt hour which the government is obliged to pay. I think the Minister has seen a legal opinion that was provided to me through the offices of the law clerk which indicates that it would be illegal to make more than two rent changes in a year. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether this legal opinion has been taken into account in the drafting of the letter of March 17, 1993, which seems to propose two rent increases in a year, contrary to the Residential Tenancies Act? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

According to our rules, that particular question asks the Minister for his interpretation of a legal opinion and is not proper under our rules, Mr. Patterson. Would you like to re-phrase that question? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I will ask it as a written question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 563-12(3): Responses To Outstanding Oral Questions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. Since the Members are hoping to conclude the budget by the end of the month and hope that the session can come to a conclusion fairly quickly, there are a number of outstanding questions posed to the government to various Ministers which remain unanswered today. Would the Government Leader make every effort on behalf of the government to reply to the outstanding oral questions, perhaps by the end of the week if at all possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 563-12(3): Responses To Outstanding Oral Questions

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I am aware there are some outstanding questions and of the request to have the responses as quickly as possible, hopefully we will have them by the end of the week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 564-12(3): Actions To Inform The Public Re Health Billings Dispute

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance regarding the health billings dispute statement he made today. My concern is, the people who are affected by this legal action which is taking place do not know what is going on and how this issue is going to affect them. What is the Minister doing to inform the public about this crises to the treaty and Inuit people? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 564-12(3): Actions To Inform The Public Re Health Billings Dispute

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, last July, I believe it was, our Premier called together the leaders of the aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories and from southern Canada, and there was a discussion on this health billings dispute and how it affected aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, and how it might affect people south of the 60th parallel, as well. We had agreement at the table at that time, that we would keep those people updated as to the status of our claim. That has been done and there is another letter which has just gone out, I believe yesterday, that did the same sort of thing. There will be information provided to MLAs so they can advise their constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 564-12(3): Actions To Inform The Public Re Health Billings Dispute

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the statement that the Minister made earlier today, there is legal action that the federal government is not reimbursing to the territorial government for hospital care services for status Indians and Inuit people. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the nature of this dispute? When did this dispute start? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Two questions for Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice and I would like to reply in writing because it is fairly technical. It involves the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, the federal Department of Health, transfers into our base, our formula funding agreement with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and it is a very complicated situation which has arisen. I would like to reply in writing, taking the question as notice to read it into the record, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. If I can make one comment, this particular issue is a difficult one for the Legislative Assembly to deal with because it is a matter before the courts. It is a civil matter and the line of questioning as put forward by Mr. Antoine I will allow, because I can see no harm to an individual coming from those questions. I ask both Members and Ministers to be very cautious in the questions that are asked and the responses that Ministers may make on this particular issue. However, the question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 565-12(3): Home Owners' Property Tax Rebate

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was surprised a few minutes ago to hear the Minister of Personnel say that

he could not rationalize the home owner tax rebate as encouraging or being part of the long-term staff housing strategy. He therefore had no mandate to go to Cabinet to talk about having it reinstated. Mr. Speaker, the motion itself, right at the primary paragraph where it says, "Now therefore I move" if I can quote from Hansard was, "The primary objectives of the GNWT long-term staff housing strategy be accepted by this committee, encouraging home ownership." That is the first object which is quoted by this motion as the goal. Will the Minister tell me how encouraging home ownership is not served by increasing the home owner's property tax rebate?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 565-12(3): Home Owners' Property Tax Rebate

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I should clarify my comments. It is not to belittle the suggestion made by the Members. The suggestion first surfaced a few days before the March 11 debate. I did not want to be accused of doing a fly-by-night strategy which some Members have been prone to suggesting over the months that we have had this debate going in the newspapers and on the radios across the north. The property tax rebate, for the Member's information, came up just a few days before the debate in this House. All I was suggesting was that from the beginning, we had certain elements which were included in our staff housing strategy. The property tax rebate, as run by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, was not an element in that strategy. So, I had not included it in my response since Cabinet and myself felt it was a separate issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, on February 19, I asked the Minister of the Housing Corporation a question on the new home ownership program. I asked if a person could own the land outright, or whether a band could grant land.

The Minister said that people could own the land outright or have a lease on the land. I wanted to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that I am referring to band lands. Can the Minister advise if a person can have a lease on band lands in order to get access to a home ownership program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the bands lease the land to their members. I think it is done by band council resolution. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I recognize that band lands, Crown lands for band members, are designated for use by a particular band member. However, Mr. Speaker, I am not clear as to whether the new home ownership program allows for the band to designate that land, or whether they have to be under a lease through a band council resolution in order to be eligible for the new home ownership program. Can the Minister clarify that, please?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the bands assign the lots to the clients. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

All right, maybe I will try it in another context, Mr. Speaker. On February 19, I had asked the Minister of the Housing Corporation if he would review and

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determine the eligibility for lands which are to be used in order to access the new home ownership program and to advise the House of the particular criteria. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said at the time that he would do this, however I have not received a response with respect to that as of yet. I will make my questioning simpler in order to get an answer. Can the Minister tell the House today what is the eligibility for lands which are to be used in order to access the new home ownership program, particularly for band members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question which was asked on February 19, was replied to, Mr. Speaker, on February 26. Units delivered under the access program can be built on the following types of land: fee simple titled land; long-term leased land; and, band land, also known as Indian Affairs branch, (IAB) land or land reserved for Indian use, as long as a band council resolution is obtained allowing long-term use of the land.

These are the same criteria for land tenure that were used in the previous home ownership assistance program, the HAP program. I made that reply on February 26. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. The Minister has somewhat set out the criteria in respect to the eligibility for lands

in order to access the home ownership program. However, I have been advised that the Housing Corporation is changing its housing programs for the access, particularly because now it is seeking repayment for loans in connection with the houses which it builds. Can the Minister inform the House whether CMHC has placed any restrictions on the corporation as far as its housing programs are concerned, particularly when they are designated for band members? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 566-12(3): Access To HAP Programs On Leased Band Land

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the CMHC cost-shared program, we do not have any programs which are designated for band members. They are designated for the general public and we have to follow CMHC's programs and policies whenever we deliver any cost-shared program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. You had your final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Patterson.

Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of Parks Division To Renewable Resources

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been questions asked earlier this session about the proposed transfer of the parks division of Economic Development and Tourism to Renewable Resources. In her response on Wednesday, March 17, I believe in the absence of the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Cournoyea said this is not a new issue, it has been studied before. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, what studies or reviews have lead the department to consider this transfer and, particularly, was this motivated by the Strength at Two Levels report which was one of the first documents tabled by this government once it came into office? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of Parks Division To Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I think when Madam Premier said that this was not a new idea, it was something which was discussed in the last Legislature, especially by committee, I believe. It was a suggestion from Renewable Resources, to the then Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, that the parks area and also the exploratory fishing area, areas which are of interest to Renewable Resources, be transferred over to Renewable Resources, and that the business side of using the parks, advertising for visitors to come to the Northwest Territories, encouraging people to start up fishing lodges and then encouraging people to use those fishing lodges be handled by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. It makes some sense because then you are not setting the quota or determining the parks, and also trying to encourage as many people as possible to use those quotas in parks. That is where it came from, whether there was a formal study, Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but I know it was looked at by both departments in the last Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of Parks Division To Renewable Resources

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the Minister that the Strength at Two Levels report, which I think the government does give some currency to, studied the issue, and that may be the most recent study, and recommended that it is the integrated division of parks and tourism which should be transferred to Renewable Resources. Since parks and tourism are obviously linked, if the tourism division is not being proposed to be transferred to Renewable Resources, does the Minister agree, in light of this close linkage between parks and tourism, that new resources will be required in the Department of Renewable Resources which are not there now, to develop products, to promote and market the parks and to train outfitters and the like. Have these additional staff requirements been developed and calculated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Further Return To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of
Parks Division To Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I would not say we were into that kind of detail at the present time. I know there have been discussions between the deputy minister of Renewable Resources and the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism. This stems from the practice in other jurisdictions. If I could give a small example, Mr. Speaker. For instance, in Banff National Park, the visitors to that park became so many and the hikers, in particular, wanting to travel a particular trail became so many, that there were only so many people allowed on the trail at any given time. It becomes a question of wise use of land resources and what other jurisdictions have looked at, what we are looking at, and someone has to say "How much can the land take? How much fish can you take? How much use can you make of a particular park area?"

On the other side, there is a group of people out there saying "Let us bring more visitors to the park, let us bring more visitors into the Northwest Territories." So, it is very difficult to be the promoter of a park, in my opinion, and also be the person who wants to conserve the park. For that reason, I personally support the division of these two responsibilities, so there is a balance. Then, people can say "Renewable Resources says you cannot do this and it is getting overcrowded." It is not seen as a conflict, Mr. Speaker.

There is also a clarification of roles, who does what and who trains people. This can be done by dividing the two responsibilities. There may be some requirement in future for more resources, that is yet to be worked out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of
Parks Division To Renewable Resources

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am intrigued that the Minister says we are not into that kind of detail, such as person years and budgets, and roles and responsibilities. The Government Leader said earlier the plan has not been concluded, the work has not been done and it would be premature to put anything on the table or present anything to the working group. In light of all of these comments, which indicate a great deal of work is yet to be done, why have the staff in the department been told that they are working to a preconceived July 1 deadline, if all this work and thinking has yet to be done? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of
Parks Division To Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we do not want to keep it a secret from the people who are going to be ultimately affected by this change, and obviously if they are the people delivering the programs, then we are going to have to consult with them to find out what these details might be. We cannot run around like thieves in the night and say "I guess it is going to be this much." We are trying to involve those people and, ultimately, they are going to have to give us their expertise and tell us what those details, allocations and responsibilities have to be, and if there is any legislation that has to change as a result of a transfer. There has been no date decided upon. They may have been told July 1, which may be the date we are requiring implementation by, but to my knowledge there is no firm date of July 1, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of
Parks Division To Renewable Resources

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is all very helpful to me in understanding what is being planned. I take it, from the Minister's previous comments, that regional staff, superintendents and the zone and regional tourism associations will be consulted and have a chance to have input into this major reorganization before the plan is finalized? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 567-12(3): Transfer Of Parks Division To Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, obviously we will be consulting with our staff, and the staff in the regions will give us the views of the people who ultimately might be affected. Their views will be taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had some problem with the Minister of Personnel's response earlier to my question about the property tax rebate. He seemed to suggest that because it appeared to come in at the last minute, that it was not worthy of consideration. What is interesting is that the whole staff housing strategy appeared to be something that was developed at the last minute and was constantly changing. I think that is what most of us were saying. However, he did correctly point out that the Minister responsible for the property tax rebate would be the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. How does the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs intend to respond to Committee Motion 81-12(3), which included the section on reinstating the NWT property tax rebate?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the normal process, in order to get more money and programs into a department, would be through the OPPLAN process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For greater clarity, could the Minister advise as to what sort of time frame he expects the OPPLAN process to take?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My experience with the OPPLAN process varies from starting in May up until September, between that period of time, where the government gets together and does an OPPLAN process to come up with a budget which the Legislative Assembly will ultimately have to approve through this process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the importance of the new staff housing strategy and the importance of encouraging home ownership, will the Minister commit to giving this issue the upmost in consideration as soon as possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 568-12(3): Response To Motion On Property Tax Rebate

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, for many years the freshwater fish marketing board out of Hay River has had a boat they use to collect fish on Great Slave Lake. Also they would use this boat to re-supply the fishermen out on the lake. The boat was called the "MV Broadhead". This boat was sold, Mr. Speaker, and the fish which were previously collected by this boat were flown from the catch areas to Hay River at great cost to the fishermen. The fishermen expressed concerns, the other day, that the freshwater fish marketing corporation is now contemplating yet another boat to haul this fish. They were also concerned that this government was assisting them to make this purchase. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism whether his department is involved in any agreement to purchase a fish collection boat for the fishermen of Great Slave Lake?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to put this matter to rest, will the Minister indicate whether he would look into this matter to see if his department is contemplating assisting the freshwater fish marketing corporation to purchase a boat?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you. Will the Minister have that information before the end of the session?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 569-12(3): FFMC Fish Collection Boat For Great Slave Lake Fishermen

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. Under the Housing Corporation's new initiative, what was considered as the forgivable loan concept has gone with the new type of home ownership programs now in place. Individuals who have homes built for them must now pay the Housing Corporation back over a 15 year time period. Recognizing that the Housing Corporation is going to want some type of security for its cost of home building, can the Minister inform the House what sort of registerable security documentation it would require from those individuals building a home on band lands under one of the new Housing Corporation's housing programs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Units delivered under the access programs will require the following types of lands, fee simple titled land, long-term lease land, or band land also known as Indian Affairs branch land, IAB land, or land reserved for Indian use, as long as a band council resolution is obtained allowing long-term use of the land. Long-term use meaning 15 years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, is this clearly understood by the Housing Corporation's new housing programs eligibility criteria that as long as a BCR, band council resolution, is obtained to designate a certain piece of Crown land, that that can be used as a security document in order to obtain a housing program for a band member? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the band can give a band council resolution for Crown land. It is my understanding that band land is land reserved for Indian use, and designated as such.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, all band lands are Crown lands. Can the Minister indicate whether a band council resolution would be a form of a security document in order for band members to access the new home ownership program? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to obtain an access program unit from the NWT Housing Corporation, if you were to build on band lands, you need a motion, a band council resolution to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, for my final supplementary, the same question which I have asked three times in a different format. Is the Minister stating that the security document allowing a band member to get access to a home ownership program is by band council resolution designating a particular parcel of land as sufficient for the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 570-12(3): HAP Funding For Leases On Band Lands

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would depend on who the land was designated for.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 571-12(3): Cancellation Of Learn To Burn Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Safety and Public Services. Some time ago I raised the issue of fire statistics in the Northwest Territories and the significant drop over the years in the number of fire related injuries and fatalities. Recently, the Minister's department cancelled the learn to burn program. Statistics provided by the fire marshal's office clearly show that children setting or playing with fire is the leading cause of losses and deaths in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, clearly the cancellation of the learn to burn program is a poor signal to all organized fire departments on the commitment of the Government of the Northwest Territories in an attempt to educate children of the hazards of fire. The fire chief's association is very concerned over the impact of this cancellation. What is the status of this learn to burn program at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 571-12(3): Cancellation Of Learn To Burn Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, the learn to burn program was a pilot project. It has not been cancelled. It has come to an end. We are evaluating that project to see the impact of it and the value of it. When we have done that we may give some consideration to introducing it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 571-12(3): Cancellation Of Learn To Burn Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to know that consideration is being given to renewing it. Will the Minister undertake in reviewing this program to consult with the major stakeholders in this, the association of fire chiefs, before any final decision is made? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 571-12(3): Cancellation Of Learn To Burn Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said on many occasions it is the politics of inclusion, therefore when we evaluate the learn to burn program, it would only be

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appropriate that we would discuss and seek input from the association of fire fighters.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, return to written question 26-12(3) asked by Mr. Whitford to the Minister of Transportation concerning local hiring in the construction of a winter road to Lac La Martre.

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

The Honourable Member from Yellowknife North asked how many of the 16 people from Lac La Martre, who participated in the Department of Transportation's heavy equipment operator training program for the 1992 Lac La Martre airport project, had found employment with the Nishi Khon/PCL joint venture this winter on the Lac La Martre-Rae Lakes winter road.

The construction and maintenance phases of a winter road program have different employment requirements. The Nishi Khon/PCL joint venture involved 12 positions in the construction phase of the Lac La Martre-Rae Lakes winter road:

-four supervisory positions (three filled from outside the Northwest Territories and one by a northerner);

-six equipment operators from the Dogrib communities - two each hired from Fort Rae, Lac La Martre and Rae Lakes; and,

-two subcontractor positions filled by a Hay River company.

Nishi Khon/PCL hired two of those who received training on the Lac La Martre airport project to work on the winter road. One was discharged after a week and one is still employed on the project.

Following construction, the maintenance of the road is done on an "as and when" required basis. The employment requirement is less. Nishi Khon/PCL has two supervisory staff on the road and four employees working on a stand-by basis; two from Fort Rae, one from Lac La Martre (the same person hired during the construction phase) and one from Rae Lakes.

As an aside to the question asked by the Member, Robinson Trucking Ltd. of Yellowknife, the company that conducted the training during the Lac La Martre airport project, subsequently hired two of the operators and, as of this writing, one of the two continues to work for the company.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 109-12(3), Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation 1992 Annual Report.

As well, I would like to table Tabled Document 110-12(3), the Economic Development and Tourism Business - Development Fund Annual Report, April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Alloofoo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 111-12(3), response to Committee Motions 66-12(3) and 67-12(3), Denendeh Conservation Board.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 112-12(3), a letter dated March 17, 1993, to all tenants from Ken Lovely, deputy minister of Personnel, which refers to an act which does not exist. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go to tabling of documents, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 12, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to be tabled. Tabled Document 113-12(3), Canadian criminal cases, the Crown versus S R H et al with respect to young offenders' disposition secure custody and the principles of secure custody.

Tabled Document 114-12(3), an excerpt from the Canadian Criminal Code, the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court regarding the L H F and the Queen by Justice McDonald with regard to young offenders' disposition.

Tabled Document 115-12(3), a Canadian criminal case regarding the Manitoba court of appeal with respect to F and the Queen et al regarding young offenders' disposition quoting "Judge given the power to sentence young offenders to open custody or secure custody open custody definition designation facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. In order to speed up the proceedings of the orders of the day, from now on I will just read the numbers of tabled documents, bills and committee reports, but not the details.

---Applause

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It is an example I am sure all Members will share in the future. Tabled Document 2-12(3), Tabled Document 19-12(3), Tabled Document 91-12(3), Tabled Document 92-12(3), Bill 5, Bill 17, Bill 18, Bill 19, Bill 21, Bill 22, Bill 23, Committee Report 10-12(3), Committee Report 11-12(3), Committee Report 15-12(3), Committee Report 17-12(3), with Mr. Ningark in the chair. Mr. Ningark is not here, with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

This committee will now come to order. What is the wish of this committee? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the budget estimates, continuing with the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I believe we were on the opening remarks from the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance. Would the Minister like to bring in his witnesses at this time? All right, we will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT BREAK

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Good afternoon. Mr. Minister, do you want to invite in your officials at this time?

HON. DON MORIN:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Dave Murray, acting president of the Housing Corporation, and Mr. Jeff Anderson, acting vice president of finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We are on the NWT Housing Corporation. General comments. Are there any general comments? Page by page. Member for Thebacha.

General Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, through you, a question with respect to the Housing Corporation's new programs. Can the Minister give us a status report with respect to the planning of how these programs are being developed? Are they basically on target? What has been the feedback from the communities? How are they being accepted in the communities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far, the acceptance of the new access program, home ownership program, has been very good. I have not had any negative response from anyone. People seem to have accepted that they would pay a certain portion of their income to provide housing for themselves. The program is going along on schedule. We have made it very clear to the communities that any changes they would like implemented in the program should go through the consultation process from the community to regional level, and on to our level to the advisory committee on MLAs, to refine the program if necessary, next fall. The most negative response we have received to date is the fact that we do not have enough dollars or units to give out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the home ownership program, the way I understood the program was that they would be going by salary income. I am not aware of what exactly is happening. Has the program been implemented? I just wanted to get clarification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the new access program is being used now, it is being implemented now. We have had over 1,000 applications for access programs throughout the Northwest Territories. People seem very receptive to it. The new programs, if you compare it to the old HAP program, the CNIT levels were lowered to be able to allow income people into it. It basically allows disabled people, elders, or people who are too busy working, to have a unit built for them. It means they would have to pay back a higher percentage. The program itself is tied in so it does not exceed 30 per cent of anyone's gross income. The program encourages people to move into home ownership and so far it seems to be going very well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister advise as to the impact of the federal cutbacks, or does he know yet? Last week, I believe, he made a Minister's statement about receiving information regarding cutbacks to social housing and I think he tentatively tried to contact or was going to meet with the federal Minister of Housing. Can the Minister advise us as to where we are with the information regarding cutbacks?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I told Members of this House a few weeks ago, my officials had been involved in a meeting with CMHC officials in Winnipeg. At that

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time, they advised the Housing Corporation officials they were recommending to their Minister to reduce our portion, we are not only going to be reduced by ten per cent again this year and we have allowed for that, but also they would reduce the percentage of the pie which we receive. Right now we receive 6.44 per cent of the national housing budget. That has been protected for the unique reasons that we have in the Northwest Territories. They are recommending to their Minister to reduce us to 5.15 per cent this year and continue to reduce it, in the end we would end up with .93 per cent of the national budget. When you shake that into dollar figures it means approximately a 97 per cent reduction since 1991 of the social housing budget from the federal government. The territories would be reduced from \$43.4 million in 1991 to \$1.5 million in 1994, that represents a 97 per cent reduction.

I have been in contact with the Minister's office through letters as well as phone calls on a weekly basis. It is my understanding that he has to approve or agree with any reductions. We are lobbying him vigorously to try to get him to agree to continue to protect the Northwest Territories' 6.44 per cent. Thank you. We should know by the end of the month.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. KOE:

Those are dramatic numbers and will obviously have a great impact on the north where we need housing and there is a tremendous shortfall. Our communities are growing and many houses are aging. With numbers such as those we are never going to keep up, let alone catch up, we keep falling behind. What strategy does the Minister intend to use in terms of trying to address this severe cutback which is pending from the federal government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently the Cabinet is working to develop a government-wide strategy to deal with the withdrawal of funding. The majority of the funding being withdrawn from the federal government is for aboriginal peoples. In funding social housing we service approximately 98 per cent aboriginal people. There has been no reduction in funding in southern provinces to aboriginal peoples on reserve. They continue to enjoy the same level of funding. They have had no reductions. It is only the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories that the federal government seems to be targeting for some reason. We are working with the advisory committee on social housing as well as other northern aboriginal groups and our two federal MPs to put the maximum amount of pressure on the federal government. We also have to make the Canadian public aware of our serious housing shortages in the north. We will address some of this through the Cabinet strategy to put the pressure on the federal government. The federal government, in the budget reduction exercise, treats the Northwest Territories the same as it treats the south up to this date, but now it seems to be targeting the Northwest Territories for more reductions than the southern jurisdictions. It is a clear case of off-loading.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. KOE:

I am still concerned that when you propose to meet with the federal government there is a good possibility that this Assembly will be recessed or prorogued. I still do not have a good understanding of what type of strategy, what methods, you are going to use to convince the federal government that we need to maintain at least the current levels of funding which they supply us with. With the information you have provided to us, it seems we need to do something drastic to get the message across. From you in your statements, we are not proposing something dramatic, dynamic or different to get our message across.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

I agree 100 per cent with the Member that we need to do something dramatic, something which would catch the public's eye. Before, all the federal government was interested in doing was talking about constitutional development, they did not want to address the issues which affect the people of the Northwest Territories. Housing issues were not a major issue to them, constitutional development was the major issue and they did not want to pay attention to the issues that people were concerned about. Now, it seems the federal government is only interested in addressing the leadership issue. That is what they are preoccupied with. They are a ship without a captain and they want to get a captain in place. They are not interested in the problems of the Canadian people or the people of the Northwest Territories, and whether or not we have people experiencing major social problems because of the lack of housing, people living in plywood shacks on beaches, tar- paper cabins in our communities, or 20 people in one house, the federal government does not seem to want to address any of these issues. They have an election coming up and they seem to want to be geared up to spread the money where they can collect the most votes. That is what it seems like to me. I agree with the Member, we need to take some drastic action and try to get some publicity on this issue. I am trying to address this through the Cabinet, to come up with a strategy. We should have that prior to this House adjourning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

We approved a new committee to assist the Minister in strategizing with regard to housing issues, made up of six other MLAs. I hope the Minister is going to be consulting with them rather than going straight to the Cabinet. That was the whole intent, we are supposed to be consulted. I hope the Minister is going to be meeting and utilizing the wisdom and knowledge of other Members who are on that committee, rather than just proceeding directly without consulting the Members.

The other issue I would like to raise, is one I have raised many times about tendering. We have just seen tender calls in many papers across the north for housing. My concern is the issue of putting the tenders out in smaller packages so business people in the north are able to bid and bid competitively on the tender packages. Yet, we are still receiving large tenders. One in the west, which I have made reference to several times in the House, is for 51 units. Very few businesses in the north, unless they are a conglomeration or a huge company, can afford to tender 51 units. The issue I am making here is we have to break down these tendering packages so companies

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which are in these smaller communities where these houses are to be built can compete. I know the Minister, Cabinet and government have made statements, but the evidence does not seem to be there. I would just like to raise that. I see it in your departmental objectives, revised contracting policies and procedures. I encourage and support that, but we need more evidence that it is happening.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To develop the strategy on making the public aware, as well as the federal government, about the dire straits we are in for housing, I said right at the very beginning we would include the Advisory Committee on Social Housing, and I also mentioned Cabinet. It has to fall in the overall strategy of Cabinet as well. The one individual tender which the Member is talking about, he is correct, it was a fairly large tender, but I believe it was awarded to a northern firm.

The evidence of willing or wanting to help the north and the communities develop is there. There are many different ways we do that. We do that by breaking up our tenders: supplies shipped; erect tenders; labour only tenders; in order for small businesses to benefit. We also do project management, negotiated contracts and proposal calls. The rent supp, specifically, is broken down for every community. Proposal calls are put out for people to be landlords of their own land. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I have just one more comment. Another definitive objective is to implement a strategy to encourage and maximize training related to construction in order to increase opportunities for employment on housing projects in communities. Again, this is an area where I am fully supportive of the initiative. Last summer, there was a housing project in Fort McPherson which was highly successful, yet we have heard very little from your office as to the success of the project. I understand they completed their contract using almost 100 per cent local labour, many of the goods and materials were purchased locally or from the north, and they saved money. I think they even gave money and materials back to the department, which I think is quite a feat. When we are doing contracts, very rarely do contractors give back money or material. Yet, I do not see or hear the department using this as an example of a successful venture. I would encourage, where we have successful projects, to wave the flag and mention it. I also encourage more and more of these types of projects in our communities. They are, I think, what we want to do, but we have to advertise, broadcast and make note of the successes we have. In many cases they are few and far between, so when we have a good one we have to broadcast it. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that project was very successful in Fort McPherson. It was one of our project management projects, where we managed the project and sent in a manager to work with the community. It maximized local labour, there was one

in Pangnirtung and another one in Fort Resolution. They all went fairly well, including the project in Fort McPherson. I congratulate the people in Fort McPherson for doing an excellent job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I am pleased with the good working relationship which I have been able to develop with the district office and the relatively new district manager in Baffin, Mr. Peter Scott. All the reports I am receiving is that he is responsive and, certainly, that has been my experience in dealing with constituency issues with him. I would also like to note that I have found the Minister and his staff responsive when I have brought issues forward to them regarding housing issues in my constituency. This is the way I like to deal with issues, so I will not be vocal in committee of the whole or in the House because matters are being dealt with as they are being brought up and to my satisfaction.

I would like to note that we are developing a process in my constituency to get the elected representatives of the citizens of Iqaluit more involved in housing through active involvement of the town council, including the mayor, on the Iqaluit housing authority. I think this is a good direction and in keeping with the community transfer initiative. I hope that it will eventually lead to the town perhaps taking over responsibility for housing in the community, but we will take it one step at a time. In the meantime, I think the Iqaluit housing authority was more representative and more accountable to the people, until these changes were approved by the present Minister.

I also want to note that I believe a good job was done by the corporation informing the public on the new access and home ownership programs in light of the short time frame which was allowed them. I think they made a massive effort to reach out to communities in the Baffin region and Iqaluit to explain this program in the short time available.

That leads me to a problem which probably is a massive problem, and probably originates with the federal government. However, it has to do with the availability of home ownership units. The Minister of Personnel's staff housing initiative is designed to encourage both the government to get out of staff

housing and government employees to purchase or build their own units. In a place like Iqaluit where the new rent increases are putting a great deal of financial pressure on employees who would like to build or buy, there is now therefore a staggering demand for home ownership units. As of this year we have four units available and a handful of developed lots. The strategy of the Minister of Personnel is working, employees want to build or buy units, but there is no allocation to my riding, which has a very high proportion of eligible and interested employees, to meet this demand.

I suspect that the housing needs survey, which was done, did not take into account potential home owners from government employees. I suspect that it looked at existing public housing tenants. That is why there have been three or four units allocated in Iqaluit, whereas, in fact, because of the high proportion of civil servants there is a very high demand from that new category of people. Not only were they happy under the old rents and were not seriously considering buying or building their own units, but now there is a new demand. I

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wanted to raise that here and note that I do not think the Minister is going to be able to fix it quickly or easily. I do want it noted that if, as a total government, the desire is to encourage government employees to build their own units, the home ownership program has to be expanded and it has to accommodate, at least, some of these needs which are emerging. I will note, again, as I have done also in this House, that employees in Iqaluit do not have the option of buying detached units because there are only a few, it is mostly row housing rental multiple units. It is the home ownership program that is made to fit most employees' requirements. We do not have anywhere near the numbers available.

That leads me to make some comments on the much larger issue which faces us all, and that is the potential further cuts in our allocation to the Northwest Territories by the Government of Canada. The worst case scenario, which we do not like to think about, would have staggering implications throughout the Northwest Territories. I want to say here and now, Mr. Chairman, because Mr. Koe has referred to the possibility of decisions coming down while the House is not in session, that if these staggering cuts materialize, and I sincerely hope that the Minister's good offices with the Honourable Elmer MacKay will not result in that disastrous scenario, however, if it

happens I will be working with the Speaker, my colleagues and the chairman of the OMC to urge that an emergency session of the Legislature be immediately held, which is allowed under our rules, and to urge that we then meet to consider drastic action. This will be a crisis like none other we have ever faced before. On the heels of the health funding crisis it will be a very serious blow.

I think it will require drastic action of the kind that we took in the fall of 1981 when the constitution was threatening to be amended to the prejudice of aboriginal rights. I think we will have to consider that kind of drastic action if this worse case scenario merges. I want to note that the Minister I am sure will have, not just my support, but the support of all Members of this House in some kind of united and strong action if it is required to protest some of these disastrous scenarios that are being contemplated in Ottawa. Those are my general comments, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does the Minister care to respond?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recent needs survey should have taken into account every household in the Northwest Territories, regardless of their employment or if they were renting, so that those people should have been picked up in that survey. I believe they are, because the numbers are reflected in the needs survey for Iqaluit.

With respect to the federal cuts, I agree and I am going to work very closely with the advisory committee of MLAs from this Assembly and the Cabinet as well as all the other Members of this Assembly. I do not think we can sit back and take this at all. The federal government has a responsibility for housing for aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. The federal government is the one who told our people to come in off the land and live in these communities, and basically forced our people into this situation. They have a certain amount of responsibility. They have cut their programs back by 98 per cent, or they are trying to do that. We cannot take this laying down. Whatever drastic action is necessary we should carry that out to make them aware that enough is enough, and that this is going much too far. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a couple of general comments with respect to the overall Housing Corporation budget. Every Member in this House is likely very concerned about the drastic cuts by the Housing Corporation to this government. Going from \$43 million to \$1.5 million is just totally unacceptable. I am sure all my colleagues share that concern.

I wanted to state one thing to the Minister and I have advised him of this before, as long as this government continues to try to negotiate with the provinces, directly with the federal government through the provinces, it will continue to be treated in this manner of continually having to accept a reduced amount from the federal government with respect to housing. I state this for a couple of reasons. As the Minister of Finance said this afternoon in the House, historically and politically there has always been a special relationship with Canada and the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories, and not only with respect to health care but also with respect to housing and education because we are protected under our treaties, particularly for health and education.

I am somewhat concerned that it is the Minister's type of programming which is given to all people in the north, and that no particular programs are specifically identified for native people, that perhaps is causing concern for the federal government. The special treatment that the territorial government shares with the federal government is not being passed on to the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. Therefore, you can continue to take a cut in your budget, and you can continue to take less money from CMHC because they do not feel they have any obligation. That is one area which the Minister may have to review, to see this special relationship which we have always had with Canada, to ensure there are obligations. He has to ensure there are obligations, as a Minister, in order to be able to deliver programs specifically to native people.

In the other provinces and jurisdictions there are such issues as tripartite agreements which go to the Metis people and probably the reserves, where they receive extra funding to be able to build houses. I know the Minister of the Housing Corporation is reluctant to look at these tripartite agreements or these tripartite arrangements so, there is no doubt, Canada is

probably feeling they do not have an obligation to continue giving the same level of funding which is required. You are either going to have to look at possibly changing your political direction or changing your political way of dealing with the

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federal government directly from the territorial government to the federal government as opposed to jumping in with the provinces in trying to deal with the federal government. It has been my experience and observation that as long as this government goes through the provinces we do not receive the deals we used to receive and we do not receive the commitment from Canada that we used to receive, particularly with regard to fulfilling the responsibilities towards native people, specifically under the treaties. This is one area that the Minister should consider looking at.

Prior to this new access program, under the old HAP program, a BCR was granted through the band council to a band member, and the band member held that BCR, went to the corporation and said, "I have a piece of property, can I get a HAP unit?" Generally, if they were eligible, if there was enough HAP units, they were allocated a HAP unit. The BCR was retained with the band member.

Now the corporation wants that BCR, for what purpose I do not know. They cannot use it as a security, they cannot use a BCR to place a caveat against the property if a band member gets behind in their rent because there are court cases which prevents any type of caveats against Crown lands.

I have here in front of me a sample band council resolution which was developed by the Housing Corporation which reads,

"Be it resolved that _____ (whatever band it pertains to) approves the request by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, for permission to occupy the following land reserved for the use of the band with _____ (for whatever band it is) subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The NWT Housing Corporation may occupy the land for a period of 25 years for the purpose of constructing and operating a house as part of its social housing program.
2. The NWT Housing Corporation may rent the house to any band member in core need.

3. The NWT Housing Corporation may sell the house and assign its rights to occupy the land to _____.

4. The right to occupy the land may not be assigned to any other person without first obtaining the band's approval by a further band council resolution."

In essence, you can digest this as a type of security document for their new programs. I am very concerned that the Housing Corporation is even drafting up these types of home ownership sample band council resolutions to the bands, in order for the bands to designate a home program for one of their band members. I discussed this issue with the Minister. The Minister does not seem to be aware of how the corporation is implementing this new program, but I have had many concerns expressed to me by the chief in my community and by band members, that access to home ownership for band members is not as easily accessible as it was under the old HAP program. In fact, the access to the new program is now called the new home ownership "axe" program instead of "access" program.

I would like to request the Minister review whether this new home access program is being properly implemented, with the intent which it was developed under. Those are my general comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate receiving a copy of the paper the Member has so I can see it. I have not seen that paper. I know our people are currently working with the band councils to try to solve an issue which developed on a HAP package which was delivered on Indian land. The programs and policies were not followed for the HAP package and the Housing Corporation wanted to repossess that HAP package, but the band member basically said, "Take a flying leap, because it is on band land you have no jurisdiction."

As a Minister responsible for public money, I have to ensure that our policies and programs can be implemented on any dollars we give out. I have expressed that to some chiefs already. I want to be able to deliver housing on band land and they want

housing built on band land. We are all responsible people and we all want to do the same thing, so I am sure we can work out something with no problem. That is how I have directed my staff to approach it, to work with the treaty people to make sure their concerns and our concerns are met and, hopefully, we can come to some conclusion on that.

I have a copy of that paper now so I will review that as well. As the Member expressed, she asked me to review the access program to make sure it is going to be implemented fairly, and I will do that.

I wanted to make Members aware that I do not deal with the federal government through the provinces. I never have and I never will. I deal directly with the federal government. Sometimes we go to Ministers' meetings which include Ministers from all provincial jurisdictions, and they come out of those meetings with motions or whatever. That is an advantage for us too. When I have a concern with CMHC or their cuts, I deal directly with the Minister.

There are no aboriginal programs under the CMHC funding. Basically, what I have been told is that we cannot develop a program directly designated for aboriginal people.

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only Metis. They, too, cannot designate money to aboriginal people. They deliver the emergency repair program and the senior citizens' repair program. That is basically what this tripartite agreement comes up with. I talked to them and met with them. I explained to them what we did in the territories and heard what they did in the south. They are going to work to try to catch up to us as to how we deliver programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I guess the statement from the Minister saying they do not deal with the federal government through the provinces is quite an inaccurate statement. Any time a Minister goes to a ministerial meeting which develops motions to give their direction to the provinces is, in fact, dealing with the federal government through the provinces, whether you want to recognize it or not. That is how it is interpreted. You are lobbying through the provinces.

You can say no all you want, but I have been to ministerial meetings and I know that is a form of a lobby group through the federal government. That is exactly why you are getting a reduced figure in your budgets every year, in as much as you shake your head and try to say no, you had better start facing reality.

Mr. Chairman, the other part I wanted to bring in was the fact that if there is no designated program specifically for native use, I believe the tripartite agreements can be formulated where the funding is granted to the native groups to be delivered for the use of native people with the support of the Minister of Housing. However, it is my understanding that there is a reluctance to give that support so access of funding can be acquired by the native people of the Northwest Territories. If the Minister really has a commitment to try to get as much housing as he can in the territories, he has to look at every possible avenue to access those fundings through the federal government. I do not believe he should only look at possible ownership of only being the one to deliver programs with regard to housing.

In respect to having to receive a 97 per cent cut for housing within the past couple of years is totally unacceptable. What has been done to express our concern to the federal government? Is it just a meeting with the Minister? Has the Minister utilized the support of the Dene Nation, Metis Nation and TFN with regard to going to Ottawa to meet with the Ministers? Has he requested the assistance of other political bodies in the north, to be able to help him negotiate with the federal government? It seems to me that the Housing Corporation is not able to get the money needed to address housing. As a result, we are drastically suffering from it. What other avenues has the Minister used in order to try to access more funding in regard to delivering housing programs in the north, recognizing that our Housing Corporation budget from CMHC was, at one time, \$43 million and has gone down to \$1.5 million? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Member's information, I know she was involved at a ministerial level conference before. Her interpretation of those conferences are her's and her's alone. Reality is, if you do not go to those conferences, your throat will

be slashed much quicker than it is being attempted to be. I take those conferences as another avenue of lobbying the federal government to continue to reinstate our funding. I will take every opportunity available to me to lobby the federal government. I wanted to make that clear to the Member to begin with.

I am totally convinced that the way the tripartite agreements are structured are basically set up so Metis people would have an opportunity to implement programs and policies of the government. All that is there for is to get any money. If there was a glimmer of hope that we could get more funding, I would have set it up when I first got in here, but there is no hope of that at all, so why should I waste the money that we do have setting it up? I think Metis people have a good say in our housing programs and policies right now. Look around this Assembly, we have a majority of aboriginal Members. I do not think we should waste the money which is needed to set up the agreement. I do not think it is needed in the Northwest Territories.

What has been done, to date, to reinstate funding other than myself going to Ottawa or phoning? It has been brought up at every opportunity by our government to the federal government. Our Government Leader has brought the issue up many times with the federal government and our Finance Minister. I have written letters to all native organizations informing them. I have kept all native organizations fully briefed on the issues. They have written letters all on behalf of getting the funding reinstated. I have written them back. I have been in constant contact with the native organizations, as well as our Members of Parliament. Both Members of Parliament have been very influential in lobbying the federal government. We have also appeared in front of the housing committee which was struck by the special committee of the federal government. In their report, it is in variable letters about reinstating our funding. Every opportunity I see, or that aboriginal groups have seen, they have taken advantage of it to lobby the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it seems like, and it is obvious that the opportunities have not been successful, recognizing the drastic cuts we have had in our Housing

Corporation budget from CMHC. It is unfortunate that the Minister is so defensive in respect to trying to give definitions of what is the purpose of ministerial meetings. As long as he is going to try to join up with the provinces, when we have always had a political and historical type of relationship between Canada and the territorial government in addressing aboriginal people, and the provinces do not seem to care about aboriginal people from the way they treat aboriginal people with respect to housing. As long as he is going to malign himself with the provinces, next year when we talk about the Housing Corporation budget and the amount of money CMHC gives to the Housing Corporation, we probably will not even get \$1 million with the trend which the Government of Canada is using.

It is ironic that the Minister can sit there and say look around this room when the majority of people in this room are aboriginal. It is ironic that there is no commitment to be able

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to give a specific type of housing for native people, that they are all seen as public funds and that everyone is on an equal basis with respect to accessing those funds. Any other department makes a special effort to address the needs of native people. If you look at the Department of Personnel, they have an affirmative action program to try to get the native people into the government. Mr. Chairman, it seems that some type of different thinking has to be developed to, not only try to increase our funding allotment from CMHC, but the way our housing program is being delivered, and particularly to native people with respect to access to home ownership. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. It is my understanding we had been protected up until the time a Minister did not go to a conference to protect what the Northwest Territories had, and that is where the original cuts started. I do not go to Housing Ministers' conferences and jump in bed with the provincial governments. I go there to try to protect what we have and make sure our point of view gets put across. No one is going to put our point of view across unless we are present. It does not help to not be there, so, I will continue to go there.

The way I understand it, from all the information I have, approximately 98 per cent of our programs go to aboriginal people. Unless the Member has some specific information for me, which she would like me to look into, perhaps in her riding, I do not know if there are a high percentage of non-aboriginal people who are getting the programs. I could look into it. However, from what I understand in most of the ridings, it is the aboriginal people, 97 per cent of the HAP units in 1992-93 went to aboriginal families. That has been the trend.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, that was the trend for HAP units. However, it would be interesting to see the trend once it comes into access to home programs, the newly developed program. Mr. Chairman, I know a couple of my colleagues have asked this, but what strategy does the Minister have to address the funding cuts by CMHC? If these funding cuts get below \$1.5 million what plan does he have developed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier today, presently we have been dealing with this in the Cabinet to come out with an overall strategy. I plan on working with the advisory committee of MLAs to develop a strategy. I will continue to lobby and make the public aware of the drastic cuts the federal government is making. That is basically the direction we are taking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated that under the CMHC programs there are no specific earmarked dollars for aboriginal people or the Metis. However, am I correct in assuming that under the Department of Indian Affairs there is such a program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Indian Affairs has \$92 million for Canada for housing on reserves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Does the Minister of Indian Affairs provide ministerial guarantees for non-profit housing? Since this reduction, in fact, we are looking at a real shortfall in housing, and we have to look at other options. I am wondering if you are exploring that possibility through non-profit housing which the Minister might be able to provide, such as ministerial guarantees under Indian Affairs. This government is also going to have to look at providing indemnification if that happens. The only thing this does with regard to public housing, is that it does not mean that the Department of Indian Affairs suddenly has to pay the whole shot for one housing unit. All it means is it maintains that unit to make sure the power is paid, the rent is paid and the heat is paid. All of those things are done on that basis. I am wondering if you are exploring that.

Mr. Chairman, I know we just talked about borrowing \$250 million to build a road to the Arctic Circle. Have we looked to the financial institutions for the possibility of getting extra money? I have a concern with regard to that. How are we addressing it? I am sure you said you are looking at a strategy, but what are some of those strategies with regard to the judiciary responsibilities to aboriginal people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The non-profit housing program was cut 100 per cent last year. It no longer exists. That is the co-op housing program.

I have written to Minister Siddon to inform him, in no uncertain terms, how disgusted I am with him as the Minister responsible for aboriginal people in the north, to allow social housing to be cut. We will follow that up. I will be working with the advisory committee as well as our chiefs on that issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot one question the Member had. There is also some work being done on the use of off-shore money for housing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Line by line?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 03-10, NWT Housing Corporation, total O and M, \$52.442 million. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern about the Minister's new "axe" program, as they call it in Fort Liard. This new program is having a negative effect on the community. It is not helping the community, in fact, it is going the other way. I was involved in the decision to move in that

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direction, and I thought, from what the Minister was telling us in the House, was that he was going to improve housing delivery. However, the real effect in a small community like Fort Liard -- normally they have been getting about six, seven or eight HAP houses in the past and they have developed a training component around it where they have about 15 employees being trained over the last few years and they had a good team. Now what has happened with this access program is that they are only getting one. So you are looking at 15 families with no employment. I am wondering if this new program is helping. In my constituency it is not going to help, Mr. Minister. How is it going to help? You said it was going to improve the situation. Initially, when this new program came in, it was not helping, in fact, it has caused some real concern in the communities.

Another thing coming in, and was raised by my colleague from Thebacha, is the requirement by the

Housing Corporation to have the band councils pass a resolution releasing band land to the NWT Housing Corporation, in order to have a house built for a band member. Many band councils have had dealings with leasing some of their band lands in the past. Some have taken BCRs to not release any more land. In these two areas, the policy is going against band policy and it is causing concern. It is getting to the point where people are saying, "What is the use of applying for houses? Why do we not let the Housing Corporation build houses for everyone else and forget the band members?" It is becoming very complicated. Obviously this policy is not developed by Dene and aboriginal people. I know you are the Minister and you are aboriginal, but this policy is obviously not developed by us. Whoever your advisers are should go back to the drawing board. You sold it to us, Mr. Minister, and I took your word for it at that time, but I am finding it very difficult to see what benefit it is going to have in a community.

You are going to hear more about this, not only from me, but if you travel into the communities you will hear it yourself. I am telling you what I am hearing. I do not know how long this is going to go, but right now there is a negative reaction at the community level. I am very concerned that it might not meet the needs of people in the communities. I know your staff are going into the communities and doing their work, but it is going to be some time before this new housing program is going to be accepted, if at all.

I attended the Deh Cho regional council meeting and the Deh Cho tribal council meeting where the Housing Corporation representative attended. The idea of releasing band land in order to have a house built for a band member was introduced and it was not favourably accepted. There was an attempt by your corporation officials to try to sell this idea to leaders of the community, but it is not acceptable. I understand the releasing of band land is an important component of your new strategy and if you do not get it, how are you going to go about it? If it is a requirement by band councils to release band land in order to receive the new housing package, if it cannot be achieved, then I guess band members will not receive any more houses. That seems to be the message of your officials to the chiefs and band councils. It is not a very straight cut program. I was wondering if the Minister is aware of this situation, and if he is, what is he going to do to try to resolve the problems in the communities? How is he dealing with the

concerns arising out of the communities in terms of the new access program? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did go through a consultation process with Members regarding the new "axecess" program. It was a long process. We received input from people, redid it, came back and we now have what we have. I told people at that time that this is what we have, it is a new program, we go out and we deliver it this year and we ask for input. It is on paper, it can be changed. We need input in order to know if we are going in the right direction.

As far as any negative response to the program, the only negative response I have received so far is there is not enough housing, and the band land issue. So, they both have to be addressed.

As far as the band land issue, I am not interested in bands giving a band council resolution to give up their band lands. That is not my intention at all. My intention is that somehow the chiefs have to come to an agreement with us that we can deliver our program and policy on band land. It is very simple. They want houses and I want to build houses on the band land. I want to help them solve their housing needs. We are all grown-ups. We should be able to work out a solution, if we can get together and meet, we have to take the time. I made a commitment already to the Deh Cho chief that I would do that. We have to meet with the South Slave chiefs, as well, to do that. My chiefs, as well, will let me know that. There is no way they are willing to give up band lands, but we have a problem that has to be overcome. I am sure we can work out some solution.

As far as the access program and Fort Liard getting one unit, thank God we have the access program or else Fort Liard might not have received any units. The access program allowed us to deliver more units. Fort Liard received 18 home ownership units which were allocated to the community and are ready for occupancy by the end of April. The needs survey says that Fort Liard needs 33 houses. That would reduce it down to 15. It is allocated on need from the needs survey, regardless of whether it was a HAP program or access program. If we did not change the program, then Fort Liard would have received less than one. We would have had less.

Members have to remember that if we did not change the access program, I think we would have been able

to build approximately 125 houses. This way, we are solving around 370 needs. The Hay River reserve did not have any units either, but they came back and said they disputed the needs survey. We are going in and checking to make sure the need is correctly stated. If Fort Liard has a problem with its need, that is what it should state and not say, "It is the HAP program that did this to us," because it is not, it is the need. Everything is given out according to need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

It is good to hear the Minister is willing to, perhaps, make some changes in the future. The Minister also indicated that the chiefs have to come to an agreement with

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him in regard to building houses. There is an agreement that the chiefs made in my area in 1921. It is called Treaty 11. Part of that treaty stated that there is going to be shelter provided to the people. Otherwise, they would not have signed that treaty in 1921. That is an agreement which I am going by.

This housing policy does not reflect that. I know this is a public government, but you have to deal with everyone. You have to take that into consideration, as well. This is why we have been saying this all along. In the past, I have participated with the NWT Housing Corporation and at the board level as a chief. Other chiefs have done that because they see it as a way of honouring that treaty, but once you change that entire program you change the entire concept. It is no longer a way of addressing that agreement made in 1921 with the chiefs. I wanted you to know that there is an agreement in place already that you should become aware of.

If I could dispute the needs survey, I would like to do that. There are families in Fort Liard who still live in tents. Even though we call it the green belt of the Northwest Territories because it is warm there most of the time, we still get temperatures that go to minus 40 degrees Celsius. There are still families with children living in tents. Even though we may have had a number of home ownerships delivered to us in the past, I would like to go back 20 years and see how much was pumped into those communities like that and compare them to all the other communities in the

north and see how much went to where. Just recently, they have been building some of these houses just to catch up in some of these communities. You have to take that into consideration. You have to go back a longer period of time than the last two or three years. That is a point I want to raise with you.

The band, because they did not receive help from the Housing Corporation in the past, has been able to build on units with logs and some of these units the people are living in are not very well built, but they are considered homes. Compared to the types of houses that have been going into the communities recently, such as the home ownership ones, there is no comparison at all because of the condition of these older houses. Some of them are in very bad shape. I have been in them and there is a real need to get more houses into the communities.

There is overcrowding and so forth. The band went out of its way was able to get some social housing without the help of the NWT Housing Corporation, a few years ago. They were able to build some social houses there because of the need to catch up for the demand of housing. They did this on their own. The understanding in the community is that, in the future, by going out and getting social housing on their own, they were not supposed to be penalized by the Housing Corporation for having the initiative and the ability to get their own houses. This is the understanding the communities had in the past when they went after their own social houses. According to the needs survey, that is included.

The feeling in the community is, they should have left it the way it was. That way, they would have received more houses. Because they had the ability to go out and do this on their own, they feel they have been penalized for it. They should not be penalized. It should be the other way, where they should be commended for their efforts to try to provide shelter, which is a basic necessity to people. People need shelter. I wanted to make those comments at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In no way did I mean to circumvent any agreement that the federal government has with treaty Indians by signing a treaty

in 1921. I make it very clear that the territorial government has never taken on the responsibility from the federal government to provide housing to treaty Indians. That is a federal government responsibility. I cannot find any trace or paper. I have researched that. Minister Siddon said in one meeting that the territorial government is responsible for treaty Indians. There is nothing in any research that I could find. I am sure treaty people would have to consent to that type of responsibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for Nahendeh.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that note, there are a number of transfers which have happened in the past without the involvement of the treaty chiefs or aboriginal groups, back in 1969 and 1970 and on down the line. You have the Housing Corporation transfer, Education and Social Services, and now the health billing dispute. The argument the federal government is making is that the health billing dispute is part of the devolution which has been carrying on, and part of devolution is the Housing Corporation. That is the argument. All along, treaty Indians and aboriginal people in the north have had no input in what they call devolution. This is one of the areas of dispute where it has to be cleared up.

What are the fiduciary responsibilities which the federal government has to aboriginal people in the north, particularly if you have treaties? You have Treaty 8 and 11 which were signed up here. What kind of responsibilities does the federal government have toward people who have these treaties? In the meantime, you have transfers which have happened, and housing is one of them. There is no place that I can recall where the responsibility for housing for people who have treaties has been devolved to this government along with the funding that goes with it. For how many years have we been dealing with it?

I mentioned earlier that I served on the board of directors for the NWT Housing Corporation and at that time I was chief. I asked the board, at that time, to look at the treaty responsibility of the NWT Housing Corporation, and I have never received a clear answer or a clear indication at all from the NWT Housing Corporation staff who did research for us on what the responsibilities were. It might be some place buried in your department. I know they hired

someone at one time, for a period of time, to do the research. I do not know what the findings were.

My point is that the responsibility has to be cleared up. It has to be made absolutely clear what the responsibility for treaty Indians are with the territorial and federal governments in terms of housing. I know the chiefs have always made that point, and this will be a contentious issue forever if we do not deal

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with it. I would like to somehow have it dealt with once and for all. I just want to leave that as a comment, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like this dealt with because all the research we have clearly states that the responsibility for treaty housing was not turned over to the territorial government. The feds would like to unload it on us, I know. If Members have any advice on that issue, I would like to hear how we could solve this issue and get clear answers on who has that responsibility. Possibly what we should be doing is challenging Indian Affairs for money for treaty housing. We should ask them for that money, demand it saying it is their responsibility and bring it to a head.

I would be happy to provide the Member with a complete briefing on the needs survey. The needs survey is completed but it only looks at the need and not the past units which were built. It only tells us how many people are in need. It tells us what type of need they are in, whether it is a financial problem they have or whether it is an inadequate house which has not been constructed well, or does not have running water, it will also tell us overcrowding, so then we can allocate houses and that is how we allocate houses. For that person who told Fort Liard that those 20 rental units they constructed would not affect any future allocations was really leading Liard astray. It has to affect your allocation because it draws down on your need. It means that the community needs less because they have solved 20 needs. That is how it works. I would be happy to supply to the Member a complete briefing on how this needs is done, and then if there are concerns from his community I would be happy to address those concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Perhaps, you should do this complete briefing with Fort Liard. That way you could show them your "axe."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to go to Fort Liard. I have to go to Liard, Nahanni and Trout Lake sometime in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Housing Corporation, page 03-10. Total O and M, \$52.442 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Details of grants and contributions. I am sorry, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have no problems with the amount of \$52 million. However, if you look at the capital there is only about \$30 million now. As far as the comparability goes with regard to the operations and maintenance budget, the delivery of housing programs is worth about \$30 million. I think the department is receiving too much with regard to administration costs.

I was in Hay River about one month ago, and the corporation's district office has expanded. They have new people and new PYs, too, I presume. When I went to the district manager's office, he used to have a fair sized office and now I think they have cut it in half and diverted some parts of it to new office space. Are we expanding in that area, or are we reducing to make it comparable with the reduction of the capital which has been occurring? You indicated we are

losing many capital dollars. Do we need that many staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently, we are still delivering the same amount of needs. We are still delivering well over 372 units this year. If there is a drastic cut, for example if we do not find extra money or we do not get the government to reinstate money and there is a reduction in the amount of units we deliver, there will be a reduction in staff, guaranteed. Also, I am not aware of the offices expanding in Hay River. I will check into that, Mr. Gargan. I know that on April 1, 1994, we will be taking over staff housing so that is also going to add to the work load.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Detail of grants and contributions. Grants, \$52,442 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Evaluation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 3-12 is an information item on program summary. Page 3-13, directorate, information item. Policy and evaluation, page 3-14, total O and M, \$320,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Human Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Human resources, total O and M, \$1.143 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community And Program Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Community and program services, total O and M, \$1.615 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, last fall there was some controversy over who was eligible for public units and who was not. I think an anonymous letter was sent to the corporation regarding the way the allocations were done. It was based on a point system, but even the point system was questionable.

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We had a public meeting on that, we requested the Housing Corporation to re-visit the way they did the allocations and whether some of those people were, in fact, eligible for a unit. I do not know whether this has ever been addressed, but we had a public meeting with the corporation on it last fall and I have not heard anything since. I think Brian Hebert was the one who was there at that time. I would appreciate it if you could look into that. If it is fair, it is fair, if it is not and there are questions then I would like to have the Minister address them.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I will look into that and get back to you within one week.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Community and program services, total O and M, \$1.615 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Corporate Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Finance and corporate services, total O and M, \$16,585 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Construction/Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Construction/development, total O and M, \$1.657 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

District Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

District operations, total O and M, \$7.774 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Housing Organizations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Community housing organizations, total O and M, \$69,284 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 3-12, program summary, total O and M, \$99.497 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Program summary, total O and M, 52.442 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

(microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Part of the GNWT's share is \$52 million and \$99 million combined GNWT/CMHC.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that concludes the NWT Housing Corporation's budget.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Members for their advice in passing this budget and I would like to thank the staff for preparing the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you and your witnesses for assisting us. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

We wish to proceed with the budget and deal with Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that we proceed with Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We will find that in section 14. The items will be found in sections 14-8. Madam Premier, are you prepared to give your opening remarks? Thank you for your assistance, Mr. Minister, if you ever need a job...

Introductory Remarks

Budget Changes

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The one significant change in the 1993-94 budget proposal results from the transfer of energy awareness program responsibilities from the Department responsible for Government Services and Public Works. This amounts to an increase of \$280,000 and two PYs.

The total proposed budget for the department for 1993-94 is \$4.787 million and 24.9 PYs compared to \$4.490 million and 22.9 PYs for 1992-93. This total includes funding for the mineral development agreement of \$2.370 million, representing about one half of the total budget.

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Energy Management

Responsibilities for energy awareness were transferred to the department effective August 4, 1992, as part of the government's consolidation exercise. A new director came on staff in December, and we are in the process of recruiting an energy management coordinator. The department has also re-allocated internal resources to this initiative.

The program will be administered from Yellowknife with the assistance of Government Services/Public Works technical staff in the regional centres.

Minerals

Major mining-related projects which the department will be working on in the coming year include coordinating the GNWT's involvement in the possible development of the Izok Lake base metals property. This would be a very large development which could be a catalyst for the development of additional mines, and transportation and energy infrastructure.

The department will be working with industry and the Inuit of the Kitikmeot region to facilitate the negotiation of a benefits agreement for this project, and is sponsoring work on upgrading employment data in the Coppermine area.

The NWT is the only jurisdiction in Canada which has experienced an increase in mineral exploration activity over the past year. The diamond staking rush is continuing, and is turning out to be one of the largest in Canadian history.

Industry is still at an early stage in the cycle for the exploration of diamonds, and it will take perhaps another five years and an expenditure of over \$100 million, to know if a diamond mine or mines are viable.

In the 1992 field season, a total of 12 mapping projects were run under the minerals initiatives agreement. Four of these were managed directly by the department. The other eight were carried out by the geological survey of Canada.

Five of the 14 summer staff hired for the 1992 mapping projects were northerners. Any northern student taking training in geology can obtain summer employment with the minerals initiatives mapping projects.

Northern Accord

The northern accord still has not been finalized, even though most of the issues have been settled. Our concerns relate primarily to the financial elements of the federal government's current proposal.

This proposal would not provide the GNWT with the means to assist in the continued development of NWT oil and gas resources, the program transfer funding is not adequate and the fiscal arrangements would not provide the GNWT with an incentive to encourage development activity.

There is reason to believe that federal Ministers are taking a second look at their proposal, and discussions will be continuing between the two governments at a political level to see if we can resolve the few remaining issues.

Oil and gas activity in the NWT remains at depressed levels, due to low prices, and the lack of oil and gas exploration rights issuances in those areas of greatest interest to the industry.

The department has and will continue to work with the aboriginal organizations, with industry and the federal government, to find means by which these exploration rights might be issued under terms and conditions which would be acceptable to all parties. This work has included the identification and analysis of investment opportunities for local and native-owned companies in the oil and gas resources of their regions.

The department is facilitating a proposed project including the Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation, a new company called Zhik'e Petroleum which is based on the Hay River Reserve, and Paramount Resources. This project could lead to the eventual development of a gas pipeline from Cameron Hills to Hay River and Yellowknife.

The department is facilitating engineering and economic investigation by the Deh Cho tribal council for a possible gas pipeline extension from Pointed Mountain to existing gas reserves in the area. The department is working with the Sahtu development impact zone society as a seismic program proposal.

It will also closely monitor the progress of the recent proposal by Hondo Oil & Gas to transport natural gas from the Delta to Alaska, and will coordinate the government's input into the project.

Utilities

The department will continue to represent the government in future public utilities board hearings. Of particular importance will be the "phase 2" hearings on the NWT Power Corporation's rate structure.

The department will be working closely with the Power Corporation and other NWT utilities in coordinating the development and implementation of energy conservation programs.

This concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I would be pleased to answer Members' questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Does the Standing Committee on Finance have any opening remarks? Mr. Patterson.

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Comments By Standing Committee on Finance

Northwest Territories Power Corporation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance had hoped to review the trends of power costs and outages by community. The NWT Power Corporation had over 120 days to respond to the committee's request for this information, but failed to do so until recently.

The committee believes that the Power Corporation has a responsibility to take the initiative to bring down electrical costs, particularly in view of the major impact that these costs have on the total cost of living in the north. The fact that the Power Corporation has a monopoly selling electrical energy outside of the major centres, should not prevent them from competitively pricing electricity.

Committee Members expressed concern that the corporation does not appear to be operating efficiently and effectively. The Assembly has approved a motion for a comprehensive audit which must be followed up by the Premier. We all agree it should be operated in a more business-like manner.

We asked the Power Corporation for some measure of customer satisfaction. A simple survey would provide the necessary initial feedback. The corporation's response that consumer satisfaction is linked to demand side management, and any major initiative has to receive public utilities board approval, seemed extraordinarily bureaucratic.

More work must be done to study the merits of privatization of the Power Corporation. Caution must be taken because of the public policy implications of this essential service.

Energy, Mines And Petroleum Resources

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources should also be probing ways and means to bring down electrical and fuel costs in the Northwest Territories.

Finally, the committee supports the Minister's efforts to expand the exploration and development of mines and promote the development of related infrastructures, particularly where northern benefits are maximized. However, we believe that these efforts should become an integral part of an overall publicly stated strategy.

Executive

In our introductory comments, we have talked extensively about leadership and vision. It is the Government Leader's job to provide the vision. It is the central agency's role to provide direction and support to program and service departments, as required. The evidence shows that departments and agencies are not getting the necessary direction and support from the Department of the Executive. In response to a 1992-93 -- I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I should be stopping here. I think I will stop here, although I am getting on a role, because now we are getting into the Department of Executive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Premier, are you prepared to invite in your officials?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I am a bit confused from the response by the representative of the Standing Committee on Finance. I read the opening remarks to Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. I did not provide the opening remarks to the Power Corporation's budget review. I think the honourable Member might be a bit ahead of himself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

As Mr. McCallum used to say, "Mea culpa." I should have confined my remarks to Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. My apologies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Premier, do you wish to invite your officials in at this time?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Proceed.

General Comments

MR. PATTERSON:

I would like to make the comment and it would lead to a question, that the big initiative of this department in my experience has been pursuing the northern energy accord and I know an enormous amount of work has been done to develop a very detailed NWT position on the northern accord. I know, as well, recently the Yukon government has become very much involved and, I believe, supportive of the NWT position. It has been an initiative of the Government of Canada, we know the Prime Minister signed the enabling agreement to negotiate the northern energy accord, here in Yellowknife. We also know that a tremendous amount of effort has been put into this initiative by the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea.

Are we in danger of all this tremendous effort and work ending without a whimper as the term of Mr. Mulroney comes to a close, or is there a possibility that this work can be finished off, especially now that we have Mr. McKnight in the Energy, Mines portfolio, federally? I would like to get a feeling from the Minister. Do we still have a chance of finishing off this very important business before a federal election or, perhaps, before the leadership convention in June distracts everyone's attention? Is it still possible we can conclude this long-standing issue? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can. We are trying to give it one last shot with the Prime Minister. There are only a few issues which have to be laid to rest. I think all the work which has gone into this northern accord has addressed and readdressed every avenue we could find to make a deal with the federal government that will be good in the long term. That is what we are looking for, but the three issues left to be resolved are the perversity factor which is a finance issue, the program dollars and the Norman Wells

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development fund. Those are really the only issues, and we are going to try to push the Honourable Brian

Mulroney to see if he can maybe give us one last handshake that is worth something. We are working very hard to get that meeting going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say I am pleased to hear that and I hope the work can be finished off. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman, in saying that the conclusion of the northern accord is an essential element to certain provisions in the Gwich'in land claim agreement? Perhaps, as well, parallel provisions in the Sahtu agreement if it is ratified. Is honouring the commitments in the Gwich'in agreement another reason for the federal government to conclude the northern accord now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes. The report on benefits agreements were tied to a northern accord and the Gwich'in are very concerned that that element of their agreement would not be met if we do not get the northern accord signed. As well, with the settlement of the Sahtu claim it would be very important to them to have the northern accord in place so the benefits agreements can be established.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I know the Government Leader has had meetings with her new counterpart in the Yukon. Am I correct in stating that the Yukon government is supportive of concluding the accord and will stand alongside our government in concluding this matter? Do we have a good working with the new Yukon government on this matter? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, we have a good working relationship with the Yukon government. Certainly, they have no objection in terms of our deal, but it has come to our attention that they are willing to accept a deal which is less significant than ours. They are willing to accept the federal government's offer which we are not accepting ourselves because of three elements which I noted earlier in my reply to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

If I may pursue one final matter, Mr. Chairman, could I get an idea from the Minister what kind of wealth is being generated by the Norman Wells project, and what that project alone could mean to our government if we could negotiate a satisfactory share?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The total which is being generated at Norman Wells is a gross royalty of \$7 million and the Crown share is \$50 million. We are advocating that we should get a share if we are not going to get all of it. This was not available to the federal government up until this past year. So far, they feel reluctant to share it with us, although the Gwich'in claim does get a proportion of that, so will the Sahtu claim and the relative regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. However, there is money left in there and at this point in time when we talk about a share of Norman Wells in the development fund for us so we could support some activity, so far this is one of the outstanding issues we have with the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Just to follow up on Mr. Patterson's comments on the negotiations of a northern accord, I think we all realize how crucial some kind of accord is in terms of potential development in the north. We have been hearing for the past month and a half of the potential developments that our economy is going to be based on in the future. If we do not have any guidelines or some kind of agreement with the federal government

on the sharing of the resources and the profits from these developments, we can end up on the short end of the money which is generated from these projects.

On the other hand, in negotiating these accords we cannot be held ransom. We are also, on the other hand, discussing being short funded and the off-loading of the federal government. My understanding of what has happened to date is this could be another case where they are looking to off-load or not give us our full share. I support, up to a point, what is going on, and then with this transfer. I also wish we could accelerate it because, as you mentioned, the Gwich'in claim has components in there which are closely linked with the settlement of some kind of northern accord and the communities are very concerned that they need some protection and they were looking in court to provide the protection they were trying to negotiate. I just wish to add to the comments and say that we should try to get to some agreement on these issues with the feds, but with the caution that we cannot sell out. I support the stance that has been taken.

One thing I wish to raise is with the potential of all these developments happening, the mineral developments, some oil and gas, that we have to ensure that the processes for environmental impact reviews that we have our system and processes in place which ensure maximum and quick reviews. I think the days of long drawn out two or three year reviews for a project are history and I do not think our economy can stand that. I know it is good for some people, it is good for the consultants especially, to have long drawn out processes. For a community that wants to get on with development and areas that have potential, this area makes sure we have proper processes in place to cover everyone and ensure everyone gets a proper say and are properly consulted, and that we also get the maximum social and economic benefit for the communities and for the north. Those are just comments I wish to make. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say publicly my concern with the northern accord. I did not realize,

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until I listened to the debate, that this northern accord is somehow closely tied to claims which have been negotiated with the Gwich'in, and are presently being negotiated with Sahtu. I did not realize there was a strong tie there, so I do not really understand fully if there is a strong connection. This way, the Gwich'in and Sahtu people would probably like to accelerate this, but at the same time there are other groups in our area who say we own this land and the resources on it belong to aboriginal groups, and until that is dealt with the resources are still in question. So, the certainty of that still has to be dealt with. I do not know how this northern accord would affect the people who have interest in the land, people who have not negotiated some of their lands away. We still maintain the position that all of it still belongs to the Dene in this treaty. In that respect I do not fully understand this accord.

On one hand, it is tied to a group of people who negotiate it, then if it does not go through certain parts of the claim they will not benefit from it, but at the same time there is another group saying they are still in the position of getting ready to try to deal with the government on our lands and what effect will this accord have on us in the long run? If this accord goes are we going to be put in another position again such as the devolution which has been going on with transfers of certain responsibilities from the federal government to the territorial government, and certain groups being left on the side, being ignored and not being dealt with. That seems to be the practice of this government. If this accord is going to do that again, then I have to understand it and the people who are going to be affected by it have to understand it. I do not want to come back here after this accord goes through and argue that it is detrimental to certain groups. So, you have to take that into consideration.

This is a public government, it services everyone and takes everyone's view into consideration. Then, there is a certain group of people you have to consider as well. I understand the situation with these two claimant groups, I did not realize they were so closely tied for this accord to go through. It puts the people I represent in my constituency, in a very tenuous situation, so I find myself very cautious in this accord. Somehow this has to be dealt with and at the present time to try to fully understand what the northern accord is. I know the tribal council in my area has been dealing with it and trying to understand it. I really hope their views are taken seriously by the government and dealt with. We do not want to be

pushed on the side again having to battle for our rights in the future. It has been going on for too long. I support this government in being very cautious in their approach in dealing with it. We have to be careful about this off-loading which is going on. The whole attitude of the federal government towards the north and the residents in the north, I find very appalling. I do not trust them at all and I would deal with them the same way the government has been dealing with them up to this point. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I think this is one of the reasons why we are taking longer in settling this outstanding issue, because I think once you have one experience you are much more cautious. The northern accord, I think, is something which would enhance some of the issues where it was not possible to get certain benefits in the land claims settlements. So, this was an area where the total Dene/Metis claim had advocated that the northern accord would allow for some provisions which they could not get in a land claim deal.

We do not intend to move ahead without full consultation. If we are able to come through some of the impasses right now which seem to be the areas which would allow us to do something, rather than taking over a responsibility that you cannot deliver to the very people who have had some input into it already and have said that there are certain things they expect us to do, there could be a signing of this accord. We do not intend to move ahead and jeopardize what our agreements were before on how far and what issues would be contained in the final document. So, there will certainly be consultation before we do anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments? Line by line. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Page 14-8. Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, total O and M, \$4.787 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman. I have a small question. I am looking at the total PYs in the 1992-93 revised forecast and the figure is 30.7 PYs, reduced to 29.9 PYs. However, looking at the increase in the salaries and wages, there is an increase of \$3,100. How is that increase justified?

Secondly, looking at the 29.9 PYs with salaries and wages of \$1.985 million, that is a \$66,000 average, which includes secretaries, clerk, bookkeepers, et cetera. That makes me think many of these people who are not in those categories, are in the neighbourhood of \$80,000 to \$100,000 for salaries, and maybe more. Why is it so different from other civil servants?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources salaries show an increase of approximately seven per cent for 1993-94, as compared to 1992-93 mainly because of the accounting of the transfer of funds from the Department responsible for Government Services and Public Works. We have had people come into the department. The total transfer was \$280,000, which included \$120,000 for salaries. The salary figures were not based on the actual estimated cost of staffing the two positions transferred, but was on an arbitrary figure of \$60,000 per person year. The actual salary requirement for the two PYs, a director and officer, is \$144,000. Both departments anticipate there would be additional salary costs and this was considered in arriving at the operation and maintenance amount to be transferred. These are the transferred funds as salary increases. Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources would be redirected from contract funding to this responsibility.

In summary, the department's salary requirement is increasing by \$93,000, in 1994-95 to \$1.985 million. Of this amount

\$36,000 is a base target adjustment, \$24,000 is part of the energy program transfer and the balance of \$33,000 is to be funded internally.

As well, we have a number of people who are professionals and, as a result, are paid at a higher category than some of the other departments. We have many geologists, but I can assure you, there is no one receiving \$200,000 a year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total O and M, \$4.787 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Details of grants and contributions, contributions, \$1.269 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Grants and contributions, \$1.269 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. On page 14-11, details of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$296,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. On page 14-7, program summary, total O and M, \$4.787 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does the committee agree that this concludes the department?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

I would like to thank Madam Minister and her witnesses. Thank you. What does the committee wish to do now? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we were previously scheduled to have a taxation briefing, which I believe will take about one hour. I have mixed messages from the committee, some Members want to report progress and some want to come back and continue with the budget. If you could give us a two minute break, it would be appreciated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Let us take a two minute break, not any longer.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The committee will come back to order. Order, please. What is the wish of the committee? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 19, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 17 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried.

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of Caucus immediately after adjournment. Meetings tomorrow morning at 8:30 am of the Nunavut Caucus, at 9:30 am of the Standing Committee on Finance and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 24, 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

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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

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until 1:30 pm, Wednesday, March 24, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT