



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

4th Session

Day 3

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, budget address. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the capital budget is much more than the appropriation of funds to provide essential infrastructure in communities such as housing, schools, health, social services facilities, roads, airports, wharves and basic services. Equally important, Mr. Speaker, are the opportunities for training and employment and the development of northern businesses.

While it is essential to meet public infrastructure requirements in a financially responsible manner, within a reasonable time frame and in response to the priorities of communities and the Legislative Assembly, we also believe this should be done in a manner that maximizes northern business, employment and training opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the 1994-95 capital estimates provide for an overall spending level of \$180.71 million compared to \$176.45 million in the last fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, that we have not only maintained the level of capital spending, but managed to increase it slightly in this time of fiscal restraint, illustrates the priority that is placed on capital. The importance of the government's capital program to the social and economic well-being of the people of the Northwest Territories is well recognized.

In developing the capital plan there are choices and trade-offs which have to be made as funding is

limited. Capital priorities must be set based on Legislative Assembly and community input.

The provision of housing remains the number one priority of the government and this must be reflected in the allocation of capital funds. However, the withdrawal of federal funding support for new social housing dramatically reduces our ability to meet housing needs, a matter which I will discuss further in a few moments.

Mr. Speaker, construction of education facilities is also a high priority. With our growing population and recent success in getting our youth back in school, there is tremendous pressure on our educational facilities. Education is a significant key to

future prosperity and we must make the investments necessary to meet our residents' education needs today.

The Honourable Richard Nerysoo has a real dilemma. The good news is that more of our young people are staying in school and the population continues to increase. Mr. Speaker, the dilemma is trying to meet the needs for more classrooms while competing with many other worthy demands on scarce resources.

Over \$37 million has been allocated to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs for schools, community learning centres, to begin construction of the applied arts and library building in Fort Smith and to upgrade facilities of the Arctic College Aurora Campus in Inuvik.

In Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Titus Allooloo is trying to respond to basic community needs, address infrastructure requirements to meet a growing population and to replace aging facilities. Over \$35 million has been allocated to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to address the most urgent project needs which have been identified through a comprehensive consultation process with local councils.

In Transportation, the Honourable John Todd is also making inroads in the continuing development of our transportation links consisting of roads, marine services and airports, all of which are essential to economic development. Over \$37 million has been allocated to the Department of Transportation to continue the planned development of a comprehensive transportation network. This includes \$4 million that is recoverable from the federal

government under the Canada/Northwest Territories strategic transportation improvement agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to maximize benefits from government spending to accrue to northerners. We are committed to providing training in construction occupations to people in the communities so they can benefit from the capital program; that they can earn while they learn and have a real stake in projects built in their communities.

This past summer, pilot training projects were initiated in six communities under the new construction worker training program developed under the direction of Mr. Morin and Mr. Nerysoo. Community working groups were established to plan, manage and evaluate training relative to the local industry demands for various skilled needs to carry out specific capital projects. The communities involved included: Fort Simpson, Fort Good Hope, Aklavik, Gjoa Haven, Pangnirtung and Rankin

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Inlet. In addition, Mr. Speaker, where funds were available within existing appropriations, approval was given to expand training opportunities to other communities. Over 70 people participated in training programs this summer.

The NWT Construction Association should be recognized for its major role in helping the Departments of Public Works and Services, Education, Culture and Employment Programs and the NWT Housing Corporation to develop this construction worker training program that provides introductory, on-the-job trades training for northerners.

Mr. Speaker, the level of participation achieved in the construction training pilot projects this past summer demonstrates that such training programs, on an ongoing basis, can put capital dollars to work putting northerners to work.

Later in this session, the Honourable Don Morin will be providing further information on this new approach and will be addressing where we go from here in the larger context of a building and learning strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the provision of training to develop a northern workforce can only be successful if there are job opportunities for the people who are trained. To make sure that this happens, we have to keep emphasizing that we are committed to doing business

in the Northwest Territories, with northern businesses, using northern labour.

The business incentive policy is intended to allow northern businesses to compete with southern enterprises through the recognition of the higher costs of operating a business in the north. This business incentive can encourage new northern businesses and enable them to develop the necessary experience and business skills. Northern businesses provide northern employment, not only in the trades but in administration and management as well.

The business incentive policy is continuously being reviewed with the objective of making it more equitable and even more responsive to northern content.

Mr. Speaker, so far this year, there have been 263 new contract awards for a total value of over \$46 million. Only ten of them were awarded to southern contractors for a total of \$6 million. This means that 253 contracts amounting to some \$40 million, or 87 per cent of the dollar value, have been awarded to northern contractors.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, for the whole of the 1992-93 fiscal year, there were 349 new contract awards for a total value of \$45 million, of which 336 contracts amounting to \$39 million were awarded to northern contractors.

To provide further opportunities for emerging northern businesses, Cabinet has approved a number of negotiated contracts. This year, to date, there have been 12 negotiated contracts valued at about \$8 million. For all of last year there were a total of nine negotiated contracts valued at about \$7 million.

The use of negotiated contracts provides northern organizations with the opportunity to develop experience and a reputation for performance.

Although competitive tenders are not called, the northern project contractor is still required to provide full value for money.

Mr. Speaker, this approach is not without some risks. From time to time the contractor may not quite meet expectations with respect to performance and satisfactory project completion, but this, Mr. Speaker, is a learning process.

We believe the calculated risk is worth it when the benefits accrue 100 per cent to the north in terms of contractors, labour and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, an integral part of capital planning is the extensive consultation process during which communities and MLAs have the opportunity to review a five year forecast for their communities and to provide advice on preferred priorities. Changes were made to the consultative process this year, in response to suggestions from communities and MLAs for improvement.

This year communities had more time to respond, additional information was provided and communities had the option to suggest projects which were not already in the capital forecast.

There was also greater consultation between departments and with communities to plan the most effective way to meet capital needs and respond to community priorities.

Over 20 communities responded and provided well considered advice which, in many cases, resulted in changes to the initial forecast.

As examples of the consultation process, Mr. Speaker, in Fort Providence the hamlet council expressed concern about the timing of the addition and renovations to the school and an airport perimeter fencing project. The school project is now scheduled to begin in 1995-96 instead of 1996-97 and the fencing project has been advanced to 1994-95.

In addition, there will be a roads and drainage study next year and a flooring problem that was identified in the community hall is being corrected this year.

Mr. Speaker, in Whale Cove the original plan was to build a new fire hall and renovate the existing hamlet office/fire hall building to accommodate the hamlet office needs, and to acquire some lease space in the community for government offices. This past year, the community presented an alternate plan which was adopted. This involved the renovation of the old school to serve as a hamlet office and a business service centre. The fire hall was renovated and the existing hamlet office was converted into office space which will be available for lease.

Last year in Trout Lake, the proposed community assembly building, community office and the school were combined into one facility where the assembly hall could be used as an indoor play area for the

children and service areas could be shared. This facility is now close to completion.

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Mr. Speaker, these are just some examples to illustrate that community participation in the capital planning process does result in changes and additions where it is possible. Government departments cooperate in the examination of all suggestions and respond by making adjustments to the capital plan where feasible.

The government encourages the continuing participation of communities and MLAs in the capital planning process and is committed to making it even more open and responsive. We would like to see every community and MLA provide input into the process and would welcome suggestions for making further improvements.

Mr. Speaker, when the review of the capital budget was moved to the fall session of the Legislative Assembly, it was intended to provide communities, contractors and government departments with critical lead time to gear up and prepare for next year's construction season. It gives time to maximize local employment, training and business opportunities.

This has resulted in improvement in the timing of architectural and engineering contracts, proposal calls and the tendering of construction contracts. Contractors are now being provided with information on the capital projects scheduled for construction much earlier than before.

Mr. Speaker, this trend to earlier tenders and the availability of earlier information on capital projects has been well-received by the industry.

While the change to a fall review of the capital budget is having an effect on the timing of project starts, it will take a few times through the process to gain the maximum benefit.

Mr. Speaker, there is still room for improvement. To ensure that the government's planning processes were adjusting to the new timing for capital budget approval, a review of the capital planning process was recently conducted.

A committee of deputy ministers examined the process and an external consultant facilitated the review with the involvement of all departments and representatives of the construction association and the society of architects. This review has helped us

identify changes to our processes which will further improve the speed with which we tender projects once the capital budget is approved by the Legislative Assembly. That report, which is the Harbottle report, Mr. Speaker, will be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the provision of adequate housing is the number one priority of the government. Without adequate housing, there are inevitably health and social problems.

The recent housing survey identified the need for 3,500 housing units in the Northwest Territories. It is difficult to keep this shortfall from increasing and almost impossible to reduce it as our population continues to increase at one of the fastest rates in Canada.

In prior years, Mr. Speaker, there has been support for the provision of social housing from the federal government through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This federal support for new social housing has effectively dried up. This leaves the Government of the Northwest Territories without the means to even maintain the current housing stock, let alone address the critical shortfall in housing units or keep pace with growth requirements.

Federal funding for new social housing has decreased from \$43 million in the year 1991-92, to only \$3 million this year. This means that our cost-shared program for new housing is effectively reduced from 372 housing units per year to just 14.

Mr. Speaker, this government cannot make up the funding the federal government has cut and this means the shortfall of housing will continue to get worse. In addition, reduced housing building activity will reduce the number of jobs and affect the economic activity throughout the north. Mr. Speaker, this is a real crisis for all of us.

We can only hope that the new federal government in Ottawa will be more responsive than the previous government. The federal government must recognize the gravity of the housing issue in the north and reconsider the reinstatement of some form of cost-sharing for new social housing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the new Prime Minister has already been briefed on this matter and the Minister of Housing, the Honourable Don Morin, will be aggressively pursuing this issue with his federal counterparts. In the meantime, the capital estimates assume only \$3 million in recoveries from the federal government, compared to actual recoveries of some \$35 million in 1992-93.

Mr. Speaker, the capital budget which is ready for the review of the Legislative Assembly, is the result of a comprehensive process involving a great deal of consultation. It is recognized as more than the provision of infrastructure. It provides the opportunity for northern businesses to develop and increase economic activity.

It provides the means for training and employment for northerners and for enhancing the quality of life in communities.

The capital budget forms part of the total budget for 1994-95. The operations and maintenance budget will be coming before the House during the winter session.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding my remarks, I wish to thank the Ministers and departments for the conscientious way in which the capital estimates were developed. I also wish to acknowledge those communities which provided valuable input and insight into their needs.

Finally, I would like to compliment the Standing Committee on Finance on its review of the capital budget. The review was thorough and insightful. The committee's recommendations were taken seriously and many have been implemented.

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Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will submit the 1994-95 capital estimates to the Legislative Assembly for its consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pollard.

---Applause

Item 3, Ministers' statements. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 4-12(4): National Addictions Awareness Week

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for alcohol and drug services, I wish to remind the Members of this Assembly that this is National Addictions Awareness Week.

As each of us knows all too well, alcoholism is a major concern in our society. It is at the root of many of our social problems, and causes untold suffering not just to the individuals afflicted, but also their children, their spouses and their families. Throughout this week, people throughout the Northwest Territories are participating in activities that educate us about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge my colleagues in this Assembly to continue active participation in this week's events. People look to us for leadership and we have a responsibility as elected representatives to act as good role models. This week provides us with an ideal opportunity to show our support for our community alcohol and drug workers and the many others who are involved in combatting alcohol and drug abuse.

To demonstrate this support, I would like to invite my colleagues, through you, Mr. Speaker, to join me in welcoming to this Assembly later today those people who are participating in the national walk for sobriety. This walk will begin at the Dene Nation headquarters at 1:30 pm and is expected to arrive here at our new Legislative Assembly building at approximately 2:00 pm. By joining me in this event, we will be demonstrating to the people of the Northwest Territories a strong and unified commitment to resolving this devastating social and medical problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement

MR. KOE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak a little in my language. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sahtu Dene and Metis on their successful negotiation of their comprehensive land claim agreement. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, they signed a comprehensive land claim agreement with the federal government. It is expected that the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Settlement Act will be tabled in the House of Commons in the spring of 1994. This will mark the completion of the fourth comprehensive land claim in the Northwest Territories since 1984. The Sahtu, Dene and Metis join the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut on the way of achieving their goals of self-determination.

(Translation) The land claim act will create a co-management regime for land and water, allow for negotiation of self-government framework agreements and the Sahtu Dene and Metis will receive a fair amount of land and money to give future generations the ability to shape their own future. (Translation ends)

I ask that the Government of the Northwest Territories and this Legislative Assembly give their strong support to the Dene and Metis of the Sahtu and continue to support the other claimant groups. I ask my honourable colleagues to join me in offering my congratulations to the Dene and Metis of the Sahtu on achieving this land mark agreement. It is through their courage and conviction that they created a better future for their people. The Sahtu Dene and Metis leadership have worked long and hard with determination in the face of adversity. I also wish to thank all the parties involved, especially the negotiators who, I'm sure, had the support of their respective...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe, your allotted time has elapsed.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I also wish to thank all the parties involved, especially the negotiators who, I'm sure, had the support of their respective governments to settle this claim. They deserve our congratulations for their accomplishments. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Gargan. Mr. Lewis is next on the list.

Member's Statement On National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) Rebecca Mike made a statement about national addiction awareness week and I want to say something about this. There is a lot of work done on alcohol and drug abuse. I would like to say something about the things Hay River and Fort Providence are trying to do for national addiction awareness week. They are meeting to talk about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. There are also meetings being held in Kakisa. They asked me to attend one of these meetings last Tuesday. They had a picnic and I helped with that.

MR. NINGARK:

I am having problems with my hearing. I would like to understand what Sam is saying. There is nothing coming out from my headphones.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please check out the system? Is anybody else having any problem? Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It is very fuzzy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, due to the amount of time, I would maybe just like to do it again in English.

MR. SPEAKER:

Let's wait for another minute and see how they do. If they don't fix it within a minute, we'll take a short break and allow them to fix it. You should be able to give your speech in your language. Okay, why don't we try it again. Mr. Gargan, you can pick up where you left off. If it doesn't work, we'll take a break and get it fixed.

MR. GARGAN:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to repeat what I said a while ago. In Fort Providence, it must have been about three years ago that we were working on alcohol and drug abuse. People from the reserve in Hay River travelled to Ottawa and attended workshops on drug and alcohol abuse. For those reasons there are no alcohol or drugs allowed on the reserve. I think for some people, if you look ahead I guess sometimes it's hard to leave alcohol.

When I think about the young people who are abusing alcohol and drugs, there should be something there for them. There are some people who have to drink. Maybe if they only drank once or twice a month that wouldn't be as bad. Some people who drink socially, I don't think there's any problem with that. That's all I have to say.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Commissioner's Opening Address

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This statement, Mr. Speaker, is on behalf of all Members on this side of the House and some Members who share seats with the government.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to be concerned about the method this government uses to inform Members and the public about the plans and priorities of government. That was the basis of Members' concerns yesterday.

Mr. Pollard insisted on using the media to inform us of a major development with health billing. Mr. Alloooolo completely failed to communicate with Mr. Patterson about the firing of the elected people of the town council in Iqaluit.

My statement today, Mr. Speaker, is about the Commissioner's opening address. This is the place where the government informs the Members and the public about its plans and priorities. This year all we received was a very, very brief history lesson.

The Commissioner's address was, once again, delivered by the Premier. So, the notes I made for my response to the Commissioner's address were obviously very skimpy.

Mr. Speaker, the action of the Premier, yesterday, showed disrespect for the Crown, disrespect for the office of Commissioner, disrespect for the public and disrespect for Members of this Assembly. What is the point of having a Commissioner's address? What's the point of having replies to the Commissioner's address when there's nothing to reply to? If the Premier insists on delivering her own message, we should consider changing the rules to accommodate what the Premier wants to do. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Negotiation Of Sahtu Land Claim

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Nunavut Caucus I would like to commend the Dene and Metis people on the successful negotiation of their land claim which was signed and ratified by them earlier this year while the Legislative Assembly was not in session.

We, in Nunavut, realize how much hard work is involved in the successful negotiation of a claim, and how long and involved the negotiation process is. I congratulate those leaders and negotiators of the Sahtu Dene/Metis who have laboured so long to make a better life for their people.

This represents another significant step down the road towards concluding the settlement of outstanding land claims by the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories and will, I am sure, enable the Sahtu Dene and Metis to realize a better future.

We, in Nunavut, wish them all the best for their future as they implement their agreement. We look forward

to working with them in the future as we move together towards 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 4, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On The Late Phillip Mandeville

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Fort Smith a funeral was held for the late Phillip Mandeville who was the 12-year-old son of Arlene Mandeville and August Abraham. Phillip died last weekend after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Phillip was a very special boy to the residents of Fort Smith. He touched everyone's heart in our community, just as Terry Fox touched every Canadian's heart as he battled with cancer. The community rallied together, which is one thing about Fort Smith that does make me proud. When people need help, every resident is there to share and care and help them with their needs, just as the Prime Minister explained how the warmth of the north is present by the way people care for each other.

Many times students would bring loonies to school to raise money for Phillip and his family. Dances were held, donations were generously given to Phillip's family so the family's travel costs to and from the university hospital in Edmonton could be

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financially assisted. This fall Phillip's family was granted a trip to Disneyland by the Children's Wish Foundation, although, unfortunately, Phillip and his family were never able to take the trip.

MR. SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, we seem to be having...(technical difficulties)...check out Mr. Pudlat's...Can somebody help Mr. Pudlat, please? Is that okay? Okay, I'm sorry, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Would you proceed, please, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This fall Phillip's family was granted a trip to Disneyland by the Children's Wish

Foundation, although, unfortunately, Phillip and his family were never able to take the trip due to Phillip's deterioration and illness.

Mr. Speaker, many times I recall seeing Phillip wheeling his little wheelchair with the spirit of strength as he went about his little business. I know the residents of Fort Smith will remember Phillip for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents I want to express my sincere condolences to Arlene and August, Phillip's sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and all his relatives in Fort Smith. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. WHITFORD:

I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week I participated in the sobriety march with a number of people from the Tree of Peace to help open addiction awareness week. Across the north this week, countless people are meeting and talking and planning ways and means to make more and more people aware of the deadly effects of substance abuse and addictions to alcohol and drugs and the effect it has on us.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that each one of us here has in some way been effected by substance addiction, either personally, through our families, friends, peers and even total strangers we meet every day in our work.

Addictions effect everyone, every stratum of our society: the old, the young, the rich, the poor, men and women alike, even those not born. Mr. Speaker, we were shocked to learn yesterday the horrible statistics of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect.

Although this week is addiction awareness week, we must make every week awareness week and not only be aware of sobriety but do our best to participate in it. That, Mr. Speaker, is what I believe will be the test. The examples that we set will be part of the solution. I take this time, Mr. Speaker, to salute all the men and women who have dedicated themselves and their

time to work as a deputy counsellors in the detox and treatment centres across the north. Your task is an enormous one, but you are making a difference, one step at a time.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Financial Situation Of Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. With respect to the situation in the town of Iqaluit, I would like to acknowledge a letter I received from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, while I was meeting with the Standing Committee on Finance yesterday. I want to reaffirm with Mr. Allooos that it is possible to get hold of a Member in committee. I thank you for the letter which offers to provide me with a detailed briefing of the situation which I will take up. I also note that the Minister will take my advice on the appointment of an advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to address another area of concern, however. I know the Government of the Northwest Territories would prefer to think that the town of Iqaluit is the main culprit in the financial problems which have arisen. However, today I wish to draw Members' attention to failings of the government to meet their legal and moral obligations to the town. These failings, in my view, have aggravated the town's financial problems flowing from the land debenture affair.

For example, it was only after I raised questions in this House earlier this year that a payment of \$833,000 -- which had long been owing to the town and which had been carried by the town -- that was owed under the social services agreement, was finally paid. In talking to the town of Iqaluit prior to the dissolution of the council, I understand that by December of this year, once again, the deficit of social services program costs is expected to reach \$480,000. The town does not have the funds required to pay social assistance recipients for the month of December.

MACA had agreed as well that the town of Iqaluit would not bear increased costs as a result of the shutdown this year of the high temperature hot water system. Yet, DPW and MACA have nonetheless

billed the town for these costs which now amount to about \$300,000. Mr. Speaker, I will be pursuing the matter of some \$800,000, currently being carried by the few ratepayers of the town, through written questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Boat Trip From Yellowknife To Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first of all like to thank the people in the communities. I experienced something I have not experienced before and I don't think I will experience again because I'm getting too old. I went from Yellowknife, by boat, up to the Arctic waters to Resolute Bay and I thank all the communities that I stopped to talk to. There were not very many people in some communities because they were out camping for the summer. The experience I had this summer was very exciting. I saw a lot of things I hadn't seen before. Previously, I had only seen the territories from planes, but I am happy to say that I have experienced NWT communities by water.

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I thank all the people in the communities that I met. I was the only one in Spence Bay going up to Resolute Bay with my children. I'm saying that people should experience what I did this summer, travelling to Resolute Bay. Sometimes, it is very dangerous and you worry about yourself. We started on July 16 and we completed our journey on August 16 in Resolute Bay. I was thinking if I was a lot younger, I would have had a lot more time and if I was much younger, I would do it again. I would like to thank all the communities I visited on my trip for their assistance.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

I think all Members join me in congratulating the honourable Member on a very impressive voyage. His courage and skill is an example to all of us.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a brief statement. First of all I would like to thank Ms. Mike for her statement about alcohol awareness. We have to be responsible when we are using alcohol and other substances. Mr. Speaker, we represent the people of the Northwest Territories and whenever we campaign we always tell our people that we will be representing them as best as we can. We should set an example. I would like to tell my constituents to be responsible for their actions and to be responsible when they are using alcohol.

I'm very happy we have an national addiction awareness week. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that we should help promote this awareness week as part of the people of Canada. We have to work together to promote national addiction awareness week. I would like to mention that in this House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) This is a very important issue we are talking about today. The communities should know about the hardships of drugs and alcohol. We have been talking about it for the past week. I feel that we should not just have to think about this for a week. We should always be thinking about issues like this. When they made me a chief of Fort Simpson about 20 years ago, the elders told me that alcohol creates great hardship.

My understanding is there are many people who understand alcohol problems. There are many people who have gotten away from using alcohol. These are things that people should be helping each other with. I feel many people know about a lot about this issue. We talked about it for a week. In my community they are doing something about this

alcohol awareness week. Tomorrow there will be a feast in Fort Simpson. They are creating some activities in acknowledgement of this. People can learn things from people who work in this field. Elders are in the communities to be learned from also. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 11-12(4): Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have is for the Premier. Why is it the plans and priorities of this government are announced through her Member's statement, rather than through the traditional form of the Commissioner's opening address?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 11-12(4): Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have to look at this in detail. In my time in this House, since 1979, the role of the Commissioner and the speech from the throne has conventionally been delivered as it is. I remember an occasion when the address was made, there were a lot of statements on births and deaths. I hope that if there is another way that the ordinary Members would like us to approach that, we can have a discussion on it, if you feel certain things can be moved to the speech from the throne. I am certainly open to any kind of suggestions and direction on that. In the daily activity of government, it is the Cabinet and the Government Leader who are doing business on behalf of all Members. I presume, given that, it was just a convention of where the business was conducted. If the Member would wish us to redirect some of the broader policies in the Commissioner's address, we would be quite happy to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is this. We no longer have an executive commissioner. We have someone who represents the Crown and does it from the Speaker's chair in the opening address. Because we find the traditional Commissioner's opening address is delivered through the Premier, does this mean that she sees a different role for the Commissioner to the one we have had previously? Is this a reflection of a new way of thinking?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

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Further Return To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, if you want to hear about how I feel about it, there was no intention of putting a different role on the Commissioner. It is just where the business was done and was reflected from that. As I said before, if ordinary Members feel it should more be reflected in the throne speech, we can do that. It is a normal convention that has been carried on before on how we had done business. I know that as we become more government in terms of our duties and responsibilities...where the statement comes from was from the Ministers and Government Leader. However, if the ordinary Members feel there should be more put into the Commissioner's address, I am open to any suggestions along that line. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

MR. LEWIS:

The Commissioner lives on my street. As I have said before, I like to reply to him. But the thing is, there is not much to reply to. So it is the expectation that when we make our response to the Commissioner's

opening address, that what we will be doing is replying to the Premier and not to the Commissioner?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as far as the general past replies, I believe there was an indication from some Members' replies that they had taken into consideration what the Government Leader had said. If it has to be more formal, I am not particularly stuck on one way of doing business. I don't have any objections that, in these replies, the mention of priorities or statements be incorporated into that. It has been done before. I just felt that the Members took that into account. At this stage, I would think if there was a feeling that there should be more in the Commissioner's address, we can change that, if that is the wish of the House. If the replies to the Commissioner's address incorporate some of the things I have said, I have no objection to that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

MR. LEWIS:

Many jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, have ways of conveying to the public what their government is all about. As some jurisdictions have a state of the union message, ours has always been a combination of things. The Premier is right. You have the passage of time, the passing away of elders, important events that happen and, of course, the plans and priorities of the people's government. I would like to ask the Premier, would she consider bringing this as an issue so we can determine exactly what she has in mind when the Commissioner is asked to make a state of the union reply. Would she consider presenting something to us in a way we can respond to. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 11-12(4):
Commissioner's Address Vs Premier's Statement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would be honoured to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re
Commissioner's Office

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, in our system of parliamentary democracy, the Commissioner is the representative of the Crown and traditionally has been spokesman for the government in indicating the plans and priorities for the coming session. I would like to ask the Government Leader, the fact that the throne speech has been downgraded to, as my honourable colleague called it, a brief history lesson, does this indicate that the Government of the Northwest Territories wishes to de-emphasize and downgrade the office of the Commissioner? Is this the government's intention? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention
Re Commissioner's Office

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, definitely not.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 12-12(4): Government's
Intention Re Commissioner's Office

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, since it is traditional that the opening day of session the government presents its plans and priorities for the Members and for the people of the Northwest Territories, I wonder why the Premier did not -- if it was her intention to make that statement herself and not through the voice of the

Commissioner -- make that major address and major statement on the opening day as is the tradition...

---Applause

...in our system of democracy. Why was it delayed a day and not made on the opening day? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re Commissioner's Office

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all of us here in this Legislative Assembly had a very historic occasion taking place -- the opening of this Legislative Assembly -- and very important people taking the time to come to the Northwest Territories such as the Prime Minister and also

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members from the general public. I believe that, beyond myself, every Member of this Legislature was concerned on how we presented ourselves during this special occasion. That was the reason why the speech was not made the first day. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re Commissioner's Office

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the Government Leader acknowledges that the practice of having the Commissioner make a merely symbolic throne speech now appears to be in place, and since our rules allow Members and provide Members the opportunity to reply to that throne speech, is it then the government's intention to propose, through its representative on the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, that the reference to the Commissioner's address in the rules be changed, and that instead the rules be changed to allow Members to reply to the Premier's opening statement. Is it the government's intention to advocate a change of the rules to reflect the new reality that we've seen in this new Legislature? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re Commissioner's Office

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not predetermining anything. The honourable Member, Mr. Lewis, brought it to our attention that perhaps this should be looked at and I appreciate that suggestion. We will do that. But, I presume, Mr. Speaker, that we'll be looking at it collectively. It may be that more is wanted in the throne speech. Maybe the way we're doing it now may be adequate. Maybe there are some things we haven't thought of. So, I don't intend to do this in absence of other Members' involvement because as we are changing and as people are becoming more involved and a lot of the other political and constitutional issues are rising, Mr. Speaker, I'm willing to entertain any ideas and suggestions on how we might proceed and where various statements can be. So I'm not predetermining a discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. This is your final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re Commissioner's Office

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judging from the willingness of the Premier to respond to suggestions of Members and caucus about how to handle this change, Mr. Speaker, do I take it then, Mr. Speaker, that this significant change in practice and in precedence and departure from the rules of this Assembly has not really been considered or thought through by the Premier? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 12-12(4): Government's Intention Re Commissioner's Office

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the order of events was not an intentional plan. The fact was that on a day-to-day basis we conduct -- and you have entrusted myself as Premier, and the Cabinet Ministers to do an order of business. It was thought that since the business has been done at the Cabinet level, that it was appropriate we express it at that level. If it's felt that it should be done a different way I'm open to those suggestions, but there was no stated plan or idea of how specifically the order of business had to be done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ...technical difficulties...

MR. SPEAKER:

...Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Is that everybody? Everybody, okay. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 13-12(4): Payment Of Health Bills For Foreign Resident

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of the Department of Health. For those people who are not Canadian citizens, who move from other countries, in my community there is an outsider who is now with an Inuk woman. He is not a Canadian citizen. He is from Greenland. He has been in the Canadian north for the past six years. He is still paying for his bills for health out of his own pocket. I'm just wondering how long he has to wait until the Government of Canada can start paying for his benefits when he has been living with a Canadian citizen for a number of years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with the situation so I'll take the question as notice and investigate and bring the answer back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, during the last session, on February 17, I posed three questions to the Minister of Social Services regarding the alcohol and drug board of management. Mr. Speaker, at the time the Minister indicated, and I want to quote, "The NWT alcohol and drug board's funding was cut due to restraint measures. Today, it stands as is and there has been no decision to dissolve the board. However, as decisions are made I will keep the Members informed."

Then I went on, Mr. Speaker, and asked the Minister if the funding had been cut so the board cannot meet. Would the Minister assure the House that she would make every attempt that the board meet to review those applications for this year's

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funding? She responded, "Yes, I will." She went on to make a commitment to bring the board up to its full strength before the end of the current year. Her exact words were, "I will do that." I'd like to ask the Minister if she can indicate to me when she made the appointments to bring the board up to its full strength?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the question from the Member from Thebacha, the board has been dissolved. I'm sorry I made a mistake in answering your question previously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Since the Minister recognized now that she made a mistake in February when she answered my question and made no effort to correct it, I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services now why she dissolved the alcohol and drug board of management. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The board was dissolved by the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister when the board was dissolved. If she could advise this House as to the date the board was dissolved, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe Mr. Whitford was the Minister at the time the board was dissolved.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 14-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Services Board Of Management Appointments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very vigilant during this session on this particular issue because I believe that

board played a vital role in the development of programs to address alcohol and drug problems in the Northwest Territories. As a Member, I will not tolerate "I believe" answers any more. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister to inform this House when the board of management was dissolved by the Cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member as soon as I can.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 15-12(4): Funding For Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Minister of Social Services' statement on national addictions awareness week. I agree that this is a major problem we have to try to face up to. I agree with the Minister when she said, this is an ideal opportunity to show our support for community alcohol and drug workers. Mr. Speaker, I'm interested to know how the Minister has demonstrated that support. Specifically, has she found a way to address the abysmal state of funding for salaries and benefits for alcohol and drug workers?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 15-12(4): Funding For Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is doing their very best to identify extra dollars, whenever

possible, as we would like to address that problem.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 15-12(4): Funding For
Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same
Minister, I'm glad to hear that the department is
working towards solving the problem. I was
wondering if the Minister could advise us about what
sort of time line she expects to have this problem
addressed within.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 15-12(4): Funding For
Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is ongoing.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

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Supplementary To Question 15-12(4): Funding For
Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Ongoing" doesn't give us
much hope that we're going to see any resolution to
the problem in the near future. Will the Minister
commit to provide this House an answer by the end of
this session about whether or not she has been able
to locate extra funding to improve the situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 15-12(4): Funding For
Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, the social problems are ongoing.
Sometimes there is a snowball effect when problems
increase in communities. We are doing our very best
to address the problem. If I'm not clear to the
Member, I don't know how I can be clearer than this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 16-12(4): Assistance For Trappers

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the
Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Mr.
Speaker, trapping is one of the first industries that
was in the Northwest Territories. Last year during
session I raised the issue of trapping several times.
The last two years have been bad seasons for
trapping. There was a trapper's incentive program
where the Department of Renewable Resources was
helping trappers begin their trapping season. There
were some suggestions made last year on how to
deal with this issue. One of them was to take a
number of years and average them out to help the
trapper begin trapping this year. I would like to ask
the Minister responsible if his department has
developed any strategies to help the trappers this
year? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question 16-12(4): Assistance For
Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to say that we
were able to assist trappers this year because of the
poor trapping season last year. We recognized that.
I worked with the Member from Nahendeh with his
communities. What we have done is rather than base
our support for trappers on last year's intake, we have
taken into account the last six years of trappers'
income from trapping and averaged that out. We
were able to give support to trappers. We
recognized that last year was a very poor trapping
season, based on the previous six years trapping.

On top of that, I am working on further assistance to
trappers. In a very short time I hope there will be
additional assistance for trappers. We are just

working on details about how to disperse this money.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 16-12(4): Assistance For Trappers

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to hear that the Minister has done some work to assist trappers for this year. I guess the next question I'd like to ask is when is this new assistance coming into effect? Is there a time line we can look at? Now is the time to start trapping and I think trappers are very anxious to get going. When is this policy coming into effect?
Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 16-12(4): Assistance For Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The trappers incentive assistance started about two weeks ago. There is new, one-time assistance to assist trappers because they are experiencing a difficult period due to uncooperative weather this year again. I'm hoping this assistance will be coming forth very soon. I'm hoping that next week we will be giving this one-time assistance to trappers. The trappers incentive assistance has already gone out to the trappers.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism and, I believe, fish. I think he's in the fish business. My question to the Minister is this: Is he aware that one of the pre-eminent fisherman on Great Slave Lake -- originally from Hay River -- has now relocated to Yellowknife for the intention of selling fish

to the good people of Yellowknife and surrounding areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am aware that Mr. and Mrs. Buckley are now in Yellowknife selling fish to Yellowknife people.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to ask the kind Minister, have these good people from Hay River approached him to try to get some kind of expertise or assistance to help them to establish themselves in this market place in the capital city.

MR. SPEAKER:

Kind Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they have approached me through Mr. Lewis and we are

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endeavouring to try to provide them with some assistance. There are some technical problems with Fisheries and Oceans and right now we are trying to work that dispute out.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, although I am a representative of a mining town, non-renewable resources, I am very interested in the future of the territories in the renewable resource area. This morning at 8:00 I received a call from Nancy Buckley telling me she had a lot of mariahs. These are large fish. She wanted to know if I wanted them filleted or just whole. I said I would ask the Minister if it would be all right for me to have filleted fish. Would it be all right for me to get filleted fish from this person? This means I would be getting processed fish, and because I am an MLA, I wouldn't want to break the law.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we would be able to sell whole or filleted fish. I would hope we would be able to sell whole filleted fish.

---Laughter

But my personal preference would be that we have deep fried fish with a few chippies on the side. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, we have had a tradition of getting local foods so we could eat in the back room. I wonder if Mr. Todd, through his office, could arrange that we have some of this fish and then Members of this House could fully appreciate the quality of the fish in the big lake close to us?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 17-12(4): Marketing Of Fish In Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question raised by Mr. Lewis. I would suggest to him that we discuss it with the Speaker, who makes arrangements for the goodies in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Which I would remind Members, there are very few of in these days of austerity. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister responsible for MACA a question concerning the hunting bans along Ingraham Trail. The Minister had advised me, through his reply, that it was not only a hunting ban, it was a total ban on all discharge of firearms. That included shotguns. This ban applies to the 77 kilometres of highway that people would traditionally hunt along for small game, grouse, rabbits and muskrats, food for the table. A total ban on firearms is going to affect these people who use this for local harvesting. I would like to know how his department would have arrived at such a decision that would affect, what would be considered by many, the traditional right to hunt small game.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The advice I am getting from our legal advisors and also the newspaper I read, that had an article from a native lawyer, stated that this ban on discharging firearms along the Ingraham Trail does not affect aboriginal rights, if that is the Member's concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the question was probably directed more to how did the department arrive at this decision, other than consulting lawyers? There are many people affected by this who don't live along that road, but use this road. Was there any consultation with the people in that area, Ndilo and Dettah?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concern was raised last year when we used to have a no hunting corridor in place on the Ingraham Trail starting November 1 until April 30. The problem was the caribou came to that area last year, prior to November 1, 1992, and there were thousands of caribou that were harvested. Even in places where people had cabins, there was shooting taking place. The concern was that regulation was the responsibility of Renewable Resources. Under the Wildlife Act, it was quite inadequate because the fines, some people felt, were not high enough. And the penalties were not severe enough. So we have asked our government to see if they could implement an act that has more teeth to allow the shooting of firearms to be prevented in that particular area. So we used the Municipal and Community Affairs Act, which disallows firearms for safety reasons. I believe there was some consultation. I asked my department to come back to me with the details of information, who they met and whether they went into communities to

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consult with the people, and I can get that information later on, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has taken the long way around to answer the question. I am quite aware of the reasons for it and I don't object to that.

But the ban formerly was for the hunting of big game. We are talking about other game and the use of different types of guns. Shotguns that are not as dangerous at long range as would be a rifle. I can fully understand and appreciate the concerns that people have. But I want to know who the Minister's officials spoke to. Did they go to the people in Dettah and Ndilo about this regulation that would very seriously affect their hunting rights to harvest along that highway in season? Was there any consultation done?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am told that my department consulted with: Metis local 66; the president of Metis local 55; the chief of Yellowknife Dene Band; the chief of Ndilo Dene Band; president of Ingraham Trail residents' association; president of Cassidy Point; Prosperous Lake association; manager, lands division, DIAND; manager, planning and lands, city of Yellowknife; and, Yellowknife Hunters' and Trappers' Association. As to what extent they consulted I would have to go back for more details. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral question. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A problem springs out of the process that has taken place. I thank the Minister for making me aware of some of the people who they have talked to. The problem that springs out of this, Mr. Speaker, is that we have two highways here, one going to the east and one going to the west. Along the Rae/Yellowknife road the same thing will apply. There are houses springing up all over the place. People from Rae use that road to hunt game in season. I'm afraid that this same thing is going to happen there as well. Will the Minister assure us that adequate consultation will take place prior to any kind of -- if it hasn't already been applied -- ban on any firearms discharging along highway three?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question 18-12(4): Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, the only restriction of firing a firearm applies to parts of Ingraham Trail. It does not apply to the Yellowknife highway. If the people of that particular area want a ban then, obviously, Mr. Speaker, we would have to go through extensive consultation, not only with Yellowknife people but also people from the Fort Rae and Edzo area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 19-12(4): Status Of Development Of MOU Between Department And Boards Of Management

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I hope that ban includes Ministers. On April 2, 1993, I asked a question on the development of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Health, health management and hospital boards. The question was taken as notice by the Premier because the Minister, at that time, was not in the House. Today, I'd like to ask the new Minister of Health, what is the status of the development of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Health and the health and hospital management boards?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 19-12(4): Status Of Development Of MOU Between Department And Boards Of Management

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, beyond the memorandum of understanding, there are a number of other issues that we're trying to work out with the board. I would update the House by saying that in January it's my intention to meet with all of the board chairs and we will discuss the full range of issues at that time, including the memorandum of understanding. We will

also be discussing what services we use outside the Northwest Territories, which hospitals we use. We will also be discussing medevac charters. We'll be discussing financing. We'll be discussing the issue of when we call on those boards to tell us what capital infrastructure they'll require in future years. There's a whole range of issues, but that's one of the things that will be discussed in January, Mr. Speaker. I'll have a better idea of where we're going with that as soon as that meeting has taken place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 19-12(4): Status Of Development Of MOU Between Department And Boards Of Management

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware that some work was done over the summer, and I'd like to ask the Minister what has been done or what is being done in terms of the development of the memorandum of understanding.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it varies across the Northwest Territories. I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

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Question 20-12(4): Maintenance Of Cape Dorset Airstrip And Terminal

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Transportation. It's been some time now since we've experienced a problem in Cape Dorset, as the Minister, I am sure, is aware. Our problem is a major one, especially in view of the population growth. We have a problem with the airstrip. This is no longer a minor problem. The

terminal is being constantly maintained and even around the edges of the building there are all kinds of growth. This is posing a danger to the airstrip. We're having trouble having the airstrip properly maintained. I'd like to know why this problem exists. Is there a shortage of funding to properly maintain the airstrip? Perhaps the Minister of Transportation can indicate to me if there are plans to properly facilitate and maintain the airstrip and the buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 20-12(4): Maintenance Of Cape Dorset Airstrip And Terminal

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do recognize that there are some serious problems with the runway in Cape Dorset. We did some geotechnical, survey and design work this past summer. It is our intention in 1994-95 to do a major rehabilitation of the runway, and also to improve the airfield lighting. It is also in the capital budget for 1995-96 for a new terminal building to be built.

The municipality asked us if we could move up the terminal to 1994. Unfortunately, due to the capital planning process and fiscal restraint, we were unable to do so. I want to assure the honourable Member that we are going to rehabilitate the airstrip and bring it up to standard as quickly as we can, this summer, and in 1995 we are going to build a new air terminal facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. We have Mr. Ng, next, please.

Question 21-12(4): Utilization Of Country Foods In NWT Institutions

MR. NG:

My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. His department and the NWT Development Corporation have placed an emphasis on developing and supporting country food processing operations to bring economic benefits to hunters, fishermen and employees in the processing end of the operation. I support this initiative. Does the Minister's department have any plans to enhance and expand the viability and success of these country

food operations by utilizing their products in NWT institutions such as student hostels, correctional facilities et cetera?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 21-12(4): Utilization Of Country Foods In NWT Institutions

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply honoured that the new elected Member of Kitikmeot has decided his first question in the House should be addressed to me. I appreciate it. This issue was one that I raised as an ordinary Member, myself. I think it's important that the renewable resources, whether it's in meat or in fish, be utilized in our correctional facilities, our school hostels, et cetera. I know he's written on the issue. It's certainly our intention to get maximum utilization out of the renewable resources within our existing territorial facilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 21-12(4): Utilization Of Country Foods In NWT Institutions

MR. NG:

My question would be, does the Minister have the time frame to develop a policy on this?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 21-12(4): Utilization Of Country Foods In NWT Institutions

HON. JOHN TODD:

I really don't think there's any requirement for a policy. What I did was advise other departments, such as the Department of Justice and Department of Education, and asked them to cooperate and coordinate the utilization of the renewable resources. I would think that when they're developing menus, for example, in our correctional facilities or in our school hostels, that they are, I believe, at this time incorporating the use of renewable resources. If it's not being done to the

extent that the honourable Member feels it should be in his area, I'd be only too happy to deal with that issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 22-12(4): Chronology Of Events Re Iqaluit Situation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset, I do appreciate the apology given to me by the Minister of MACA on the handling of the Iqaluit affair and my involvement in it. But I have to say, on reviewing the Hansard yesterday, I really do feel that with the greatest of respect to the honourable Minister, I was given the run around about what happened. Therefore, I'd like to ask the Minister to refer to page 36 of Hansard. He says his deputy minister called my office on November 10, wasn't successful, came over to the Legislature, found me in the standing committee meeting, waited for me to come out and at that time, November 10, was able to give me a copy of the letter sent to the town of Iqaluit. Is the Minister of MACA then saying that I was given the information on the dissolution of town council on November 10, two days before the action was taken?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

It's a matter of the chronology of events and I would like to take the question as notice.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, this is a new question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Point Of Order

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. The question was asked to the Minister of MACA. I'm unaware whether or not our rules allow for Ministers to answer for the duties entrusted to other Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER:

To your point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, it's been the practice in this House that the Premier and the Premier alone is allowed to take questions directed at Ministers. The taking of the question and the request that it be taken as notice is within our rules, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Whitford.

Question 23-12(4): Role Models For National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Social Services on her timely and very important statement this morning on national addiction awareness week. I would especially like to consider a sentence in her statement that people do look to their leaders for guidance and for example. We, as elected people, are constantly under criticism for our actions and behaviour. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what she meant by the statement, "People look to us for leadership and we have a responsibility as elected representatives to act as good role models." This is in the frame of addictions. What should myself, as an elected representative, do? What kind of an example should I set?

MR. SPEAKER:

I caution Members. You are asking an opinion of the Minister. If the Minister would like to give a generic answer about what she is talking about, I think that would be quite appropriate. But, to give specific advice to a Member is inappropriate. Madam Minister.

Return To Question 23-12(4): Role Models For National Addiction Awareness Week

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is at the discretion of each of us, who are elected representatives, what we think a good role model is. For instance, when I go to the communities, I make sure I talk to youth and elders. There is a gap between them. The same thing with the alcohol and drug workers, when I talk to them I do understand what their roles are and how much work

they have to carry out on behalf of the GNWT in caring for people who need it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 23-12(4): Role Models For National Addiction Awareness Week

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of that. As an elected representative, I talk to people. My question is directed more to national addiction awareness week. This past week there has been a lot said and a lot done about the problems of substance abuse. That is what I was referring to, Mr. Speaker, not whether I go and talk to people in the communities about other business. That's a given for a politician. As a role model, I'm concerned -- and other Members have mentioned it to me too -- about what you mean by this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 23-12(4): Role Models For National Addiction Awareness Week

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the opening ceremonies on the evening of November 17 here in the Assembly was an example of good role modelling. There was no alcohol served. Those kinds of things are the things that we look for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 24-12(4): List Of Early Retirees - DMs And ADMs

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, on March 4 of this year I asked the Government Leader a follow-up question on a question Mr. Todd had asked in September, 1992. There was no answer to that and it still appears as an outstanding question. However, we all know, Mr. Speaker, that once the House

dissolves, all unanswered questions on the order paper die with the order paper. Each session I'll have to resurrect this question.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader was asked to provide a listing of employees at the DM and ADM levels who, over the past five years, have been given early retirement. The Premier, at the time, had stated that she would do so. The supplementary question asked for an outline of all the financial obligations associated with the special arrangement for these retiring staff. At that time, she said again that she would provide them. Recognizing that this question has been posed to the Government Leader's office for well over a year, I would like to ask the Government Leader when she will be providing that material to the House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 24-12(4): List Of Early Retirees - DMs And ADMs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I had thought this was already provided. I will check into it and see if the communication has not been done. To my recollection, it has been done, but if it has not I will take care of it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 24-12(4): List Of Early Retirees - DMs and ADMs

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

The Government Leader hasn't taken this as notice. That was her answer last time. She said, "My understanding is the honourable Member is asking for some information. I would like to apologize that the information I

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promised to bring forward has not been provided. I thought we had done it. However, I'll take her question as notice and provide her with the information." So, therefore, it has been thought to be done twice now. I would like to ask the Government Leader if she can provide that information to this House by November 30? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 24-12(4): List Of Early Retirees - DMs And ADMs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER:

There has been a request to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period is extended. Item 6, oral question. Mr. Patterson.

Question 25-12(4): Alternatives To Resolve Iqaluit Situation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the dissolution of the elected town council of Iqaluit, I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, are there other options that could have been chosen by the Minister of MACA other than firing the elected town council? Such as: administrator by agreement; partial administration; negotiating a solution under the threat of appointing an administrator; making an order to appoint an administrator but keeping the elected council in place? Are there other options available?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question 25-12(4): Alternatives To Resolve Iqaluit Situation

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose when a community corporation gets into a difficult situation, there are always options that the government could look at. In the case of Whale Cove that the Member

knows very well, the community was very willing to work with the department to come up with a recovery plan for their deficit.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit situation was reviewed back in 1988 and again in 1989, and 1990. Finally, the situation got so serious that my deputy minister wrote a letter to the town saying, "That unless you do something, you're going to be in a very difficult situation." Back in November, 1992, the inspectors informed the town management and the mayor about their concern regarding debenture payment shortfalls. The town manager asked for some time to review the debenture financing with the auditor and the Director of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, the town's own auditor made some recommendations to the council about how to recover from the deficit. Those recommendations were not followed by the council. Therefore, we approached the council again saying they needed to recover from their deficit. Again, the town needed time to rethink. So, we gave them time. The department did not receive a response for two months. Again, the deputy minister wrote to the mayor and council expressing grave concern and requesting action. We were asking that the council develop a recovery plan that would allow them to get out of their deficit.

In January 1993, the town manager met in Yellowknife with municipal inspectors to discuss the debenture dilemma. The department engaged an independent auditor to confirm the inspector's findings in regards to the debenture dilemma, which he did. The town was very confrontational and uncooperative. This attitude persisted for the next several months. The town SAO and the mayor were told that the interest on the debenture was growing by \$1,500 per day and for a month the town continued to refuse their cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, because of their confrontational attitude towards my department, my options were limited. We took it to FMB and the decision was made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 25-12(4): Alternatives To Resolve Iqaluit Situation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister has given the chronology, which I very much appreciate. But I think he has also answered my question about whether there were other options in the affirmative. He said, "There are always other options available." Mr. Speaker, I know from the Minister that the decision was made on the advice of Cabinet and he sought advice from Cabinet. I would like to ask the Minister when he sought the advice of Cabinet, did he present Cabinet with various options? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I just want to again remind the House that there is an element of Cabinet confidentiality. If the Minister would like, he could respond. But I would like Members to keep that in mind. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of Cabinet confidentiality, I would have to take the question as notice and reply to the Member appropriately.

MR. SPEAKER:

Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

Point Of Order

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, with respect to yourself and the principle of Cabinet secrecy -- which I do respect -- the matter was opened yesterday and raised in this Assembly by the Government Leader, herself. On page 45 of the unedited Hansard, she said in response to a question from Mr. Koe, "The decision and the option chosen was by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs who sought the advice of Cabinet." In other words, she stated that the option chosen was the option recommended to Cabinet by the Minister. I think the issue has been opened by the Government Leader, herself. I would respectfully request that now that it is in the Assembly and the issue of what options were chosen by Cabinet has been discussed by the Government Leader herself, it is not inappropriate for me to ask the Minister whether there were other options presented. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

If I could respond to your point of order. Number one, you don't have a point of order. The Minister took the

question as notice. A question can be taken as notice without any reason. Also, I want to remind Members that Ministers aren't obligated to answer questions if they choose not to answer questions. I just reminded Members that there is an element of Cabinet confidentiality and we should be aware of that. In this particular case, Mr. Patterson, you have no point of order. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, ordinary Members were going to wait until Monday or sometime next week to deal with the Minister's statement outlining the plans of priorities of the government. But, I wouldn't want to let the opportunity pass today to continue with the line of questioning about the way Members are informed about what their government is doing. Again, because I listen to the radio the odd time, I learned a lot of details from a man called Sellers who works for the government, apparently. He is the chairman of the work place commission. He is a bureaucrat and yet everything I know about how this commission is going to operate, I got from him. Not from the Minister. Not as a result of debate of this document.

I would like to ask the Government Leader was this person authorized to tell the media what the plan was with regard to the work of this commission?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

MR. LEWIS:

Is it the policy of this government, then, on its major initiatives -- which should not be discussed in this

House -- that bureaucrats are given the responsibility to make public statements and to inform the public? I thought that was our job in this House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, because there was an opportunity given at another meeting to inform the ordinary Members and it was put off from that briefing session, I believe the information was not provided at that time. I would like to suggest that there was an opportunity where we wanted to give a full briefing on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's precisely the issue. There are so many things on our plate right now that we asked the Premier, specifically, could she delay this briefing because of that. What she has done then is, instead of delaying briefing ordinary Members as she had promised she would at the appropriate time, she has instead asked a senior bureaucrat to tell the public, rather than allow us to hear the story first.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the briefing and the information to the general public was asked to be delayed. It was a briefing to the Members that was asked to be delayed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is this then. Does this mean that we no longer will be getting a briefing from the government because it has already been done through the public media?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 26-12(4): Dissemination Of Info By Bureaucrat - Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this briefing is still scheduled whenever there is time to do that briefing.

MR. SPEAKER:

That has concluded your supplementary questions, Mr. Lewis. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 27-12(4): Briefing On Work Place Commission

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Since it was my understanding that this briefing would be delayed in regards to the work place commission, I was under the assumption - and I guess I shouldn't assume, Mr. Speaker -- that the Government Leader would advise the MLAs accordingly before releasing details to the public. She is aware that she does need the support of the MLAs probably for financial funding for this commission. I know it is not in this year's O and M budget.

I would like to ask the Government Leader -- since she has taken the liberty of authorizing a senior civil servant to relay to the public the information on this work place commission -- would she advise us in this House today what is this work place commission? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 27-12(4): Briefing On Work Place Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, although the briefing did not take place, the information was provided to all MLAs. Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, over the last number of years with the many changes in government and the many issues that are rising in terms of labour and labour related issues -- whether it comes from decentralization, from having community transfers in place, the employees on reorganization -- the issue of how we're going to handle the adjustment in the work place has been one issue, whenever we make a decision within the government or on the effects of government. I think I can relate to some of the issues.

When we were discussing the major pipeline enquiry, there were a lot of concerns about how our northern workers are going to be handled. What is the role? What can we do? How can we move, in looking after people who are coming from smaller communities within the Northwest Territories to be involved in the work place? What types of protection? Is there protection? Are there ways of giving preferences to northern workers? We're doing a lot of things now that effect how people are employed, how people are going to be dealt with and how issues are going to be handled. How do we involve communities to get maximum benefits?

We have land claims. There are areas in the claims where there have to be priorities on certain areas of land that has to have the aboriginal group involved having priorities. There are so many of those issues that are in place. As new claims get settled, as well, as a government we have an obligation to respect those claims and the priorities and legislation that governs treatment and preferential treatment for the people. All these labour issues are out there. While we're trying to make our decision here, these issues continually come before us.

I know that in certain claims there are provisions and benefit agreements that we're seriously trying to address because we're involved with that. If we want something to go ahead, we have to respect the employment criteria out of those claims.

We have surface land, sub-surface land, town land, industry wanting to come into the north, the desire of northern people to be considered and trained for those employment opportunities. The preferences

are inherent in some of the work we do. So, this is a major issue and this is an issue that has plagued us right from the very beginning of time, as we continue to try to live under the obligations of the many areas of special agreements.

The idea with this is to try to involve the general public organizations and people in trying to come to some conclusion how best we, as the Northwest Territories, can address those issues. This was put in place because up to this point in time, even the questions we get in the Legislative Assembly in terms of affirmative action and preference for small local businesses, we're dealing with the best we can.

However, the question on what is our stated policy, what is acceptable to the people of the Northwest Territories, is very important.

This is why we suggested a commission could be in place where people's views, ideas and, preferably, solutions to how we deal with the overall global issue of employment, including people's claims, and how our obligations are going to sit with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 27-12(4): Briefing On Work Place Commission

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader has somewhat answered my first question with regard to giving us an idea of what this work place commission is. I'd like to ask her -- even though she anticipates it to be done in two years -- what does she anticipate the cost to be for this particular commission? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I had it here but I'll have to take that as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question as been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also question the replacement of a bureaucrat -- even as capable a bureaucrat as Mr. Sellers -- with the established tradition of elected persons consulting the people of the Northwest Territories on current issues. My question to the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, is about why we are using our precious financial resources for a process I expect we will find to be very expensive. In these difficult financial times, how can the government justify using our precious territorial dollars to explore a matter which is presently the responsibility of the federal government labour relations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the federal government responsibility also has been one issue in certain concerns that have happened in the recent past. At this point in time, I believe the honourable Member would conclude that this is a very difficult area of responsibility. There have been certain suggestions that we should, as a government, proceed to take over those responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, I think these precious dollars are there to try to answer the questions that have been put to us so we don't get ourselves in a situation that has plagued us with some of the other issues that we've dealt with the federal government on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the advice of the Standing Committee on Finance has been that in light of the health billings problem, in light of the housing

problem, in light of the cost of forestry, that this government should proceed with great caution in taking on more federal responsibilities. Secondly, I don't believe there's been an outpouring of public concern that labour relations is an area we want to take over. I'd like to ask the Premier, if it is a burning issue, since it is a federal responsibility now, what efforts did the Government of the Northwest Territories make to get the federal government to undertake this review, or at least to pay for the substantial costs of this review? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe before we do that we will have to decide exactly what it is we want to do. In having the work place commission in place -- and we struggled a little bit about that word because a commission generally denotes a certain type of action -- however, given that we thought that the terms of reference and the components of the explanation would look to putting the review in place with what the public has been asking and where we're going with a lot of the initiatives that come out from the communities. Even though the word seems odd, an all-encompassing commission -- using the word commission, I think, has been a source of concern, but in the end in order to give it the stature that it requires -- we did use that word.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that before we go to the government, we have to have some answers on what our public and our constituents want us to do. We've been very fortunate in the last few years that we have been able to support the claims that have taken place and we have an awful lot of obligations maybe that we are willing to entertain, far beyond what some other jurisdictions are willing to do. I believe we have to try to develop a model that suits the Northwest Territories and division of the Northwest Territories. I would like to say that I think it will be different. I think people will take a more proactive and progressive approach on how we deal with the issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I asked a simple question. The Government Leader has said, I think, that we should get the work done and figure out what we want to do before we approach the federal government. What I would like to ask the Minister again, because I don't feel my question was answered, Mr. Speaker, is, given that the federal government has the legal responsibility for labour relations in the Northwest Territories, -- even though I agree it has not done much, it has hardly done anything to meet its responsibilities in the Giant Mine strike, et cetera, but nonetheless it has that legal responsibility -- and not our government -- yet I understand it is proposed to use territorial funds to explore this area -- what efforts were made to either ask the federal government to do this work for us or to at least ask the federal government to pay for the cost of exploring an area that is the statutory and legal responsibility today of the federal government? What efforts were made, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 28-12(4): Use Of Financial Resources For Labour Commission

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, because there are two separate issues, we are trying to ascertain just how the Northwest Territories is going to deal with the issue. At this point in time it was to deal with the Northwest Territories issue and I did not approach the federal government to help support this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Chief Jonas Sangris, the Chief of the Yellowknife Dene Band.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister, since he has put forth his capital budget address today, who is the Comptroller General of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The Comptroller General is Mr. Lew Voytilla. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, is it not the responsibility of the Comptroller General to sign all cheques dispersed by the GNWT? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, that has been the practice in the past. It doesn't have to be that way, but it has been the practice in the past. That is correct.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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Supplementary To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Minister of Finance why do all GNWT cheques that are run off on the computer still have the stamp of J. Nelson, and underneath J. F. Nelson, who is no longer the Comptroller General of the Government of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it doesn't necessarily have to be the Comptroller General. There has been some discussion about changing the signature on that particular document. There has been no resolution as to who will sign at the present time. I am assured that it will be resolved very quickly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Last supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it in accordance with the Financial Administration Act that the Comptroller General signs the cheques on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 29-12(4): Identity Of The Comptroller General Of The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it could be myself, it could be the Comptroller General, or it could be designated. That has been the issue that we've been trying to resolve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. We'll take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I'll call the session back to order. The chair recognizes a quorum. We're still in question period. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 30-12(4): Chronology Of Events Surrounding Minister's Actions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the unedited Hansard of Thursday, November 18, on page 37 there is a response by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to questions from my colleague from Iqaluit about his deputy minister being unable to reach Mr. Patterson on November 10. He stated, "I didn't have a whole week. I think I only had four hours." After that, Cabinet made the decision. He said his deputy minister tried to telephone the Assembly and Mr. Patterson's home the night of November 10. He had four hours during that whole day.

However, on page 38 of the Hansard, the Minister stated that he was going to try to go to his constituency after the Cabinet, but he didn't have the time. He said he left the afternoon of November 11, in answer to Mr. Patterson's previous question.

I would like to know when he left. Did he leave November 10 or did he leave November 11?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I took that particular question as notice because I want to provide an accurate chronology of events to the Members. There seems to be some confusion on specific times. I took that as notice, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. The whole aspect of the chronological sequence of events has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 31-12(4): Chronology Of Events Surrounding Minister's Actions

MR. LEWIS:

I don't believe this is part of the chronology, but I would like to ask the Minister of MACA -- because he would know the answer to this -- when exactly did he go on holiday? From what day to what day did he actually go on holiday?

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, it's hard for the chair to anticipate exactly what is going to be in this chronological order. The Minister could either answer or state that will be part of the chronological order. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, that will be part of the chronology. It will be provided once that information is put together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. That concludes question period. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is to the Honourable Minister of Justice. However, he is unavailable right now so I would like to direct the question to Madam Premier. Mr. Speaker, there are five questions relating to the same topic. Is that appropriate?

MR. SPEAKER:

There can be five questions. In written questions, it is not necessary that the actual Minister is here, because it is in the written question format. The Minister will deal with the particular question. Proceed, Mr. Ng.

Written Question 1-12(4): Government of the Northwest Territories In Court As Defendant

MR. NG:

The questions are: How many out-of-court settlements for lawsuits in which the GNWT has been a defendant have been negotiated since October 1991 and can the Minister provide a list detailing the plaintiffs, the amounts of the settlements and the grounds for the lawsuits? How many

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current, active court cases is the GNWT involved in as a defendant and what are the grounds and the amounts of the plaintiffs' claims? At what stage is each court case involving the GNWT as a defendant? Finally, will the Minister provide me with an assessment of which cases are likely to proceed to trial and which are likely to settle, and for these cases that are likely to settle, can the Minister provide me with the total dollar exposure to the GNWT as a result of these possible settlements?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Lewis.

Written Question 2-12(4): Information On Community POL Sales

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question for the Minister responsible for POL, with regard to information on community POL sales. The Government of the Northwest Territories tenders, purchases and delivers fuel to each community on behalf of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. By doing this, the Power Corporation is able to take advantage of a cross-subsidization scheme where communities whose fuel costs are in real market terms high are subsidized by communities where costs are low (POL has the same scheme in place). Would the Minister please provide:

1. a schedule on a community by community basis of final sale prices of POL fuel to a) residents, b) commercial, c) government in terms of (i) subsidized sale price, (ii) what the sale price would be if there were no subsidy.

2. a similar schedule for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation fuel in each community - the final price with subsidy and what it would cost if there were no subsidy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

ITEM 11: PETITIONS

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a Petition 1-12(4) from parents and community members of Baker Lake. The 346 signatures, Mr. Speaker, are requesting the Government Leader and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to provide funds for a school bus to transport their children to the school due to the long, cold winter months. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short statement.

MR. SPEAKER:

Proceed, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to speak on a matter which has been, and continues to be, of grave concern to the people of Baker Lake.

The Members will recall the issue of the student transportation which I have spoken of a number of times. As a matter of fact, I brought into this house another petition requesting students' transportation about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Baker Lake when the community education council had arranged for a walk from the far east end of the community to the school. The walk started at 1:00 pm on Monday, November 8, 1993. The temperature on that day was a seasonal norm at minus 28.7 degrees celsius and the wind at 15 nautical miles from the northwest, which works out to a wind chill factor of 2172. This, Mr. Speaker, is just the beginning of the winter and already the temperature was that cold. According to Environment Canada, at a wind chill factor of 2000, unprotected skin freezes in one to three minutes. Face protection is recommended.

At the same time in Yellowknife, the temperature was 9.5 degrees celsius, with a wind speed of 7 kilometres per hour. Mr. Speaker, this is a difference of close to 20 degrees celsius and when the wind speed is taken into consideration, the difference is even greater. In fact, the wind chill factor for Yellowknife on that day does not even show on the wind chill factor chart.

I use Yellowknife as an example as this is where all decisions are made and the decision makers do not really realize the implications of the cold in the east.

Getting back to the demonstration, Mr. Speaker. There were 398 people counted. The walk took 25

minutes in total from the east end of the community to the steps of the school. I counted the number of steps that I took and counted a total of 3000 steps. It took me 3000 steps and 25 minutes to walk. Mr. Speaker, it would take students in the primary end even longer. The students are dismissed from class at 11:45 for lunch. A child who might walk as fast as I did that day would be at home at 12:10 and have a 20 minute lunch and then have to head out again to walk back for another 25 minutes.

There's also an area in Baker Lake in which these students would have to walk which I counted out to be 1000 steps; with no buildings, no trees or no obstructions to take cover from the cold and wind.

I should also make note that I walked with my youngest sister, who is now 11 years old. She had frozen cheeks by the time we reached the school. The people gathered in the gymnasium and had hot chocolate and made some statements of their concerns. One parent stated that once it is really cold, the parent will not be sending their children to school. Another parent, one who is an elderly widow, said that she walks her child to and from school every day. Another young parent who spoke said that he now sends his children to school by taxi every day. This was after having been lost with his brother on their way to school when they were of school age.

Mr. Speaker, there are some children who are losing some valuable time from school because it is too cold and too far to walk. At the same time, there are also some very dedicated parents who see education as a very valuable asset. When one adds the time it takes students and parents to walk in the morning, lunch and after school, it adds up to an hour and 40 minutes of your day taken up on walking.

I have one more point that I would like to make, Mr. Speaker. This year, close to the community of Baker Lake, there are hundreds of caribou. When you arrive in Baker Lake you will see caribou from the terminal. At times they have to chase them away from the landing strip. This is wonderful and is a benefit of living in Baker Lake. However, with the caribou come many wolves and scavengers such as foxes. Wolves, as

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Members know, usually come in packs and foxes are known for their tendency to have rabies. This makes it even more worrisome for parents to send their children to school.

I strongly urge the government and this Legislative Assembly to accept the work that the Honourable Richard Nerysoo has been doing to create a policy on student transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 2-12(4): Report On Draft Bills Tabled During The Third Session

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to read a report on draft bills from the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Legislation, under the authority given to it by this House, has completed its review of bills tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the third session.

The Standing Committee on Legislation has been established by the 12th Legislative Assembly to review all bills and legislative action papers referred to the committee and to examine orders, regulations and statutory instruments, any matters referred to it by the Legislative Assembly and any other matter of a legislative nature as determined necessary by the standing committee.

During the Third Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly, seven draft bills were tabled by the government and referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for review by formal motion of the Assembly. A decision was reached to prorogue the third session at the end of the April 1993 sitting in order to comply with the requirements of the federal Northwest Territories Act. There was a likelihood that any bills introduced for first reading late in the session would have died on the order paper upon prorogation, as there was not sufficient time left for the Standing Committee on Legislation public review process. The standing committee held public hearings to review the tabled draft bills in Yellowknife on May 26, 1993 and on September 28, 1993.

The standing committee reviewed the following draft bills tabled by the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Justice: Tabled Document 118-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Partnership Act, tabled

March 24, 1993; Tabled Document 131-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Maintenance Act, tabled March 31, 1993; Tabled Document 132-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Domestic Relations Act, tabled March 31, 1993; and, Tabled Document 142-12(3), a proposed Personal Property Security Act.

The standing committee also reviewed the following draft bills tabled by the Honourable Titus Alloo, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs: Tabled Document 137-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, tabled April 1, 1993; Tabled Document 138-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Hamlets Act, tabled April 1, 1993; and, Tabled Document 139-12(3), a proposed act to amend the Charter Communities Act, tabled April 1, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Legislation would like to thank the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi and the Honourable Titus Alloo and their department officials for presenting these draft bills and responding to committee Members' questions and concerns.

The standing committee also wishes to extend its appreciation to all those members of the public who appeared as witnesses before the committee or who forwarded written submissions respecting the tabled draft bills. The standing committee has considered these comments carefully and found them to be of great assistance during its deliberations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Report, Carried

Since this report does not include any recommendations, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation be received and adopted by the Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. For it has been received and adopted.

---Carried

Committee Report 2-12(4) has been received and adopted. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1-12(4): Setting Of Sitting Hours By Speaker

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 22, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours as the Speaker, after consultation, deems fit to assist with the business before the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 18: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for

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Nunakput, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 1 has had first reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 19: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorized the Government of the Northwest Territories to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. It will be referred today to committee of the whole.

Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

MR. WHITFORD:

The committee will now come to order. Thank you. It is an honour to be the first chairman in this new legislative building.

The committee will be considering Minister's Statement 3-12(4). What is the committee's wish? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

MR. WHITFORD:

The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 3-12(4) and Bill 1, and would like to report progress.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconder to the motion. Mr. Koe. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. I have a short statement I'd like to make.

I thought it was appropriate today, as we end this week, if I could take this opportunity to express the Legislative Assembly's appreciation for the hard work of all those who were involved with the opening of the new building.

---Applause

I would like to thank the Management and Services Board who had many, many meetings of the last six months on the many issues that came out of the opening of the new building.

One person in particular, Sandy Osborne, who was our coordinator, deserves special mention. She's worked very, very hard for the last six months on this event.

---Applause

I think because of all the hard work, I'll name a number of the people who acted as committee chairpersons: Denise Burlingame, Brad Whitehead, Terri Boldt, John Colford, Wally Wolfe, Brian Lyons, Allan Dowrey, Bertha Rabesca, Pat Yasinowski, Karen Humphrey, Marc Whitford and Martin Vickers. They had dozens of other volunteers working with them.

The Clerk and the Legislative Assembly staff, the interpreters deserve our appreciation not only for the work during the last six months, but all the work that's gone into this going back to when the decision was made in 1989. To all of them, a very, very warm thank you.

---Applause

Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

No, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if, before we conclude, I could seek consent to go back to written questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to written questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

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REVERT BACK TO ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 3-12(4): Audit Bureau Report On Iqaluit Social Services Operation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a written question to the Premier.

In early November, 1992, the GNWT Audit Bureau conducted a comprehensive review of the town of Iqaluit's social services operation. The final report has not been completed or forwarded to the town. What is the reason for the delay? When will the report be completed and forwarded to the town?

Written Question 4-12(4): Iqaluit Hot Water System Shutdown Costs

To the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Public Works and Services. Will the government's Department of Municipal and Community Affairs honour its agreement that the town will not bear increased costs as a result of the shutdown of the high temperature hot water system in Iqaluit?

The town is now carrying approximately \$300,000 as a result. Will the government pay interest to the town on this amount? Why did the government's Departments of Public Works and Services and Municipal Affairs not address this problem when they became aware of it, instead of indebting the town and leaving it to the town's administration to pursue a solution?

Written Question 5-12(4): Town Of Iqaluit Social Services Operating Budget

To the Minister of Social Services. The town of Iqaluit and the Government of the Northwest Territories now project a December, 1993 deficit of \$480,000 in social services program costs. The town has not received the funds required to pay social assistance recipients for the month of December. When will that money be transferred to the town? Will the town again have to finance these costs in the interim?

Also, to the Minister of Social Services, the government's Department of Social Services has not met its obligations to approve a 1994 budget for the town's social services operation. This was due October 15. The town's social services budget was not approved until May, again contravening the terms of the agreement. Why have these budgets not been approved within the agreed deadline? When will the town's 1994 social services budget be approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, written questions. We'll return to item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at 2:00 pm this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance will be held at 1:30 this afternoon. A meeting of the caucus working group, tomorrow, Saturday at 11:00 am. On Monday morning, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at 9:00 am, and of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 10:30 am.

Orders of the day for Monday, November 23, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 1-12(4), Setting of Sitting Hours By Speaker
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement
 - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until Monday, November 22, 1993 at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT