



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 5

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 10-12(4): Violence Paper, Declaration Of Zero Tolerance And Gender Equality Review Response

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will table three documents. I am tabling them at the same time because they are all closely related.

The first is called "Building Strategy for...

---Technical Difficulties

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

This House will now come back to order. I would like to apologize to the Minister for stopping your speech. Would you continue, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

So, we'll roll the clock back again.

Minister's Statement 10-12(4): Violence Paper, Declaration Of Zero Tolerance And Gender Equality Review Response

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will table three documents. I am tabling them at the same time because they are all closely related.

The first is called "Building Strategy for Dealing with Violence in the Northwest Territories". The second is a proposed draft of a declaration by Legislative

Assembly on family violence. The third is the response of the Department of Justice to the gender equality review report.

There's a growing awareness across the north and across this country, that violence against women and children is a plague in our society. In the north, the incidence is so high that it deserves to be recognized as one of the major barriers to building a healthy northern society.

The Standing Committee on Finance recognized the importance of this issue. That is why they recommended in their review of the 1992-93 estimates, that the Department of Justice, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, seriously address the issue of violence in the north.

It is my hope that the document, Building a Strategy for Dealing with Violence, will encourage more discussion of this important issue in this Assembly. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter at greater length.

The document looks at the extent and nature of violence in the north, and discusses elements of a broad approach to dealing with violence.

The document examines how violence can never be ended merely by escalating the response of the criminal justice system. The justice system can and must be improved, but one of the major points of this document is that response to violence requires the involvement of all members of society. Change will come about when all of us assume a degree of responsibility for this problem.

Leadership in assuming responsibility for facing this problem can be shown by Members of this House. In these days of increased public cynicism toward politicians and the political process, it is crucial that the public be able to look up to the Members of this House as individuals who are accountable, who take their responsibilities seriously and who provide a positive example. In short, that we, the Members of this House, demonstrate leadership.

This brings me to the second document to be tabled today. It is a proposed declaration of principle on family violence. We are asking each Member of the Legislative Assembly to consider formally adopting the principle of zero tolerance to violence and committing, personally, to getting rid of family violence by the year 2000. In addition, we suggest that

leaders throughout all of northern society be invited then to make this commitment.

This declaration of commitment is particularly important because the majority of people in positions of power, authority and trust are men, and it is men, with rare exceptions, who are the abusers.

The declaration will provide this Assembly with a way of indicating that it is serious about family violence. We can lead the way, and we must, as leaders, encourage communities and other organizations to follow our example and embrace zero tolerance to violence.

The elimination of family violence requires a wide range of actions but at the end of the day, ending family violence requires changing our attitudes which allow it to continue.

The third document is a response to the report of the special advisor on gender equality. The report entitled, The Justice

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House, was submitted in May 1992, and tabled in the House the following month. It was discussed in committee of the whole last December.

The report contains 90 recommendations on how to improve the administration of justice to make it more responsive to the needs of women. As women come into contact with the justice system most often as victims of violence, this is the focus of many of the recommendations of the special advisor.

The document contains a general response and action plan and a listing of what is being done with each of the recommendations. Appendix B to this document contains a recommendation by recommendation response to the report.

Within the constraints imposed by the fiscal context in which we find ourselves, I am happy to say that we have made some headway in addressing the recommendations in the report.

Many of the recommendations concern matters that are beyond the responsibility of the Department of Justice and we continue to work with other agencies to encourage the implementation of the recommendations. Within the department, a number of legislative changes have been put on the table. In addition, the maintenance enforcement program is now better resourced. And we continue to look for

ways to address the needs of victims by supporting the provision of services at the community level. For example, an interagency community-based victims' services group has recently set up shop in Iqaluit with assistance from the department.

Of course, much remains to be done, and we will continue our efforts to improve the administration of justice so that it better serves the needs of everyone.

Mr. Speaker, whether we are talking about a strategy to deal with violence or about making the justice system better, it comes down to a question of respect, respect for oneself and for others. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Minister's Statement 11-12(4): Environmental Rights Act 1991-92 Annual Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Renewable Resources, I'd like to table, at the appropriate time today, the 1991-92 Environmental Rights Act annual report. The report includes descriptions of all applications, prosecutions, actions and convictions under the act for 1991 and 1992.

In the first two years following implementation of the Environmental Rights Act, the Government of the Northwest Territories has received one request for access to information and two requests for investigations. The Department of Renewable Resources, in conjunction with the Department of Justice and Municipal and Community Affairs, provided a response to the application for access to information on the Yellowknife forward operating location.

The Department of Renewable Resources has completed the investigation into sulphur dioxide and arsenic emissions from Giant Yellowknife Mines. The report of the findings of this investigation was released to the public in July, 1993.

The other request for an investigation was not accepted, as the request was not made in accordance with the requirements of the act.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Renewable Resources, in cooperation with other departments, coordinated the development of procedures for the implementation of the act. The procedures clarify the

steps in applying for and administering access to information and/or investigation requests. The procedures are available in all MLA constituency offices and at the Department of Renewable Resources office. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Minister's Statement 12-12(4): Heritage Policies

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Community organizations play an essential role in preserving, portraying and promoting the heritage of the Northwest Territories. To ensure that assistance is provided to community heritage groups in a consistent, fair and equitable manner, and to help maintain the cultural heritage of the Northwest Territories, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has recently developed four policies.

The heritage services policy defines the heritage programs administered by Education, Culture and Employment and the relationship between the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and community-based heritage programs.

The Northwest Territories archives policy provides direction for the administration of the NWT archives, particularly the management of non-government records.

The collections disposal policy allows for appropriate and sensitive disposal of government-owned library and heritage collections, including disposal through repatriation. The heritage grants and contributions policy establishes the criteria and standards necessary to assess applications for financial assistance, equitably.

Mr. Speaker, these four policies have recently been approved by Cabinet and I am providing Members of the Assembly with copies for their information. I believe these policies provide a clear public statement of government's commitment to heritage in the Northwest Territories.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Standing Committee on Finance for raising the matter of the policies. I hope the new policies will be responsive to their concerns about a lack of policy to

respond to the matter of heritage in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

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Minister's Statement 13-12(4): Minister's Absence From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to notify that the Honourable Don Morin will be absent from the House today and possibly tomorrow to attend meetings with the federal Minister of Housing. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Chronology Of Events And Appreciation To Staff

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sincerely regret the events of the past few days. It is unfortunate that my explanation of the events have been interpreted to mean I intentionally misled this House. Mr. Speaker, I, at no time, had this intention, but I realize I did make some mistakes in dates in reviewing my calendar. However, since my colleagues feel that my words do convey the impression that I was not telling the truth, I must accept the consequences.

I hope that the tabling of the chronology of events will assist all Members in understanding what actually transpired. My main concern is to see that a reasonable solution is found for the problems in Iqaluit that initiated this whole discussion, and any other issues can now take a back seat. I look forward to working with the ordinary Members in addressing the concerns of our citizens and I am happy that I can now bring forward concerns on behalf of my constituents in the public forum. Today is a new challenge.

Mr. Speaker, could I ask for an extension of time?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Yes.

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you to the members of my staff for the dedication and support they have shown me, especially Miss Michele Irving, my executive secretary, Miss Cathy Ayalik, my executive assistant and Anna Koonoo, my executive assistant trainee. I would also like to thank the staff in the departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Renewable Resources who have worked so hard, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories.

In particular, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Joe Handley; and, Mr. Al Menard, Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I very much appreciate your dedication and your good counsel. I would also like to thank the many political staff who have served me so well over the past years, starting with Laurie Nowakowski, Vivian Squires, John Stephenson, Ernie Comerford and Anne Todd. Also the deputy ministers whom I had the pleasure of working in the past, Mr. Hal Gerein, Mr. Andrew Gamble, Mr. Jim Bourque, Mr. Art Sorensen, and Mr. Dave Porter. Qujannamiik.

I will carry with me the memories of many good things we have been able to accomplish by working together for the common

good of our people, the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Thebacha.

Member's Statement On Medical Examination User-Fees For Seniors

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a Member I am concerned about the policy that was developed last June and announced by the Department of Health. The policy I'm referring to, Mr. Speaker, is with regard to medical examination on user-fees for seniors. The policy institutes a user-pay system for annual medical check-ups. This policy, once again, is setting up the Department of Health to fail in

considering long-term ramifications of their policies in favour of short-term gain.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, is for the long-term effects that this policy will have on the health and well-being of our elders. Our elders are one of our most valuable resources and have a substantial role to play in shaping the future of the territories.

This government is quick to assure the people of the Northwest Territories that our elders are valued, respected and their voices heard. Yet, at a life stage when accessible health care is the most important, the Department of Health is refusing to provide medical examinations free of cost unless the individual has waited at least two years since the last check-up. This is not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, in my observation, elders in the Northwest Territories are already often reluctant to seek medical advice. Serious risks to life and health, such as lung cancer or heart disease, remain undetected because our senior citizens hesitate to report a concern and to use the resources of our health care system until the symptoms become too painful to ignore. Seniors do not want to be a burden.

Although seniors are simply not aware of potential risks, there is no doubt that seniors will much more likely hesitate when they know the department will levy a fee for a medical check-up. While I understand that this fee may be waived if the elders can present sufficient grounds, this should not be their concern. There are elders who are even reluctant to provide sufficient grounds due to their pride.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. This approach by the Department of Health sends a strong message to our elders that their health care is not a priority. It is also likely to cost this government more in the long run through the treatment of illnesses that are not presented at the first opportunity.

It is also very disturbing that the Department of Health does not appear to have any appreciation for the health education benefits that elders receive through an accessible health care system. The education and interpersonal support provided to elders in my constituency has been very important to them, and both the emotional and physical health benefits are immeasurable. Many elders are worried now that this will all be lost.

I fear by charging a fee to those in the Northwest Territories whose health is most fragile, the Department of Health is truly risking the well-being of those upon whom we depend for advice and guidance, and to whom we owe a great debt. Surely our elders deserve more from us and from this government. I'm requesting that the Minister of Health reconsider this ill-conceived policy. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Alternative Uses Of New
Legislature Building

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been in this Assembly now for a few days. Like anything that's new, it takes a bit of getting used to. It's like having a pair of new shoes, it takes a while for you to break them in.

My statement today, Mr. Speaker, is to recommend to the Speaker that he recommends ways in which this new building could be used during times the Assembly is not in session. Clearly, no one wishes to have us compete with the private sector in the use of space, but there are many things that could be done here in both summer and in winter. Many of us have viewed this capital site for the museum, the visitors' centre and the Assembly as a natural focal point for the capital city. But, far more important than that, Mr. Speaker, of far greater significance, is that this is a reflection of what brings Northwest Territorial residents together.

I'd like, Mr. Speaker, at the very earliest opportunity to establish a volunteer advisory committee to develop some policies and guidelines for a fuller use of the building, but in keeping with the dignity of its function as a legislature. This was done in the case of the

museum many years ago, long before it was occupied. When it was completed, there were clear policies on access, donations, acquisitions, public use, exhibitions and so on. The Speaker shouldn't be required to make decisions on the use of the facility without some guidelines and policies.

There are, I believe, members of the building society and many people who routinely travel in and out of Yellowknife who would be very happy, I'm sure, so assist the Speaker on this matter. It should not be left simply to the MSB to make these decisions. Maybe this group could advise the board, but it should be people who have been here a long time, who come in and out of the city and, at no expense to the public, would be prepared to advise you on how we could make better use of this wonderful place. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On Congratulating Mrs. Dora
Grandjambe

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this Legislature for the Sahtu I'd like to recognize today, Mrs. Dora Grandjambe who is the North Slavey interpreter/translator with the language bureau. She is the first Dene to be certified by the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council. This is a federation of provincial and territorial organizations formed in 1970 to represent the profession at the federal and international levels. This federation is also a member of the International Federation of Translators.

Mrs. Grandjambe, who wrote the translation exam in September of this year, is now certified under this international body, to be able to translate written documents from English to North Slavey. Originally from the community of Fort Good Hope, Mrs. Grandjambe has been one of the North Slavey interpreter/translators with the language bureau in Yellowknife since 1990. All of us who know her, including her fellow workers and colleagues, her family and many friends, want to recognize her achievement today and also to encourage her to continue in the good work that she's doing. I thank you for giving me the time to do this today. Mahsi.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement Re Appreciation To Alberta Government For Swan Hills Incinerator

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for some time, we in the Northwest Territories have had trouble with the issue of hazardous waste. Rather, I should say, trouble with what to do with them after we've finished using them or, at times, with where they've been created. This issue is one which is territorial-wide and not only in the industrialized communities such as Yellowknife, Pine Point and Hay River, but wherever things such as PCBs and other chemicals are used.

We have had few choices over the years as to what to do with them. Either we've had to recycle them, had to store them or else had to destroy them in some way. Unfortunately, the only option we had was to store them, until quite recently. Thanks to the diligence of this government and particularly the Department of Renewable Resources, now we have a solution in sight through the Swan Hills hazardous waste incinerator that was built some time ago and only updated recently to handle quite a variety and amount of hazardous waste.

In September of this year, the Alberta government announced that the Swan Hills treatment facility will accept all hazardous waste from the Northwest Territories, including PCBs, on an intermediate basis. This is good news, Mr. Speaker, because it gives us an opportunity to get rid of the hazardous waste we currently have in storage at very little cost to us, and in an environmentally safe manner.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Alberta government on behalf of the people I represent, in particular Premier Klein who was the former Minister of the Environment

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and the one who this government negotiated with on this matter. I also wish to thank the Honourable Brian Evans, the current Minister of the Environment, whose responsibility this comes under. This is indeed good news for us and we will certainly take advantage of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Inmates' Right To Vote

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday, November 19, 1993, I gave a Member's statement on the issue of the unconstitutionality of a section of the Elections Act which prohibits inmates from voting. Today I would like to take the opportunity to speak on the issue of what I believe legislation should do to remedy this problem.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the House to address the issue of inmates voting. The courts have already addressed this issue by ruling that an absolute prohibition is unconstitutional. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Dennis Patterson stated on July 3, 1991, in response to my motion to refer this issue to the courts that we do not need judges to do politicians' work. With all due respect to my learned friend, the judges have done a portion of our work by ruling equivalent legislation unconstitutional. Now is the time for us to finish this job by considering various legislative options.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support the idea that every inmate should have the right to vote. Voting is a precious right in a democratic society. It is not a right which should be automatic to every citizen. The right to vote should also not be automatically or thoughtlessly taken away. The difficulty I have with our current legislation is that it prohibits all inmates from voting, regardless of the length of their jail sentence or the circumstances of their crime. This type of blanket prohibition without thought or rationale is what I, and the Supreme Court of Canada, found offensive.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that inmates convicted of the most serious offence against society and people in society should lose the right to vote. As my learned friend, Brian Lewis, stated on July 3, 1991, once you have broken the conventional laws of our society, you lose your right. I do believe, however, that the laws of the right to vote should only be for the most serious offences. It simply is not possible to compare long-term prison...

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, your time has expired.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to get unanimous consent to continue my statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

The Member is asking for unanimous consent to continue. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Gargan, please proceed.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. It simply is not possible to compare long-term prison inmates to those inmates who are in prison for a very brief period of time. Yet, under the current legislation, both long-term and short-term inmates, regardless of the differences of their offenses, lose their right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government, in the most recent election, allowed those inmates who are jailed for two years or less to vote in the recent election. Inmates with sentences greater than two years are not allowed to vote. I believe that the federal government's approach on this issue is rational and reasonable and that their approach will withstand the scrutiny of the courts.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago Members stated that the courts should not deal with this issue, that this issue was a matter for this House to decide. I urge us all to have a debate in the near future on this issue that so many Members called for two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Honourable John Todd On Devolution Efforts

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly believe in giving credit where credit is due and I want to just simply acknowledge the tremendous progress

that has been made toward finally devolving some decision-making authority and some flexibility to the regions by the Honourable John Todd in the short time that he's occupied the portfolios of Economic Development and Tourism and Transportation.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I've been urging this kind of decentralization of decision-making authority, so that regional staff can deal with regional problems in a flexible way, for many years. I hate to say it, but the trend even while I was in Cabinet, seemed to have been toward bringing things closer to the chest and bringing decision-making to headquarters. Mr. Todd, in a few short weeks with the support of his deputies, has moved the trend the other way and I want to acknowledge that and I want to congratulate him for that in both Economic Development and Tourism, and Transportation. Now, let's hope that the other departments will follow suit so that regional staff can deal with regional problems in a unique and flexible way, without having to run to Yellowknife every time they want to ask permission to go to the bathroom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Order please. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 5, oral questions. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 36-12(4): Reason For Disruption Of Ferry Service

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Whitford yesterday, regarding the Fort Providence ferry. The Fort Providence ferry was taken out

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of service on Friday, November 19 at 4:45 pm. Operation resumed at 2:00 am the following morning and is continuing, despite the extremely low water. The low water level has been caused by an ice dam upstream of the crossing which is preventing the flow of water into the river. At places, gravel bars are beginning to show through the surface. Load limits on the ferry have been reduced to 45 kilograms and may drop to 25 kilograms later today if the water level does not improve. Low water conditions are common at

this time of the year, although this year they appear to be more extreme than usual. Intermittent disruptions can be expected to occur, both from low water conditions and from the presence of floating ice. The department expects that the ferry will operate into January, by which time the ice bridge will be constructed and capable of carrying full loads.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Further Return To Question 39-12(4): School Bussing Policy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Arngna'naaq on November 22, 1993, concerning the date of introduction for supplementary appropriation covering bus funding. Mr. Speaker, the additional contribution funding of \$268,000 to school boards for this year, for increased costs associated with student transportation, is included in Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, 1993-94. This supplementary appropriation is presently being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Finance. This additional funding in 1993-94 will permit the application of the bussing policy across the territories, according to a consistent set of criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. 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 have a return to question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on November 19, 1993, about the date the alcohol and drug board of management was dissolved. The decision to eliminate the board was made on April 13, 1992. The last board meeting was held on August 12, 1992.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 46-12(4): Criteria For Assigning Ministers' Portfolios

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I would like to direct to the Premier, and perhaps it springs from the fortunate events that came up in the last day, since yesterday. Madam Premier has had to reassign portfolios and workloads to the remaining Ministers in her Cabinet. A task that the Premier has had to undertake several times in the past 24 months and I and other Members would like to know or question, what factors does the Government Leader take into account for the assigning of Cabinet portfolios?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 46-12(4): Criteria For Assigning Ministers' Portfolios

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the individual, the individual's knowledge, capability and past experience in certain areas, whether or not it was with this Legislative Assembly, so there's a number of issues that are there. They are varied. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on that question to the Premier. Could the Premier perhaps advise the House in assigning Cabinet portfolios, is one of the things that she considers as being important or ideal, that the workload should be equalized among Ministers?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it depends on what you call equal, if you mean various portfolios to each individual. There are all kinds of factors that take place. Because I work with individuals on a day to day basis, I can determine whether a person can handle a little bit more, a little bit less. So, I suppose the word "equal" would be a subjective word that I would use. I know I work with these people every day and I know that certain people can carry a little bit more. Some people have had long experience. For example, Mr. Todd, who was with MACA years ago, has intimate knowledge of how it was set up...

--Laughter

So you consider these types of things. I think some people have more experience because of an opportunity in the past. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has given us a bit of an outline of what she considers to be the aspects she looks at in determining whether an individual can handle the job or not. Could she perhaps also tell the House what

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factors she considers in determining what the demands are for each of the portfolios?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to say. Sometimes if you have experience, the demand is not so much. Experience has a lot to do with issues and with ability to jump in and take over. It depends on how long those portfolios have to be carried. There are some natural interests and background, but mostly from just acknowledging what people are doing on a day to day

basis, along with the ability and background to take over some of the responsibilities.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

MR. DENT:

I thank the Premier for her answer, but she has really concentrated on the capabilities of the people. What I am really asking for is, in her process for determining which portfolios to assign to a particular Minister, is there an assessment done for the workload for a department? Does she have any criteria for determining the workload for departments?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 47-12(4): Consideration Of Workloads In Assigning Portfolios

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, certainly from my background and knowing the different departments, I assess what is going on in the departments. I don't know if I have covered every nook and cranny, but I have a basic background on almost all of the departments on what is involved, what some of the major and current issues are and the workloads. There are many types of things that have to be fit into a decision like that. Certainly, if a person has a long background in a certain area, it helps to understand what those issues are. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

MR. LEWIS:

When I was a young man, Mr. Speaker, I played a lot of team sports. Everyone on the team had to pull their weight. If some people didn't do very much, they were always in trouble and the coach always got on their case. My question to you, Madam Premier, since you have agreed there is an unequal division of

labour, how do you manage a team when clearly you have more confidence in some Members than in others?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I didn't say there was an unequal division of power and I do not have less confidence in one person over the other. That is the Member's statement. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at Cabinet assignments today and preparing the workloads and budgets for which various Ministers are responsible, would the Government Leader agree that the present workload is not balanced and equal?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, in my life time I very seldom have found life balanced or equal. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

MR. LEWIS:

With due respect to the Premier, I am not asking how balanced or unbalanced her own personal life is.

---Laughter

---Applause

My question was, would the Premier agree that given the workload, the budgets, the different people responsible, would she not agree that the present division of workloads is not balanced and equal? Would she not agree with that? Some Members have lots and others have less. Would she agree that it is not a balanced and equal division of work and budgets?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Well, I suppose it is the degree of pain you have in your portfolio. Yes, some people have more work than other people. That is true. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

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Supplementary To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

MR. LEWIS:

In the specific division of responsibilities as a result of having to redistribute work, and since some already busy Ministers are being asked to take on more, would the Premier explain why these Ministers were given more responsibility than what they already have?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 48-12(4): Cabinet Assignments And Cabinet Workloads

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The federal government recently announced their Cabinets and they have some secretaries of state or junior Ministers. In your answers to several questions before, you talked about the experiences of your Cabinet Ministers, not only in this House, but their past experiences in their private lives. We have cases of some Ministers who have a lot of experience in this House and also in aboriginal organizations and some who have a lot of experience in business, yet the two Ministers I am referring to have different workloads. You just stated to my colleague that some Ministers have more work and responsibilities than another one. Do you have two categories of Ministers? Do you have junior Ministers and the more senior Ministers?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I haven't categorized any one as a junior Minister, senior Minister or middle-of-the-road Minister. I made this decision because it is an interim arrangement that I felt would work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. There has also been some decision-making, by a lot of different Cabinet committees and in the past few months, since we have been reshaping government, the Cabinet's structure has changed. Do you have what we call an "inner Cabinet group" and an "outer Cabinet group"?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

No, Mr. Speaker. I don't think there are enough of us to split up. It seems to me, in our work, everyone has quite a lot to do and there is no time to structure inner or outer Cabinets. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. So for the record, when Cabinet decisions are made, all eight Cabinet Ministers participate in the decision-making?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 49-12(4): Categories Of Ministers, Juniors And Seniors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, unless they are not present, away on business. Generally, in the last few years all Cabinet Ministers have been able to attend most of the meetings and we try to schedule those meetings ahead of time so it is possible to arrange the other duties around them.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

Question 50-12(4): Details Of Ministerial Travel

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. In October, I wrote to the Government Leader asking for a commitment to provide the Members of this House with a list of ministerial travel and all travel with regard to Ministers. The Government Leader wrote back and stated she was getting this information collated and would present it in the House. I would like to ask the

Government Leader when she intends to present that information to this House? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 50-12(4): Details Of Ministerial Travel

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the information is together. I think it is just a matter of bringing it forward. I will try to do that in the next couple of days.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 51-12(4): Interpreters/Translators - Policy On Provision Of Service

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. Yesterday, when I asked the question about the interpreter/translator relocating, he did say that he wanted to remind honourable Members that the responsibility of interpreter/translators is to all departments

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and all agencies of government in providing this service to the community. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether this is government policy right now?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 51-12(4): Interpreters/Translators - Policy On Provision Of Service

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that under the Official Languages Act there is a requirement on the part of government to provide services in the aboriginal languages to those people to whom we are providing a service. That is the nature of the legislation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 51-12(4): Interpreters/Translators - Policy On Provision Of Service

MR. GARGAN:

So, Mr. Speaker, the Minister is indicating that the interpreters/translators do not serve all government departments and agencies?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 51-12(4): Interpreters/Translators - Policy On Provision Of Service

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said. The question that was asked of me was do the interpreters/translators provide a service and my indication was that, presently, under the Official Languages Act, we are obligated to provide services to people, in the aboriginal languages or French and English that require that service of us. That is the nature of the legislation itself. By providing the interpreter/translator in, for example, Hay River, we are trying to ensure that those people and in the surrounding region that require that service, are provided access to services in their language. That was the issue that I was raising with the honourable Member yesterday.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

Question 52-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, last week I asked the Minister of Social Services when the alcohol and drug board of management was dissolved. The Minister indicated today that it was dissolved on April 13, 1992. However, when I spoke of this board of management in this House back on

September 30, 1992 and subsequently in February, 1993, there was no indication by either this current Minister or the previous Minister that the board was dissolved.

Therefore, I would like to ask this Minister, if this board of management was dissolved in April 1992, why did the board of management meet in August of 1992? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice because I only took the portfolio in December so I have no knowledge of why they met in August 1992. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. What is the current status of liquor inspection in the town of Iqaluit? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member knows that when the municipality was in place, they had, for one reason or another, withdrawn and terminated the contract with the Department of Safety and Public Services to do the liquor inspections in the community. Since that time, the department advertised a request for proposals. It is my understanding that the proposals closed early in November, somewhere around the 10 or the 12. I'm expecting that a new liquor inspector will be hired in Iqaluit hopefully this week. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge the efforts that have been made by the department. However, Mr. Speaker, what is being proposed is another contractual arrangement. It has been tried several times before and it has not worked out. Given the number of licensed premises and the high degree of public concern in Iqaluit about the adequacy of the current level of liquor inspections, I would like to ask the Minister is he satisfied that another part-time contractor, doing part-time inspections, will adequately serve the public interest in overseeing the operation of the many licensed premises in Iqaluit? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I suppose part of the solution would be to close down some of the licensed premises, but I wonder what the town of Iqaluit would think about that. I guess nobody's satisfied in the debate on liquor inspections and the way in which we run our operations. You have a diversity of opinion. The fiscal reality is that within the resources I have...We have somewhere around \$25,000 to do liquor inspections through a contractual agreement. I'm told that

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there was a significant amount of inspection done in certain places in Iqaluit. Some were ignored and some got more attention than others.

I suppose, ideally, if the resources were there, we could put more into place, if that is what the House and department felt was necessary. Right now, I believe that when we put this new contractual agreement into place, hopefully it will appease some of the community. It certainly won't appease or satisfy the whole community, it never does.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister talked about financial resources and I believe he listened attentively to my statement yesterday when I cited the reported sales in one licensed premises for one month alone, of 42,000 cans of beer. For each can, the Government of the Northwest Territories, I presume, obtains revenues through mark-ups on the sale of the beer and also through taxes.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that revenues are flowing from the town of Iqaluit and I suspect substantially more than \$25,000 a year. I would like to ask the Minister, given the apparent high volume of sales in Iqaluit, the high degree of public concern, and the number of incidents that seem to involve licensed premises, would the Minister be prepared to give consideration -- after this next experiment in contractual arrangements is tried once again -- to presenting a case for a full-time liquor inspector in Iqaluit in the coming fiscal year? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 53-12(4): Status Of Liquor Inspection, Iqaluit

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, we are fully aware of the difficulties that are occurring in the town of Iqaluit and the volume of alcohol that is consumed there. I would like to see them consume less, but that's everybody's individual right. The opening of premises is based upon plebiscite and community support or lack of support. So, I really have no direct control over that. However, we are currently examining the possibility and looking for resources to allocate a full-time liquor inspector for Iqaluit and, ultimately, Baffin Island given the degree, if you want, of problems that are associated with alcohol in that particular area. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 54-12(4): NWT Workers' Training Fund - Eligibility For UIC

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister told us about the success of the NWT workers' fund and how, to date, 525 people have received support for training and work experience through the program. I just want to let the Minister know that I think it's terrific that we've managed to get so many more people working.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the program was set up to maximize the benefit to northerners though. Could the Minister advise this House whether the program was, in fact, set up to ensure that trainees would work long enough to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 54-12(4): NWT Workers' Training Fund - Eligibility For UIC

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the honourable Member is probably aware, one of the bases on which we were intending to set up the training program was to ensure that those participants in the NWT workers' training fund and those proposals that were submitted allowed the participants and trainees to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits, with few exceptions. I'll have to be more specific and come back with more detail. However, most projects that have been submitted would allow those people who are participating to complete the 20-week period at which time an individual can qualify for unemployment insurance. That is the case so far. I will have to be more specific in terms of bringing back all the details. I'll be prepared to do that for the honourable Member.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 54-12(4): NWT Workers' Training Fund - Eligibility For UIC

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Minister said he will do this, but I would like to get a time by which the Minister will agree to advise the House of how

many of the trainees did qualify for unemployment insurance at the end of their positions which were brought about by this fund.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 54-12(4): NWT Workers' Training Fund - Eligibility For UIC

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could probably have that information available tomorrow for the honourable Members of this Legislature.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 55-12(4): Cabinet Approval Of Water/Sewer Subsidy Program

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, with regard to questions I've asked over the past years, in the area of the water and sewer subsidy program. One of the communities in my constituency, the village of Fort Simpson, was designated to be included in the program. I've been told in the past that this program is coming along. I'd like to know if this subsidy

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program, which includes the village of Fort Simpson, has been approved by Cabinet at this time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 55-12(4): Cabinet Approval Of Water/Sewer Subsidy Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

If my memory is correct, I don't believe at this time the water/sewer subsidy program in which Fort Simpson is a major player, has been approved.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 55-12(4): Cabinet Approval Of Water/Sewer Subsidy Program

MR. ANTOINE:

This has been going on for quite a few years. I don't know how many more years this will go on. If you could indicate when this program will be approved, because you have the authority now to dismiss elected municipal councils as the Minister of MACA. Fort Simpson is in financial problems and I'm worried that they might go the way Iqaluit did. If you could approve this program, it might help them out. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 55-12(4): Cabinet Approval Of Water/Sewer Subsidy Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am only one of eight humble voices moving toward a resolution of this problem. I do recognize -- on a serious note -- that it is an important issue and it has been brought to the Cabinet on two occasions, I believe. I believe we're close to resolving this issue. It's on the agenda for the next Cabinet meeting. Hopefully at that time we'll be able to give you the appropriate answer that would satisfy the community of Fort Simpson and others. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 56-12(4): Discontinuation Of Family Allowance In Baffin South

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services, with regard to what I stated earlier this week about family allowance. For those people who are unemployed or living on the sale of carvings, we are wondering in Baffin South why some people who are unemployed are not receiving family allowances any more. Many families are no longer receiving family allowance. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Social Services can give us an indication why these family allowances have been cut. Thank you. I think

this question should be directed to the Minister of Finance.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 56-12(4): Discontinuation Of Family Allowance In Baffin South

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think if Members will recall, this issue was brought to our attention by Mr. Gargan and at that time the Department of Finance contacted the federal government Department of Finance in this regard. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 1993, the federal government rolled together three programs, family allowances, the child tax credit and the refundable child tax credit.

What we have done is contacted the federal department to let them know there are some omissions in the Northwest Territories, and they have complied with our wishes and have done considerable advertising in this area. Basically, Mr. Speaker, if somebody has filed an income tax form last year, and if they met eligibility which is income less than \$25,921 a year, they can apply for the child tax credit. Mr. Speaker, I won't go into any more detail. It's suffice to say that I'll meet with the Member after question period and advise him of how to get the information to his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Member for Kitikmeot.

Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Given the increased activity of exploration and the strong possibility of future mining activity in the Northwest Territories, and more particularly in the Slave geologic corridor, north of Yellowknife up to the Arctic coast, and Coppermine in my constituency, what has the Minister or his department undertaken with the mining industry to identify training needs and potential employment opportunities for northerners in future mining related opportunities?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that, as a department, we've identified the need for assessment of the types of employment that would be available. Secondly, it is still our view as a department that we need to develop a coordinated approach to long-term mining programs and training opportunities in the Northwest Territories. I have indicated to the honourable Member, the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, that we should be working together to try to develop the necessary collective approach to that particular matter. We've agreed that we're going to work together on that particular matter.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Kitikmeot.

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Supplementary To Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

MR. NG:

What time frame is the Minister looking at as far as developing a coordinated approach to address the issue?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I have not identified any particular time frame, mainly because I believe that first of all there is a need for us to make the assessments about what employment opportunities would be available in any development that occurred. Secondly, how can we, as a department, respond by setting up the appropriate training programs? Thirdly, we have to determine what other affected departments will

participate in the strategy, and we should reflect their training needs in the presentation as well.

I have not identified any particular time table, mainly because we have not, as a government, made a decision on how and when we are going to respond collectively on this particular matter. It is an issue of concern that I have already raised with my colleagues.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Kitikmeot.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

MR. NG:

Has the Minister consulted with the mining industry to see what their needs are?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 57-12(4): Employment Opportunities In Mining - Department's Plans

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, no, mainly because the honourable Member responsible for Economic Development and Tourism and Transportation was given some responsibility for coordinating the approach on behalf of government in terms of meeting with industry and the community. We have indicated to him that, as a department, we are prepared to support him in developing a comprehensive approach, both in terms of meeting the training needs for industry and training needs for other projects through government initiatives.

Let me give you one example. We are having discussions with regard to road development and there will obviously be some potential requirements there. There will be more specific issues with mining. Also, there is the matter of what happens with harbour development and the training needs of individuals who will be employed in that area.

It is a broad area that we're trying to look at in terms of making sure we have a comprehensive approach. Involved in that is more specific training requirements. We have to meet and approve the expenditures for that kind of training. Presently, it

is not clear what we need for training. Nobody's really given us an indication of what the needs are going to be.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 58-12(4): Percentage Allotted To Northern Firms Under The BIP

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing, and seeing he is not here, I will pose it to the Premier. If there are two companies in one particular community in the Northwest Territories -- one local and one from outside the community -- if there is bidding on a contract, what sort of percentage is given to the local company and what percentage is given to the company from outside the community where the job has to be done?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 58-12(4): Percentage Allotted To Northern Firms Under The BIP

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, according to my recollection, the percentage is ten and 15.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 58-12(4): Percentage Allotted To Northern Firms Under The BIP

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a situation in my community. A local person bidding on an electrical contract who is registered in the Northwest Territories as a northern contractor was not given a single percentage, not 15 per cent or 20 per cent. A person from outside the community was given 15 per cent. The Housing Corporation, in explaining to the local contractor, said the reason why the other person was given 15 per cent was because his electrician had health care registration with the Northwest Territories. How can a Newfoundlander who has never resided in

the Northwest Territories get health care from the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, that's a very specific question about a specific situation. I will take that as notice and seek further clarification on the details of the particular problem the honourable Member has expressed to this Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 59-12(4): WCB Outstanding Appeals

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. There are quite a number of people who have called me in the last little while and my colleague Mr. Lewis as well, concerned with the length of time

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it takes to get an appeal through the Workers' Compensation Board. It is quite sad to hear, Mr. Speaker, people wait for quite some time before getting an opportunity to appeal their case. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of the number of appeals outstanding before the Workers' Compensation Board? Perhaps a second question would be how long would it take to clear up this backlog?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 59-12(4): Outstanding Appeals And Time Frame To Clear Backlog

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, both the board of directors and the administration of WCB are well aware that perhaps one of our failings in this new direction we've been taking is the fact that we have been unable to speed up the appeal process. I'm told that the appeal

process -- and it is almost embarrassing to say -- takes somewhere between 300 and 400 days. We currently have a backlog of somewhere around 44 appeals. I understand there are about three or four pending, so we should be looking at somewhere between 40 and 50 appeals. If it takes 300 to 400 days I will probably be dead by the time we get them all done.

We do recognize the seriousness of this and the frustration, particularly if you're the worker who is injured and have brought forward the appeal. Just recently, we've initiated -- through the chairperson of the appeals committee, Mr. Bourque -- a commitment to sit for a full six month period to try to clear up those appeals. It is recognized as an issue. It is a long, drawn-out process. It is not a simple one. I have a commitment from the chairman and the committee that they will make every effort to bring the backlog of those appeals to some conclusion, as quickly as possible. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 59-12(4): Outstanding Appeals And Time Frame To Clear Backlog

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked the Minister if workers' compensation and the board that deals with the appeals are compelled by law to meet a certain number of days, in which a person would rightfully have to be heard. Is there a stipulation somewhere in the regulations that require this to be dealt with, within a specific period of time?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 59-12(4): Outstanding Appeals And Time Frame To Clear Backlog

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether there are any conditions which say in what period of time we have to do those appeals. I will tell the ordinary Member, we do recognize that it's one area of priority concern to the Workers' Compensation Board and to the appeals committee. We also recognize that it's taking an inordinate amount of time to try to deal with these appeals and that it's extremely frustrating for the

injured workers. We are endeavouring, effective immediately, to sit for a full six-month period -- I'm told by Mr. Bourque, the chairman -- in an effort to resolve these appeals we now have before us. Whether we're required under statute to answer those appeals in a specific period of time, I really at this point in time can't answer that. I will get the answer for the honourable Member by tomorrow. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. During the last territorial election campaign and during the last session, there was considerable interest in the development of the access to information legislation. I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice, what is the status of the development of information legislation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month we dealt with this issue. What this government is proposing to do is prepare a legislative action paper for the February session which will deal with the legislation that the Member is referring to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I always thought the intent was to prepare the legislation. To me, a legislative action paper means another year or two year delay because it has to go back for public input. Can the Minister clarify the intent of the legislative action paper?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I should correct myself. It's not going to be a legislative action paper, it's going to be draft legislation that we will present to the House in February.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

MR. KOE:

Thank you. During the discussions when the Standing Committee on Finance did their community reviews, there was talk of an ombudsman position. Can the Minister indicate whether the position of an ombudsman is going to be included in this draft legislation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 60-12(4): Status Of Access To Information Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The cost of the proposals was looked at and I think what we will probably suggest is -- if there is going to be a commissioner -- to set up an office of the access and privacy commissioner, which would include the duties of an ombudsman, if Members agree. That's what we will probably suggest.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 61-12(4): Relocation Of Hall Beach Power Plant

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of the Power Corporation a question

regarding the new power plant being built in Hall Beach. I have conveyed my concern to the Minister regarding the location. The community would like to locate the new power plant away from the community, and the hamlet has identified a lot for the Power Corporation for the new power plant. Are the Minister and her staff willing to accept the community's concern and move the power plant outside the community so the tanks are not right in the middle of the community? That was the concern of the local people, that the tanks were right in the community and there was a danger of there being spillage or an accident. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 61-12(4): Relocation Of Hall Beach Power Plant

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 1992, the Member did request that we bring attention to this matter. It was argued at that time that the power plant in its present location was a safety hazard and that the pipeline between the plant and the POL tank farm is an inconvenience to hunters. Mr. Speaker, the corporation has identified a capacity shortfall in Hall Beach and is in the final stages of tendering for supply and construction. The municipality of Hall Beach is under the misunderstanding that the current building extension could operate as a new, relocated, stand-alone power plant. This is not the case. The materials that are proposed for the 1993-94 season are intended for expansion and reconditioning of the existing power plant. By the end of the fiscal year, the corporation will have committed in excess of \$500,000 to the project. Materials and construction of the expansion are estimated at an additional \$1.8 million in 1993 and 1994.

Mr. Speaker, in developing an argument for new plant construction and relocation, the corporation considers such issues as structural stability, the foundation integrity, generating capacity and operational safety.

In the case of the Hall Beach generating facility, the only legitimate shortfall was that of generating capacity and that was most effectively addressed in the context of plant reconditioning and expansion. The building extension is complete. The new engine is installed and is scheduled to be commissioned in December. The contractor will leave the community

at that time and is planning to complete any deficiency in the new year. That's a long answer for the background on the issue, and the short answer is there is no consideration and argument for relocation at this time. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 61-12(4): Relocation Of Hall Beach Power Plant

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the power plant cannot be moved because it is nearly at the completed stage, is the Power Corporation willing to move the tanks away from the community because of safety concerns? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 61-12(4): Relocation Of Hall Beach Power Plant

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time it would appear by the decisions that have been made that the argument for safety is not sufficient in order to move those tanks. There is no decision at this present time to relocate the tanks. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 62-12(4): Student Drop-Out Rate In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I noted in the capital budget address Mr. Nerysoo's dilemma. The good news is that there are more young people staying in school. My understanding is that we have a national problem of drop-outs. So, I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, what is the current drop-out rate in the Northwest Territories?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 62-12(4): Student Drop-Out Rate In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The present drop-out rate is about 76 per cent, compared to 30 per cent for Canada as a whole.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 62-12(4): Student Drop-Out Rate In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

I didn't quite get the figure that the Minister gave me as the drop-out rate, but it seemed like a high figure. The national drop-out rate, according to Statistics Canada, is 18 per cent. In the Maritimes, it's 30 per cent. In the west, it's 16 per cent. So, I'd like to ask the Minister, since the northern figure seems to be much, much higher than the national average, could he give some explanation as to why our drop-out rate seems to be larger than what exists in the south?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

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Further Return To Question 62-12(4): Student Drop-Out Rate In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no one particular issue that is causing NWT students to leave school early but matters such as poverty, lack of parental experience with formal education and school system that has been originally based on southern models are just a few of the factors that have been identified so far in our assessment as to why children are leaving school early. Of course, the honourable Member is also aware that some of the strategies that we are developing, such as training more aboriginal teachers and counsellors to reflect cultures, the extension of high school grades in the communities, and offering programs to attract drop-outs back into school have resulted in increases in secondary school enrolments. Beginning in 1991-92, the enrolment in high school increased by 28 per cent. In 1992-93, by

19 per cent and in 1993-94, by 17 per cent. These increases promise a higher completion rate of about 42 per cent. In other words, we are going from about a 34 per cent up to 42 per cent at this particular juncture. So, we're beginning to see those rate increases occurring.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 63-12(4): Minister's Attendance At Turnover Of Water Treatment Plant, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN:

My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Todd. With regard to the official turnover of the Fort Providence water treatment plant facility, I received a letter from the previous Minister on November 16, saying that he will be travelling to Fort Providence for that event. But, as the Minister is no longer in that position, I'd like to ask the interim Minister if he intends to travel to Fort Providence for that official turnover?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 63-12(4): Minister's Attendance At Turnover Of Water Treatment Plant, Fort Providence

HON. JOHN TODD:

I believe the opening is somewhere around December 9 and 10 and I have previous commitments...I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check my travel itinerary and see if it was possible. It certainly would be my intention -- if time permits and my itinerary permits -- to be there. I would be delighted. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question has been noted. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 64-12(4): Assistance For Missing Person Search, Arviat

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. I'm

sure that some Members are aware that a person is missing from the community of Arviat right now and they are out searching for the person. I would like to know how much assistance the community is receiving in this search from the Government of the Northwest Territories?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 64-12(4): Assistance For Missing Person Search, Arviat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share with the honourable Member the concern, with respect to the individual who is lost out of Arviat. It's my understanding that the community has demonstrated the kind of community spirit that Arviat has by donating a considerable amount of money to help in the search. I'm not clear as to how much investment or money we've given out as MACA, but I will look into it and get back to the honourable Member tomorrow. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Member is asking for unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period has been extended. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 65-12(4): Periodontist Services In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the current Minister of Health. Some time ago, I had directed -- as a matter of fact it was during the last session -- a question to the then Minister of Health, pertaining to the establishment of a permanent periodontist in the Northwest Territories. To date, I haven't received an answer from the department. I would just like to bring that question up again because there are quite a

number of people from the Northwest Territories who have to go to the south -- to various cities I guess -- to see their periodontists to have this work done because there isn't that type of a specialist here in the territories. I'd like to know whether or not anything has been done in that area in the past little while, Mr. Speaker, to establish this badly needed service here in the territories?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 65-12(4): Periodontist Services In The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the previous Minister of Health, Ms. Mike, did some work on that issue. She made arrangements with a clinic in Yellowknife to bring in periodontists and unfortunately that did not work out, Mr. Speaker. We still recognize it as a problem and, as late as last week, we have been advised of another clinic making an offer to a specialist to come and do that kind of work.

I would say, while we are on the subject, Mr. Speaker, there's also a problem in other areas of the care of teeth. The amount of orthodontic work done in the Northwest Territories is considerable. There's been a proposal made by the Keewatin Health Board to us in that regard. We are trying to address the whole problem across the Northwest Territories.

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So, with the issue that Mr. Whitford raises again and with the pressing issue of the orthodontic work in the Northwest Territories, we're trying to come to some resolution, whereby we do have those people somehow resident in the Northwest Territories and they travel to the patients, as opposed to the patients travelling to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 66-12(4): Extension/Renewal Of Evergreen Forestry Contract

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Again, with the

resignation of Mr. Alloo, there was a commitment made by the previous Minister that he would negotiate a five year contract with Evergreen Forestry, with an option of two more years. I would like to ask the Minister whether he is committed to that process and whether he will continue to support Evergreen Forestry in that commitment?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 66-12(4): Extension/Renewal Of Evergreen Forestry Contract

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, if that is the business run by the Hay River Reserve -- providing Fort Providence and Kakisa -- it is seen very positively by the department. It is a good working arrangement and the government is very supportive of renewing the agreement to extend that work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question

is for the Minister of Justice. I would like to find out from the Minister what the status of the RCMP training is in the Northwest Territories?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Member could be a little more specific about what RCMP training the Member is inquiring about?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 67-12(4): Status Of RCMP Special Constable Training In The NWT

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a young person in Baker Lake who had gone through procedures to

get into the training program of the RCMP. Since the fall, he has not been able to continue with his training. I am just wondering whether there still is an RCMP program that young people in the Northwest Territories can get into?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 67-12(4): Status Of RCMP Special Constable Training In The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain what that person from Baker Lake who had his training discontinued has to do with the RCMP. But, for some time now, the special constable program has been terminated. There is some provision made for trying to bring northern and aboriginal people into the RCMP force as full members, but I'm not sure what the Member is talking about with regard to the person from Baker Lake.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Supplementary To Question 67-12(4): Status Of RCMP Special Constable Training In The NWT

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister was not directly related to the person from Baker Lake. My question was more in a general sense. What is happening with the program on special constables, that particular program. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that the special constable program was terminated. I would like to find out when that was and why that was. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 67-12(4): Status Of RCMP Special Constable Training In The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I have to ask the RCMP for the reasons. I'm sure they have some specific reasons for it. I do know that the age of special constables was a special time in the history of the RCMP when, out of necessity, they

required the special services of aboriginal and northern people to assist them in their work policing the communities, under what they found to be very harsh and uncompromising conditions.

As the north moved into more settlement types of lifestyles with increasing demands by northern and aboriginal people to be treated on a more equitable basis, I think the RCMP decided that the special constable program should be phased out. There have been some moves to bring northern and aboriginal people into the RCMP with different training programs, but treating them very much as full and equal members within the force. That reflected more the needs and aspirations of people here in the north.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. About four years ago, the owners of Neptune Resources sought the assistance of this government and the federal government on the strength of the hiring policies, hiring a few Dogrib people and providing all kinds of activity to local businesses. This House even had a loan guarantee act ready to support such a project. This mine is due to reopen again this spring. It is in new hands but I think the same principles

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are involved. Would the Minister indicate whether there has been any request for assistance to get this mine on stream again? If I've asked the wrong Minister, then I'll let the Premier decide.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. We will try, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no request for assistance from this new operation, as far as I'm

aware, and certainly none from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

MR. LEWIS:

About three years ago when the mine was closed down there was a request that some funds be set aside to build an ice road. Many of us, locally, feared that if such funds were made available, then perhaps not only would that mine be closed down but all of the equipment would be shipped out along that ice road. My question is, has there been any request to try to assist with building any kind of transportation infrastructure into this mine?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

HON. JOHN TODD:

There have been discussions with respect to expanding the ice road from the ice road in Yellowknife, in Mr. Zoe's riding, to Lac La Martre and Rae Lakes. I want to assure the honourable Member and this House that I would certainly not approve any financial investments into the Neptune mine area unless there was clearly significant benefit to northerners. In the world that I live in, good business is good paper. We have no paper, therefore, there is no business.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

MR. LEWIS:

Since the previous request to the government involved commitments to hiring local people and getting local business and so on, has there been any offer by the mine to make similar kinds of provisions for the reopening of this mine, in return for

government assistance, in any of the discussions that have taken place to date?

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 68-12(4): Government Assistance To Neptune Resources Mine Property

HON. JOHN TODD:

None that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker, at this time. I want to reiterate again, my position as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is clear. There will be no public funds allocated to my portfolio without significant benefits being accrued to northerners.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 11-12(4): Policy And Funds For Missing Persons

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

What is the overall policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories when there are missing persons from a community as a result of hunting?

What procedure is followed by the Government of the Northwest Territories when a person is missing?

How much funding is made available to search and rescue in various communities?

Does the Government of the Northwest Territories assist search and rescue committees' acquiring equipment, for example, snowmobiles, boats and motors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Patterson.

Written Question 12-12(4): Licensed Premises In Iqaluit And Yellowknife

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Safety and Public Services.

How many licensed premises exist in the town of Iqaluit?

What is the volume of liquor sales on an annual basis in those licensed premises in the town of Iqaluit? What revenues flow to the Government of the Northwest Territories from these sales?

What is the volume of liquor sales and revenues from licensed premises in the city of Yellowknife?

How many full-time liquor inspectors are located in Yellowknife? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, written questions. Before we go on to the next item, let's take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I call this meeting back to order. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

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ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, I have return to Written Question 5-12(4), asked by Mr. Patterson, to the Minister of Social Services concerning the town of Iqaluit's social services operation budget.

Return To Written Question 5-12(4): Town Of Iqaluit Social Services Operation Budget

The Department of Social Services will be providing the town of Iqaluit with sufficient funds to deal with the December program funding requirements. Those monies will be transferred to the town's account prior to December 1, 1993, as per the agreement with the town of Iqaluit. There should be no need for interim financing costs on the part of the town of Iqaluit.

The Department of Social Services received the town of Iqaluit's proposed draft 1994 budget on August 17, 1993. The town is seeking substantial increases which require a great deal of analysis and discussion. Formal discussions with the town were scheduled to

begin the week of October 18, 1993, but unfortunately, this did not occur.

However, the Department of Social Services will be sending two senior staff members to Iqaluit November 24, 1994, to meet with the town administrator and Social Services staff to work out a solution to the 1994 budget submission.

I expect to be able to approve the 1994 budget for the town of Iqaluit prior to December 31, 1993.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees, Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 4-12(4): Committee Follow-up On The Department Of Health's Response To Recommendations Contained In Committee Report 18-12(3) Tabled On March 24, 1993

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of speaking for the first time in our new building here. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts has the honour of presenting a report on the committee follow-up of the Department of Health's response to recommendations contained in Committee Report 18-12(3), tabled on March 24, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, at the request of the 11th Assembly, the Auditor General of Canada performed a comprehensive audit of the Department of Health in late 1991 and early 1992. Their report was formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 17, 1992 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for review. The standing committee completed its public review and tabled report 18-12(3), Public Review of Tabled Document 5-12(3), Report of Auditor General of Canada on a comprehensive audit of the Department of Health, on March 24, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, when the standing committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the chairman made a commitment to actively follow up the recommendations on a timely basis.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the monitoring process, the process of follow up committee recommendations began in August of 1993, in preparation for the September meeting of the standing committee. At that time, the chairman contacted each of the witnesses who participated in a public review of the Auditor General's report, asking for their observations on the Department of Health's response to the recommendations. In addition, the chairman asked the Department of Health to provide the committee with a status report regarding each of the 28 recommendations.

In asking for these responses, the chairman noted that the committee was fully aware that the department had not had sufficient time to respond fully to all the recommendations. However, the committee expected that activities scheduled for completion in the fall would be complete or near completion and that those scheduled later would be under way.

The committee received ten responses from previous witness, or stakeholders, in the process. The names of these respondents and the organizations they represent are listed in Appendix A.

Mr. Speaker, the written response from the Department of Health was received on September 10, 1993. The committee asked to receive this information by August 25. Further, when departmental officials appeared before the committee, Members were informed that this was not the official or formal response to the recommendations themselves but rather an update of activities taken. Department of Health officials said that the official response would be submitted to the committee by the end of September. At the time of tabling this report, Mr. Speaker, this response has not been given to the committee.

Overall, the committee found the Department of Health's response to its request for information to be completely unsatisfactory. The timing and nature of the response prevented the standing committee from fulfilling its monitoring responsibilities efficiently and effectively. Consequently, this report, originally intended to be a comprehensive assessment of the department's response to committee recommendations to date, merely summarizes, and where possible comments on, information provided by previous witnesses and by the department.

Mr. Speaker, the information presented in this section comes from three sources. These sources are as

follows: Written responses from witnesses who made presentations to the committee in January 1993; a written response from the Department of Health; and, department officials, in their appearance before the standing committee in September 1993.

The 28 recommendations from the committee are produced in Appendix B of this document. These recommendations were reported to the Legislative Assembly under eight headings. These headings, used again to organize the summary information presented in this report, are listed as follows: a) comments on the management response to the audit and public review; b) organization review; c) planning for the future; d) managing people; e) managing information; f) capital

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assets; g) financial issues; and, h) management reporting and accountability.

Comments on Management Response to the Audit and Public Review

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health indicated, in its written response to the Committee, that it is "developing information on organizational structure and on human resource management and will make every effort to meet future information requirements of the Legislative Assembly".

Mr. Speaker, the committee noted that the department's efforts in this regard are not yet evident. Moreover, the committee expressed extreme disappointment in the department's response to its most recent request for information. Mr. Speaker, stakeholders did not comment on this particular recommendation.

Organizational Structure

In its written response, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health indicated that these recommendations will be addressed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding project, currently being undertaken by Western Health Planning Associates. The consultants for this project are reviewing the roles, responsibilities, relationships, reporting requirements and communication channels between the Department of Health and the regional health boards. Written documents that will guide the department's relationships with the health boards are being developed.

The Department of Health indicated that many of the specific projects or activities required to respond to the recommendations two and three must await completion of the Memorandum of Understanding project. Departmental officials expect that the final report will be submitted by November.

However, the Department of Health reported, when appearing before the standing committee in September, that some activity has occurred in response to recommendations two and three. Specifically, officials noted that on site technical and professional consulting services have been delivered to various boards.

Some of the stakeholders who responded to the committee's request for information reported that the Department of Health has not, to their knowledge, complied with these recommendations.

Planning for the Future: Functional Review

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health officials reported that they would soon be selecting a consulting group, from a short list of three, to conduct a full-scale functional review of the department. The department specified, in the terms of reference for the project, that the functional review is to be complete by the end of this calendar year, December, 1993.

Respondents, generally, Mr. Speaker, suggested that they were aware that a contract would soon be awarded to consultants for the completion of a functional review.

NWT Way and Planning the Delivery and Administration of Health Care Services

Mr. Speaker, in response to recommendation number five, the Department of Health, in conjunction with a number of stakeholder groups, has developed a set of health system principles. These principles, as listed, were agreed to, in draft, on June 3, by stakeholder groups involved: one, health is a concern and responsibility of society; two, individual and community responsibility and actions toward health will be promoted and encouraged; three, the people will be actively involved in health planning, management and decision-making; and four, the linguistic, cultural and spiritual values of residents will be reflected in the health system; five, protection will be provided and encouraged against infectious disease, injurious substances and harmful practices; six, required and effective services will be available and accessible to all persons and provided in a

manner acceptable to them; seven, services will be provided by the most appropriate provider and as close to home as possible; eight, services available within the NWT will be maximized; nine, services will be provided in the most efficient and economical way and within existing resources; ten, aboriginal people will increasingly be involved as service providers, managers and decision-makers; 11, lastly, opportunities for education, training, employment and economic benefit for residents will be provided or encouraged in the operation of the system.

Mr. Speaker, departmental officials reported that the consultation process and the development of principles are work that is leading into the development of a strategic plan for the department. The strategic planning process is being guided by a steering group, chaired by the Minister and includes chairpersons of health boards and the deputy minister.

The steering group is supported by technical and professional groups from within and outside the department. Departmental officials reported that it may be desirable, at some point, to hire a consultant to tie the process together. The department expects to have a draft document ready by the end of the calendar year, December 1993.

One respondent indicated that they were not aware of the Department of Health preparing and/or updating a document that formally defines the rationale, purpose and substance of the NWT Way for health delivery. On the other hand, other respondents indicated that they have been involved with the department in developing a plan for NWT health systems.

Mr. Speaker, it would appear that, for some respondents, the department's efforts in planning for the delivery and administration of health care services have not met expectations, either with respect to the consultation process and/or the results. As one respondent indicated, "It would appear that the department continues to 'plan to plan' for the delivery of health services in the Northwest Territories."

Further, Mr. Speaker, some respondents are not aware of any ongoing process developed by the department through which organizations can provide input into the formulation of an approach to deliver health care services in the Northwest Territories.

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Mr. Speaker, the Union of Northern Workers felt that the NWT Way of health care basically calls for nurses to perform more functions of doctors. They are concerned that this will cause more workload and stress for their members in remote areas.

Summary of Health Planning Activities

The deputy minister provided the committee at the September meeting with a synopsis of planning activities. He reported that the major activity is the strategic planning exercise. The strategic plan is expected to drive the system, the decisions and the allocation of funding. However, he noted that there was a preliminary step to the strategic plan, that being in agreement to some fundamental principle to assist in making decisions as the plan unfolds and in the operation and management of the system that emerges.

Accompanying the strategic planning exercise is the Memorandum of Understanding project that will guide the relationship between the major players and concurrently review the structure of the department. Overlying all of this activity is an informatics strategy for the overall Government of the Northwest Territories. The informatics strategy will describe the information and flow of information throughout the government.

Mr. Speaker, the committee noted a lack of overall coordination in the planning and monitoring activities currently being undertaken in the Department of Health. The committee feels that coordination is badly needed to bring all of the various planning and monitoring activities together into a cohesive framework and to ensure that overlaps and redundancies are avoided.

Workload Instruments and Procedures Applicable to Nurses

Departmental officials informed the committee that the workload measurement study and recommendations have been completed and have been reviewed and discussed with various boards. The tool is there and some of the boards are using it on an ongoing basis. To really make the tool work, computers are necessary to streamline the process and make the best use of time. The department is aiming to get more computers into the regions and into the health centres.

Mr. Speaker, some respondents noted that they were aware that the nursing services division of the

Department of Health had completed development of initial baseline measures for workload assessment tools. Further, they noted that they expect this work to be followed up with the development of quality assurance standards.

Managing People

Affirmative Action and Training Programs

The department indicated in its written response that a strategy to attract and support aboriginal people who want to enter the health profession is being expanded to include a clearly-defined mission statement. A proposal for developing a health care training program is being expanded to include a clearly defined mission statement, a proposal for developing a health career training program, and the use of Arctic College, federal government, and aboriginal groups training programs. During the department's appearance before the committee, officials indicated that they would undertake to have a draft strategy available by the beginning of session, November 17, 1993.

The Department of Health officials informed the committee that work had begun on this strategy and other projects related to committee recommendations in the human resource area, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Health officials said that they were unable to provide any more details to the committee at this time. The committee called the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to appear before it, in order to supplement the information provided by the Department of Health.

The deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment informed the committee that his department was assisting the Department of Health to develop responses to committee recommendations in a number of different areas. These include:

- The development of labour market profiles related to the health professions. Copies of this document were distributed to the committee.
- The development of a laddered approach towards the provision of services and professional opportunities within the health professions. This includes finding opportunities in para-professional areas such as community health representative program, the certified nursing assistance program, the ophthalmologist technician program, and the interpreter/translator program.

- Trying to identify the number of students who have engaged in post-secondary training and used departmental programs related to the health professions.

- Trying to match training programs to job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to attracting and supporting aboriginal people who want to enter the field of health administration, the Department of Health informed the committee that it has been very successful. The department obtained two positions for trainees in health policy. They advertised for applicants and were overwhelmed by the response. The successful candidates were to be notified the week following the committee meetings.

In its written submission, the Department of Health informed the committee that it will develop a strategy for attracting and supporting aboriginal people who want to enter the field of health administration. This, and the strategy dealing with health professions, will become a part of a comprehensive affirmative action plan and be available for the fall session of the Legislative Assembly.

One respondent, St. John Ambulance, shared their own experience in attempting to train aboriginal people to qualify for health-related jobs in the community. This organization informed the committee that they had encountered a number of difficulties in these attempts.

Other respondents stressed the importance of involving aboriginal and other health care organizations in the planning of such endeavours. These respondents felt that the chance

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of success would be increased if these organizations had input and if the input received from the various organizations was coordinated.

One respondent indicated that the Department of Health needs to develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan with respect to affirmative action, health care and cross-cultural training.

Further, some respondents suggested that the Public Accounts committee monitor the strategy and quality of the plans developed by the department in this area and not focus solely on the number of aboriginal people hired and trained, and the number of people who receive cross-cultural training.

Cross-Cultural Orientation And Training

The deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment informed the committee that its cross-cultural awareness training programs were generic, that is intended for all government employees. No special work is being undertaken with the Department of Health in this particular area.

The Department of Health, Mr. Speaker, informed the committee that the issue with respect to cross-cultural orientation was one of choosing an appropriate vehicle for implementing such a program. The department will have a recommendation on this matter by the opening of the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

Exit Interviews

The Department of Health officials reported that a system of conducting exit interviews has been implemented across the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Respondents, Mr. Speaker, indicated an awareness that a system for conducting exit interviews has been implemented for all departing departmental staff. Further, it was noted that the department has endeavoured to encourage health boards to implement a system of exit interviews for all departing staff.

Training - GNWT Performance Review And Planning System For Staff Appraisal

Mr. Speaker, with regard to training, GNWT performance review and planning system for staff appraisals was also included in recommendation 14.

In its written reply, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health said that all supervisors would be surveyed by September, 1993 to assess specific learning needs with respect to the performance review and planning system. Workshops will commence by November 30, 1993 and will be completed by April 30, 1994.

Mr. Speaker, some respondents indicated that they were not aware of the implementation of any process to comply with this particular recommendation.

Managing Information

Health Research

North Of 60 Research Program

With regard to section E, managing information which covers recommendations 15 to 24. Mr. Speaker, in its written submission to the committee, the Department of Health indicated that Health Canada has the lead role for the north of 60 research program and is conducting an evaluation of the project. The Department of Health, the Yukon government and the NWT Science Institute were partners in this initiative. Health Canada anticipates completing the evaluation by November 30, 1993.

Summary Of Health Research Studies

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health also indicated, in its written reply, that a summary of health research studies and scientific papers conducted by the Department of Health for the years 1988 through 1993 will be completed by December 31, 1993. Further, standards for research developed elsewhere are being reviewed to determine their applicability to the NWT environment.

When appearing before the committee, Mr. Speaker, departmental officials reported that the research summary was being expanded to include all such work done in the territories, rather than confining it to work done by the department. Second, they reported that there are some well-crafted guidelines for research that have been developed by other organizations. The department believe that they may be able to adapt those to their specific requirements in the territories, as opposed to developing a new set of guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, one respondent indicated that they were not aware of the activities undertaken by Health to comply with the recommendations regarding research. Another respondent advised that they have recently received a report regarding research issues.

Another respondent suggested that, "The summation of the Health research studies should include applied research information developed by other government departments as well as academic institutes or research laboratories,"

HIS System

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the HIS system. In the written response provided to the committee, the Department of Health said that a new system will be developed in flexible modules to ensure its ability to meet new and changing Department of Health requirements and policies. The first phase deals

primarily with the HIS in support of decentralization. It was completed by October 31, 1993.

Further, the integration of the health information system (HIS) and community health management information system (CHMIS) reporting will be considered in subsequent phases of development beginning in the new fiscal year.

In appearing before our committee, Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Health said that intense efforts to decentralize the

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health insurance services division has taken precedence over these and other initiatives.

One respondent indicates that they were not aware of departmental plans to comply with our recommendation. Another respondent reported that their executive director is a member of the patient information systems group initiated by the various health boards with departmental input.

Registration Tracking

With regard to registration tracking which is part of recommendation 18, Mr. Speaker, departmental officials informed the committee that they are proceeding with a re-registration of all NWT residents for health insurance services. It is expected that this will be completed by the end of December and will serve the new decentralized operation. Further, efforts are continuing to quickly and accurately determine when individuals leave the territories so their names can be removed from the system.

Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister indicated that there is some possibility of linkage to systems outside the NWT, which would indicate when a person has taken up residence elsewhere, but it may be a complicated exercise and, in fact, the cost may be a real barrier.

Mr. Speaker, respondents reported being aware that the department is endeavouring to implement various audit procedures in order to comply with this recommendation.

Agreements Re Reciprocal Medical Billings

The department's written response to our committee indicates that a coordinating committee on reciprocal billings, under Health and Welfare Canada, has been reviewing a variety of reciprocal billing issues. The NWT Department of Health has participated in that

review. The results will be made available to federal/provincial/territorial health departments to provide a framework for determining whether changes to any of these standing agreements are required.

Further, it is noted that copies of all territorial/provincial reciprocal billing agreements for physician services (medicare billings) are presently on file in the health insurance division.

Mr. Speaker, respondents reported that they had been advised that an agreement on the eligibility and portability of hospital and medical care insurance has been put in place for all provinces and territories, except for Quebec, and that these agreements have been included in the Department of Health's files.

Recovery Of Reciprocal Billings

With respect to the recovery of reciprocal billings, the department noted that it is currently fully occupied with decentralizing the health insurance division. All resources are directed to this task. Once this is completed, in March, 1994, the procedures for reciprocal billings will be reviewed and the necessary action undertaken.

When appearing before our committee, Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister noted further that it is important to evaluate how much effort should be put into attempting to recover relatively small amounts of money, particularly in relation to what it costs to collect. This is to be investigated and reported by the end of March, next year.

Respondents reported that they have been advised that the department has implemented the administrative clarification guide respecting the arrangement for the reciprocal processing of out of province hospital claims, and that this guide is being followed and outstanding payments are being recovered.

Policy and Procedure Repository

The department reported, in its written response, that it is exploring ways to facilitate sharing of information between headquarters and boards. One option under consideration is electronically held data bases accessible through electronic mail. The Dr. Otto Schaeffer Resource Centre will continue to be the principal focus for hard copy.

When appearing before the committee, the deputy minister indicated that this exercise was tied to the development of the government's overall informatics

strategy. Some respondents indicated that they were not aware of the department's plans for compliance to this recommendation.

Cross-Training and Rotation of Senior Health Managers

The Department informed the committee, in written form, that the current process through which senior managers become familiar with activities and mandates of other divisions or with board administration begins with an adequate orientation and includes regular updates at senior management meetings. In addition, the department is actively encouraging the temporary rotation of senior officials at the board and headquarters levels.

When appearing before the committee, the deputy minister requested that the committee view this recommendation and departmental responses to it in the context of the functional review.

One respondent said that, to date the Department of Health has not engaged the boards in any discussions regarding the development of a process through which senior managers can become familiar with the activities and mandates of boards. This would include temporary rotation of officials. Another respondent indicated that they were aware of the secondment of a Department of Health official to acting executive director -- presumably of a health board.

Policy and Legislative Division

The department indicated, in its written response, that the current mandate of the policy and legislation division will be assessed as part of the functional review, which is to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Respondents indicated that the development of a new mandate for the policy and legislation division should be dealt with as part of the Department of Health's functional review, as well as part of the development of the memorandum of understanding process between health boards and the Department of Health.

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Standardization Of Board Accounting Systems

The department, in its written response, reported that they are collaborating with health boards to select a standardized accounting system. If Financial Management Board approval is received,

implementation will likely occur by April 30, 1994, with an evaluation of the system conducted at each phase. The deputy minister noted during the committee meetings that this exercise will take place within the context of the informatics strategy.

One respondent feels that, although the department is working at purchasing a single accounting software package, it has yet to deal with the central issues that will ensure that accounting for health expenditures will be standardized across the NWT health/hospital boards.

One respondent reported that their director of finance and administration is a committee member studying present systems and working toward standardization.

Capital Assets: Post Occupancy Inspections

Mr. Speaker, the department responded to this recommendation by saying that all new and renovation construction projects will be evaluated after completion. A post-occupancy evaluation (POE) of a facility -- for renovation or new construction -- identifies successful and problematic facility situations or conditions. A preliminary process is in place and will be validated with the completion of the POEs planned for 1994-95.

Some respondents, Mr. Speaker, indicated that they were not aware of the department's plans to implement this recommendation.

Capital Assets Tracking System

The Department of Health, in its written submission, indicated that the initial installation of the capital assets tracking system (CATS) will be complete for one hospital and one health board by December 31, 1993. The balance will be completed by March 31, 1994.

Respondents indicated that they were aware that the Department of Health is developing a capital assets tracking system. Only some of the health boards reported that they were involved in this development.

Financial Issues

Our committee did not make any comments or recommendations, Mr. Speaker, in regard to financial issues.

Management Reporting And Accountability:
Management Training In Management For Results System (MFRS)

The Department of Health informed the committee that the first management for results workshop for managers and consultants was held in May 1993, in Yellowknife. A second workshop for health board managers was conducted in Iqaluit in June, 1993 and a third MFRS workshop for board and headquarters managers was held in Yellowknife on August 23

and 24, 1993. A fourth course will be held in March, 1994, site to be determined.

All workshops have been well-attended and a total of 65 participants have been trained, to date. By the end of the fiscal year, 1994-95, the objective is to improve managers' understanding of the development and use of results information. All participants in workshops will be followed up by headquarters staff.

Report On Definitive Objectives

The Department of Health informed the committee that a comprehensive report and plan for meeting any unfulfilled objectives will be complete by November 3, 1993.

Some respondents indicated that they were not aware of any plans for the Department of Health to comply with this recommendation.

Comments And Conclusions

Department Of Health Response To The Standing Committee On Public Accounts

The written response from the Department of Health was not received by the requested date. Further, Mr. Speaker, when departmental officials appeared before the committee, Members were informed that this was not the official or formal response to the recommendations themselves, but rather a brief update on activities taken. Department of health officials said that the official response would be submitted to the committee by the end of September. This official response has not been received at the time of writing this report. To date, Mr. Speaker, we still have not received that official response.

Overall, the committee found the Department of Health's response to its request for information to be completely unsatisfactory. The timing and nature of the response prevented your standing committee from fulfilling its monitoring responsibilities efficiently and effectively. Consequently, this report, originally intended to be a comprehensive assessment of the department's responses to the committee recommendations to date, merely summarizes and,

where possible, comments on information provided by previous witnesses and by the department.

It is interesting to note that the committee received more information about specific interdepartmental initiatives, which respond to committee recommendations, from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment than they did from Health officials.

Management And Planning

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health reported that initiation of many of the specific projects or activities, that must be undertaken to respond to committee recommendations, must await completion of the memorandum of understanding project,

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the functional review, the government's informatics strategy or any number of other internal or external events.

There appears to be a lack of overall coordination in the planning, timely implementation and monitoring of the various initiatives currently being undertaken in the Department of Health. Mr. Speaker, the committee feels that improved management and coordination are badly needed to bring together all the various initiatives which have been identified as requirements for the efficient and effective delivery of health care services in the Northwest Territories. The department requires a cohesive framework to organize its work and to ensure that gaps, overlaps and redundancies in service deliveries are avoided.

Stakeholder Responses

Mr. Speaker, the committee found the stakeholders' observations of departmental performance to be inconsistent. It appears that the Department of Health has managed to develop solid, effective working relationships with some stakeholders in the health field. However, others indicated dissatisfaction with the department's performance and with the consultation and communication process.

Respondents stressed the importance of involving aboriginal and other health care organizations in planning the delivery of health care services. It was felt strongly that the chance of implementing successful solutions to current difficulties would be enhanced considerably if the organizations had input and if the input received from the various organizations was coordinated.

Next Step

Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Public Accounts will continue to monitor the Department of Health until Members are satisfied that the department is accountable in carrying out its responsibilities and is responding appropriately to the health care needs of the citizens of the Northwest Territories.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 4-12(4), Carried

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the committee report. I would therefore move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Committee Report 4-12(4) be received and adopted.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I don't have a quorum. I need a quorum to vote. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees.
Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills.
Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government Leader I would like to table the following document: Tabled Document 6-12(4), chronology of events leading up to the appointment of the municipal administrator for the town of Iqaluit, November 22, 1993.

I have four other documents I would like to table at this time. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document:

Tabled Document 7-12(4), building a strategy for dealing with violence the NWT.

I would like to table, Tabled Document 8-12(4), proposed draft of a declaration on family violence by the Legislative Assembly.

I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 9-12(4), Department of Justice response to "The Justice House," report of the Special Advisor on Gender Equality.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document: Tabled Document 10-12(4), Environmental Rights Act, 1991 and 1992 annual report. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions, Motion 1-12(4), Setting of Sitting Hours by Speaker. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Koe, are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 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; Committee Report 1-12(4), Talking and Working Together; and, Committee Report 3-12(4), Report on Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will now come to order with a number of items to deal with, Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Bill 1, Committee Report 1-12(4) and Committee Report 3-12(4). What is the committee's wish? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'd like to follow the same procedure as we did yesterday with regard to taking some time to address the Sessional Statement, followed by Bill 1, then the Special Committee on Health and Social Service's final report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. We'll deal with Minister's Statement 3-12(4) as the first item, moving to Bill 1, then to Committee Report 3-12(4) and, time allowing, Committee Report 1-12(4). Would someone like to begin? Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 3-12(4): Sessional Statement

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Sessional Statement, one line there is improving the structure of government, it didn't work as well as it could and it was expensive to operate. We hear that a great deal of work has been done, departments have been consolidated and people moved around. However, the key question still remains. Has all of this change and destruction actually changed and improved the way government is delivered, the way things are working? In what quantifiable way has this improvement been measured?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'll give you an example. In terms of attempting to put a more consolidated approach to the delivery of services, what we've been able to do is decentralize as well. I know that when we were recently up in Inuvik, the residents of Inuvik had nothing but extreme praise and appreciation for the opportunity to be employed and have that gainful employment as a result of that opportunity. And I know that in Rankin Inlet, there's a similar feeling that it has given a boost to the community and it's allowing people to be trained for jobs that would otherwise be in Yellowknife. These are some of the measurements.

Certainly when I was up in Inuvik with Mr. Koe for the official opening, I talked to some of the employees who were there. I certainly felt that these were residents of the north, most of them born in the north, and others were long-term northerners. Certainly I could see the involvement they had and the employment opportunity was very much appreciated by the community.

I believe in Fort Simpson, it's a similar feeling in the community. We had a great number of people who put forth their names for job opportunities in that decentralization. As a result, jobs were freed up because of decentralization in the community. And I guess that's about how we measure it. It puts a thread through the opportunities of allowing more to be done in areas other than Yellowknife. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what the Premier just said, the only measure of whether this is more successful is whether or not the people in the communities feel that it's accomplished its job. But according to the sentence from your sessional statement, where you say that you're improving the structure of government -- that it didn't work as well as it could and that it's expensive to operate -- the implication is then that we've done something to actually improve the operation, to make it work better, to make it work more efficiently and more effectively. The implication is also that we've made it less

expensive to operate. So, the question that I'm asking is, how have you measured whether or not it is working better and it is more or less expensive to operate? I am not asking about whether or not the people are happy about the jobs. I think that having a job is a worthy goal and is obviously going to make somebody happy. You've said that the system was apparently very expensive, so where have these cost-savings come from as a result of reorganization? This is right out of your statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, that is one of the measures and I suppose it's the one that's highlighted. We have done some consolidation that helped, certainly trying to identify much more quickly where the functions are within government. So in terms of the cost-effectiveness -- if that's the question -- I will turn that over to the Minister of Finance to try to be a little more detailed in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was a major restructuring of the government, as everybody knows. We are starting to see some of those organizational advantages. Just to briefly explain, Mr. Chairman, all the expenditure management control functions have been integrated. That's been assigned to the Financial Management Board and that means that all Cabinet Members are involved in the decisions in that particular area.

All the revenue generation, the external financial arrangements have been consolidated in the Department of Finance. We have clear cut lines between what is internal, what is expenditure, management control and where we generate revenue from. Whether it's from the federal government or by taxation. Having that clean split, we believe, is going to pay off.

Collective bargaining, labour relations and human resource planning are also under the FMB secretariat and hence all Members of Cabinet are involved in the decisions made in those areas. And, of course, staffing remains at arms-length from that particular

process and remains with the Department of Personnel.

During the reorganization, an audit and evaluation department or division was set within the Financial Management Board secretariat and that audit and evaluation team will be the

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people who now start to derive information for us and begin to ascertain whether we are spending dollars well and whether programs are working well. And so, downstream, because of this new reorganization, we expect good management information from audit and evaluation.

The Financial Management Board -- and I think you heard Mr. Zoe refer to it many times in his report that he gave -- has started an informatics strategy. That was at the suggestion of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Chairman, and we recognize that we do not have all the information at our fingertips that we require. Many times when this House asks questions, it takes us days and days and sometimes weeks to put together information, whether it's on people, financial matters or statistics. We do not have that ability to draw that information out in a timely fashion. So, some of the problems that we are experiencing, at the present time, we hope will be resolved once we've done the informatics strategy. We will be able to draw for ourselves and for this House, information from the government system, in a timely fashion.

So, I don't expect to be able to see millions of dollars in savings immediately, but we are setting down the building blocks for an organization that will become more conscious of the expenditure of dollars, of the need to deliver programs in a timely fashion and of the fact that, as dwindling public resources come upon us and cutbacks are imminent from the federal government, that we will indeed be able to be more efficient. So, the efficiency part, we believe, is starting to kick in right now, Mr. Chairman. The fruits will be born down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to follow up on just a couple of things that Mr. Pollard just said. Before I

do that, there's something that the Premier said earlier that I would like to address.

In answering my question about the expense of government, or how expensive government was to operate, she indicated that perhaps decentralization was one thing that was helping to make government less expensive. And if I remember correctly, when we had a presentation on the cost of decentralization, there were significant one-time costs, perhaps in the order of \$8 million to \$10 million and an annual increase cost to government for operation of \$5 million. Decentralization -- not being a movement of service delivery to make it closer to people because you are moving administrative functions around -- was actually going to lead to a higher cost of government.

I was just wondering if we could have that straightened out. I was certain we had a presentation that said that the decentralization initiative was not only going to cost several millions of dollars on a one-time basis, but there was an ongoing cost to government because of the way decentralization was done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I guess I was answering only one part of the Member's inquiry -- how do you measure success and appreciation. Yes, I believe that when we entered into consolidation and some of decentralization, we knew that we couldn't do the decentralization unless we did some consolidation. That was supposed to work hand in hand. If we didn't streamline and consolidate, we wouldn't have the resources to redirect.

We did recognize at the front end that there would be costs, but in the long-term, it would balance out because of the ability for us to get our act in place here. I think one of the things that is questioned a lot is what is the role of the central agency, how does that work? I'm an advocate of a strong central agency. Some things have to exist here. But, I think if we can show the Northwest Territories what that role is and where they can take part, they will see it is long-term planning.

I know that sometimes it is felt that we plan in the period of a four year term. But, I think the outcome of consolidation and putting things where they should be

will allow those cost savings to be transmitted to decentralization. If we didn't have a response on one end, then it would be difficult to have the support in terms of the central part of our planning.

I think I probably only answered one part of your question. I hope that clears it up. I do recognize that at the front end, there were going to be heavier costs to start decentralization, but because it was done in conjunction with consolidation then in the long-term it will balance out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. General comments, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I guess we will be watching to see how they balance out. But I think if you use "balance" as you do on a balance sheet, then it is not going to balance out. I think this decision was politically made and more money was going to be spent to move some jobs around.

There is one other thing that I wanted to address. It comes from what the Premier and the Minister of Finance said in their responses to my questions here. They both allude to a strong central agency. When the Minister of Finance talks about how everything appears to have been moved into the FMB, to us on the outside it looks like we're creating a very strong central agency. In fact, it seems we are centralizing more and more of the government.

I know that the Minister of Finance said that the informatics strategy isn't available to give us a lot of the answers we're looking for, but I'm just wondering if an evaluation has been done on the number of PYs? What was the PY count prior to consolidation and what is it following consolidation? I'm talking specifically about those areas of Personnel and those areas in Finance where these moves have been made. Have we, in fact, managed to save any staff yet or has it just been a cosmetic shuffle?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The Minister of Finance will take this question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, those things will be completed. I can tell the Member that in December 1991, there were 6,133 employees in the public service. As of October 1993, there are 5,806 employees in the public service. There were some cutbacks and they were taken care of by the workforce adjustment program. Some, we believe, are a result of efficiency. Some are the result of privatization. But, we do have less people in the public service now than we did then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the sentences in the Premier's Sessional Statement says that, "Earlier this year, the Public Utilities Board and Highway Transport Board were located in Hay River." I find it interesting, Mr. Chairman, that in September the Minister of Transportation appeared before the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, indicating that the Highway Transport Board was being dissolved. This was only months after all the costs had been incurred moving the same entity to Hay River.

What sort of planning process is taking place here? Why would the government incur costs to decentralize and then eliminate the functions of the board?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It was only the board that was dissolved. The staff and the regulatory function is still being performed by the staff, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Todd. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we should ask for clarification. Are those jobs still located in Hay River? Were those PYs moved there and then found some

other function? Who in the past provided support to the board?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That's correct, Mr. Chairman. The staff functions of regulations, et cetera, are still being performed in Hay River. The requirement for a board was deemed to be redundant and we asked for and got support to cancel the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Todd. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One other thing that I would like to address from the Premier's Sessional Statement today is privatization, which she touched on. Obviously, there has to be a balance when you talk about privatizing activities. There has to be a balance between the way the government is doing it, and there has to be an assessment of whether or not the private sector will do it for less or if, in fact, all you're doing is ensuring that profits go out where you had an efficient operation before.

I'm just wondering if the government has, in fact, done analyses where they have considered privatization. For instance, when you privatized the print shop, was there an analysis done to ensure that the incremental cost to the government wouldn't be significant, or was there found to be no incremental cost? Was it found to be more efficient? What I'm looking to find out is, is there any process of assessing what parts of Government Services could be privatized? Are we doing it just on the basic philosophy that all privatization is better, or is there in fact a process of evaluation so there's a measurement done to determine whether any certain privatization that's proposed is, in effect, going to be worthwhile?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The Minister of Finance will answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, when items are selected for privatization, first of all there's a general discussion about whether it could be privatized. If it is privatized, is the expertise in the Northwest Territories to continue that function? When we looked at printing and publications, we ascertained that certainly there were business people in the Northwest Territories who were quite capable of doing the job that was previously done in government. I must say that some of Mr. Dent's own constituents have come up to me and said, in no uncertain terms, that they're certainly in favour of privatization. I would assume from that, Mr. Chairman, that they had received some contracts or had done some work for the government and were putting their process to work much more than they had been before.

First of all, as I said, could the people in the Northwest Territories...is there expertise to do it? Secondly, does it make sense? Is it something that's concise enough in government that it could be privatized and not affect all the government. We looked at printing, sale of Government of the Northwest Territories publications -- which was sort of connected -- and liquor warehouses and liquor stores. Of course, when it came to liquor stores, it had been done in the past and there was considerable knowledge on how it had worked in the past and that knowledge was drawn upon. It was taken a little further because there was a warehouse in Hay River which was totally privatized. That was done on the basis of a tender or proposal call -- I can't remember which, Mr. Chairman. I can assure the Members here that those numbers that were received by the liquor board were looked at and analyzed to see whether or not government would in fact gain from it. At the present time, we believe it's working well. I'm not prepared to say here and now that we're going to save a whole lot of dollars, but if it's a wash then I think we'll be happy with the fact that we're getting out of some businesses that private sector can get involved in, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so the Minister of Finance doesn't misunderstand me, having some experience in the private sector, I support getting the private sector to do the job whenever possible. My question specifically was, do we do an economic analysis of the impact of privatization on this government before making a decision?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in as much as it's possible to analyze that situation before we make a decision, yes. In other areas, when we've called for proposals, we've done the analysis after we've seen what the private sector would suggest to us they could do. I would point out to Members of the committee, although it's not directly related, it's similar. When we sell off housing units. we take away money from departments that would have been supporting those government units by whatever means, whether it was MACA through grants in lieu, or DPW through electricity, utilities and so on. It's not that we're just getting rid of things and allowing departments to retain those funds. On the other side of it, as we get things into the private sector and are no longer responsible for them, we're demanding back from those departments that had previously maintained those facilities, those funds so we can see what's coming back to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. General comments. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Sessional Statement, there are comments made on stimulating local economies by improving local housing markets. It went on to talk about implementing the staff housing strategy, and talked about selling 89 units with another 91 pending, and an estimated \$500,000 worth of tools and materials that have been purchased from the private sector to renovate houses.

My question is on the units that were sold. Were the prices they were sold for fair and reasonable market prices, or were they fire sale prices?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We certainly don't think they were fire sale prices, although they were, in some cases, a little less than market value. We felt that was okay. We felt that getting people into their own houses, having an asset underneath them was a good thing. I can point out to Mr. Koe, as he well knows, that there were a couple of sales in Inuvik whereby we knew there was a considerable amount of work to be done to those particular units. When we looked at the amount of work that had to be done to those units, and looked at the price we were being offered, we made an arrangement for a sale in that particular regard.

Mr. Chairman, I would point out that although the Government of the Northwest Territories has been selling its own houses in level I communities and in some level II communities, there have also been some sales I'm familiar with in Hay River, by Northern Transportation Company Limited and by NorthwesTel, as well. So, there have been other people who have been doing a similar thing that we have been doing. If you had tried to get a carpenter in Hay River in August or September of this year, it would have been very difficult. When I inquired as to why, we found out that as soon as people acquired their own houses, they were wanting them to be fixed up. They were wanting the roofs fixed and the fences fixed, they were buying paint and painting their houses, and taking some pride in those houses. So I did a little checking around the Northwest Territories where we've been selling houses and I found that was the same situation. So, I think in addition to getting people into their own housing units, in addition to getting them some equity, we have, perhaps, inadvertently, stimulated the economy in those particular areas as well.

Did we get hosed on them? No, I don't think so, Mr. Chairman. Did we sell them all at market value? No, Mr. Chairman, we probably sold quite a few of them at below market value, but we figure it was well worth it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. The majority of houses, I assume, were in level I communities. Can the Minister advise how many houses were sold outside of level I communities, or were any houses sold in other than level I communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, my records are not nearly as up to date as Mr. Morin's records are. There were some sold outside of level I communities. We offered houses in Rae and Coppermine. I'm sure there were some in Rankin Inlet, Tuktoyaktuk, Igloolik, Arviat and that's all I see on the list at the present time.

I'm not nearly as up to date as Mr. Morin would be, but certainly we did go outside of the level I communities and got into the level II communities. If the Member wants an update on that, I will provide it to him tomorrow, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There has been, obviously, some impact on local housing markets because of this decision. Can the Minister advise us whether the impacts have been negative or positive in the communities that have had large sales of houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I do have the information with regard to Mr. Koe's previous question and I'll answer that first, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, there were 271 tenants in level II and III communities and they expressed an interest in purchasing single units at the initial call. To date, 16 units have been sold

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and there are 53 more deals pending. There are 80 more requests that have come forward during the intervening period and we will be giving consideration

on how to address those requests in the near future, as we will be looking at row housing, eight-plexes and four-plexes, et cetera.

Did we affect the housing market in communities, Mr. Chairman? Personally, in Hay River, I didn't get any complaints there about housing. I am not aware that there were any complaints in Yellowknife. We did initially have some problems in Inuvik and I think those were straightened around. I think people are now beginning to realize that there is an initial impact, there is no question about that, but it might only last 90 days, 6 months or it might last a year.

When you are investing in a house, Mr. Chairman, you are usually investing in that particular facility for some considerable period of time. After those initial bumps, as people get used to the idea as the housing units come on the market, I think we'll ultimately see the housing market maybe not race ahead -- as it did in the late 1970s, early 1980s and maybe even the mid-1980s -- but certainly it will be a steady growth pattern, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe again.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the selling of these houses, in some communities the intent -- as I understood it -- was to utilize real estate agents. In some cases, they were used and in some cases, they weren't used. Can the Minister indicate the success it had in utilizing real estate agents and the impact of that business on the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Member for Hay River.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that there was a large impact on the realtors in Yellowknife. I can see from the numbers that are before me that there were considerable commissions paid to realtors. I can see one commission here as high as \$11,550 on the sale of one house. There are a couple of others in the \$10,000 range. No, we didn't use realtors all over the place. The reason for that, I believe Mr. Chairman, was that we offered it to the tenant first.

By offering it to the tenant first, it did not go to the realtor. But I think there were commitments made in this House in our previous location, that when those units actually became free and clear -- if there was a realtor in town and it was our intention to sell it -- we would in fact would use a realtor where those people existed. I don't think anything has changed with that, Mr. Chairman. As we move forward and go to the next step, where we can use the realtors, we will do so.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I know that the use of realtors has had an impact on the prices. Houses that were once offered to employees for \$80,000 to \$90,000, are now in the hands of realtors and are on the market for \$110,000 to \$115,000. It has had that kind of impact on the prices.

When the sale of staff housing strategy was announced, there was an initial reaction from staff. A lot of staff were going to quit and leave because they couldn't afford housing, utilities and the associated costs. Can the Minister indicate what impact this strategy had on the levels of staff in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think a lot of staff are learning to live with it and that it is not nearly as bad as they felt it was going to be. We were told that we would have a mass exodus and so on and so forth. We haven't seen that, Mr. Chairman.

But, I would advise the House that this morning I received a report from Mr. Voytilla with regard to teachers in the Northwest Territories and it would appear that there have been a number of teachers who have left the territories. I don't know what the reason is. As I said, I received the report this morning. It is something we will look into because I immediately wondered if this had anything to do with their leaving.

Over and above that, I for the most part have received favourable comments from some of the people who have purchased houses. They have been

encouraged to do so either by staff members themselves or by groups of people out there who may wish to take advantage of the next round of sales, which would be the multi-plexes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure we could continue on with our comments at quite great length about the Sessional Statement. However, we would like to address the Department of Transportation. Therefore, I would like to move that we defer the Sessional Statement made by the Premier until a later date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Is the committee in agreement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Therefore, we shall defer Minister's Statement 3-12(4) to a later time. What is the committee's wish?

MR. PATTERSON:

We wish to discuss the Department of Transportation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Committee Report 3-12(4), Review Of The 1994-95 Capital Estimates

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We'll move on to the Department of Transportation. I believe where we left off yesterday was on the review. I think we were still discussing a recommendation. I

believe there was a motion put forward. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Department Of Transportation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, there was a motion on the floor yesterday. I believe the motion was being discussed at the time. I don't know if there are any further general comments on that motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Are there any further comments on the motion? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments I have to make today, Mr. Chairman, relate to the process by which the transportation strategy was made and the considerable amount of pain that the Minister went to, to get his staff to describe to us exactly what this process was.

There was a detailed explanation of the criteria used and Members were convinced that the criteria used was objective, laid down to guide the department in how it goes about its business. And it was no different then my recollection of the criteria that are used for the building of all infrastructure. For example, I know that when a decision is made to build something, or to replace something, they look at things like safety issues. This building is no longer safe, so we have to fix it up or replace it. It may be old, no longer designed to serve the purpose that it was originally built to serve.

In the case of the road from Providence to Yellowknife, that road was built in the 1950s, the beginnings of it. The intention at that time was it would be a road -- a rough track, so that transportation would be better than it existed on the lake -- especially to serve the mining community, where lots of heavy equipment would be coming across the road. There was no feeling at that time that this road would have a tremendous amount of wheeled traffic, bringing in tourists from all over North America. Whenever you decide you are going to do something, you have to use some criteria. And, we were given a special briefing -- all Members -- to explain why it is that priorities had been established the way they were. I was very interested to see if there was anything there that I found difficult to accept and I couldn't. There was every attempt to find out if

there was something there that wasn't just right -- wasn't correct if you like -- I listened to the whole briefing and I found nothing there that was out of line with the established policies of the government, in the way they go about deciding what infrastructure to build. For that reason, I find it difficult to understand why once more, after already having gone through this process several times, we have to have one more review to make sure that the government's got it right. That's the only concern I have. Why is it we continue to ask people to look at something again, if we've already been told the reasons why something is being done?

It would be very easy for the Ministers to say, sure, I'll look at it again but what new can I do, what else can I do? What other information am I going to get? I already have all the information. So, unless you want to change the whole system of deciding how you do things, and what criteria you use, then of course you have to wait for a couple of years for that, to develop a new system of doing things. I'm convinced that what has been done was done on the basis of objective criteria so that whatever money we put into transportation infrastructure would be done in a fair, just, and equitable fashion. So, I won't be speaking any further. I won't be voting on the motion, but those are my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Any further comments to the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the motion on the floor, and pertaining specifically to the short-term priorities of our government, I don't think our committee intended to state that they are in disagreement with the government's short-term priorities. What they are suggesting, as I understood it, is that besides what they have within their short term priorities for the department, they were asking the department to also consider highways 5, 8, 6 and 1 based on the rationale that was given to them by the committee. I'm sure the Minister understood the concerns that were raised. I think the way I read this particular motion is that they are not asking the government to do away with what's already in existence, but maybe to incorporate the concerns of the Members that have been raised in the committee. I don't know if that was the intent, but that's the way I understood it, Mr. Chairman. They're not asking the government to change their short-term priorities, they're saying, why

don't you take another look at these other four highways to see if you can incorporate them also, into your short-term plans. Some of the arguments that were brought forward, I think, are valid and I'm sure the government can somehow accommodate the concerns of the committee. So, I'm generally in agreement with this particular recommendation. It's not to take away from what the government already set for themselves. I think it just adds to the short term priorities for the government, to take a look at these four particular highways, based on the arguments that were provided through our Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Any further comments to the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Yes, just one final one, Mr. Chairman. I remember last year when we got into capital and I found that Mr. Todd -- when he was the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance -- decided just like that to get rid of something -- even though a lot of thought, a lot of planning had gone into it -- because there had not been a sufficient explanation as to why we were doing what we were doing. And once he understood, it went back in again, no problem. The concern I have, Mr. Chairman, is that we always want to try to find out why something happens. Why is it that this is happening the way it is.

I know many of the people in the public here, who drive that highway, are aware of the number of people who lose their lives on it or who are involved in rather serious accidents. About 33 per cent of all accidents in the Northwest Territories, on our highways, occur on that stretch of road because that's

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where the traffic is and that's where the wear and tear is. That's where the problems are.

So therefore, you have an obligation as a government looking after the public trust -- it's one thing that government's do -- to make sure that we provide for the health, welfare and safety of the people that we serve. If that many people who lose their lives were involved in accidents on that one stretch of road, we are responsible. Surely that has to be a priority. You have to have some system for deciding what you do. By comparison, the Mackenzie has got 20 per cent.

The rest of the roads -- all the rest of them -- 11 per cent.

So, if we want to get down to specifics and facts, let's look at that one issue of the obligation we have as legislators and Members of this Assembly to concern ourselves with the safety and well being of the people that we serve. And if we don't regard that as a priority, we won't have very much public credibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I too was a Member that went to that particular briefing for highways and let me tell you, I certainly wasn't pleased. The Minister is fortunate he wasn't at that briefing. For one thing, we as legislators, should ensure that our highways are in safe condition. I agree.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

But at the same time, we as legislators have to make sure we make every effort to keep people who are intoxicated off that highway. Many of the accidents happen because of abuse of alcohol. That's one point I want to bring up.

My foremost point, when you look at this budget, when you look at this whole highways' budget, \$20 million of this highways' budget goes to paving all these roads on highway 3, highway 7 and highway 1, but there's not \$1 to look at paving highway 5, nor is there any money to look at paving highway 6. Is that fair and is that equitable?

I am disappointed with the fact that...First of all, let me tell you, there is a highway from Yellowknife along Ingraham Trail that gets paved every year. Yet, my constituents are denied paving. Why? Is that fair, when you have 2,500 people being served?

I don't believe this capital budget is distributed in a fair and equitable manner. As a Member, to serve my constituents I will make sure they are treated just as equally. It's been one of my goals to make sure the highway is paved, and if it means I have to speak out and get angry in this Assembly, I will. I am trying to

find a fair method in trying to make sure that my concerns are addressed. I believe this recommendation is a fair method. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Any further comments to the motion? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with both Brian and Jeannie, with regard to the equitable distribution of capital money. Mr. Chairman, I come from Fort Providence, which has a little over 700 people and maybe ten per cent of them own vehicles. If I was to say that the highways are based on ten per cent equally, then I cannot make a justification or an argument. Certainly I could make the argument for Fort Smith as justifiable because there are more people there and also more vehicles there, but not everybody lives on the highway system. So, we have a situation in which we also have to look at the equality by the volume of traffic that is on those highways.

In all fairness, it's good to point at a population such as Fort Smith being around 2,000. How many of them are drivers? I don't know what the stats are. I would also hope that when we look at equality, we not only look at the stats in the communities, but also the volume on the highway systems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Any further comments to the motion? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. I, too, totally agree with the Member for Thebacha. I raised the issue yesterday. In terms of fairness and equality, there are over \$20 million for highway 1 and 3, and \$2 million for highway 7. I was also at the Transportation briefing, and very clearly in the briefing, probably the most unsafe highway in our system is the Dempster Highway. Yet, I look at the budget and there is \$1 million for next year in the capital estimates.

I can accept that, yet I'm not pleased. The Minister knows I'm not pleased and the Standing Committee on Finance also knows I'm not pleased, because six months ago there was supposed to be \$2 million there. Based on the five year plan and based on the long-term plan, I can accept it even though I'm not pleased with it. I'd like to see this stretch also get

equitable treatment. There have been deaths on that highway, too. I'm not going to get into numbers, I don't have the numbers that my colleague from Yellowknife has. People drive that highway and they're concerned. They're concerned in the winter when it snows. The little bit of money that was in there for snow control has been removed. I don't know why yet. But the overall reconstruction of that highway has to be a priority somewhere down the line. The department has indicated that highway 1 and highway 3 are the priorities. Over time, hopefully, the Dempster Highway, highway 8, is going to get fair treatment. The budget as presented doesn't reflect that in 1994-95, so I have a concern and that's why I'm supporting this recommendation to be looked at. Whatever can be done, I would support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Further comments?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Question has been called. I'm sorry, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I'm caught between my colleagues who are on the highways and my colleagues who are on highway 3.

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---Laughter

During the last few years, the expenditures have all been occurring south of the lake, although Members from Yellowknife and myself have been suggesting strongly to the government to start paving from Rae to Yellowknife, because that's the highway with the most traffic in the territories. It also has the most accidents, I would assume.

Just this summer when I was on my way out, I witnessed an accident. They had to bring in two choppers and medevac those people to the hospital. That was only about 20 kilometres out of here. This was the end of June and there was no alcohol involved. People were coming in from Rae and the road was in poor condition, slippery, and they ran into a semi. As I indicated, there are some valid points from my colleagues who are living on other highway

systems...Sure, it seems as though the majority of the capital budget is going to highway 3, but don't forget starting on the south end and working its way to Yellowknife. My region hasn't had the benefit of our area being paved or even any reconstruction yet. All the construction is happening south of the lake, except for replacing a culvert at Mosquito Creek which should have been done years ago.

The Members who are arguing whether this motion should be supported or not...I indicated that the system the government has in place in determining which roads should be done...They're the experts. I went to that same briefing and I basically agreed with the method they're using.

On the other hand, there are some valid points made by Members who aren't living along highway 3. I would hope that the government would somehow try to accommodate the requests of my colleagues who are living along other highways. It appears, in their view, that the money is not distributed equitably and fairly.

The criteria the department is using are straightforward. I think safety and the design of the road has to be taken into consideration. It was well explained at that particular meeting. I am not happy with the plans of the department because I would rather see construction of the road take place between Rae and Yellowknife first. That is the cheapest road to construct at this time because the estimated costs are almost three times what they are to do the last portion of highway 3.

I guess people like myself will just have to wait until the road is reconstructed and paved in my area. I do think the government has to take the concerns of my colleagues who are living along other highways seriously. Generally, I'm in support of the recommendation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. I recognize Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering what the intent of the motion is here. I agree that there should be reconsideration by the department, but it focuses on four highways. It doesn't focus on highway 7 or highway 3. If we are looking at redistributing the monies with regard to the 1994-95 fiscal year, then

should it only be for those four highways. Or are we saying, "The committee further

recommends that all highways listed below be considered in conjunction with the objective?"

We do have a transportation strategy document and we also have a new one coming up that has also been considered by Mr. Gordon Wray. He is doing another report on that. I don't know what the forecast is for the next two or three years, but I think if we are going to be supporting a motion like this we should be supporting all highways in conjunction with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Mr. Gargan, are you concluded?

MR. GARGAN:

If we support this does it mean that we don't support the allocation for next year for highways 1, 3 and 7? It certainly looks that way to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, it is not that we don't support the idea of highways 1 and 3 being addressed. One of the principles of the Standing Committee on Finance is to ensure that funding is distributed in a fair and equitable manner. When you look at this particular page -- and I know we're not into the details of the budget yet -- highway 3, in itself, has a \$7.4 million allocation in addition to \$6.3 million. So, you're looking at \$13.7 million just for highway 3. There is another \$1 million for highway 1. I haven't totalled up the details but there is also another \$2 million or so for highway 7. It was recognized by the committee that there has been no funding, not one dollar allocated for highway 5 or highway 6. Therefore, it is not adhering to the principle of the Standing Committee on Finance with regard to allocation of funds in a fair and equitable manner.

It is not as if these funds are not planned in next year's budget. They are not even planned in the next five years' budgets. I believe the intention was to bring these concerns to the Minister and that he would place them in his budget and plan accordingly,

to ensure that fairness and equity occurs across the territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know whether other ordinary Members have the benefits that the finance committee has with regard to forecasts. I am not aware of the five year forecast. All I see is the capital for 1994-95 and prior years. In future years there is about three or four numbers here I see, including Nahanni Butte for \$4 million. I don't know what next year's allocations are going to be. I don't have them in front of me. I would hope that what the government started four years ago will continue and that it doesn't end half way because of other priorities.

Four years ago the finance committee and Members supported that we do some major improvements to all major highway systems. By chance, they chose highway 3 as being one of the highest priorities. I agreed with that at the time, and so did a lot of other Members. I would hope that construction could continue without ignoring other highways.

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I have no difficulty with the Fort Smith highway being looked at, or the Dempster or Resolution highways. I support the motion as it reads but I would hope that it also means it includes highways 3 and 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are there any more comments? To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, continue.

Marine And Air Transportation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister noted in his address to the committee that the department has entered into two capital cost-sharing programs with Transport Canada for airport and marine upgrading worth \$18 million between 1990 and 1997. Spending on Arctic airports will more than double in 1994-95, to \$4.5 million and \$5.9 million in 1995-96. Major airport construction next year will be carried out at Coppermine, Rankin Inlet, Fort Good Hope, Pelly Bay, Snare Lake, Pangnirtung and Sanikiluaq.

The committee is also pleased to see the department's program for improving harbour facilities and constructing breakwaters. Various projects are planned, especially in the Baffin and Keewatin regions.

The committee noted the inclusion, for the first time, of a marine resupply terminal for Rankin Inlet in the 1994-95 capital plan. There is \$50,000 allocated for pre-engineering studies and \$1.5 million for its construction. Recoveries from Transport Canada are half that amount.

Substantiation for the project identifies Rankin Inlet as the hub for bulk fuel in the region and refers to the Keewatin resupply study as the basis for the decisions. The committee has since been informed that the study team for the Keewatin resupply study are continuing with a detailed study of resupply options selected by the Keewatin resupply steering group. Further results are expected to be presented in the new year. The committee will not approve the commitment of funding for this project until such time as all options have been fully assessed and reviewed.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we extend sitting hours until we conclude the Department of Transportation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours until such time as this item is concluded. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

We shall continue. You have been duly noted, Mr. Gargan. Continue, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the funding identified for the Rankin Inlet marine resupply terminal for 1994-95 be deleted, pending the completion and review of a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis which identifies and assesses all options for marine resupply in all regions which would be affected. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, we have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I recognize what the Members are saying, however I think it's important to point out that even though this study isn't completed, it is clear from the study that there is close to somewhere in the region of \$2 million worth of savings if we reallocate the POL products from Churchill to Rankin Inlet. This year alone, based upon the changes we made to moving POL from Edmonton by truck, from Winnipeg to Churchill by train and from Churchill to the communities and reversing that when we moved the POL products from Montreal to Churchill, there was \$1.8 million in savings. So, in defence of this investment, I have to say that out loud. There was \$1.8 million worth of savings between that, and between what we did in Pelly Bay and the movement of the freight into the Baffin region. Pardon me.

---Laughter

It's important to understand that right now what we're endeavouring to do here is to take a hard look at the costs of moving the POL products from Montreal directly into Rankin Inlet and then out from Rankin Inlet into the other communities.

Right now 43 per cent of the total fuel oil products reside in Rankin Inlet. Therefore, we move it twice. That's a fact, that's not fiction. We move it from Montreal to Churchill, Churchill to Rankin. We would save the costs of moving that freight from Churchill to Rankin by making this move, that's all I'm saying. There is also somewhere in the region of \$300,000 to \$400,000 worth of storage fees that get built into the price of POL products that we pay the federal government because I believe it's Supply Services in Churchill, federal Supply Services.

So, I'm not disputing the need if you want to complete this study. I'm not disputing that one bit. I support the fact if you want us to delay the project, but I want to make it clear that we can save significant dollars based upon the research we've already done. About 43 per cent -- let me repeat it -- of fuel oil resides in Rankin Inlet. We are moving twice, simply by moving it once there has to be a saving. There is some requirement in the area to put some deep water facilities in there. The only thing I would ask is that we need the \$50,000 on the front end to complete the study to your satisfaction and that we're prepared to leave the project until 1995. But you know, I want to make it clear that it's done on economic grounds and no other reason. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. To the motion. Comments to the motion, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Patterson. Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I'm sorry, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Again, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the benefits of the Finance committee on the information they have. I'd like to ask with regard to the Keewatin resupply study, it should be concluded by the new year. Who is doing that study? Is it the government that's doing that or a private group?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

To the motion, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The study is being done internally by the Department of Transportation. It has a steering committee made up of regional groups. Also, one of the major shippers is on that steering committee, NTCL, because it has an interest, obviously, in any changes that have to take place there. Keewatin Regional Council is involved. Keewatin Inuit Association is involved. The two MLAs are involved. The Keewatin Chamber of Commerce is involved. The initial part of the study, which I provided to the standing committee, indicates that there is clearly significant savings in the first phase of changing the POL products from Churchill into Rankin Inlet. We're also looking at the possibility of dry cargo down the road, but in the first phase it shows that there's close to \$2 million worth of savings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Okay, there's just one other, this is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. That is with regard to, again, the study that is being done. There was a study done with regard to the transportation strategy. Recommendations were made with regard to the targeted highways that should be prioritized by this government. I would hope that this study that is going to be coming up would also be used by the Finance committee to influence their decision, but if it doesn't then perhaps I could see a situation in which, although maybe the study prefers Rankin, maybe Iqaluit would be the best place because Dennis is on the Finance committee. So, I don't want studies being done and just ignored by the Finance committees to suit their own interests. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think I can say with a great degree of comfort that this study is going to be able to clearly demonstrate, to the Members of the House, significant savings in the way in which we transport POL products. I think I can say to the House with a great deal of comfort that these savings would be equally distributed. I mean, it's going to impact on everybody if there's a significant saving. Again if I can just repeat, just for everybody's benefit, just by making the one move to transport POL products into Baffin and into Keewatin, saved us \$1.8 million. That's a fact. That's not some mysterious number, that is real. We did make some overtures last year, under the former Minister -- I believe it was you, Mr. Whitford -- where we managed to bring in a shipment to Pelly Bay and we did it again this year and there was some saving there. So the intent of this initiative, is to complement that savings. But I concur with the standing committee, we will

complete the study. We will bring it forward to the committee and I am confident that you will see the reason for doing it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent of this motion is to allow the Minister to complete the study in order to justify the expenditure for these pre-engineering studies. That is why we asked for this pre-engineering study funding of \$50,000 be deleted from the budget until the study the Minister is doing can justify the need and to indicate there will be a \$2 million savings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Maybe I haven't presented the case as well as I should have. Could I call for a five minute time out to gather my peers amongst me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Does the committee agree to recess for five minutes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We will recess for five minutes.

--SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will come back to order after a short recess. Are we ready to continue with the motion? To the motion. What is the wish of the committee? Are we ready for the question? Mr. Dent. Mr. Pollard, to the motion.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in the break that you graciously gave us, we had some discussions and I think we're still somewhat at odds, Mr. Chairman. The suggestion I made was because this bill will not kick into force until April 1, 1994, and the Department of Transportation has assured us in the break that the study will be completed between mid to late March, the suggestion I made was that it remain the budget, that we bring the study back to the winter session, and if at that

time the Standing Committee on Finance is not happy with the results of the study, we would undertake to amend the capital budget at that particular time, prior to the new fiscal year. I think Mr. Todd agrees that if the study doesn't work out, the money would have to come out of the budget anyway.

The reasons we're saying that is, this is a cost-shared project with the federal government under the \$10 million program that was announced last November, which Mr. Todd had negotiated with the federal Department of Transportation. We have no wish to give up in any way, shape or form, some \$750,000 in federal funding that would be involved in this particular project.

By leaving it on the books, it would give us time to work out that particular aspect, if it was going to happen without -- as we see it -- endangering that federal funding in one fell swoop by taking it out of the budget. My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that this might not be acceptable to the Standing Committee

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on Finance. I would like to know, for the record, if they would entertain such a compromise, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. To the motion, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Standing Committee on Finance is concerned with the process. We understand that once we conclude the Department of Transportation's capital budget, there doesn't appear to be any mechanism for deferring this particular item. We could defer it, I agree, but we are requesting that it be deleted.

Mr. Chairman, I think the comments and concerns of the Standing Committee on Finance are that if we leave it in the budget now, once we approve this capital budget for Transportation, it's approved. Once we approve that particular line, it's approved. There's no method for taking it out at the end of March. What we are asking is that this funding for the pre-engineering study, \$50,000, be taken out now until the study is completed by the Minister. If the study justifies that and does save this government \$2 million, then we won't object if the Minister and the

government came in either through a special warrant or a supp.

However, if we leave it in the budget now, we're saying regardless of the study, you can have this pre-engineering money to address this resupply terminal. I believe that's our concern. We want a study that states, yes, this resupply terminal will save the Government of the Northwest Territories \$2 million to look at this resupply terminal in Rankin Inlet to avoid bringing the fuel twice to the Keewatin. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. There is no formal process in this Legislative Assembly to remove those funds from this particular budget once it is passed by this House. I guess what we're doing is undertaking that in the event the Standing Committee on Finance would not be happy with the study, then the FMB would remove that particular item from the budget. That's a condition we're prepared to state in this House and live by, Mr. Chairman, depending on the study and how the Standing Committee on Finance views that.

Mr. Chairman, if we are looking at removing \$50,000 and we're looking at leaving the \$500,000, the \$850,000 and the \$100,000 in the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, then I don't have any objection. I don't see that that would put us in a problem with the federal government because it will still be showing on our books as future year expenditures. Again, if the Standing Committee on Finance did not agree with the study and the \$50,000 was not reinstated, then obviously we would have to look at the future years at that particular time. If we're prepared to leave the future years on there and just defer or delete the \$50,000 to come back by way of supp, then that's acceptable, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Putting it in another way, a leap of faith. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, again I'm trying to picture in my mind how you determine costs for any infrastructure without pre-engineering studies being done. All the highways

that are being reconstructed, you have to do pre-engineering work prior to a cost-estimate being established. I'm just saying that by deleting that money it restricts or handicaps the resupply study that is going to be done. If you're going to be doing a study and a cost-analysis in that study, then you have to have some pre-engineering work done, soil testing, drilling, whatever it takes. But if you have that missing, then there is a part of the study that's missing. I don't know what the rationale is behind deleting it, but that's the way I always picture things. I thought that was the way the government operated. They do things by study, but also by pre-engineering studies to determine the cost-factors as well as the conditions and everything else that's required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gargan is correct, but the way the time frames work out none of this money could be spent before 12:01 am, April 1, 1994, and because the Department of Transportation is going to report to the Standing Committee on Finance and the House in the winter session on the study, there would still be time to reinstate that \$50,000 before the time it's required. That would give ample time to allow those pre-engineering studies to go ahead if there was concurrence from the House and the Standing Committee on Finance with regard to the study that Mr. Todd has mentioned before. The time frames do work out, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

What is the committee's wish, that we proceed to detail? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We have a motion on the floor that is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Opposition wins in this case.

---Defeated

We will continue. Details in the white book. Department of Transportation, page 09-9. Does the Minister wish to bring in a witness?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in the deputy minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witness to the witness table. I think we have him housed in a little room on the side.

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Thank you, Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you introduce your witness?

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Andrew Gamble, Deputy Minister of Transportation.

Marine Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, we are on detail of capital on page 09-9, starting off with marine services. Inuvik, total region, \$330,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$330,000. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister about the objectives of the Department of Transportation regarding the additional funding that the Minister's department is pursuing from federal sources for implementation of plans arising from the revised transportation strategy.

I would like to ask the Minister what is the revised transportation strategy versus the old transportation strategy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you recall, I said in the House that while the old transportation strategy -- if you want to call it that -- was a laudable document, I felt at the time that it was perhaps unrealistic when you consider the fiscal condition of the country and the fiscal condition of the GNWT.

I will be tabling the report that was done by Gordon Wray, the former Minister of Transportation, as soon as it is translated. What we will try to show in this report are eight or nine objectives that we can try to accomplish over the next two year period. The priority of the objectives is highways. We talk about the Dempster and the Mackenzie. We talk about the need for additional fiscal resources to try to improve the highway system whether it is in the Fort Smith, Fort Simpson or Hay River areas. One of the established priorities is an acceleration in wharves and marine facilities, particularly in some of the communities where we don't have them.

We want to take a hard look at the Arctic coast area, particularly in Coppermine, where mineral development is taking place in Izok Lake. I do realize that is a huge project and I suspect it would require enormous public funds, but that is another priority we're looking at. We're looking at trying to negotiate some additional funding from the federal government to upgrade the airports. As you know, we are in the throes of initiating discussions about the transfer of Arctic airports.

We need to improve marine resupply and we are also looking at means to improve the way we spend the dollars in the north, to ensure that more dollars are put in the hands of northerners. If I were to summarize it, I would say we are trying to negotiate with the current federal government one or two

important initiatives which would allow us to continue what took place in the past with respect to the Mackenzie Highway. That is one.

Two, we have to look at finding some additional resources to try to improve the highways over the next five years, or whatever. I'm told if we could negotiate somewhere between \$8 million on an annual basis -- and I stand to be corrected -- then we could make a tremendous impact on many of the highways we have here in the west and be able to bring them up to a better standard over a very short period of time.

I think we all recognize the importance of the mineral developments that have taken place in the Lac de Gras area and, of course, in the Kitikmeot with Izok Lake. So, that's also a priority. I think that, in a nutshell, is where we're at. I will be tabling this as soon as we get it translated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. A little correction, Mr. Wray was a former Minister of Transportation. Not "the" former Minister. There have been several since him. We are on total building and works, \$330,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I would like to expand a bit on Mr. Todd's response to Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I understand you're looking at some infrastructure in areas where there is potential mining development for diamonds or whatever. I was wondering whether you have also looked at it from the point of view that these areas are claimant areas? How are you dealing with that as a government, knowing that you have to get permission from those claimant groups to actually develop construction in those areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Let me make it clear from the outset, I'm not suggesting that we go in and spend a lot of money on public infrastructure without there being significant benefits to northerners in any development. I want to say that from the outset. And, I recognize the importance of the claimant groups and the complications that relate particularly to mineral development. We have in place a working committee

made up of Mr. Ted Blondin, who is representing the Dogrib people, I believe, Joe Allen, who represents the Kitikmeot people, the Chamber of Mines, the Chamber of Commerce, the department of EM&PR and myself.

This group is kind of like a small working group trying to determine how we would approach the federal government to assist us in a joint initiative to find the dollars to put the infrastructure in place, should it be requested by the industry and should it be required in terms of a mining development such as Izok Lake.

I'm trying to keep as many of the stakeholders involved as possible on an ongoing basis in developing a strategy to try to find these dollars, if they're required and requested. That is what we're working on right now. We have a working committee, it is fairly tight so we can get things done. It does represent the aboriginal claimant groups, particularly in the Lac de Gras and the Izok Lake areas. It also represents industry and the NWT Chamber of Commerce as well. We have the

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federal government on that committee too, the local DIAND assistant deputy minister.

We're working diligently with those groups to develop a strategy as to how we would move forward in approaching the federal government, should and if the requests come for some public infrastructure support for these facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of a claimant group area, but it has always been my interest. One other thing I wanted to mention is that in all claimant areas, most third-party interests are not part of the planning. I am just wondering if this government will be using its influence -- if they are going to be developing infrastructure -- so that the mining companies will also be compelled to look at involving claimant groups in the development of these mining industries, either as shareholders or in some other capacity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think it is important to point out that these claimant groups are also doing their own negotiating. I know, for example, that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association is involved with the Inuit IIBA in an Inuit economic agreement. I know that Mr. Blondin who sits on our committee is also having his own independent discussions with respect to where the developments should take place.

The responsibility I have as Minister of Transportation is to determine where we fit if we're asked what it's going to cost, and what conditions we would set if we were going to commit public funds to public infrastructure. I want to say again for the public record, my position is clear. Unless there are significant benefits accrued to northern people, in the broadest context, I've said publicly and I'll say it again, that public infrastructure money shouldn't be used.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on marine services, buildings and works. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about our revised transportation strategy, and Gordon Wray did this study for the department. In the departmental overview, the Government of the Northwest Territories transportation strategy identifies the need to complete the Mackenzie Highway from Wrigley along the Mackenzie River to the Dempster Highway. Later on it talks about the mining properties and mentions Coronation Gulf potential for a new road. Was Mr. Wray's contract, or whatever type of work he had, was it his responsibility to prioritize one or the other? These new roads come from federal funds and you're developing a strategy to approach the federal government on this. If you are successful the federal government has only a certain amount of money. Which road would you choose first?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister. I would just again remind the committee that we are dealing with marine services. On highways this might be more appropriate, but it's up to the committee, I suppose. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It's a difficult question. I don't think my job is to choose. What I asked Mr. Wray to do -- and I think you'll see this when we table the document -- was to get a clear reflection from the political leadership. It wasn't a big, grandiose study, it was to bring up to date what you, as MLAs, saw as priorities. That's specifically what I asked him to do. I think, hopefully, when you see it, it will reflect what you've told him, and certainly reflect what I feel are the priorities.

To me, the Mackenzie Highway is a public initiative that was created by the former federal government a way back with the territorial government. I want to assure you it's still a priority. We intend to pursue that fairly aggressively.

The Izok Lake project is somewhat different because it's tied into a major mineral development and it's more industry driven, rather than public government driven. It's not a question of choosing, it's a question of approaching both differently. The way I see the Izok Lake project is, should the industry request our assistance and should there be some safe guards for economic involvement of northerners, then we would be working more as a leverage for this project, rather than committing all our funds. The corporate entity is driving the Izok Lake project.

Originally, the public entity -- in a sense -- drove the Mackenzie Highway and will continue to drive it. It's certainly my intent to move as quickly as I can in the new year to see if there is some empathy out there at the federal level -- in conjunction with our two MPs, Ethel Blondin and Jack Anawak -- to see if we can negotiate a cost-sharing agreement to bring some of this infrastructure into place over a period of time. We did have some discussions -- just to assure Mr. Antoine -- with some people earlier in the year about possibly looking at revisiting the old hire north approach which took place many years ago. We're looking at that right now.

I said on the very front end, there's a limitation to the dollars that I'm given. I'm trying, to the best of my ability, to allocate them in a fair and equitable way. You can never satisfy everybody, but we've endeavoured to do that. I believe that to do the Mackenzie Highway requires extraordinary funding through a joint initiative with the feds and I intend to pursue it as aggressively as I can. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Marine services. Inuvik, total buildings and works, \$330,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Equipment acquisition for Fort Smith, total region, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Total equipment acquisition, \$40,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total activity, \$370,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Highway Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 09-11, highway operations. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$409,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Fort Smith, \$298,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total region, \$193,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$900,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total region, \$928,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total equipment acquisition, \$928,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail of capital, \$1.828 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic Airports

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Detail of capital, Arctic airports, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$50,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Fort Smith, total region, \$261,000. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

On the replacement of the air terminal building in Wrigley for \$125,000, they're going to be bringing in a couple of trailers and put them together. I just wanted to ask if this department will look into working with the community to construct the building themselves as a possibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Antoine raised this issue earlier. It's also my belief that we should be trying to get maximum economic benefits from the spending. Also, I have asked the department to investigate and have discussions with the communities to see if we can look at the possibility of a stick-built versus the modular replacement facility. I don't have the answers at this time regarding what it's going to cost and whether there's any extra costs or not. Certainly, I'm optimistic that we should be able to work something out, but I'm sure Mr. Antoine would agree that we'd have to do a cost-benefit analysis. It just isn't about the cost of the building but also what the net impact will be on the community? I want to assure him that will take place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

While we're on the Fort Smith region, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask a question pertaining to Arctic airports. Mr. Chairman, most Members who were here in the last Assembly would know that since 1987 I have been pursuing the issue of Arctic airports for the community of Rae-Edzo. The Minister would know that in the current year in our capital budget we've allotted \$200,000 for two studies to be done, one for Pangnirtung and one for Rae-Edzo. I'd like to ask the Minister what is the status of the economic impact study for the community of Rae-Edzo with regard to the airport? My recollection, Mr. Chairman, is that the proposal has gone to the department requesting this money so they can undertake this study. I haven't heard back from the department as to what the status of it is, whether the community received the economic impact study money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. The question concerns the status of the economic impact for Rae-Edzo dealing with the airport. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think we fully recognize that this is a long, outstanding issue. I think it also important to tell you that it is a low priority in terms of airports, in my eyes, in terms of the money we have. However, I did make a commitment to Mr. Zoe, and we are going to move forward on an economic impact review as you have indicated. We have recently received one from his area. It is being reviewed by the department now and I'm optimistic that we will be able to let him know where we stand on that within the week.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Moving along, we were on the Fort Smith region. The total for the region is \$261,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Baffin, total region, \$1.311 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Keewatin, total region, \$1.710 million. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on the Keewatin I want to ask about requests that have been made by Baker Lake and Arviat with regard to the airstrips. One of the concerns they have raised is that the airstrips in the two communities are too short. I would like to know what the department has in terms of plans for extension of these airstrips in these two communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

I appreciate that question by Mr. Arngna'naaq. We did have a recent meeting in Baker Lake, and earlier in the year we had a meeting in Arviat. Both of these communities are expanding at a tremendous pace in terms of population. I believe Arviat is the second fastest growing community in the Northwest Territories. I think if you look at it in the long term, perhaps there will be a requirement for different types of aircraft.

Mr. Arngna'naaq does recognize -- as we have spoken at some length -- that these are huge financial investments. However, one of our objectives is to look at improving the runways, et cetera. We are going to do preliminary engineering work in Baker Lake and Arviat, I believe, over the next short while. We will try to determine if it is feasible and what the costs would be. A decision will have to be made then. I want to assure him, that this issue is an important one and it will be addressed. Whether, down the road, there will be resources to do it will be another question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Member for Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister says "a short while," I would like to get a defined time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

By the end of the summer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We're on total region for the Keewatin, page 09-15, \$1.710 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Just with regard to replacing air terminal buildings, I see there was \$665,000 in prior year's costs. I assume that was for the study and the pre-engineering work. It seems like a fairly large complex for \$5.2 million, compared to some of the terminals going into the other communities. A sum of \$125,000 is budgeted for Wrigley and \$1.4 million for Pangnirtung. I'm just curious as to some of the justification for the building that is going into Rankin.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That's a legitimate question. I think it is important to point out that the Rankin airport, from a statistical point of view, is in the same category as Hay River and Iqaluit in terms of traffic flow and passengers, I'm told. The original budget, I believe, was around \$3 million and that did not include the \$1.4 million we were negotiating with Transport Canada. Transport Canada runs the flight services. So, if you take the \$1.4 million off the \$5.2 million you're looking at \$3.8 million. There is \$800,000 then, that was not in the originally forecasted \$3 million.

Do you know what I'm talking about? It is my understanding that the \$800,000 came about because of the completion of the study done by Park Saunders where there a requirement for additional fill, a requirement for an increase in construction costs and pipe for the sewer. The terminal building built in Arviat two years before for 3,100 square feet was \$1.3 million. This one is for 10,000 square feet. Based upon the studies that have been done, it is

within the ball park of the budgets we have spent.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Todd. The total is \$1.710 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The total region is \$276,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$3.608 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total region,
\$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$279,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Baffin, total region, \$268,000.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total equipment acquisition, \$647,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total activity, \$4.255 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. It is not debatable. The motion is to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? It is a tie. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Is it not the rule that Members can't vote unless they're in their seat?

---Laughter

So, therefore, the motion is carried.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The Member is quite correct.

---Laughter

Sorry, but the chairman only counted four people this time. The motion is carried.

---Carried

We shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Bill 1 and Committee Report 3-12(4) and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion, Mr. Zoe. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 21, third reading of bills. With the authority given to me under Motion 1-12(4), sitting hours for Mondays and Wednesdays will be 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. These sitting hours will be effective with tomorrow's sitting. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Striking Committee, at 9:30 am of the Standing Committee on Legislation, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the caucus working group. Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 24, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
 5. Oral Questions
 6. Written Questions
 7. Returns to Written Questions
 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
 17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act
 - Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act
 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
- Page 125
- Committee Report 1-12(4), Talking and Working Together
 - Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates
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 Wednesday, November 24, 1993 at 1:30 pm.

--ADJOURNMENT