



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3rd Session**

**Day 47**

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

**HANSARD**

**MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1993**

Pages 1229 - 1258

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

**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, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

Good afternoon. Before I proceed with the orders of the day, I have received the following message from the Honourable Daniel Norris, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads, "Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94; Bill 27, Payroll Tax Act, 1993; and Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, during the Third Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly."

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Opening Of Bank Of Montreal Branch In Fort Smith

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members may recall that on Friday, February 25, I informed the House that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce had decided to close the doors of its Fort Smith branch effective June 4. Mr. Speaker, this was seen by many of my constituents as a serious step backwards. The chamber of commerce held a public meeting on Monday, March 1, 1993, which the Honourable John Pollard, Minister of Finance, attended. At that time some people were of the opinion that there was nothing they could do, and some people felt that Fort Smith was too small to attract another banking institution. Others believed that the town should consider settling for a scaled down service and requested the town to consider negotiating with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for a lesser service for the community.

Mr. Speaker, at the time, it was my opinion, and it still is now, that Fort Smith should continue to have the same range of financial facilities and services which it has had for the past several years. On March 10, I was part of a delegation of community leaders who met in Toronto with a senior corporate official from the Bank of Montreal, Mr. Ron Jamieson. Late Friday afternoon I received a phone call from Mr. Jamieson, who is the national vice-president of the Bank of Montreal, and I am pleased to advise this House, and particularly my constituents, that the Bank of Montreal has agreed to open a branch in Fort Smith.

---Applause

Preliminary discussions are that this will be a full service operation with a complete range of local banking options including an automatic service for cash retrieval and deposit transactions, which we do not now have in the community. I would like to acknowledge the other members of the community delegation who assisted in approaching the Bank of Montreal and in particular, Don Webb, who is the president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, who spent a great deal of time coordinating this effort.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. The delegation also included mayor Dennis Bevington, Earl Jacobsen, who is the president of the Metis local, and Raymond Beaver, who represented the Fort Smith native band. I am very happy with the bank's announcement and I believe this demonstrates something to all of us about how to act in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the community of Fort Smith's flag which hangs on my left, you will see that it bears the word "perseverance." To those members of my constituency who were ready to give up, to those who said we should try to arrange for some

lower level of service, I would like to point out what can be accomplished when one perseveres.

In closing, I know my constituents will be more than happy to hear that the Bank of Montreal will be the next financial institution in Fort Smith. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement Re Appreciation To Yellowknife For A Great Caribou Carnival

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Caribou Carnival which took place over the past weekend allowed my family and I to really enjoy what Yellowknife has to offer. We saw creative arts, sampled some fine foods, outdoor style and met people. Mr. Speaker, the highlight for me was seeing children enthusiastically walking, running, smiling and the laughter which echoed like the sound of spring. After we came home from the Caribou Carnival site, my grandson fell on the

Page 1230

couch and dozed off still smiling. I am sure he speaks for all of the other children, the smile which makes the difference. To the people of Yellowknife, the city of Yellowknife and the organizers, I say thank you very much for a job well done.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Strategy To Assist Trappers

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have raised, in this Legislative Assembly, the concerns of trappers and the extreme poor fur harvest this year on many occasions. On February 17, 1993, I gave examples of trappers in my region who had already pulled their traps around Christmas time because of the poor trapping season. Mr. Speaker, I am worried about these families, how they will make it through the year, and whether they will have the financial resources to

trap again next year. The trappers must be able to continue to support themselves in their traditional life-style.

The people in my constituency share my concern and have been discussing ways in which the trappers can continue to be self-sufficient. We must ensure that one bad year does not mean the end of a way of life. The trappers in my region and the Fort Simpson Dene council have come up with a strategy which will help to ensure that this will not be the end.

The Department of Renewable Resources administers a trapper subsidy program which provides funds for equipment and provisions for trappers at the beginning of each fur year. However, the amount of funding has been based on the past single year's harvest. To calculate the subsidy based on the 1992-93 harvest would simply not be fair and would deny trappers the right to continue their life-style. As the Fort Simpson Dene council and the trappers have requested, the subsidy should be calculated based on the best three of the past five years of trapping. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister will also appreciate that the poor harvest will have a serious impact on the ability of trappers to pay back the loans that they have received from the band through the harvesters' assistance program.

There is simply no money coming in this year. The band wants to support the trappers and forgive these loans so the trappers can continue to trap, but needs the help of the government to do so. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said in this House that he is prepared to be flexible to enable the communities to assist trappers. The community of Fort Simpson has identified a concrete workable plan that will allow trappers to survive this lean year. The only thing missing, right now, to put this plan into action is the commitment of the government. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement Re Appreciation For New Recreational Facility In Chesterfield Inlet

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak about the opening of the arena in Chesterfield Inlet. We are very glad we were able to get an arena and recreational facility for the community. I was also

happy that the Minister, the Honourable Titus Allooloo, and his staff, especially the Keewatin regional staff, were able to attend the festivities in the community. People from Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet were able to get together and enjoy these festivities.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, the children are not able to be taught recreational activities. Their parents provide them with the opportunity for hunting to learn their life-style.

It will help the community a great deal with the recreational facility which was just officially opened. They have shown their appreciation already and stated they will use the facility to its full ability. I would like to say thank you to Municipal and Community Affairs Minister and the staff for the opening of the facility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Removal Of Cultural Inclusion Program From Schools

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a time, Mr. Speaker, when I made a suggestion to the Minister of Education of the day to remove the cultural inclusion program from the schools. I would like to elaborate on that today, Mr. Speaker.

At the present time, the students spend approximately 80 hours of their annual school time in the cultural inclusion programs. This works out to 14 days per year, that is 11.6 per cent of their annual schools days, which is exactly 3.8 per cent of the time my parents and their parents spent trying to learn the ways of my people. The students spent about the same amount of time in the native language classes, which doubles the amount of time that our children are learning about their own culture. However, this still only works out to less than one quarter of their school time learning their own culture.

Mr. Speaker, I went through a similar system, but at the time they were only developing the programs. We, as aboriginal people, are learning a culture which was completely foreign to our people only 30 to 50 years ago. It is no wonder we have such high failure rates in our schools as far as aboriginal people are concerned. This is further impacted by the fact that

they are trying to learn their culture within four walls. As you know, Mr. Speaker, and all who are in this room, my people were a nomadic people. We survived and passed on our culture in the great outdoors. My suggestion was merely to transfer the programs with the resources to the hunters' and trappers' associations or to an elders' group in the community. This group could work with the community education councils and set up a completely traditional camp out on the land.

At the time I suggested this, Mr. Speaker, the Minister said this would be up to the community. However, I think the department should be taking a more proactive role by encouraging communities to do this. The students, in small numbers, could take the 14 consecutive days per year and live and learn in that camp. The different grades could spend different times of the year at the camp. I believe...

Page 1231

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arngna'naaq, your allotted time as elapsed. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to continue my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The different grades could spend different times of the year at the camp. I believe in this way, our young people will learn both ways of life and understand truly the virtues of their ancestors. I know many families spend time on the land when school is over in the spring. However, not all students get to go and it is at only one time of the year. This way all students will be able to spend time on the land and learn about their culture at different times of the year. They would learn more about their own culture in a way their ancestors learned the culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To People of Snare Lakes

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, I was able to go to Snare Lakes with some Members. While we were there, the people of Snare Lakes were very open and we received their hospitality. We went to this small community to sign the hydro project with the NWT Power Corporation. We had an enjoyable feast and dance in the community, and the people of Snare Lakes were extremely friendly. I was thinking of trying to get some dry meat while I was there and I had no problem getting the meat thanks to the Member for North Slave. I had no idea that I would be participating in the dance. At first I declined to accept the offer of dancing, however, when Nellie approached me to dance with her, I truly enjoyed it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 22, 1993, regarding the policy of the government seeking restitution from convicted former employees.

Section 103 of the Financial Administration Act allows the government to seek restitution for missing public money from employees who have defrauded the government.

Subsection 103(1) provides that:

"Where the misconduct, wilful neglect of duty or gross negligence of a person responsible for handling public money results in a loss of public money to the government, that person is liable for the amount of public money that is lost."

Subsection 103(2) allows the government to recover the lost public money from that person who is liable. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question 527-12(3): Saskatchewan Hearings Into Uranium Mines

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arngna'naaq on March 18, 1993, with respect to Saskatchewan hearings into uranium mines.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will not be directly intervening in the environmental assessment of the proposed uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan. The Department of Renewable Resources will continue to monitor the environmental assessment process including the progress of public hearings.

I have written to the chairmen of the two panels reviewing the projects and requested that they consider the potential effects of uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan on the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Renewable Resources continues to monitor radionuclides on the Slave River as part of the interim monitoring program. The levels detected, to date, are similar to the levels naturally found in the environment.

I have a further return, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question 507-12(3): Renewable Resources Policy On Donated Charters

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on March 16, 1993, regarding Renewable Resources policy on donated charters.

In early November, 1992, two respected trappers from Lutsel K'e drowned in Nonacho Lake. The Lutsel K'e wildlife committee requested assistance in paying for the charter to allow people to attend the funeral.

The total cost of the air charter was \$4,699.53. The Department of Renewable Resources agreed to provide \$1,500.

Whenever possible, the Department of Renewable Resources tries to accommodate requests from hunters' and trappers' associations. For example, we often assist in searching for lost hunters and trappers. The department will continue to provide such assistance in the future.

Page 1232

Further Return To Question 551-12(3): Inspection Of Importation of Christmas Trees Into The NWT

I have a further return asked by Mr. Whitford on March 19, 1993, with regard to inspection of importation of Christmas trees in the Northwest Territories.

Christmas trees grown on tree farms cannot cross provincial or international boundaries unless the farm has been certified by Agriculture Canada. Since Agriculture Canada does not inspect every tree, problems can sometimes occur.

In the Northwest Territories, anyone importing Christmas trees or other forest products with the bark attached must obtain a timber import permit from the Department of Renewable Resources. This regulation is only two years old and the department has advised Christmas tree retailers of the need for a timber import permit.

The purpose of the permit is to monitor where products come from. If the product comes from an area with a forest insect or disease problem, the permit will not be issued. For example, two years ago, European gypsy moth eggs were found on Christmas trees in Calgary and Edmonton which had come from the eastern United States. Departmental staff checked that no Christmas trees brought to the territories came from there.

The gypsy moth that caused concern in British Columbia last year was the Asian gypsy moth. It came in on Russian cargo ships, not trees. All moths or eggs found were destroyed.

Lastly, I would like to clarify that a number of tree insects and diseases occur naturally in the Northwest Territories. The spruce budworm is one of these.

Further Return To Question 552-12(3): Concerns Re Bugs Found In Fireplace Wood

I have a further return, Mr. Speaker, asked by Mr. Lewis on March 19, 1993, concerning bugs in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources sent samples of the firewood sold at a local service station to Forestry Canada in Edmonton to identify. Forestry Canada was unaware of any restrictions on selling this firewood.

No live or dead insects were found in the samples. However, the type of damage seen in the wood was attributed to two types of insects -- ambrosia beetles and bark beetles.

The only beetle that could emerge alive from the wood is the ambrosia beetle. Several species of this beetle occur naturally in the territories.

Forestry Canada has kept the samples to see if these or any other insects emerge from the wood. If any live insects emerge, they will let us know what they are.

The department, with assistance from Forestry Canada, monitors forest insect and disease problems in the territories and we regularly receive concerns from the public.

We encourage any member of the public, who has concerns relating to forest insects and pests, to notify or bring samples to the nearest departmental office.

If staff cannot identify the problem, we will request assistance from Forestry Canada. Last summer, a number of samples were analyzed by the head of Forestry Canada's insect and disease section. He was in the territories as part of our joint spruce budworm survey program. The other option for analysis is to send samples to Forestry Canada by courier to ensure freshness and prevent contamination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 616-12(3): Revisions To The Development Policy

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. This government has in place a policy development directive which details, among other things, the review of government policies. One would think, therefore, that all government policies

especially this one, are examined periodically to make sure that the policies are up-to-date. Mr. Speaker, I noticed this document was revised last in 1983-84, almost ten years ago. Can the Government Leader explain why she has not revised the policy development directive since becoming Government Leader?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, frankly I do not know. In that area of responsibility, looking at how we are structured, it is one of the areas which we have some concern about and how much we pay attention to bring it up-to-date. Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. To my recollection we have not looked at it in the last year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 617-12(3): Definition Of "Business" In GNWT Policy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism with respect to the number of definitions given to business in the government's policy manual. The directive for the energy efficiency incentive policy provides a definition of a small business, the directive to the business development fund policy defines a Northwest Territories, and the government's new revised business incentive policy deals with northern and local businesses. Mr. Speaker, in drafting the new business incentive policy were other policies such as those which I have mentioned reviewed to ensure that the two policies are consistent as far as the definition of business is concerned? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Page 1233

Return To Question 617-12(3): Definition Of "Business" In GNWT Policy

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The business incentive policy falls under the Department of Public Works. I know there has been quite a dialogue going on between DPW, other deputy ministers and my deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism to try and get the definitions straight. That work is not complete. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is undergoing a study of how it works and what it does within its jurisdiction, how it describes businesses and how it describes the work which it does. That is one of the things which we will consider. Once we have straightened out our shop, Mr. Speaker, we will pass that on to the other departments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 617-12(3): Definition Of "Business" In GNWT Policy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. That is good to hear, Mr. Speaker. I would like to further ask a question with regard to the directive for government's new business incentive policy defining a northern business, somewhat slightly different than the definition of a northern business provided in the directive to the commercial renewable resource use policy. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that these are two different definitions for different directives, but somehow in general terms it could become a bit confused for people reviewing the policies and directives. Recognizing the Minister has indicated they are going to be looking at these and straighten out his shop with regard to them, and recognizing the date the commercial renewable resource use policy was developed in December, 1986, I would like to ask the Minister whether the two definitions, which are purposely different in policy formation, refers to different issues or is it just that the commercial Renewable Resource policy requires revision to make it consistent with the other policy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not that quick so I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 618-12(3): Directing Proposed Policies To The Priorities And Planning Secretariat

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the Beatty report, Strength at Two Levels, commented on the need to tighten the process by which patented businesses managed. The report recommends that processes should be followed explicitly in order to ensure the proper reviews are being carried out prior to a submission appearing before Cabinet. In the policy making review process, there is a certain procedure developed which involves an independent review of proposed policy by the Priorities and Planning Secretariat. Can the Government Leader confirm that all proposed policies are directed to the Priorities and Planning Secretariat prior to being introduced by the Minister before Cabinet?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 618-12(3): Directing Proposed Policies To The Priorities And Planning Secretariat

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge in the one year and three months which I have been Premier, all the policies have been referred through Priorities and Planning. Thank you.

**MR. DENT:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 619-12(3): GNWT's Smoke Free Work Place Policy

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the government policy manual provides for a number of policies on health which are applicable to government employees. One of them is the smoke free work place policy. Mr. Speaker, the city of Yellowknife has recently passed a bylaw regulating smoking in public

places. That bylaw, I believe, comes into effect on April 13 of this year. The current smoke free work place policy of the GNWT has not been revised since 1987. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister advise whether any changes will be made to the GNWT policy as a result of the city bylaw soon to be in force?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 619-12(3): GNWT's Smoke Free Work Place Policy

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know there have not been any revisions since the policy was put in place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 619-12(3): GNWT's Smoke Free Work Place Policy

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Mr. Speaker, as this policy will affect members of the public who may want to light up in a government office, they should be aware of the policy. Since assuming the Health portfolio, can the Minister tell this House what procedures have been followed to make the public aware of the government's "no smoking" policy?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Mike. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 619-12(3): GNWT's Smoke Free Work Place Policy

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the overall policy for non smoking in government offices is in place. There are no plans to revise it and directives are available for government personnel to know exactly what is required in government work places. Thank you.

Page 1234

**MR. SPEAKER:**



Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. When Mr. Braden became Government Leader in 1979, I believe, the first four years -- it was a fully elected Executive Council -- were spent in trying to establish that the job of an Executive Council is the development of policy. I would like to ask the Government Leader, what is the process to put new policies in place or to make changes to the substance of existing policies?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, policy can originate from a Cabinet Minister, a requirement through the particular departmental responsibilities, and that may be fed into the system and would eventually come on the Cabinet's decision-making table. Policy could be developed from Cabinet, Cabinet could see a need for a policy change and that would be directed to the departments responsible to develop such policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**MR. LEWIS:**

Since we have consensus government, I would like to ask the Leader, is she also including ordinary Members? Are Members in any way involved in the policy-making business of this consensus government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I think much of the policy that this government has comes from MLAs or the general public. Certain policy guidelines are important for the good running of government. In my history as an ordinary MLA or on Cabinet, policies and how the government operates come from any area, but it generally gets funnelled through the process. If there is a policy which people feel is not working, outdated and has to be revised, as Cabinet we would work with ordinary MLAs to make the necessary changes. It could be a policy on housing. We will work in this area if we have to change the policy on rental changes. Any area and scope of a requirement comes from many places and often those suggestions are vetted and put into the process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every department of government, I think, has someone who has responsibility for policy or policy development which will presumably arrive at the Cabinet level and be approved of as government policy. Since there has been virtually no policy development which we are aware of since about 1984, at least it has not been kept up-to-date, is there any explanation why we have all these people developing all these policies when we never really see them?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 620-12(3): Process For Changing GNWT Policies

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I did not say there were no changes to policy. This government is very fluent in changing its policies and policy directives. What I said is, there may not have been a total approach on changing that section of policy development, which I understood as being the original question. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 621-12(3): Responsibility For The Energy Efficiency Incentive Policy

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Premier. The government's energy efficiency incentive policy is dated February, 1988. Under the directive to the policy, the Minister of Public Works and Highways is to approve detailed program provisions. The deputy minister of Public Works and Highways is responsible for evaluation of the energy efficiency incentive program and the energy audits are performed by designated Department of Public Works and Highways employees. Mr. Speaker, recognizing there is no longer a Department of Public Works and Highways, can the Premier tell the House which Minister, deputy minister and/or employees of which departments are responsible for these tasks? Where has it gone to?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 621-12(3): Responsibility For The Energy Efficiency Incentive Policy

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there is one question there, three questions or four questions. The main overall reply to the question would be that we are consolidating the energy efficiency task within the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Government Leader. There was once a priorities and planning committee in the Cabinet, which was composed of elected Cabinet Ministers. Does that committee still exist?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Page 1235

Return To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, because there was much more interest at the political level, all Cabinet was in the priorities and planning political committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the priorities and planning committee of Cabinet, when it existed, served to screen policy proposals and recommend on them to Cabinet. This was an opportunity for elected Ministers to screen those policy proposals before they were recommended to Cabinet. Which body now screens and reviews policy proposals before they are recommended to Cabinet? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

The initial screening is done by the secretariat, but in terms of priorities and planning, often times, those initiatives go to Cabinet one, two or sometimes even three times. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I understand from the honourable Minister's answer that the screening of policy proposals for Cabinet is now done by a secretariat.

Does this mean, what was formerly a process to review and screen policy proposals before they went to Cabinet by elected officials has been replaced by a screening and reviewing process undertaken by non-elected officials or bureaucrats? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

No, Mr. Speaker. A proposal would be developed. As a Member recognizes it, the Priorities and Planning Secretariat would look at it to see where there would be deficiencies or a deviation from policies which are already in place. This comes to Cabinet. Previously, we had separate meetings on priorities and planning. Right now, the full Cabinet participates. What is produced, depending on how well the documents have been prepared, how much consideration has been taken in terms of looking at what the policies and programs were acceptable under certain guidelines for the year, where there is remiss and various departments have not taken that into consideration, are identified on a pink slip, which tells you all those areas, that goes to Cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader has indicated that a proposal would be reviewed by bureaucrats for deficiencies. I presume, if there were numerous deficiencies, the proposal would not be allowed to go forward to Cabinet. Under the present system, does the bureaucracy have the power, based on a technical analysis, to reject policy submissions from elected Ministers on technical grounds? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 622-12(3): Existence Of Priorities And Planning Cabinet Committee

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, to bring to the attention of the honourable Member, not much has changed since he was there except, rather than going through a separate priorities and planning committee like we did before, which was basically the same people who were on Cabinet, we do not have that in between. I have tried to establish certain principles and guidelines on new initiatives that will come forward. If you are outside that initiative, you will have a longer pink than if you were inside that initiative, but it would get to the Cabinet.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 623-12(3): Revisions To The GNWT Transfer Policy

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is with regard to the Department of Transportation, however the Minister responsible is not here so I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. In 1989, there was a restructuring of departments so the Department of Public Works and Highways was split up into two separate departments, the Departments of Transportation and Public Works. The Government of the Northwest Territories' transfer policy dated February 24, 1988, refers to the services provided by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Can the Government Leader advise when this policy will be revised in order to reflect the changes which have occurred as a result of the departmental restructuring? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. During the dates of March 17 to 19, the annual meeting of the Gwich'in renewable resources councils was held in Inuvik. I subsequently tabled a copy of their motions in this House. One of the motions asked this government to initiate a renewable resources program in the Gwich'in settlement area.

Page 1236

How many renewable resource programs are there in the Northwest Territories and where are they located?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Those are two questions, Mr. Koe. Perhaps you would like to decide which one you want to ask. Mr. Koe.

Question 624-12(3): Number Of Renewable Resources Programs In NWT

**MR. KOE:**

How many renewable resource programs are there in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 624-12(3): Number Of Renewable Resources Programs In NWT

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is only one renewable resource technology program which Arctic College delivers, but there is also an environmental technology program that we deliver in the Nunavut area, in particular in Iqaluit. Those two programs are under review. We have had some difficulty with the environmental technology program. As such, we are re-assessing the need for that particular program.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 624-12(3): Number Of Renewable Resources Programs In NWT

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the renewable resource councils' motion, does the Minister support the motion and will he act on the request of the renewable resource councils?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 624-12(3): Number Of Renewable Resources Programs In NWT

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be difficult for me to say, I did not support the idea of establishing regional programs, because that is the direction this government has supported in trying to promote programs in the regions. However, that request has only been received in the last two or three weeks. It is under review at this particular time. We are now working in conjunction with the Gwich'in tribal council to consider delivering two additional programs, one is life skills in conjunction with the Grant McEwan College, and the other is a management program in conjunction with the University of Lethbridge. However, those two programs will also have to take into consideration the requirements and requests that will be made by other residents in the Beaufort/Delta region to allow them to participate in those two programs.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 625-12(3): Revisions To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Earlier today, I again raised my concerns about the situation of trappers. The trappers face a serious risk to their independence if a plan is not worked out to ensure their life-style can continue. Given that the harvest for 1992-93 could cause serious disruption to the ability of trappers to remain self-sufficient, will the Minister agree to implement the recommendation of the Fort Simpson Dene council and the local trappers to calculate the trappers' incentive subsidy on the best three of the past five trapping years? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 625-12(3): Revisions To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, I met with some of the members of the Fort Simpson band council and they expressed their concern to me. As well, the Member has been talking to me on this issue privately. I agree that this year is especially a bad year for trappers because of the climate and also the availability of the animals which are normally caught for furs. Mr. Speaker, I agree we will have to modify the program for next year. I will take the advice from the Member very seriously and also the hunters and trappers of that particular area. What I would like to do is look at the program for next year to suit the trappers' requirement. I would like to say we will give the funding according to what they have historically been given. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fort Simpson Dene council has also expressed their concern that because of this unsuccessful harvest, the trappers cannot pay back their harvesters' assistance loans from the band and managers in Fort Simpson. This is the case in other communities as well where they have hunters' and trappers' associations doing this. The band wants to support the trappers and they are requesting to forgive their loans for this extremely poor year so they will be able to continue trapping and to support themselves in the future. Will the Minister make a commitment to provide some changes in the financial assistance to the band in Simpson and hunters and trappers in other cases, so the loans of the trappers may be forgiven? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some time ago, after I met with the Fort Simpson Dene band and also the Member for Nahendeh, I asked my department to see if they could find ways to accommodate the trappers. That is one of the things my department is reviewing, to see how we can address the whole problem. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Page 1237

Supplementary To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. The trappers have also identified a number of problems with the new quick kill traps. They feel it would be beneficial if the deadline for the switch to the new traps was extended by one year so the trappers would have more time to become skilled in their use. As you know, there was a shortage of traps in different parts of the country, especially in the far north this year, and to try to learn these new traps in one year is very difficult. In consideration of the extremely poor harvest this season, is the Minister willing to extend the deadline for the switch to the new traps by one year? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Extension of the requirement to use the new quick kill trap is not entirely up to me. It was put on to save the trapping industry, to make the people who were concerned about trapping aware. Those people were animal rights activists. There is pressure in European communities to stop imports of furs from Canada which were caught in the leg hold trap. That was a big issue. As a result, the fur market went down drastically. One of the ways we got the Europeans to agree was to improve our methods of trapping. As a result, this standard for trapping was adopted by Canada to save the industry.

Mr. Speaker, there are different views with respect to the quick kill traps. Last month we had a couple of trappers in the foyer of the Legislative Assembly, they were elderly people from the Fort Smith area. I was talking to one of them and he said this new trap is very efficient, very clean and, as a result, scientists are able to determine what type of animals the animals they are catching are feeding on. He said he was willing to go anywhere in the Northwest Territories to educate trappers. He said he could go out in half a season and catch as many animals with the new trap than with the old trap. He also said that could apply to anyone.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, depending on who you talk to there are different views. These trappers who have adopted the new way of trapping are very willing to go out to regions. My department has plans to hire these people to educate other trappers who are being very successful in trapping. Mr. Speaker, I agree, there are people who are out there saying these traps are not efficient, they are bulky and they do not know how to accept them. Mr. Speaker, I will try to use these people who have found these traps to be much more efficient, cleaner, et cetera, to go into the regions, hopefully next season. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Final supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Traps have been changed to satisfy the animal rights groups rather than to satisfy the people out on the land who make a living from trapping, especially this year. There is no justice in what is going on out there on their behalf. I do not like to hear what the Minister has to say about trying to satisfy some people in Europe. It totally goes against how I believe in people trying to make a living off the land. It is going against people who have done that all their lives. Will the Minister report to this House on the plans with respect to the recommendations made by the Fort Simpson Dene council and the trappers, before the end of this session? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 625-12(3): Revision To Trappers' Assistance Incentive Subsidy

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, if I have to make a response to recommendations which are made by a Dene council it might be done in haste. We might be doing something which is not well thought out. If the Member wants me to respond, I will try. The recommendations which are put to us from Fort Simpson require much thinking and there are possible implications if we make the wrong decisions. We could do a disservice to the trappers. The whole idea of this trapping method was to try to save the trapping way of life. I was trying to save the way of native people in the Northwest Territories. We knew, at that point, after all the options we looked at over the years since 1982, that was the only way we could save the trapping. I know my people as well as the people from Nahendeh are affected very badly by the ill informed animal rights people and their governments. We are still trying to educate other people, especially the parliamentarians from Europe, and they will be coming this month to Canada. I will see if we can talk to them again to ensure our way of life is not affected by the policies and regulations made from other countries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 626-12(3): Existence Of A Canada Corrections Act

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, in perusing Friday's Hansard, on page 3401, I note that reference was made in the debate on young offenders' facilities. Reference was made to a Canada Corrections Act, not by the Minister, but there was reference made in the debate. Could the Minister tell this House -- and this is another skill-testing question designed to probe his knowledge of legislation under which he operates -- is there a Canada Corrections Act? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 626-12(3): Existence Of A Canada Corrections Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there is no such act called the Canada Corrections Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Page 1238

Question 627-12(3): Capital Funds For Allison MacAteer House

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I understand the government has approved capital funding in the amount of \$214,000 to allow the YWCA to purchase a house for the Allison MacAteer house program. Because the YWCA has expressed some concern about purchasing a house by March 31, and there is some worry that lapsed funds may not be made available again, will the Minister advise if the government is prepared to carry these capital funds forward into the new fiscal year to allow the YWCA to address their concerns and make a decision on purchasing a house for their Allison MacAteer house program without the pressure of worrying about whether the funds will be available in the future?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 627-12(3): Capital Funds For Allison MacAteer House

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I understand the situation and I realize, if you make decisions in haste, they may not necessarily be the correct decisions or the decisions you would have made if you had a longer period of time. I would be prepared to consider carrying those funds over, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Social Services who is looking at the problem right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Under what act does the Young Offenders Act come under with regard to federal legislation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, young offenders come under two pieces of legislation when dealing with sentencing and disposition. One is called the Young Offenders Act, which is the Government of the Northwest Territories' piece of legislation which deals with territorial statutes and legislation, such as the All-Terrain Vehicles Act and the Motor Vehicles Act. Almost all young offenders are dealt with under the federal Young Offenders Act, which deals with all other offences, including offences under the Criminal Code of Canada. These are the only two pieces of legislation that relate to young offenders. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, can the Minister indicate whether there is a Corrections Act of Canada, which also looks after the Young Offenders Act? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Criminal Code Act deals with offences. In relation to young offenders, it is the federal Young Offenders Act that deals with the sentencing and disposition of these young offenders. Those are the two pieces of legislation which deals

with young offenders. With adult offenders, we have a number of them, including the Criminal Code of Canada, which applies to both adult and young offenders. We have a Corrections Act of the Northwest Territories, which deals with adult offenders who are sentenced to three years or less. There is then the Corrections and Conditional Release Act of Canada and the Prisons and Reformatory Act of Canada. Those two federal acts, for whatever reason, are separate pieces of legislation, but they all deal with offenders who are sentenced to two years or more. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated the Criminal Code of Canada, or the Criminal Code Act, deals with offences with regard to relations of young offenders under the act with respect to sentences. I recognize this particular act looks after the sentencing of young offenders. With respect to the Corrections Act of Canada, adult offenders are often sentenced under that particular area. Is the Minister stating the Corrections Act only applies to adult offenders, or is there a sub-section that looks after the Young Offenders Act to look after young offenders? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Thebacha asked, on Friday, whether our government was complying with the Canada Corrections Act. I have indicated a few minutes ago that there is no such act. She refers to the Corrections Act again. I am telling the Member for Thebacha, there is no such act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not know on Friday that there was not a Canada Corrections Act, probably until after the two Members got together to follow up on this issue. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, is there not a component under the Corrections Act of Canada that has the Young Offenders Act which looks after young offenders with regard to sentencing? Thank you.

Page 1239

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 628-12(3): Federal Legislation Governing Young Offenders

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the Criminal Code is the legislation which provides for what constitutes federal offenses, it also deals with the imposition of sentences as far as adult offenders are concerned. It says very little about the administration of the sentences because those fall under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act of Canada and the Prisons and Reformatory Act of Canada. The Criminal Code also applies to young people, since many of the offences committed by young offenders are also federal offences. The Member said on Friday that a minor offence would constitute something such as a break and enter. A break and enter is a federal offence under the Criminal Code and is considered a serious offence.

The procedures which need to be followed when charging young offenders and the proceedings which should be taken up against young people who commit criminal offences are separate and found in the federal Young Offenders Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

There appears to have been a number of very technical questions which have been asked during this particular oral question period. I would like to ask Members to consider using written questions for those more technical questions so we do not take up much of the time during oral questions where other Members might have questions which they might ask.



I would ask Members to consider that. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 629-12(3): Transfer Of Responsibility For Education To GNWT

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been some media attention over the last few weeks regarding the health billing charges and the dispute between this government and the federal government. My question is for the Minister of Education. Since education in the western Arctic has been a territorial government responsibility for 24 years, and in the eastern Arctic for 23 years, is this program fully funded for status people?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 629-12(3): Transfer Of Responsibility For Education To GNWT

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, research which has been conducted, so far, and I have asked my department to review this matter again, to date there have been no indications on file in all the documentation we have searched, including the national archives, of any funding or transfer agreements on the matter of education. As such, there may be, in fact, no clear indication on the part of the Government of Canada that they have, in fact, transferred any money for status Indians to the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 629-12(3): Transfer Of Responsibility For Education To GNWT

**MR. LEWIS:**

Is it the position of the government, since there is no indication to the contrary, that the total education program is not fully funded?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 629-12(3): Transfer Of Responsibility For Education To GNWT

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Until my request for research is completed I cannot necessarily say or suggest to the honourable Member or to the Members of this House that this department is not fully funded. However, from the assessments which we have done so far, since I have become Minister, we are not fully funded for those programs which are presently available to most other status Indians across the country, not to the level that the other jurisdictions are.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 630-12(3): Development Of A Day Care Policy

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. The Minister was asked on March 2, when he thought the internal review of the detailed policy would be completed. He advised that the assessments and review would be done by June. After that, there would be public consultation, advice and input on this particular matter, Mr. Speaker. That gives us some sort of an idea. Perhaps I can pin the Minister down to a definite time period. After all the consultation and the review is complete, can the honourable Minister tell the House approximately what month he will have the day care policy in place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 630-12(3): Development Of A Day Care Policy

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very difficult to get a specific time that I would want to have the policies reviewed and revised, if necessary. I hope those changes which are necessary to the policy to be tabled and approved by my Cabinet colleagues and then reviewed by the Members of this House during the fall sitting. The existing policies will continue until then.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. On Thursday, I asked the Minister a question with regard to the conference's review of the Wildlife Act. At that time, he indicated they are trying to make an assessment as to how best to approach the need to change the legislation, and that an amendment is coming forth regarding the Inuvialuit area.

Page 1240

Also, Mr. Speaker, I know that other Members in this House, and when Mr. Morin was on this side of the House, there were many concerns with regard to the Wildlife Act. Has the Minister or department looked at these concerns which were raised by Members?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When can we expect to see amendments to the concerns raised by Members?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Wildlife Act change is going to be very complicated and not only because of the concerns from the Inuit, Dene, Metis or the people of the Northwest Territories. It will be determined by the land claims, depending upon the implications of the land claims with respect to the Wildlife Act.

Presently, we are trying to make an amendment to respect the Inuvialuit settlement area. We will have to do that for the Nunavut area, as well as Gwich'in and Sahtu, if they come in to have their land claims. At the present time, the government and my department are reluctant to do a full legislative amendment to the Wildlife Act because we do not know what exactly those land claims are going to be consisting of, and also in tracts which would occur on the legislation because of the land claims. Mr. Speaker, in short, once the Nunavut land claim area is in place, the legislation which establishes Nunavut, our legislation would have to change to respect that. The federal legislation, hopefully, will go through Parliament this summer or next fall. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister knows and most Members in this House know that one of the communities which I represent has been very concerned about one small section of legislation. Would the department or government object to the making of a decision regarding the feeding of caribou meat to dogs within the municipalities? Would they change the legislation by making an amendment to the legislation to make it a municipal decision rather than in legislation within the Government of the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 631-12(3): Time Lines For Revisions To Wildlife Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you. That is one of the things we will look at. I have received a letter from the Member and also his community, with respect to that particular area. Mr.

Speaker, as the Member knows, the caribou meat cannot be fed to the dogs within the municipalities or within a six mile limit of the community. That is one of the things we will look at if we do some amendments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. It is my understanding that when a person is sentenced to serve time within a correctional institution, they most often serve their time within the walls of the institution. However, I am aware there are circumstances in which offenders may be housed elsewhere, for example the Yellowknife Correctional Centre has trailer units beside the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. I would like to ask the Minister to advise the House what special factors are to be considered by departmental officials before providing alternate accommodation for inmates outside of a correctional institution. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I will advise the House and the Members by letter, and I will table the letter so it will be part of the record. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he is taking the question under notice?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, the Minister did not take the question as notice. I have said a number of times, Ministers have to... Point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, since the Minister indicated he was not taking the question as notice, I was asking the Minister if he was taking the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, I have ruled a number of times that unless a Minister specifically takes the question as notice, the question has not been taken as notice. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister has not answered my question and said he would send a letter to Members, I would like to ask the Minister

Page 1241

whether he knows what special factors are to be considered by departmental officials before providing alternate accommodation to inmates outside of a correctional institution. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, in the original question, the Member asked if I would advise the House on the question she asked, and I responded that I would advise the House and I would do it in the form of a letter. That is better than taking the question as notice, it is making a commitment to provide a very definitive answer in a substantial form to all Members of the House, and I will do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, when will he provide to this House, in written format, a reply to my question since he does not know? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 632-12(3): Procedures For Allowing Offenders To Serve Sentences Outside Of An Institution

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, if the question is considered urgent we would work on it almost immediately. Otherwise, the question would be answered by the staff of the Department of Justice, corrections division and they will deal with it as quickly as they can, keeping in mind that they have other work which needs to be done as well. Hopefully, we can get a response to this question within a couple of days.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Time for question period has elapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Question 32-12(3): Awarding Of Contracts Under The Business Incentive Policy

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a return to Written Question 32-12(3), asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Government Services and Public Works concerning the awarding of contracts under the business incentive policy.

The hamlet of Broughton tendered this contract in March. The contract was awarded to J. Foisey by the hamlet of Broughton Island.

The business incentive policy applies to all contracts whenever

"1. fifty one per cent or more of the total contract fundings or

2. fifty one per cent or more of the total annual operating funds of one of the parties, is received directly or indirectly from the Government of the Northwest Territories."

The Department of Government Services and Public Works has the responsibility to advise contracting staff in the application and understanding of the business incentive policy. When a problem with the application of the BIP is identified, the department will do its best to negotiate a resolution. The department will follow up on complaints and recommend appropriate action in response.

**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. Arvaluk.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document. Tabled Document 120-12(3), the Keewatin divisional board of education ten year educational plan, dated 1993, for the period from 1993 to 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document. Tabled Document 121-12(3), a letter I received from Morley Hanson and Blandina Makkik of the TFN training program in Ottawa regarding inadequate student financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following documents. Tabled Document 122-12(3), a letter from the Fort Simpson Dene council requesting that the Minister of Renewable Resources support the trappers in their effort to remain self-sufficient by calculating the trappers' incentive study on the best three of the past five years, provide financial assistance to the band in order that trappers' loans may be forgiven and delay the deadline for switching to the quick kill traps. I would like to add that there are signatures of 33 trappers on these documents. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Page 1242

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Tabled Document 123-12(3) is a letter from the Fort Smith native band addressed to the Minister of Justice, Stephen Kakfwi, with respect to the concern of a particular inmate at the women's correctional centre. The band feels she is receiving exceptional treatment

I have another document to be tabled, Tabled Document 124-12(3) is a letter to the Minister of Justice, Stephen Kakfwi, indicating their concern, their disappointment in changing a facility from secure to open custody. It is from the Fort Smith native band. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Lewis.

**ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 28-12(3): Development Of An Ongoing Program For AIDS Prevention

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, March 31, 1993, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the Department of Health develop policies as outlined in recommendations three to six of the independent review;

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 25: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that, on Wednesday, March 31, 1993, I shall move that Bill 25, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1993-94, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Bill 26: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, No. 2

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, March 31, 1993, I shall move that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Bill 27: Payroll Tax Act, 1993

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Wednesday, March 31, 1993, I shall move that Bill 27, Payroll Tax Act, 1993, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 13 on the orders of the day.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 13. Are there any nays? There is a nay. I am afraid, Mr. Kakfwi, you do not have authority to return to item 13.

Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality; Tabled Document 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division; 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 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94; 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; Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993; 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, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee will come to order. Prior to beginning the committee of the whole work, I have a chair's ruling.

**Chair's Ruling**

On Monday, March 22, 1993, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo raised a point of order on the committee's handling of a motion and subsequent vote on Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act. Mr. Nerysoo stated, and I quote from page 2966 of unedited Hansard, "The matter of the amendment that has been voted against clearly changes the principle that was agreed to at second reading." Due to the complexity of the procedural issue raised by Mr. Nerysoo, I took the point of order under advisement so as to allow review of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th edition, Erskine May on

Parliamentary Practice and past decisions of Speakers delivered in the House of Commons.

It has been a long-standing parliamentary principle that motions which offend the principle of the bill after the House has accepted that principle are out of order. I cite Beauchesne's citation 698(2), "An amendment must not be inconsistent with, or contradictory to, the bill as so far agreed to by the committee, nor must it be inconsistent with a decision which the committee has given upon a former amendment." There are many examples of this principle being applied in the

Page 1243

debates of the House of Commons; in the interests of brevity, I will not go into detail on these examples.

I have reviewed carefully Committee Motion 112-12(3), moved by Mrs. Marie-Jewell and adopted by the committee. I can find nothing in that motion which contravened the principle of the bill. Further, the subsequent defeat of the new clause created was well within the powers of the committee.

I wish to quote from Erskine May, 21st edition, on page 486, which states: "Notwithstanding the rule which forbids the moving of an amendment which is destructive of the principle of the bill, there is nothing to prevent a committee from negating a clause or clauses, the omission of which may nullify or destroy the bill..."

What the committee achieved - the defeat of the "panel" concept for appeal committees - was within the committee's powers and could have been achieved by several procedural methods. For example, the committee could have also chosen to delete a portion of the clause under consideration. Alternatively, the committee could have deleted the entire clause and replaced only those portions of the clause Members found acceptable. These procedures were accepted by the House of Commons, notwithstanding the fact that the ultimate effect was to nullify the bill under consideration. As authority for this procedure and its effect, I cite House of Commons Debates, February 13, 1969 on pages 5490-91, wherein a motion to delete a clause, even to a bill which had only one clause, was ruled to be acceptable and in order. I also rely on Speaker Jerome's decision on June 29, 1976, on page 14964, in a debate over a bill dealing with the elimination of the death penalty wherein motions to delete were ruled in order, notwithstanding the fact that the

motions, if adopted, would have the effect of reinstating the death penalty, hence contravening the principle of the bill.

Based on a thorough review of the authorities already cited, I rule that Mr. Nerysoo does not have a point of order.

What is the committee's wish that we deal with today?  
Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will deal with Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, later. For now we will deal with the main estimates for the Department of Health. If we are concluded today, we will attempt to address Committee Report 17-12(3), Report on Television Guidelines, and then we will address 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; and Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Mining Safety Act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. We have heard the Minister of Health's comments. Before we continue with general comments and allow the Minister to bring in her witnesses, we will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

This committee will come to order. Would the Minister care to invite her witnesses in?

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

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

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

Department Of Health

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. We are dealing with the Department of Health, page 12-9 of the main estimates. Madam Minister, for the record would you please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. David Kinloch, deputy minister of Health and Ms. Elaine Berthelet, assistant deputy minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Welcome, Dr. Kinloch and Ms. Berthelet. Are there any general comments?  
Mr. Ningark.

General Comments

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister regarding the Auditor General's report. The Auditor General's report highlighted that the functional review of the Department of Health has been put on hold for quite a long time. Given the lack of planning, according to the report, and several of the organization shortcomings which have become obvious during the public review process, it seems as though this review is more important than ever before. Mr. Chairman, can the Minister elaborate on why her officials have not carried out a functional review of the Department of Health as was planned earlier? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear the last sentence of the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark, can you repeat part of the question?

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister elaborate on why her officials have not carried out the functional review of the Department of Health as was planned earlier? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what the Member is implying when he says earlier, and how

earlier that was, whether that was a week ago, two weeks ago, two months ago or a year ago. Could I get clarification, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the Minister and her officials were planning to carry out a functional review of her department. According to the information, she and her officials planned to carry out a functional review of the

Page 1244

department. It could be within a year but the information which I received was that this was her plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The functional review of the Department of Health will be carried out starting this year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a second question for the Minister and her officials. What happened to the funds which were initially set aside to carry out a functional review of the Department of Health?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were no specific funds allocated for the functional review. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that there was no money put aside for the functional review, has the Minister had the opportunity to assess whether any additional funding or any funding requirements will be necessary to complete this badly needed review, or whether it will be possible to carry out this initiative within the existing dollars? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been this government's practice for the past year to try and operate within the resources we have. That is what we are going to be doing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions comments on concerns which have been raised with respect to interpreter/translator services in hospitals. This is also an issue which my honourable colleague for Natilikmiot has raised in this House on a number of occasions, including November 23, 1992. The Minister should know that the interpretation of medical terminology and especially instructions which a doctor gives a patient about how to carry through with treatment expectations requires a level of understanding and confidence that has to be developed through specialized training. Can the Minister indicate what steps have been taken to ensure that the staff who are hired as interpreters in the hospitals receive the training and support they need to be able to carry out their demanding work?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a training program which is in place at the present time which is used for the medical interpreters. I realize there are some difficulties with medical terminology with respect to translation. However, the language bureau has an extensive collection of medical terminology in



Inuktitut. I am not aware if there is one for the other aboriginal languages. These were compiled through interpreter/translator workshops which Indian and Northern Affairs started some years ago. Those are the ones which we would be using to familiarize the interpreters we have in place. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the fact that the interpreter/translators often have to deal with life and death situations, it was surprising to hear references to the fact that they are classified in the lower level, and are therefore paid a lower salary than other equivalent positions within the government. Can the Minister explain what she will be doing to address this apparent discrepancy in classification levels?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If our aboriginal medical interpreters can pass the present language bureau's training program tests which are from level I to level IV, then their pay will be raised according to the rank which they fall under or they pass. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they are not as qualified as regular interpreters who are classified under the interpreter corps test requirement, will they be trained so they become qualified as well as any other certified interpreter?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical interpreters which we have in the hospitals do not require the same training as the language bureau staff. For instance, most of the language bureau interpreters are required to pass consecutive interpreting. Most of

the interpreting done in the hospitals are consecutive interpreting, after the doctor has spoken the interpreter would translate it to one of the aboriginal languages. Their knowledge will be assessed and their pay level raised accordingly. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about whether they are qualified as consecutive interpreters. I am talking about the quality of interpreting services in the hospitals. Even if it is not consecutive, there still needs to be clarity in the message which is being given to the doctor or received by the patient from the doctor. Would that not require quality interpreting, since they will also need to make sure the consent forms are understood, the seriousness of the particular illness

Page 1245

and the potential of possibly complications? Would this not be classified as a requirement for quality interpreting? Mr. Chairman, is that how I am understanding the Minister?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being an interpreter is not just simply being able to speak well in both languages. Most of the interpreters which we have are talented, they have a natural talent and a knack for it. We could hire a person, who is just starting out and does excellent work, without any kind of training, but we have had a training service for the interpreters in the medical facilities since 1990. There are six modules.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

I could pursue this for quite awhile, Mr. Chairman, but since there is not much time left, I will go onto the next question. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts' hearings on the Department of Health audit

showed that the issue of inadequate interpreter/translator services was raised by the Dene Nation and the Native Women's Association. They seemed to be particularly concerned about similar situations where elders or unilingual people were sent for treatment in southern Canada accompanied by someone who was not capable of providing good interpretation of medical terminology or treatment instructions. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that a major review should be undertaken by the Minister to look into the current adequacy of language services within the territorial health system. Can the Minister indicate how she will go about doing this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to have to do some review on this due to the limited number of interpreters we have in place. If we send an interpreter along as an escort to a southern designation, then either the hospitals or nursing stations will be without an interpreter. So, there has to be some review done first before I can adequately respond to the Member's request. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk. General comments. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. Over the past year and a half or two years the most serious issues and concerns have been related to the Department of Health and its relations with the Department of Social Services. There have been many issues and concerns about the department. Many of the concerns stem from the existing policies and procedures within the department, not only territorial but also federal policies and procedures and they relate to the delivery of health care in the north. In many cases, it is not the staff who are at fault, but the ways in which policies are developed, administered and interpreted.

As MLAs on various committees, we have focused much attention on this department and still do. We have tabled several major reports. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions had a recent report on health and hospital boards. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts had a

report on the Auditor General's report. The Special Committee on Health and Social Services has tabled four interim reports and will be tabling a final report in October or November of this year. Much work and attention has been paid to this department. I was just looking through the summaries of all the recommendations made by the various reports, in the last two weeks there are some 43 different recommendations made by the standing and special committees.

My point is the department has to regroup, rethink and enable themselves to consider what has been said in the reports, as much work has gone into it, many public hearings, and many meetings with a good cross section of people across the north. The department has to focus on the planning, the various authorities it has and how it does its work.

One area of concern to my region is the area of the provision of health services. One of the objectives is to develop regional health service plans, and to do that you have to look at the current services which are provided at the community and regional levels, and the facilities which are available. You have made commitments in various ways that this will start soon and, hopefully, be done within the year.

I know you are doing something similar in Fort Simpson, but we have heard in our visits there that they are quite concerned with the process, so I hope the department is learning something on how to do these regional studies and not proceed in the similar process which is being used now. If you do not get communities and regional groups behind the process, we are not going to get a good end product. That is the message I want to pass on. I am fully supportive of what is going to happen and I hope that the groundwork gets done so the regional health boards, the community representatives and the regional groups are all involved in the planning of the process, rather than having another top down exercise. The exercise should be stimulated and lead by the communities. I just wanted to make those general comments. I do not know if the Minister wants to respond at this stage.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe, for the comments. I will ask the Minister. Madam Minister, respond if you wish.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Mr. Chairman, I would prefer that he continue. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe, did you wish to continue?

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. One of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, was with respect to changes that should be made in health legislation. What process is the Minister considering with respect to proceeding with these amendments and others which may be identified by health and hospital boards, the whole process of a legislative review? What process are you going to be considering with regard to the legislative review?

Page 1246

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

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

**MR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Chairman, the priorities for modification of legislation are first with the Public Health Act, the Medical Profession Act and the THIS Act. A contract has been let to assist in developing some of the issues which have to be dealt with in revamping a public health act which is seriously obsolete. This will be guided in a collaborative effort to ensure that the interests of health professionals, boards, aboriginal organizations and others are considered, but there is a great deal of preparatory work which must be done.

In terms of modification of the THIS Act, there is a preliminary step of completing the memorandum of understanding between the department and boards. We have, today, reviewed the ten proposals which were submitted in response to an RFP to begin that process, and we expect it will be completed by the end of September. That will place us in a much better position to establish a time frame for modification of the THIS Act. There are other legislative initiatives which will be required because many of the acts

under which we operate are now obsolete, but there is an extensive amount of effort required to deal with each of them and we must be careful in the commitment of our resources to this effort. At the moment, the priorities are with the Public Health Act, Medical Profession Act and THIS Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Are there any general comments? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts indicated that the mandate for health legislation and policy division should become more focused on coordinating the ongoing review and amendment of health related legislation, rather than spending staff time on crisis-oriented responses. What will the Minister and department be doing over the course of this summer to review and re-focus a mandate of this division within the department?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be part of the functional review, which will be carried out this year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

This begs a question, where are you in the process and what is the status of the functional review?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was one of the recommendations that was made in one of the standing committees, I believe it was finance, to do a functional review. That is going to be started this year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

It was a recommendation from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. When are you starting this functional review? Is it under way now? Do you have terms of reference? How are you proceeding?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As soon as our budget is passed, we have the intention to start right away. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Let us hope it gets passed. In some of the public hearings surrounding the report of the Auditor General, departmental officials pointed out that a mandate of health and hospital boards of management are influenced by the territorial Public Health Act, which requires that public health boards be established. Will the Minister make a commitment to review both the Territorial Hospital Insurances Act and the Public Health Act to ensure there are no statutory impediments to greater board autonomy, remembering that in the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions' report, board autonomy and the creation of new boards was one recommendation that was made. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A while ago, David Kinloch elaborated on these two acts, that they do need an overhaul. These three acts are in the process of being amended. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree we go line by line? Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up on my colleague's line of questioning, with regard to the functional review, I understood the Minister indicated they will be undertaking this review as soon as their budget is approved. I do not think a definitive objective for 1993-94 includes a functional review by the department. Is the department going to come forward and ask for additional funds to undertake this initiative? Is that what the plan is?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I said as soon as the budget is passed, is our staff has been busy during the sitting of the Legislative Assembly. There will not be any need for additional resources. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

Page 1247

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in the budget for 1993-94, in the definitive objectives for work to be carried out, it does not say anything in this current budget to reflect the functional review. I realize the Minister indicated that she probably will not require additional funds to undertake this initiative. Is the Minister definitely going to undertake this comprehensive functional review as requested by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was one of the standing committee's recommendations that we are acting on. That is why it is not in the definitive objectives. I think it was with the Standing Committee on Finance during the review of the budget in the beginning of February. The budget had already gone to the printers.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can re-phrase my question, since the Minister does not understand what I am trying to say. The Auditor General's report identified that a functional review of the department is badly needed in order to establish a base for the mandate and operation of the various divisions within the Department of Health. We agreed with that particular observation, Mr. Chairman. We passed a recommendation to that effect. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts indicated, regardless of the fact that other planning activities may be under way at the departmental or Cabinet level, our committee recognized a need for the Department of Health to complete a functional analysis that was planned to take place before consolidation of Health and Social Services. This was to include a review of structure, processes and operation within the department. In her current year budget for 1993-94, there are certain objectives that are listed in her department. The department was aware that this functional review was going to be recommended by the Auditor General. Why did they not include it in their 1993-94 definitive objectives to undertake this review?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be quite honest, I do not know. As you know, I was not the Minister at the time when the budget was prepared, so it is difficult for me to answer that. It was not under my direction.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister can refer that question to the departmental officials that are seated at both sides of her.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dave Kinloch, would you please respond to Mr. Zoe's question and see what the previous Minister's direction was?

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the question is, why was the functional review not included as a definitive objective in the 1993-94 main estimates? In part, Mr. Chairman, because the conducting of a functional review was a long overdue activity, one whose need has been foreseen more than a year ago, before the review of the Auditor General, that for reasons of operational work load and because of the announcement of an impending consolidation with the Department of Social Services, that exercise was put on hold. However, it appears there is no necessity whatever to withhold or hold back on conducting such a functional review pending such a consolidation. Therefore, we intend to proceed with it. The fact that it does not appear as a definitive objective does not mean it is not going to be done. Indeed, it is our intention to get on with it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I realize what the deputy minister is saying, nevertheless the department was aware this type of recommendation was coming forward by the Auditor General. Surely, the department could have added in a line within the definitive objectives to indicate to the House that they are anticipating this. It appears, in my view, that the department did not take the Auditor General's recommendation very seriously. The Auditor General discussed his recommendation with the department thoroughly. Surely, the department was aware of these types of comments that were going to come from the Auditor General's office. To me, it seems like the department did not take the Auditor General's office very seriously.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The response can be made when we make a response to the recommendations to the Auditor General's report and to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. As

well, the OPPLAN was approved in July and August by FMB. We cannot change the definitive objectives. SCOF could have recommended that OPPLAN be changed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to belabour this point, but just to note that the Auditor General's office reviewed the department in 1991 and 1992. The findings were conveyed to the department. This was even before the OPPLAN in August. The report was finalized in late 1992, when it was reported to the Speaker and then later on tabled in the House, Mr. Chairman. Nevertheless, I wanted to make that particular point.

With regard to our report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, we passed a serious motion, motion one, which expressed the House's disapproval with regard to how the department made responses to the Auditor General's report. Mr. Chairman, this motion, in my view, is a motion of censure. Will the Minister make a commitment to address this matter with her departmental officials to ensure they understand the seriousness of the situation and implement measures for more

Page 1248

appropriate responses to the committees of this House? Would the Minister make that commitment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We definitely will be looking at the recommendations by standing committees and by this committee very seriously. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with regard to our report, I was concerned when I noted comments in the Auditor General's report, which indicated that departmental officials have not been able to make good use of information generated through health research projects in the Northwest Territories. I can see, Mr. Chairman, from the proceedings that were tabled in this House, that, when departmental officials appeared before the standing committee, they indicated that some research is carried out within the Department of Health. Is the Minister aware of whether there are policies which regulate internal research practices of the department or do departmental staff proceed with whatever activities they think are appropriate?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do scientific research through the NWT Science Institute. If there is any research being carried out by the department, it is done within policy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

The Minister is indicating they have policies to regulate internal research practices of the department. I wonder if the Minister can provide that particular policy which governs what I have just outlined.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I get clarification? When the Member used the word "internal" research, does he mean research within our department? Could he provide me with an example of what type of research he is referring to, as it might help me respond. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, "internal" means "within." I am asking for research within the department. The Minister indicated that there are policies which regulate internal research practices of the department. I am seeking a copy of that particular policy, if she would table it in committee. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When he was talking about research, I assumed that he was talking about any kind of medical research being carried out, that is why I said that any research which is being done is usually carried out through the NWT Science Institute.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

That is strange, Mr. Chairman. When the departmental officials appeared on January 8, before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, they indicated that some research work is also carried out within the Department of Health. The Minister is indicating to me that it is not. Who is telling the truth? In our public hearings on January 8, the department told us they were undertaking research within the department. The Minister is now saying they do not. Who am I to believe?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a difference between research being conducted within the department and internal research. Those two have different meanings. If we are going to conduct scientific research, a licence is obtained

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister did not understand my question. Who do I believe, the Minister or the departmental officials who, are quoted on January 8, said they do some research work within the Department of Health. The answer which I received from the Minister does not tell me who to believe, is it the department or the Minister?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. For clarity, the Minister may wish to elaborate on the different types of research that may be undertaken by the department, whether it is of a scientific nature, which requires external research people, or research work for internal purposes perhaps. I am only trying to assist, Madam Minister. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know what Mr. Zoe is saying. There is a difference between internal and within. Health research is usually applied research and runs into department activities, surveillance and monitoring. This is the kind of research I was talking about. I understood the Member when he was talking about internal research, we do our own research within our own department with divisions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I will quote from the proceedings of January 8. I am not sure if the Minister has a copy of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Tabled Document 13-12(3). On page 23, the department responded by saying, "The aspect of research has been commented on in the Auditor General's report. Exception is taken to the statement that the department has no resources

Page 1249

Mr. Chairman, that is why I am asking that particular question. I think it was Mr. Bower who was the official who made that particular statement. That is why I am asking if the Minister had policies which regulate internal research of her department, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am having difficulty with the words "internal research" because this has quite a different meaning, at least for me. I would say for internal research we do not have a policy because internal research to me is having the ability to do the research in another section of the Department of Health. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Now I am really confused, Mr. Chairman. Just a while ago the Minister indicated they had a policy pertaining to that, now she is saying that there are no policies regulating the internal research of the department. Which one is it? Either you do, or you do not, have policies.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When research is being carried out within the department, there is a policy, but we do not have any policy for internal research. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Is the Minister saying we do not have any policies governing the internal research of the Department of Health? With all of the studies the department undertakes, you do not have anything to that effect, correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any research or studies which are being carried out within the department are for surveillance and monitoring only. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts includes the recommendation that all of this internal research should be summarized. At the present time, does the Minister know whether there is a central listing

of which research projects departmental personnel have undertaken?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

If the Minister is aware of a central listing, could the Minister provide it to this committee?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was already a recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and we were given 120 days to provide that. I could provide that, but not today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, how can the Minister indicate to me that she is aware of a central listing of all research projects that the Department of Personnel has undertaken, when she just indicated to us that it will be provided to us within 120 days? Our report specifically included a recommendation that all internal research be summarized. That is a task we



asked them to undertake. My question before she answered was, "Do you know whether there is a central listing of these research projects?" She indicated, yes. That is why I asked her to provide me with that central listing. Now she says I cannot provide that because she has up to 120 days to do them for the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. How could she say that in the first place? It indicates there is no central listing.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not say I cannot provide it. I think it will be much better to provide it when we make our response to the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and that we deal with it all at once and review it carefully first. In fact, the recommendations which were read into this House, we are dealing with them in committee of the whole again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, again the Minister is not providing our committee accurate information. I have asked specifically, Mr. Chairman, I said "at the present time." Forget about what the Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommended. We have asked for a summarized internal research document to be given to us. I realize the Standing Committee on Public Accounts made that particular recommendation. However, at present, I have asked you, "Do you know whether there is a central listing of all research projects within your department?" You said "Yes, you are aware of that central listing." If that is

Page 1250

the case, then I would like to ask the Minister to table it in this committee. That was my request.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Science Institute...

**MR. ZOE:**

(microphone turned off)

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

All right, I will give you this then, Mr. Zoe. I said I was aware of it and I answered. When you asked me if I would provide it, I said no.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you for your answer, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, then why is the Minister reluctant to provide that information if it is a current central listing of research projects? What is the big deal, why can she not provide it to the committee before we get into the details of the budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

I am not being reluctant. I could table it during the regular sitting of this House. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, we are in the regular sitting of this House, unless you meant the formal sitting.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Order, please. Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

What was the question?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Were you not paying attention? Mr. Zoe, will you repeat the question?

**MR. ZOE:**

The Minister responded by saying she will provide that in the regular sitting of the House. I said, we are in regular sitting of the House. We are in committee of the whole. That is part of the proceedings of the House. It is not within the formal proceedings, but we are still within the House. Why can she not table it in committee of the whole?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. This is committee of the whole. There is a bit of a difference between the formal sitting and committee of the whole. The Minister may have been referring to tabling it when the committee of the whole is adjourned and we re-assume the normal sitting of the House during a formal session. Thank you. Are there any general comments? Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am having a difficult time with the rationale of why the Minister cannot provide this central listing of these research projects. Why can the Minister not table them now? I do not see the big deal. I understand she is going to do it in the formal sitting, but why does it have to be in the formal sitting? Why can we not do it before we get into her line by line departmental estimates? If it is available, why can she not table it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we already dealt with tabling of documents earlier on today. We are in committee of the whole. Unless there is another rule I am not aware of which allows us to table documents during committee of the whole, that was my only concern, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. You could either circulate it now, or table it during the formal session, whatever your wish is. Are there any general comments? Line by line? Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not finished with my general comments. I am going to be making a motion as soon as I conclude my general comments before we

get into the budget of the Department of Health. The report of our Standing Committee on Public Accounts also recommended that the department should prepare a set of policies which deals with the design, approval and review processes, ethical standards, consultation requirements, expectations for local involvement in research and requirements for the distribution of the final research report. Will the Minister ensure that her officials working on this project consult with representatives from the health and hospital boards and with aboriginal organizations on all aspects of this new policy?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The requests being made by the Member are also the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. As I said earlier on, I have not had the decent chance to sit down with my departmental officials to give them advice and direction, which is one of the reasons why I have been reluctant in answering some of the questions the Member is raising now. We will have to sit down and review the recommendations that have been made by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts or any other committee. There are more than 43 recommendations. I am not being indecisive or anything like that, Mr. Chairman. It is just that I would like to have some time to sit down with my departmental officials and review them so the responses can be made in a more informative and well thought out manner than what the Member is asking now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether the committee of the whole Members have any general comments. If they do, perhaps the chair can recognize them and then, before we get into the main estimates, I will give my motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Are there any general comments? Does the committee wish to proceed

line by line? We are on general comments, Department of Health, section 12, page nine. Line by line. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to make some general comments as well. The regional health service plan is presently stalled in the Mackenzie regional health area in my constituency in Fort Simpson. I was wondering if anything is happening with this at the present time. What is the status of that plan? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Dr. Kinloch respond.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review which is being conducted in Fort Simpson is going through a multi-stage process which involves community consultation. There have already been several occasions in which materials have been presented to and discussed with the community. It is my understanding that he is now awaiting further response from the community on documents which have already been presented, discussed and amended.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At one of the meetings, the previous Minister made a commitment to the community to provide some financial assistance to them to do their own review, because one of the processes was the department presented a study of Fort Simpson and area, it was an internal departmental review and it was thought that if the department could provide funding to the community, the community itself could do their own internal

review. They did not have any of their own statistics to confirm what the department has provided them with. I was wondering if promised funding has been provided. If not, why has it not been provided? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Dr. Kinloch respond.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware that a specific proposal has been received in relation to this. If one has, then we will respond to it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This commitment from the previous Minister was made quite some time ago. The department should have an indication of whether or not they received a proposal or not. Can the Minister indicate if a proposal has been received, or the status of this commitment? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of any proposals which were made by my predecessor. I will let Dr. Kinloch respond.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, I am not aware of any specific proposal which the department could act upon.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if there was any communication between the community of Fort Simpson, and the region, and the Department of Health pertaining to the commitment which was made by the previous Minister regarding funding an internal review. Has there been communication at all? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I took the portfolio over, as far as I know, I have not received any request from the region. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has there been any correspondence from the department to the community pertaining to that commitment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I am aware of. We will look into it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that there was a letter sent to the regional council as well as the chief from your planner -- I forget her name -- who is working in that department with regard to the funding. Perhaps you may try to communicate with her to see where this is at. I just wanted to know what the status of this commitment is as it seems to be the part that is holding up this review. If we could get on with it, I

think we could probably get on with the review itself. Just a comment. Does the Minister wish to respond to that? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, we will do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Are there any general comments? Mr. Antoine.

Page 1252

**MR. ANTOINE:**

The reason for the community in wanting to get some sort of funding is that this study is driven by the department, it was originated in the department. I have always been involved, and especially in health, which is very important to the people at the community level, everyone is aware of it in my constituency. If there was a way of getting all the people who are concerned about health together and ask them what they would like to see in health services, I think it could be a driving force because this is driven by the department. The purpose of it is unknown. It is not coming from the people; it is coming from the department. It seems to be floating around in limbo. If something comes right from the community level, such as the importance of health, I think you are going to have some momentum and there would be some action. Because the communities and the people at the community level do not have control of this process, it has been floating around for the last couple of months. The way I have always done things is that it has to come from the people first. It has to be people driven, but it is driven by the department. People are asked to buy into that process and that happened because as you have said it is a multi-stage process, developed by your planner. The community was approached in stage II with a document of your study. We have had further meetings. It is stalled because it is not people owned, it is department owned. The purpose of requesting this funding is that if we could do our own study to get a feel for what the people want regarding health and health services, then perhaps we could combine these two processes and it will drive itself. At the present time, that is not the case. That is the reason why there is a request for funding, to see if we

can find out where we are at in this whole process.  
Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These health profile studies of the communities, even if the department initially starts them, could be the blueprint or one way to get the community involved. We should work on that and develop it further from there on. I certainly could work with Mr. Antoine, I could discuss this further and get more information on other commitments that were made before I received the portfolio. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another concern I have, and I raised it during the discussion with the public accounts board, is with regard to training. I was going to make a Member's statement on that until the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs made a statement that there is going to be a registered nurse program in Arctic College. In your definitive objectives, this department is going to assist Arctic College with implementation of a registered nurse program, which is a good step in the right direction. There are other types of training that could be offered in the Department of Health besides registered nursing. People in the north may want to take on careers in the health field other than just registered nursing. Is this department going to implement training programs in other areas besides registered nursing? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the management level, there have been training positions identified. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You indicated there is going to be training in the management area, but are there going to be other areas in the health profession that training and education will be provided for? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are going to be looking at what other health professions can be made available for training. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 24, 1992, my honourable colleague for Natilikmiot asked the former Minister about the length of time that doctors and specialists are remaining in communities when they go into these communities. Many of the people in the communities believe these professionals are not coming often enough and are not seeing as many people as they should when they visit the communities. The former Minister had agreed to ask the department to review whether there are ways to improve the level of service being delivered. Can the Minister tell us whether this review has been completed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not aware there was a commitment made by my predecessor. Being new to the portfolio, I would much rather have the regional health boards deal with these because they are the ones that do the scheduling, not the Department of Health. Certainly, as the Minister of Health, I could try and provide my advice, but most of the regional health boards function on their own. They are at arm's length. I could consult with them. I would prefer that be the only kind of relationship I have with these health boards. The decisions are usually made by the health boards. The number of visits to the

communities by the health professionals are decided by the regional health boards. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. The Minister probably knows that, in my constituency, we do not have a health board. We have a public administrator by the name of Tom Menzies. He seems to be calling all the shots in these kinds of decisions. It is not a health board that makes these decisions. For us, he is more than arm's length away. He is in Yellowknife. The decisions he makes are made from Yellowknife, not from our

Page 1253

communities. The people are asking that the doctors and specialists who go to the communities go more often than they have in the past and they see as many people as they should when they are there. They have been asking that for a long time. Nothing seems to be happening. We are here to tell you, as Minister, what people tell us. I am not saying this for the sake of talking, I am saying this because this is what I have been asked to tell you and your staff. They want to see these people coming in more often for eyes, teeth, ears, nose and throat. There is a need for more visits.

I have another question with regard to nurse practitioners. I know the government has been working hard to develop the role of nurse practitioners. People expect doctors and nurse practitioners to provide primary care. This would mean the doctors will be more like consultants in supporting role functions. There is confusion at the community level about what residents should expect doctors and nurses to do. What is the Minister doing to clarify the nurse practitioner model both within the nursing and medical professions and within the public at large?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Dr. Kinloch answer that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Chairman, the delegation of functions from one professional to another is well-advanced in the Northwest Territories. For nurses, it is governed by a protocol which was developed jointly by the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses' Association and the Northwest Territories Medical Association, with involvement of the department. It sets out those circumstances under which functions may be delegated for performance by a nurse, not only those that are currently delegated, but the circumstances that could prevail for future delegation.

The functions of nurses are expanded through continued training, such as the ANSIP program and through other specific training programs as well. There is a regular discussion of these matters with the professional associations with a view to ensuring delegations are appropriate and are appropriately monitored.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Are there any general comments? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to save my general comments for the detail, but since other Members have talked about the planning exercise, I would like to make a few comments at this time. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Minister is aware of the tremendous pressures which have been put on the 30 year old Baffin hospital. As I see it, the pressures are not just numbers of patients but current needs, such as chronic care, dealing with the mentally ill and people who have mental health problems, dealing with AIDS patients, dying patients, and palliative care. The hospital was not designed to meet those needs. I think it is simplistic to say that the only problems the Baffin hospital has been dealing with is that it has been crowded. I am aware of the fact that patients have been put in the hallways. Most patients are handled by the very busy out patient clinic, even patients from out of town.

Mr. Chairman, I am also aware that, over the years, many planning activities and studies have already taken place with reference to the Baffin hospital, even to the point a few years ago when I was involved in

consultations about possible sites for a new hospital facility. I am not sure that all of those planning activities were ever brought together in one coherent package. I am very pleased that, as I understand it, the monies set aside in this year's operations and maintenance budget will allow a comprehensive planning exercise to take place in an orderly fashion. As I understand it, the planning exercise will assess the adequacy of the present health services in the Baffin region, in each community, what is working and what is not, and then it will assess how needs could be delivered and how existing services can better be delivered. I understand it may well be that in many cases a serious option will be to deliver even more services at the community level, rather than at the regional hospital, which happens to be located in my constituency. This is perfectly fine with me. I think it is cost-effective and it is more humane to deliver the maximum services closer to home.

I am delighted to learn that the research which will be undertaken in the Baffin, and which I believe is being undertaken, will involve community health representatives as a key device for the community consultation. This makes a great deal of sense to me and is a way of getting credibility for the study that, I hear from other colleagues in this Assembly, may be lacking in other regions. If we can take full advantage of the local knowledge of the CHRs in the Baffin, we will be well ahead in seeking an accurate picture of what people in our communities want.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of our staff has just recently returned from the Baffin, and has not made her report yet. As soon as this is ready, we would be more than pleased to provide Mr. Patterson with the status of the process which is going to be used in the Baffin region. Thank you.

Page 1254

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In more general terms, significant monies have been budgeted this fiscal year in the budget which is before us, is it expected that

the planning exercise can be substantially concluded by the end of this fiscal year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, do I understand that the federal government has committed in the health transfer agreement, I know parts of it are under attack by lawyers, to new hospital facilities in the Baffin region, and could I have confirmation from the Minister of what commitments were made by the federal government and whether there are any dollars attached to those capital commitments? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Iqaluit is quite correct. There was a commitment made by the federal government to provide a hospital for the Baffin region in the amount of \$40 million. It is a cost-sharing agreement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Were there dollar amounts attached to those commitments, may I ask the Minister through you, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About \$40 million.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Patterson, general comments.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Is there a time limit on that federal financial commitment? Was it anticipated it would be spent before a certain time? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think there was a deadline on that agreement. We could check that and provide it to Mr. Patterson. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few general comments about the Department of Health. First of all, I would like to mention to the Minister my concern regarding the Department of Health with respect to some of the reports from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. Through our public meetings, there were suggestions to the Department of Health about studying the concept of members of health and hospital boards. A suggestion was that these members should be elected, rather than appointed. I know some communities have expressed an interest in moving toward a system which will allow for election of hospital boards and health board trustees. I believe the concept is being considered in other jurisdictions. I would like to ask the Minister if any consideration has been given toward an elected process of board members by the Department of Health? If not, why not? If so, what steps is the Minister going to take in order to study the potential for elected health trustees? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you very much. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have talked to my deputy about elected health boards. At the present time, territorial hospital insurance services does not have

any provision for elected boards, so this is one of the items which is going to be ongoing in the process, when these acts are being revised. At the present time, there is no provision for elected boards within the act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize there is no provision currently in the THIS Act with regard to the election of board members or trustee members, they are all appointed through the appointment process. Since the Minister has spoken to the deputy minister, I am wondering whether there are any plans to consider changing the act?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be a major policy revision, so I would probably have to seek advice from my Cabinet colleagues on that and take it from there. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Minister is going to bring it forth to Cabinet for discussion, for the development of policy and further to consider changes to the act with regard to entertaining the idea of an elected trustee or board member concept, as opposed to the appointed. When does she intend to do this so this issue can be addressed? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had very little discussion with my deputy on this, only in between



the meetings we have had on the more pressing issues. After this session is concluded, then I plan to go home for awhile. So, the earliest time I can see where I will sit down with my deputy ministers will be sometime in May. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the concept is not going to be discussed until May and then it has to go through Cabinet for consideration. Then you have to look at legislative changes. So, you cannot look at any of these types of things until at the very earliest, the fall, if you walked it through the system. I am sure next year would be a safe forecasted time. In the meantime, the Fort Smith health centre board has been working under the direction of a public administrator, Mr. Ellis. Has the Minister considered allowing Mr. Ellis to continue running that particular facility?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have agreed privately, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. You and I are supposed to be sending out questionnaires to the public in Fort Smith so we get proper direction from that community on whether they want an elected board. Although at the public meeting there was a strong indication that was what they wanted to do. Since there were only 70 to 100 people at the meeting, there was some reluctance to speak out in public, and we suggested you would be sending out questionnaires. I would much prefer to wait for that before I can act on anything else. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I did take it upon myself to do that for my constituents to determine what they wanted with respect to considering the elected or appointed process for board appointments. However, that is an issue set aside. Once you get the results and know whether changes to legislation are going to be considered, you

still have a lengthy period of time that the hospital board is still under a public administrator, so I am wondering if consideration could be made towards an interim board. If the community felt strongly towards an election of board trustees before the legislation was changed and the concept was adopted where an interim commitment would be to automatically appoint persons who went through the community concept of the election process, would they be considered for appointments? I feel somewhat uncomfortable thinking that we have to wait for the results of the survey. I do not believe we have to wait to see what our next step is going to be. I know for a fact the community town council and the native bands are uncomfortable knowing that the Department of Health is developing a community plan for our health services and it is being developed by a public administrator who is a civil servant. In fact, the town council did not even want to participate in that particular community plan, and has said until they get a board in place they will not participate. I would like to ask the Minister if she would look at addressing an interim board until we can decide whether they are going to consider changes to legislation for the concept of an elected board? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This act does not have any provision for me to place an interim board. That is the first thing I ran into. The second thing is the act does not provide for elected members. So we have two choices, either carry out the survey that you were going to do with the help from my department, or I go ahead and make appointments to the health board. Those are the two choices I can give you, but I would much prefer that the surveys are carried out first. I realize there are some people who are not comfortable with the public administrator. However, the health plan for Fort Smith is an initial blueprint, it is not going to be a final document. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the act does not allow for consideration of an interim board or an elected board. However, the act does allow for board

appointments, for example, for one year at a time. Recognizing that there is a request from that community to consider an elected board, and I will know better in details as a result of the survey which I intend to do in April and May, would the Minister consider the concept of appointing a board for that particular health centre, even if it is a one year appointment, as opposed to a public administrator operating that health centre? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Line by line?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Administration

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 12-10, administration, total O and M, \$10.895 million. We do not have a quorum.

We now have a quorum. Total O and M, \$10.895 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Supplementary Health Programs

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Supplementary health programs, total O and M, \$16.401 million. Mr. Koe, and then Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister please advise us as to the status of the research into providing Metis people with full health coverage?

Page 1256

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the department has been collaborating with the Metis Nation to undertake an enumeration of Metis in the Northwest Territories. A survey document has been designed with the assistance of the bureau of statistics and it is the intention that the survey will be conducted beginning shortly in the communities of the Northwest Territories. The aim will be to provide sufficient information on which a judgement can be made as to the actual numbers of Metis in the territories according to several definitions. This would lead to the development of a costing of the extension of benefits to Metis of the Northwest Territories, as the basis on which Cabinet might make a decision.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I wanted to ask the same question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Supplementary health programs, total O and M, \$16.401 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, currently the boarding homes in the south are to accommodate status Indians and Inuit people who are going south for medical attention. At times, coming from a community which has many Metis people, there are individuals who are in need of medical attention in the south, but the Metis have to pay their own way for all the medical attention they need. A Metis has to go to Social Services to be declared indigenous and also to declare they are unable to provide their own financial support, then the Department of Social Services will assist them with their meals and usually a hotel room for medical purposes, even though the boarding homes we pay for, for Inuit and status people, are not full. Metis people are turned away from utilizing those homes because they are Metis, even though they are aboriginal. I find that really discriminatory by our government, particularly by the policies that those homes are operated under. Would the Minister review that? In cases where those homes are not being used to their fullest capacity by status and Inuit, then why can the Metis not also be able to have this service when they need to be referred south, as opposed to staying in a hotel room. The government ends up paying twice, they pay for the hotel room and they still pay for the operating costs of the home. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can review this concern which Mrs. Marie-Jewell has brought to my attention. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary health programs. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Can I also ask the Minister if she could review that particular policy as quickly as possible to ensure that we try to save dollars where they are not needed to be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you very much. Supplementary health programs, \$16.401 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Territorial hospital insurance services, total O and M, \$115.268 million. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Under THIS, Mr. Chairman, I believe the Standing Committee on Agencies Boards and Commissions made a comment pertaining to the Mackenzie regional health board. Could the Minister or the department tell the House what the plans are for this particular board? Currently we have a public administrator running the board. It has been run by a public administrator since 1988. When are they going to do something about this?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Dr. Kinloch respond.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a long history to this. Many attempts have been made to establish the single board which was approved for funding by the federal government as part of the transfer agreement of 1988. No agreement has been achieved. There have been requests over the past four years for the creation of several boards, but unfortunately, the funding for multiple boards does not exist. The federal government had been approached on more than one occasion to provide funding for more than

one board and they had refused. As recently as a year ago, there were efforts to set up a single board which would have three components operating under it to provide the sort of community participation that had been proposed earlier, but there was not an agreement among the communities to establish that structure, so we are left with a public administrator managing the Mackenzie regional health services. The department has

Page 1257

made strenuous efforts to come to some agreement on the establishment of a board but we have not been successful.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I think my colleague from Nahendeh would agree with me that the communities have been making that request, as the deputy minister indicated in his response. On one hand, the department is not dealing with the issue. On the other hand, they are saying because they did not get enough money from the feds, they cannot do this. Perhaps the honourable Member in the corner over there agrees, and that is the way he would like to see it. However, the communities I represent do agree with that particular Member in the corner. Mr. Chairman, if we are not getting the dollars from the feds, then why is the department not approaching Cabinet to create what the communities want. Why have we been stalling since 1988? Why can we not move on this whole issue?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Dr. Kinloch respond.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Dr. Kinloch.

**DR. KINLOCH:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the repeated contacts with the communities and with the aboriginal

organizations since 1988 over this issue, it has not been clear that there is a uniform opinion on what has been desired. Opinions have been expressed about the creation of two boards and three boards, there was some interest in creating a single board with a unique structure. I think the department would be pleased to see precisely what sort of a structure is desired because that is not at all clear right now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Dr. Kinloch. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you. When is the department going to revisit this whole issue so that what the communities want becomes clear? According to the deputy minister, it is not clear as to what the communities want. Mr. Chairman, my region has been pursuing this with the Mackenzie regional health administrator, we want to have our own board and so does the Nahendeh region. I know that those two ridings want to have their own boards. When are we going to get to the bottom of this, it has been dragging on since 1988. Surely, Mr. Chairman, we can try to resolve this particular board dilemma we are in.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to do a follow-up review on the Standing Committee on Finance's recommendations to create two health boards to serve the Mackenzie communities. It is going to be looked at. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

The Minister is going to undertake a review of all of the communities, is that what I heard her say?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, we will be reviewing the recommendation to create two health

boards to serve the Mackenzie communities. This recommendation came from the Standing Committee on Finance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I know there was a recommendation from the Special Committee on Health and Social Services requesting a board for the Nahendeh area, Deh Cho, from the report, interim report number four. Mr. Chairman, with regard to the boards, I want to know if there are any plans within the department to decentralize the Mackenzie regional health board out of Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you ask Mr. Zoe to repeat his question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. She was not listening either. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister if her department has any definitive plans with regard to decentralizing the Mackenzie regional health board out of Yellowknife. In other words, North Slave.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Order please, Mr. Zoe is trying to formulate a question here. Mr. Zoe, continue.

**MR. ZOE:**

I just want to know if they have any plans to decentralize the regional health board out of Yellowknife.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What regional health board is Mr. Zoe talking about? Is he talking about the public administrator for the region or the regional health board?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I am referring to the whole operation of the Mackenzie regional health board which exists on Franklin Avenue in Yellowknife. I am asking if the department has any plans to decentralize into the regions, rather than at headquarters in Yellowknife?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe, the clock has sounded at 6:00 pm. We will recognize the clock and thank the Minister and witnesses for supplying the information they have to the committee. That question can be

Page 1258

answered tomorrow. I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**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, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges after adjournment this evening, tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Caucus, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Finance. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 30, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 8, Payroll Tax Act
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 2-12(3), The Justice House - Report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality
  - Tabled Document 19-12(3), 1992 Master Plan for Corrections Service Division

- 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 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1993-94
  - 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
  - Bill 24, Write-off of Debts Act, 1993
  - 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, Tuesday, March 30, 1993.

---ADJOURNMENT