



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4th Session**

**Day 8**

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

**HANSARD**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1993**

Pages 205 - 232

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

**The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 26-12(4): Supplementary Trapper Support

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, trappers have had a difficult time recently because of a number of factors beyond their control. Last winter was particularly difficult. In March, after a very poor trapping season, MLAs in the Assembly requested the Minister of Renewable Resources to find ways to help offset the low income from trapping. In response, the government is providing an additional \$375,000 in harvester assistance.

---Applause

This extra support is to help trappers who have been active during the last two years. This has been the time when fur prices have been low, some species' numbers are low because of the cyclical nature of fur bearer populations and trappers were becoming familiar with the new traps.

A trapper's individual incentive grant payments since the late 1980s have been averaged, and an additional payment will be given to each trapper based on this amount. The average payment is \$300 and the range is from \$25 to \$3,500. The department is preparing the cheques now and expects to have them available to trappers in two weeks. The cheques will be provided to the appropriate hunters' and trappers'

associations, hunters' and trappers' committee and band councils for distribution.

We will continue to supply whatever support possible to help trappers through these difficult times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 27-12(4): Telephone Rates And Services

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last two years Members of this House have been raising concerns about the seven communities that have no telephone service.

During the summer, the CRTC made several rulings that limited the scope of the rate increase. Final arguments were filed in September. The CRTC decision is expected in December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Minister's Statement 28-12(4): Community Transfer Initiatives

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Public Works and Services is working to transfer responsibility for its maintenance programs in Cape Dorset and Holman. The department has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the hamlet of Cape Dorset. The maintenance employees in Cape Dorset now work for the hamlet administrator.

The department has now contracted with the hamlet of Holman for maintenance services in that community. These arrangements are providing the hamlets with maintenance experience before the implementation of community transfer agreements, scheduled for next spring.

I am pleased to be involved with these agreements. The department will continue to cooperate when other communities initiate transfer discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

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**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Financial Situation Of Sanikiluaq Housing Association

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlet of Sanikiluaq has the authority to run their housing association. The Sanikiluaq Housing Association is having problems with their financial statements. As a Member of that area, we are asking for assistance to get the budget in order. As well, in Iqaluit, the housing corporation office should be able to assist the hamlet to take over the housing authority. I would like to ask the government, Mr. Speaker, to assist the Sanikiluaq Housing Association.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Insurance Coverage

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to speak about certain insurance companies operating in the Northwest Territories. I used to think that sometimes during question period I got the run-around by the honourable Ministers. I wish to state, for the record, that the Ministers are mere amateurs when compared to the run-around I recently received at the hands of my insurance company.

---Laughter

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am sure most Members of the House recall the arguments my truck had with the bison.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the end result of the bison incident was that my truck insurance quadrupled from \$600 per year. At the time of the renegotiation -- and I use the term "renegotiation" very loosely -- I determined that under the new and improved rate I was being charged, there would not be much point in getting glass coverage for my vehicle. That was not a hard decision on my part because the insurance company wished to charge me more than what a new windshield was worth for this coverage.

Mr. Speaker, on November 13, the small side window of my truck was broken. As a good, conscientious citizen, and not having had any recent run-ins with the highway patrol, this wanton act of destruction was duly reported to the proper authorities. Now, is where the plot thickens, Mr. Speaker.

I decided that since I carried vandalism insurance, it might be possible to recoup from my insurance company the \$160 I had to pay to replace my window. Mr. Speaker, this was not to happen. For, you see, Mr. Speaker, vandalism does not cover glass. If someone took a hammer to my vehicle and smashed up the body of my truck, that would be vandalism. However, if the same person took the same hammer and smashed my window, this would not be considered vandalism. For the window to be covered under my insurance, it would have been necessary for the perpetrator of this destructive act to break the window and steal my vehicle. Mr. Speaker, this makes a lot of sense.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, this makes a lot of sense. If a person who broke a window manages to get the truck started and manages not to roll or wreck it, and if the truck is

ever found again, the insurance company will replace the window. However, if the person who broke into your truck is not the brightest thief in the world and can't figure out how to steal your truck, you're out of luck for getting any money out of the insurance company.

Mr. Speaker, now I thought I might be getting somewhere -- I have theft coverage. I thought to myself, what would happen if the next time an incident like this occurred? If the person steals something from my vehicle, something like my gun rack, I would be covered. Would I be reimbursed for my gun rack and my window? Mr. Speaker, apparently, gun racks are not considered part of a vehicle, therefore not only would I not get reimbursed for my gun rack and window, the window would not be covered because nothing was stolen.

---Laughter

I don't know if I'm making any sense here, Mr. Speaker. My gun rack was spared the attack the last time I saw my truck.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I have advice for any residents of the Northwest Territories. Don't assume anything. Ask questions of your insurance agent. Find out that everything you have is covered. I know the next time I get insurance, I will be making sure that myself and my insurance agent have the same interpretation on what my insurance actually covers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome to our Assembly, Mr. Roger Gruben, Chairman of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and there's a delegation of other Gwich'in and Inuvialuit leaders, most of whom I introduced yesterday.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Proposal For Restructuring Of Public Government

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform Members of important and significant events in the Beaufort/Delta region. Later today I will be tabling a proposal

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for the restructuring of public government in the western Arctic. This proposal acknowledges that community governments are paramount. In fact, it describes regional governments as a partnership of communities. This regional government will be formed by communities.

As Members know, the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit maintain, by virtue of the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in land claim agreements, the right to negotiate self-government agreements. It is significant to note, however, that the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and non-aboriginal people have come together to develop a proposal for the restructuring of public government. The preference for a public forum of government reflects the desire of all groups within the Inuvik region to work toward common goals and a common future in the region.

This public government will be equitable, inclusive and universal. The Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and the municipalities believe that since this form of government will be community and regionally-based, it will be cost-effective, efficient and representative.

This regional government will have the authority to pass laws and set standards on a regional level, and will assume certain authority currently held by either the territorial or federal governments. In this way, local and regional decision-making will be maximized. To the greatest extent possible, community governments will assume responsibility for delivering programs.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The proposal maximizes legislative authority in the region, improves the quality of government programs and secures a strong future for the region in a new western territory.

Mr. Speaker, the reshaping of government institutions in the western Arctic can be achieved either through the western constitutional process, self-government negotiations undertaken by the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit, or a combination of both. I can assure Members that the people of the region are committed to the western constitutional process and are hopeful that it reaches a successful conclusion.

The Constitutional Development Steering Committee process is under way and there should be no difficulty in incorporating this proposal into the work of the committee so that a western Arctic regional government will be compatible with the future structure of a western territorial government. However, I must also point out that the people of the western Arctic know what they want, in terms of restructuring public government, and may pursue any number of measures to achieve their goals.

The Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and municipal governments acknowledge that the reshaping of public government in the west, and the formation of a regional government, must coincide with the establishment of a Nunavut government in the east. This regional government will be governed by a regional council of elected community representatives.

Each member community will elect one regional councillor. Two additional regional councillors and a mayor will be elected at large. In this way, the needs of the communities and the needs of the region can be represented. In this proposal, Mr. Speaker, community governments are recognized as paramount. Communities will also judge this proposal when residents vote, in community by community plebiscites, to opt into the regional government.

The intent of this proposal is not to isolate the western Arctic, but to create new relationships. Just as the people of the western Arctic share common goals and values, residents of the region also share a relationship with the people and institutions that make up the remainder of the Northwest Territories. The creation of regional government will not impair this relationship. The challenge is to create a regional government that can enjoy a complementary relationship with a central government.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me remind Members that the Northwest Territories is already regionalized. The administration of this government is based on regions. Regions are also defined by geography, language and culture and there are regionally-based land claim agreements.

The Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and municipalities realize that other people across the western Northwest Territories may be interested in this proposal. They have indicated to me that they are prepared to make presentations to any interested parties to explain the proposal. Mahsi. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Constituent On Receiving Bursary From NWT Science Institute

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Karla Van Pelt, a resident of my constituency, on receiving the James H. Harrison bursary from the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Van Pelt was born and raised in Fort Smith and is currently in her third year in paleobiology at the University of Saskatchewan. This is the first year for the awarding of this bursary and I'm proud that a resident of my riding was chosen for this award. This bursary is for the amount of \$3,000 and is awarded by the Science Institute, in memory of Dr. James Harrison, who was the founding chair of the Science Institute board of governors.

After Karla Van Pelt finishes her degree, she plans to return to the north, hopefully Fort Smith, and work for either Parks Canada or our own Department of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, we need more northerners trained in the sciences working in our government and helping us, as political leaders, to make intelligent and informed decisions for all the residents of the Northwest Territories.

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Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Science Institute for promoting science as a viable career path for northerners of the territories. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arnagna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Quality Of Water Service In Arviat

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to, once again, raise an issue that the community of Arviat has been concerned about for many, many years. This issue has to do with the quality of water service to the community. For many years, the community was receiving water which was from a still lake, meaning there was no flow into the lake, nor any flow out of the lake, except to the community reservoir.

This past summer, the Department of Public Works spent funds to correct this problem, with the sponsorship of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. A local contractor was hired to construct a line from a creek where the people of the community go to pick up ice from. I should note that they only hired local people to construct the line.

I was stopped by the Anglican minister when I was last in Arviat, to pass the on communities' appreciation for the new water line to the Minister of Public Works and to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. Although it was not from a creek which the majority of people would have liked to receive their water from, it is better than Mikilaaq Lake.

I stated before, that a previous Minister of the 11th Assembly was served water with some contaminants. Mr. Speaker, I would therefore like to inform Members of the Cabinet that it is now safe. Now they are invited to come into Arviat any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Using Caution On Ice

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days following the blizzard we had last week, we have been enjoying some very balmy weather here. Some of the areas of the territories west of us have even been above freezing for quite a while. I think

records will indicate that we had a very fine fall and perhaps records set for mildness during November.

But, while some of us are enjoying this mild and early winter, others are not. At this time, it is very critical for the formation of ice. This ice is used by many of our northern people as a means of transportation, such as roads to resources for trappers and hunters. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we lose people to thin ice accidents.

Last year, the constituents of Tu Nedhe were saddened by the loss of two trappers from Lutsel K'e, on Nonacho Lake. This year already, we have had the deaths of two young people here in Yellowknife from Dettah. They went through the ice across the lake. Although there were heroic efforts to save one of them, two perished. On the Hoarfrost River, within the last couple of weeks, Kristen and Dave Olsen, who have a cabin out there and live out there year round, both went through the ice. Miraculously, Mr. Speaker, both escaped, wet and cold. Fortunately, they were close to their cabin, only a couple of miles away. But, their dog teams -- two teams totalling 20 dogs -- all drowned and they lost all their equipment.

Right here on Frame Lake -- just outside of our door -- earlier this year, I saw snowmobilers running on ice that had just formed the night before. Two days later there was no ice there. The conditions were very questionable. The message I'm trying to convey to people, Mr. Speaker, is that although we have ice and winter to enjoy, we must use extreme caution at this time of the year. I can't convey that message too strongly, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement Congratulating Student On Achievements

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About a week ago, I got a call from a high school teacher, Mieke Cameron, who asked if there was any way we could recognize outstanding academic achievement for grade twelve students. She told me that she had taught an extraordinary student. Her name is Allison Marshall. She wondered what kind of extraordinary achievements deserved to be recognized in a very special way by Members of this House.

I said about the only thing we can do is give a Member's statement. This individual was taught by Mrs. Cameron and it was in her subject that she got her lowest mark in her grade 12 grades. In English studies, she only got 91 per cent, in Math 30 she got 100 per cent. Her average was in the mid-90s. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, she is an excellent athlete and represents the ideal of what we are trying to achieve in the education system, which is a healthy body and a strong mind. This person, obviously, is a good athlete and an excellent student, and it's very rare that we get the opportunity to get up in the House to congratulate all those people responsible for giving this young person the opportunity to make good use of the obvious talents she has. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Question 78-12(4): Nanisivik Water And Sewage Disposal System

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 24, regarding the Nanisivik water and sewer disposal system.

The department considers Nanisivik to be the locale where mine personnel are served by the existing municipal type

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infrastructure, and not an organized community with a recognized level of local government.

The GNWT does not hold, and has never held, a municipal water license for Nanisivik. The only water license in existence is held by the mine and is solely for industrial use.

In June, 1974, under the terms of the primary agreement between the GNWT and Nanisivik Mines Ltd., the GNWT provided a loan to Nanisivik to develop the mine site, including water and sewer infrastructure. The loan has since been paid back in full, under the terms and conditions of a capital cost recovery agreement put in place in 1979. The

government's position all along has been that responsibility for ownership, operation and maintenance on the water and sanitation rests with the mine, by virtue of the capital cost recovery agreement.

In its last meeting on July 12, 1993, it was agreed by all that Nanisivik Mines Ltd. should continue to operate and maintain the water and sewer system, and a cost-share agreement, based on the use by all customers, would be developed. The government's position continues to be that the responsibility for the ownership and operation and maintenance of the water and sanitation facilities at Nanisivik rests with the Nanisivik Mine. Therefore, the government has not undertaken any repairs to the system.

Departmental staff have contacted the mine to relay the Water Board's concerns regarding the sewage system and the need to chlorinate drinking water, and requested that repairs be undertaken at the earliest, consistent with the agreement reached with the mine on July 12, 1993. The mine has indicated that the creek into which the sewage is being discharged is still the same one into which Nanisivik Mines Ltd. has been discharging its tailings for years. The whole area has long been well-signed and posted to warn the general public to keep away, therefore, there is no immediate health hazard.

In the longer term, the principle of user-pay will be adopted by all parties applied to the water and sewer systems for Nanisivik. The GNWT, as a customer, will be responsible to the mine as the owner and operator of the system for the costs of services to the GNWT buildings. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 19, 1993, concerning payment of health bills for foreign resident.

Mr. Speaker, visitors from outside Canada are not eligible for coverage under the health care plan. Individuals from outside of Canada who take up residency in the Northwest Territories are required to

provide valid immigration papers to qualify for NWT health care plan benefits. The immigration documents that are acceptable for the purpose of NWT health care coverage are a student visa, a working visa, or a landed immigrant visa. If the individual has any of these items he could be eligible for coverage under the NWT health care plan from the day of his arrival in the Northwest Territories.

The individual in the Member's community should contact the nurse in charge at the local health centre regarding coverage under the NWT health care plan. Further information is available from the Baffin Regional Health Board or the supervisor of registration in the Northwest Territories' health care plan. The number there is 1-800-661-0786.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Member wishes to provide me with additional information on the individual, I will look into the matter further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 92-12(4): Pupil/Teacher Ratio Under Collective Agreement

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In responding to a question yesterday, asked by my honourable colleague, Mr. Allooloo, with regard to the pupil/teacher ratio under the collective agreement, I just want to inform the honourable Members here that the pupil/teacher ratio is not a matter under the collective agreement, but rather a policy within government.

The other matter is that I will be, in future, making a ministerial statement on this matter to inform the Members of this House on how that particular matter is dealt with in assigning teachers to each school.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

In this case, the Member is correcting the record as opposed to a formal reply to an oral question. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 102-12(4): Quality Of Water On The Mackenzie River System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources and is with regard to water. Mr. Speaker, there has been a concern in my community and in the Deh Cho region, in particular, about the water in the Mackenzie River and whether the pulp mills in the south actually have an affect on the quality of water in the Mackenzie River.

On a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, people in Providence have caught fish that didn't look normal. It does concern the community. I would like to ask the Minister whether this government has any kind of strategic plan with regard to protecting watersheds? I'm referring, specifically, to places like

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Kakisa and Willow Lake. Those all have fairly good quality water that might have to be used eventually if quality of water in the Mackenzie doesn't get better.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 102-12(4): Quality Of Water On The Mackenzie River System

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, for a number of years I know that the federal government and a number of provinces -- Saskatchewan, British Columbia, the Yukon as well as ourselves here in the Northwest Territories -- have been attempting to negotiate a trans-boundary water agreement. They have reached a stage where they have drafted what they call a master agreement. This is an attempt to try to come to some sort of agreement on how to conduct ourselves as public governments in our various jurisdictions, so we take into account the concerns of people, especially downstream from us. In our case, we are sometimes downstream from British Columbia and, particularly, Alberta. There has been a master agreement reached during the course of the summer. As I understand it, there were some concerns raised by representatives of the Treaty 8 First Nations. At this time, the agreement is momentarily held, as we are trying to deal with some of these concerns before signatures are made to this master agreement.

Once that is done, it sets the context for any other work the department might be able to do, with regard to some of the smaller watersheds that feed into the



Mackenzie that are inside the boundaries of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 102-12(4): Quality Of Water On The Mackenzie River System

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Arctic Red River is a heritage river and it is identified as such, I think. I would like to ask the government whether we have legislation in place right now that can actually identify those lakes as protected areas so that we don't have people dumping into those lakes or developing around them. This is so that, in the future, we at least have water that we can actually use in the event that the quality gets worse in the Mackenzie. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, certain lakes are considered sanctuaries for wildlife and they have different legislation to protect them. As to what particular pieces of territorial legislation we have to protect our different lakes, and for what reasons, is not clear to me. I would have to get back to the Member with a detailed response at a later date. I will be taking the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 103-12(4): Capital Improvements To The Cape Dorset Airport

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. He answered some of my questions, but I would also like to ask him something else. We have had problems in Cape Dorset, it is not as bad in the winter-time, but in the spring and summer there are problems with the airport. Perhaps the Minister of Transportation could consider improving this airport in the capital budget.

Mr. Speaker, the problems we have had with the Cape Dorset airport have existed for a long time. I would like to ask the Minister if he could consider the problem in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 103-12(4): Capital Improvements To The Cape Dorset Airport

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure my honourable colleague that we are taking the issue of the Cape Dorset runway very seriously. This past summer, there were some runway repairs completed and some geotechnical, survey and design work was also completed in the plan. It is our intent to rehabilitate that air field and the runway lighting in 1994-95. We intend to do that this coming summer. There will be a new air terminal building for Cape Dorset, should the budget be approved, in 1995-96.

We are taking action as quickly as we can. It is our intention to bring the Cape Dorset runway up to grade this summer and to construct a new air terminal building in 1995. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 103-12(4): Capital Improvements To The Cape Dorset Airport

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for responding to my question. This is a big problem in Cape Dorset, and it has existed for some time. Looking through the capital budget, I was expecting to see the problem we have in Cape Dorset addressed in this capital budget. Perhaps this can be in the spring budget plan for this coming year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 103-12(4): Capital Improvements To The Cape Dorset Airport

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Let me assure my honourable colleague that there is money in the budget to rehabilitate the Cape Dorset airstrip this coming summer, in 1994-95. Should the money be approved for the air terminal building, there will be a new air terminal building in 1995-96. I want to assure him again that this summer we are going to rehabilitate the Cape Dorset runway and improve the airfield lighting system as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

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Question 104-12(4): Overcrowding In Pond Inlet School

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, the Minister responsible for Education corrected the record. I just want to confirm what he said yesterday, "If the situation where the student/teacher ratio is higher than what is agreed to in the collective agreement, certainly we would respond." Mr. Speaker, my question is, even though this might not be in the collective agreement, would the Minister respond to the situation in Pond Inlet? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 104-12(4): Overcrowding In Pond Inlet School

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, just to reiterate the point I made earlier, the whole matter of the teacher/pupil ratio is not a matter under the collective agreement. In terms of responding to the need teachers, that is done on a normal basis after the calculations of the numbers of students in the school at the end of October or mid-November and, based on policy, we will respond accordingly.

I will also, Mr. Speaker, be making a statement in the House about the whole matter so there is an understanding of how this works. I will talk about how the calculations for the need for teachers works and the requirements that we have to meet generally.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. In the Fort Simpson area, the band there has a resource management group that is looking into all the resources in their traditional area. I'm told that the Department of Renewable Resources had issued a timber license to a sawmill company in that area. There is a great concern on the part of people in the traditional area. They don't agree with that license. They want to deal with resource management comprehensively before they start getting into logging. I would like to ask the Minister responsible, if it is indeed true that Renewable Resources have issued a timber licence in that Martin Hills area near Fort Simpson. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Kakfwi.

Return To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the timber licence was issued around October 1, by the Department of Renewable Resources.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I would like to ask the Minister if the concerns of the people in the band who's traditional area is Martin Hills, if they were consulted before this timber license was issued. I say this because there was a petition issued by all the people who use that area traditionally, that they didn't want any logging to go on in that area. I would like to know if they were consulted. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I understand, from the department that letters were sent out following a request by a company or business to undertake some logging in the Martin Hills area. Letters were sent out informing the different groups and organizations in Fort Simpson. There was objection from the Dene band, but none of the other groups indicated any opposition, at the time. This is my recollection from the information I have reviewed recently.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. So, it's the position of the Minister responsible and the government that the aboriginal people who traditionally use their land -- even though their objections to logging have been voiced -- doesn't mean anything. It's their land and if they have objection to it, their position should be taken into consideration. I would like to ask the Minister responsible if that's the case. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, what I've asked is to review the legislation that binds this government in dealing with timber licensing. I understand it's viewed as rather archaic and not at all the type of legislation we should feel compelled to be bound under at this time. I've asked the department, two days ago, if they would come forward with some recommendations about the type of changes that should be made under this legislation, with a view to sitting down with the MLA from the Deh Cho and other parties as well, to see if we can make some changes to the legislation that is politically more plausible to all Members, but also

something that, I think, we can set up a process to make sure that the interests of everyone, particularly aboriginal people, are given the weight they should. I understand, under this present legislation it does not do that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your final supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. The Minister made reference to policies. As an aboriginal person involved in this institution, I know a lot of policies were made a long time ago, when we were not involved. Many of these policies and regulations didn't take into consideration our views at that time. Many of those regulations have to be changed today. I'd like to ask the Minister if the timber license that was issued on October 2, could be held until we've cleared this up because we're heading into some problems if we don't. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 105-12(4): Issuance Of Timber Licences Near Fort Simpson

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, again in the brief time I've had this department, I understand the legislation allows for the issuing of timber licenses and allows for appeal if a license is not issued. Once a license is issued, there is no recourse for the government or any other party to respond in any way to terminate the validity of a license. This is why I've asked the department to come to me in the next week or so with some suggestions so we can sit down with the MLA from the Deh Cho, and certainly other Members and parties, to look at ways in which we could try to resolve this situation and prevent others from happening in the future.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Minister told us how successful the Department of Transportation has been at increasing northern and local content in transportation contracts. I think all Members welcome programs which increase the number of jobs for northerners. However, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister noted in his statement, there is often a premium paid for some of the approaches taken, such as negotiated contracts. While there may be support for this approach, we've never heard in this House what those premiums might be. I'd like to ask if the Minister will agree to table a report this session, outlining the details of the failures he referred to in his statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Will the Minister further agree to table a report outlining the details of the successes to which he has referred?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I'd be only too happy to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Will the Minister also provide us with a report outlining the premium we've paid for the past two years in transportation contracts, and an indication of the net benefits for northerners which this premium has brought?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 106-12(4): Successes/Failures Of Negotiated Contracts

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I'd like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that in all cases we didn't pay a premium. In some cases we met the budget that was assigned to the projects. I'd be only too happy to demonstrate to this House and to all the Members, the benefits of negotiated contracts with aboriginal people in communities where jobs are desperately required.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Alloo-oo.

Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being Friday, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for well over 500 questions that he posed to me in his and my former lives. It appears to me that the math I learned in the hallways and foyers of schools in Pond Inlet might be different than the math he learned in the proper classrooms, south of the lake. My question is, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Is it the understanding of the Minister and his corporation staff, that 26,000 is greater than 24,000? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister "mathematical" Morin.

---Laughter

Return To Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, that depends whether or not you apply to the business incentive policy.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo. This is number two for you, Mr. Allooloo, 498 to go.

---Laughter

Supplementary To Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I asked the question is because there was a case where a local business person in Pond Inlet and a business person from the Northwest Territories bid on the same contract. The local business person's bid was \$24,000. The outsider's bid was \$26,000. The corporation gave the contract to the higher bidder. I want to know why that was done. We keep hearing this. The resources are scarce in our government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Allooloo is correct on some of the information. We did receive two bids on an electrical contract for the housing corporation in Pond Inlet. One bid was from Merkosak Construction in Pond Inlet for the amount of \$24,000. Another bid came from Kheraj Enterprises Ltd. of Resolute Bay for the amount of \$26,900. That was for the labour only, to install electrical systems and three access systems in houses in Pond Inlet.

The bids were evaluated. The business incentive policy was applied. In his bid, Merkosak was going to use an electrician who is qualified, but he was a resident of Quebec so he couldn't get the business incentive policy for that portion of the contract. In his bid, Kheraj's northern content and local content named an electrician from the Northwest Territories, so the business incentive policy was applied and Kheraj ended up with the low bid, because of the 15 per cent.

It was brought to the Housing Corporation's attention, by Mr. Allooloo, that Kheraj did not use the electrician from the Northwest Territories. He ended up using an electrician from Newfoundland.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Shame, shame.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

I would like to thank Mr. Allooloo for bringing that to my attention. We will be dealing with this. We have two options open to us because it is misleading to the Housing Corporation when a contractor does not follow his contract specifications. We will deal with it.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that this has happened. I have been working with the Minister during the last few months, and also with the Premier, on this issue. It has to be resolved. Those contractors who say they will use northern businesses, and who don't use them, have to be dealt with. It is unfair to local small business people. On the bids, they normally have to follow what they say they will do and bigger businesses have other options. Mr. Speaker, this has to be resolved.

I would like to thank the Minister for his immediate attention to this. When is he going to deal with this problem?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Further Return To Question 107-12(4): Electrical Contract Bid In Pond Inlet

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In as much as Mr. Kheraj has misrepresented information to our office in his bid, what I am asking for now is an opinion from Justice whether this represents a breach of contract. If Justice gives me that opinion, I have two options. I can terminate the contract with Kheraj Enterprises and then I can award the balance of the contract to a northern firm, using a northern electrician. This is the route I would prefer to go, but I need an opinion from Justice so I don't get sued. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Health. Mr. Speaker, it is getting close to that time of the year when a lot of people are going to be travelling out of the country for warmer climates. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, quite a number of people travel on business by international travel.

Inevitably, one of these travellers is going to get sick or get into an accident and find themselves with a problem, in whatever foreign country they're in. I'd like to know whether our NWT health care would cover people if they get hurt or get sick in a foreign country. What coverage would the territorial health care give them?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, there is coverage for residents of the Northwest Territories when they are travelling in other regions of Canada. There is some coverage for them when they are outside of Canada. I remember,

several years ago, having a constituent, and the Department of Health eventually settled their bills in Africa and brought them home. I think we are always willing to look at such situations outside of Canada.

What we mostly do, Mr. Speaker, is encourage people -- at the time they are making their travel plans and seeing their travel agents -- to take out extra insurance for when they are travelling outside of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

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Supplementary To Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure how well the people who travel -- who have health cards -- understand the implications of foreign and international travel, as far as health coverage is concerned. I wonder what action is being taken to inform persons holding NWT health care -- prior to their travelling, or upon issuance of their health care cards -- about what coverage they can expect and what they should do in situations they may face.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time this issue has come up in this House. Over the past few years, it has been raised a couple of times. At those times, departments did take action. It is my understanding that they asked travel agents to advise their patrons of the necessity to carry insurance. I will undertake to do that again. As Mr. Whitford says, there is a need to perhaps revitalize that information because people will be often travelling this winter to warmer climates.

First of all, I will undertake to find out if there's anything we can do, generally, through the Department of Health in our health centres, our hospitals, doctors offices, regional offices and so on and so forth. I will also undertake to send a letter to

all travel agents and airlines in the Northwest Territories to reiterate to them that they should advise people, who travel

internationally, that a little bit of extra insurance would go a long way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the efforts that the Minister will undertake in this matter. We've had some very serious incidents, not too long ago, where a northern person was found to be in need in Thailand. It was pretty scary.

The supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, that I would direct to the Minister of Health is, on the other side of the coin, we have a lot of visitors coming in. This particular area, Yellowknife, is well-known for its northern lights this time of the year. We have a lot of people coming in from Japan, for example, who spend a night out on the lake watching the northern lights. How would these people be covered if an accident or illness of a lengthy nature takes place? Would we be responsible for all the costs incurred in bringing the person back to health?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Further Return To Question 108-12(4): Health Care Coverage Outside Of Canada

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, the blade cuts both ways. Canadians are generally treated well when they are in foreign countries. Northwest Territories' residents are generally treated well by health professionals when they are travelling and get sick outside of Canada and outside of this territory. Conversely, when people are visiting the Northwest Territories, if they get sick or injured, the first thing we're concerned about is their well-being.

I would inform this House that they are, first and foremost, treated and we don't worry at that particular time who is eventually going to pay the bill, Mr.

Speaker. The majority of visitors to the Northwest Territories -- particularly the Japanese people who Mr. Whitford referred to -- are very well organized by their travel agents and tour agents.

The majority of them are carrying insurance. Some of them carry insurance from their employers. The majority of American visitors to the Northwest Territories have some kind of insurance. If we exhaust those insurance aspects, we would eventually go to the person and ask them to pay. But, certainly, we wouldn't be sending them bills while they're in their hospital bed, Mr. Speaker. We would do it in a sensible manner. However, we would try to recover the costs from those people who don't carry any kind of insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of DPW. Mr. Speaker, recently I received a couple of letters from my constituents. Prior to the session, I heard many concerns with regard to the parking fee that is imposed by this government. The fee is apparently for plugging in the vehicles or parking the vehicles.

I did write to the Minister of DPW to see if there was a policy developed on the fee that is imposed on many of the government employees. In responding, the Minister indicated that there was no policy developed and the user-pay was in the system in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Fort Smith and it would be implemented in Hay River, Fort Simpson and Iqaluit.

First of all, I would like to ask the Minister, what exactly is the charge for? Is it for a fee for the vehicle to be plugged in or is it for the parking space? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fee is for both.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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Supplementary To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, the Minister indicated that the user-pay is in place in Yellowknife, Inuvik and Fort Smith but it is not in place yet in Hay River, Fort Simpson or Iqaluit. I would like to ask why was this parking fee not imposed in an equitable fashion in every community in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems it is difficult for the Cabinet to know why things are not done in an equitable and fair manner. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would, by any chance, have available to him now -- through his briefing notes -- the rates imposed for parking? What are the user-pay rates that are being imposed? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rates in Yellowknife are \$45 monthly and \$15 in the summer. This includes average winter and summer electricity costs -- which are \$180 annually -- and winter and summer maintenance -- which averages \$180 annually -- for a total of \$360. It is spread out over the 12 months. Private parking lot rates in Yellowknife are \$120 per month at the Centre Square indoor parking lot, \$90 monthly at the Centre Square outdoor parking lot, and other downtown outdoor lots with no plug-ins cost \$50 per month. The Legislative Assembly building parking rates are not set by the regional office, they are set right here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, the private rates in Yellowknife are imposed by a private firm. There is no doubt there is possibly a need to provide parking for the residents of Yellowknife, but across the territories there is a lot of room and a private enterprise would go broke if they brought forth parking fees to park a vehicle. There is a lot of room in many of the communities. This is why I can not understand why this government is trying to implement a user-fee system for parking.

This fee is being imposed on my constituents at a rate of \$30 a month right across the board, for \$360 a year. It is a burden, especially on single people. I would like to ask the Minister if he would review -- since he has already said that it hasn't been implemented in a fair manner -- this parking fee for the communities of the territories, with the view that if it is needed it be done in a fair manner? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 109-12(4): Parking Fee Charges To GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Agreed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.



Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**MR. LEWIS:**

I'm tempted to carry on with this line of questioning about parking but I'm resisting, even though it is Friday, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of aboriginal rights and constitutional development. This week we had a delegation come from the Inuvik region with a very, very carefully thought out proposal which was described in some detail by my colleague, Mr. Koe, this morning, in his Member's statement.

I would like to ask the Minister what exactly is the status of this proposal with regard to the development of a regional government in the Inuvik region?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the process in the western territory is called the Constitutional Development Steering Committee process. The agreement reached a year and a half ago, under the initiative and the leadership of the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, was that the process to develop a new constitution and to set up a political process for arriving at it in the western territories should recognize that the process should start at the community level. The Inuvialuit original proposal for regional government, called WARM, has gone through some changes because the Gwich'in have formed a partnership with them. That regional government proposal reflects that start, that agreement that the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in reached with everyone else in the Mackenzie Valley. The regional government proposal -- as Mr. Koe said earlier -- reflects the commitment that community governments are paramount.

Again, a year and a half ago when we decided to initiate this constitutional process again, we also agreed it would be logical for communities to decide what powers and authority, rules and responsibilities they want for themselves. From there, it would progress to what they think they can and want to manage, administer and govern at the regional level. From there, it would go to a central government level. They figured that was a logical way to proceed.

This regional proposal, as it is, is a natural progression of that commitment made a year and a half ago. The status of the proposal, at this time, is in constitutional talks. The official discussion paper and position of the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and,

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as I understand, the town of Inuvik, being used as a basis to pursue their objectives in that area.

There are a couple of possibilities, as I understand it. One, they will inform as many people as they can of the elements of the proposal, take it to the Constitutional Development Steering Committee meeting in December, and push for some early recognition and adoption of this paper and this position by other regions. They would seek some assurance that all or most of the elements contained in there will be supported by the other people, and try to figure out what work plan and process will have them arrive at a table with the federal government in the near future to negotiate recognition of this proposal.

The other option is for them to consider, unilaterally, approaching the federal government very early on, to recognize and adopt this proposal. It's unclear at this time what options they may choose. They may elect to go to the meeting in December, then make their decisions from there. They may approach the federal government on their own, earlier than that, to seek federal response, since it's the federal government that's going to be negotiating any changes to the NWT Act and negotiating any new forms of government. At some time or other, the federal government, I would hope, would be prepared to indicate the parameters of what is negotiable in that forum. For them not to do that would be an indication of what may be their agenda.

The status of that, as I say, is a discussion paper. They feel very strong that that's what they want to arrive at, at the end of this process, which is a six year process. I believe, as I've said, there are very positive elements in the paper. What is missing, at this time, is a collective sense, strategically, of what we should all be doing to arrive at some sort of satisfactory solution for all of us in the near future. One of the dangers, of course, is the federal government could be open to entertain any and all proposals, only to suggest that the status quo should be maintained at the end, since we're unable to come to any sensible agreement on what we want collectively in the western territory.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I can always depend on the Minister to give me a complete, comprehensive and exhaustive response to a question which asks him about the status. My question asked him about the status, and his answer was that this is a discussion paper. My question is, since the people from the Inuvik region have met with the western Members and have said to the western Members, "We know what we want. You've gone ahead devolving powers to communities. Let us go ahead with this regional government because we know what it is we want." My question to the Minister is -- although he was part of that group of western MLAs -- have the same people approached the Minister as a Member of our Cabinet responsible for aboriginal affairs and constitutional development, to get on with it because the people know what they want?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I haven't discussed with the Minister any suggested processes as of this date. The agreement was -- and both the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in agreed -- that, at this time, the process set up by the Constitutional Development Steering Committee will be followed. In December, we'll be meeting and we will discuss a work plan and a budget, as well as hear from this regional group how they would like to advance their proposal.

It was a long-winded response to the earlier question simply because of the word "status" in the region itself. The paper they have has good status. It's supported by the region, by the leaders and it's being pushed. It's been blessed by every citizen in that particular region. The Members of the Legislative Assembly have given it some positive status by receiving it. The government has said it has some good, positive elements. It's a natural part of the process that was set up, but it has no status with the

federal government at this time. That is the reason for my attempt at rationalizing why I gave such a long response earlier. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**MR. LEWIS:**

I'm not objecting to long, exhaustive responses, as long as they advance their case. I appreciate what the Minister has told me. However, the answer I was just given was an answer to another question which I didn't ask. My question to the Minister is, has that group requested the Minister -- since government goes on, life goes on -- outside of the work of constitutional development, to get on with this, to do something about it? It's no different than developing government at the community level. People know what they want. They want this regional government. Have they asked him, as a Cabinet Minister, to get on with it, to do something, because people know what they want.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, those suggestions have been made, although not on paper. I know some suggestions have been made that the Members of Parliament, Jack Anawak and Ethel Blondin-Andrew, because the two groups are within their constituencies, may be called on -- if they haven't already been -- to consider advising it directly to the Minister. It's been suggested to me they might consider doing that. In the absence of any collective strategy, any time given to thinking out strategically how that may impede or impair the chances for achieving the many things we want, I haven't been prepared to respond positively. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**MR. LEWIS:**

Since this group is an aggressive group -- and in my opinion have jumped the gun, but all good will to them -- people want to get on with something. I'd like to ask the Minister, has he any information about any other organizations or redefinitions of districts or regions that would like to do something similar to what's being proposed by the people from Inuvik?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 110-12(4): Status Of Creation Of A Western Arctic Regional Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, it has been understood by everyone who has been involved in this process that all the Dene/Metis communities are of the view that if it's possible to have it at the community level -- all powers, authority and responsibilities -- that's where it should be. If it makes sense to put their powers and responsibilities at the regional level, then that should be considered. The proposal itself is not out of line with what I think is going to be coming out of other regions. The thing, I think, that alarms some people is the fact that there is very little, if anything, mentioned for the role of a central government.

As I've said, there is mention of some powers that will be assumed to be left at a central government level. The rationale used in the paper suggests that if it's not efficient or convenient to leave it at the regional or community level, it will reside at the central level. The discussions have not reached a stage where people have been convinced that any substantial amount of power, roles or responsibility should be exercised at the central level. They haven't objected to it, they just haven't been convinced of it and the discussion hasn't reached that level yet.

I think that's the element for concern, but I think most of those who have seen their paper and the proposal and have talked to them, are convinced that logic and common sense will prevail since the communities are in control of this. The bigger concern that some of us have is the absence of any collective strategy, at this time, and how to advance it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. His department put in place, this year, a new municipal capital assistance policy which will effect next year's capital programs. In this policy, municipalities are required to provide a cash or sweat equity contribution towards capital infrastructure in their communities, depending on the type of infrastructure and other factors in the policy. We're all fully aware, given the course of events this past week and since the session started, that some municipalities are on unstable financial ground. Some are even currently involved in debt recovery programs. My question to the Minister is, how is he going to deal with the situation where a community is unable to meet their financial obligations towards this capital infrastructure, towards their contribution?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We certainly wouldn't want to cause any unnecessary grief to communities, in terms of taking away capital infrastructure, because they didn't have the capacity to contribute either their cash or sweat equity. I think what we will be doing is, perhaps when we look at the recovery plans we would incorporate some form of contribution over a longer period of time rather than a shorter period of time.

I know, with respect to my own riding, in Whale Cove, there was a recovery plan put in place there and it didn't impinge upon its ability to get the arena there. We've worked out a system for the community as to how they would recover and how they would contribute, on a community basis, to this particular capital initiative.

I would suggest to the honourable Member that we would have to deal with each issue on a one by one basis, based on whatever the recovery plan is, and build the sweat equity and contribution into the recovery plan somewhere. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period will be extended. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**MR. NG:**

Can the Minister assure us that communities will not be penalized for being in a difficult financial situation with the loss of their capital programs?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

As I stated in the previous response, it's not the intention of the department to penalize anybody. When communities are in difficult financial situations there are a number of reasons for it. Some of them are out of their control and some are within their control. I want to assure the honourable Member that we look at these situations on a community by community basis, and every effort will be made to work in the contribution component to the recovery plan with respect to the capital infrastructure.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Can the Minister advise us of how many municipalities are in financial difficulty?

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the question.

Supplementary To Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**MR. NG:**

Would you advise us of how many municipalities are in a financial situation which is not good?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 111-12(4): Communities Unable To Fulfil MCAP Provisions

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I don't have the details at this time, Mr. Speaker. I will provide it to the honourable Member some time next week.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 112-12(4): Hamlet Of Sanikiluaq - Housing Association Difficulties

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, under the Members' statements, I have two items to reiterate. The hamlet is taking authority over housing issues. My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. They're having problems getting that straightened out in Sanikiluaq, since Sanikiluaq is taking over the housing authority. They would like to take over the budget of the housing authority. They have no idea as to how the funding is going to be distributed to the hamlet, whether by block funding or in small amounts. Maybe they can try to solve this problem they have, if the Minister of Municipal Affairs would straighten out this problem that the hamlet of Sanikiluaq is having. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 112-12(4): Hamlet Of Sanikiluaq - Housing Association Difficulties

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I've said on many occasions, with respect to the community transfer, that the communities should ensure they have adequate resources before they take these responsibilities over. I want to say that up front, that's my position and it continues to be my position.

With respect to the Sanikiluaq situation I don't have the actual details, but I want to ensure the honourable Member that we want to ensure there are adequate resources there, with respect to the transfer agreements, with the housing going on in the hamlet. I don't have the details of the dollars. Perhaps my honourable colleague to my right may be able to answer that question for you. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 112-12(4): Hamlet Of Sanikiluaq - Housing Association Difficulties

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, supplementary to my question. The Sanikiluaq hamlet has been operating the housing authority. It used to be handled by the regional housing corporation, but now the transfer agreements are being handled by headquarters. They would like to have the budget straightened out as they are having problems in handling it. Now they can handle their own housing authority. Is there any way they can have assurances as to how their budget is going to be arranged through the transfer agreements? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 112-12(4): Hamlet Of Sanikiluaq - Housing Association Difficulties

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My honourable colleague has advised me that there is going to be a meeting with the Sanikiluaq hamlet council on December 6, with some senior people from the housing corporation. In the interim, the housing corporation has authorized a direct payment of \$100,000 until we can resolve the issue.

I want to assure the honourable Member again, that community transfers is a significant initiative in this government, fully supported by everyone in this House. We want to ensure that it is a success. It is our intention to meet directly with hamlet officials on December 6. In the interim, we have provided them with some cash flow to tide them over until we resolve the budget problem. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs regarding the community transfer initiatives. There has been some progress made. The Minister of Public Works announced this morning some of the initiatives in the east and central Arctic. I know that in my constituency of Inuvik there have been some discussions and workshops held with the Inuvik community transfer committee. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of these discussions on community transfer initiatives between this government and the committee in Inuvik?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Kakfwi.

Return To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, when the community transfer initiative was first announced and engaged by this government, there was a view by most of us -- perhaps not all of us -- that it would be in the small communities, the one-council communities, where it would perhaps be the easiest to make progress in the area of transfers. What was implied was that the larger communities, the larger municipalities, would have the most difficulty because they are diverse and have some rather large and powerful cultural and political groups that would make it difficult to move forward on any sort of collective agreements.

In fact, the town of Inuvik has dispelled that myth. In Inuvik the chief and council, and the Inuvialuit community leaders have set up a working group. They have reached a framework agreement on how these groups propose to work together to negotiate community transfers with the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have looked at an implementation plan that is being advanced. It would have the different departments that are targeted, outline clearly what the minimum standards are and provide certain financial information that has been requested by the group, to them this month. We have agreed that some sort of a community transfer agreement, under the framework agreement, will be finalized by April, 1994.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed the last comment the Minister made. I know that there has been a framework agreement and an implementation agreement where the government departments are supposed to provide information on programs and services to the Inuvik community transfer committee. The Minister mentioned that this information is supposed to detail the services, the minimum standards and the finances required for the delivery of these programs. My supplementary question is, has all this information been provided to the Inuvik committee yet?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, my understanding, as of yesterday afternoon, is that not all the information which has been requested from the different departments has been made available yet to the working group in Inuvik.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. If that's the case, I just want to ask the Minister responsible for coordinating this initiative, if information has not been provided is it because departments are unwilling or are they unable to provide this type of information through your offices?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I believe there are a couple of reasons. One is some of the information that the government has is not easily accessible or available in the format that communities require them, simply because of the way we keep books and statistics and compile information. The other reason is the workload of departments. We have asked for this information, but there is other work that departments are doing. While it is a priority, it is difficult sometimes to get all the work done that is required within the time lines that are set up by this Legislature and the government itself.

As the Member might gather, we have chosen not to go around with a big stick and beat up on departments. We need them to feel good about this work, to feel that there's great merit in delivering the goods as called upon by the communities. We're working with these departments to make information available as soon as possible.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I guess that raises the issue...We have a community -- as was mentioned earlier -- that is ready, willing and able to go to work on these transfers. Yet, there is seemingly some delay by some government departments on providing

information and proceeding at the pace in which the community wants to proceed. My supplementary is, what action are you taking, or is Cabinet taking, on trying to accelerate these negotiations and the speed of the community transfer initiatives in Inuvik?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 113-12(4): Status Of Community Transfer Initiative

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

We keep in daily contact with people in the communities that we're working with to try to keep this process going. In some instances, it's not just the government that's involved, it's groups like the unions. We have cases where we have to step back a little and check out the initiatives of certain communities with regard to the interests of employees and the collective agreements that we're bound by. While it holds up transfers, we see it as doing homework that could become a costly headache after a transfer has been completed. Places like Cape Dorset, for instance, have been very anxious to proceed, but we've been trying to get as much internal and detailed work done as possible, before hand. All the best information we can provide to brief the communities as to the implications of certain things they consider doing is before them before transfers are completed, so that after transfers are done there is no bad feeling that we mislead communities. Politically, I'm very interested in signing deals as quickly as possible, but there's a greater obligation of this government to make sure that what we do is done in good faith. I will be charged with unseemingly reaping delay on other delays. That it is a legitimate character in the nature of these talks. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 114-12(4): Federal Fiduciary Responsibility For Aboriginal Social Housing

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've listened with great interest to Mr. Kakfwi's exhausting answers. I'm going to ask a question of a Minister who has a reputation for giving short answers: Mr. Morin. Mr. Speaker, given that the vast majority of our housing clients in the Northwest Territories are

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 114-12(4): Federal Fiduciary Responsibility For Aboriginal Social Housing

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am supplying the information to Mr. Irwin through the Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 114-12(4): Federal Fiduciary Responsibility For Aboriginal Social Housing

**MR. PATTERSON:**

I take it from that response that Mr. Pollard is the lead Minister with Mr. Irwin. Therefore, my question would be to Minister Pollard, if I may, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

(Microphone turned off) ...to a new Minister. Item 5, oral questions. Everybody gets a turn and now you, Mr. Patterson.

Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Housing acknowledged yesterday what we all know. I quote from unedited Hansard, "we don't have any money for next year for housing." Given that the Housing Corporation budget is before this House this session, I would like to ask Mr. Pollard, who is dealing with Mr. Irwin on this issue? Has Mr. Irwin been asked to give a firm yes or no answer on making up the federal shortfall within a certain time limit this year? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Irwin has not been asked for a firm deadline. Mr. Irwin, as you know and Members know, met with Cabinet. There was a whole range of issues discussed. The Premier asked me to follow that up with a letter to Mr. Irwin and that letter is fairly lengthy, Mr. Speaker, with regard to all the topics discussed at that particular meeting. The letter is in draft form at the present time. Mr. Todd, I understand, will be seeing Mr. Irwin before I will be seeing him again. So, Mr. Todd will be raising some of those issues, I believe, next week in Rankin Inlet. I understand that Mr. Anawak will be there as well. I will be asking Mr. Todd -- because this is a pressing issue -- to raise that issue with Mr. Irwin, who said he was going to go away and maybe study up a bit on that particular issue. So, next week, hopefully -- a week from this Monday -- Mr. Todd will be meeting with Mr. Irwin and bringing that issue right to the forefront. Then, I will be following up the request for a meeting with the Minister, prior to Christmas, to try to resolve this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, given the urgency of the matter, the urgency of tender deadlines and winter road deadlines, and the fact that we don't have the money in our budget at the moment, can I get Mr. Pollard's agreement that it is critical to get a commitment from Mr. Irwin on a firm yes or no by the end of this calendar year on whether or not his department, failing CMHC, will deliver money to meet the shortfall for new social housing units this coming year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have an answer as soon as possible. I know Mr. Morin would like an answer today. I would agree that we should try to get an answer as soon as possible. But saying to get an

answer by the end of this calendar year, I'm not prepared to say, Mr. Speaker. I would say we will settle it, hopefully, and get an answer from the Minister as soon as is humanly possible.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Ministers involved in this; Mr. Todd, Mr. Morin and myself. There are at least two federal Ministers involved in this particular issue: the Treasury Board Minister in Ottawa is involved; and, the Premier is involved in discussions with the Prime Minister and is sending a letter. I think it contains the same kind of information. There are a lot of issues residing with a lot of people. It is not between myself and Mr. Irwin.

There is also a matter that Mr. Morin has been working on, and I hope he would excuse me for replying on his behalf, Mr. Speaker. On the whole matter of fiduciary responsibility of the federal government for aboriginal housing in the Northwest Territories -- before we want to pull the trigger on a bullet that is in the gun on that particular issue -- Mr. Morin wants to do more research into it.

He has been doing research in Ottawa and has somebody working in that regard. Without speaking on behalf of the Minister, I'm merely informing the House that Mr. Morin is doing some research. I'm sure he is not prepared to make some clear and final statements until he has all that information at his disposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the answers of the Minister of Finance and that it is a complicated issue

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involving many Ministers of the federal government. However, Mr. Speaker, it could pose a danger to us if it is not clear who is in charge of giving a clear answer to the people of the Northwest Territories before we have to make final decisions about winter roads and sea lifts.

The Minister of DIAND has, I believe, a major role in the formula financing arrangements with the Northwest Territories. I know Mr. Irwin was briefed



when he was here for the opening and I know he's going to be briefed while he is in Rankin Inlet for the Tunngavik annual general meeting. Will Mr. Pollard commit that a meeting should be sought with Mr. Irwin, in the presence of his senior staff, to ensure that the critical importance of this issue and the critical briefing materials are given, not only to the Minister, but to those senior departmental officials who also need to be part of the solution? Will that meeting be sought? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 115-12(4): Deadline For Response From Feds On Social Housing

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, the first thing that we're saying to those federal ministers is that Mr. Morin only has a certain window of time to deliver many of those housing units in the Northwest Territories. We are making them aware of that critical time frame that we're working in. Mr. Irwin is coming up to speed very quickly on this issue because of the work that was done previously with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in this regard. The senior bureaucrats in that particular department are aware of it.

When we had last talked to him, he had been in the position ten days, I believe. I'm sure that when we alert his office, Mr. Todd will be raising this critical issue with him in Rankin Inlet next Monday. He will have that information at his disposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. That concludes written questions. We'll take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I call the Assembly back to order. We're on item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 3-12(4), asked by Mr. Patterson to the Minister of Finance concerning the audit bureau on Iqaluit social services operation.

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

The audit bureau division of the Financial Management Board Secretariat has been conducting a compliance audit of the 1991 and 1992 contribution agreements between the Department of Social Services and the town of Iqaluit. The audit is required under the terms of the agreements. Audit staff reviewed the administration of the financial assistance program and some aspects of the child welfare program.

Work commenced on the audit in November, 1992. The first draft report was forwarded to the town on February 10, 1993. During the week of February 15, 1993, the audit team discussed the draft report with town staff while the auditors were in Iqaluit on another assignment.

On March 11, 1993, management responses to the audit findings were received from the town of Iqaluit. The town's comments resulted in changes to one section of the audit report. On April 8, 1993, a revised draft report was forwarded to the town, and on April 16, final agreement was reached on the new wording.

On April 19, 1993, the draft report including the town's comments was forwarded to the Department of Social Services. Following the department's initial review, several meetings between the auditors and Social Services' staff members took place during May, 1993, to consider the audit findings. The department then indicated it would prepare written comments.

The department's written comments were received on October 18, 1993. As a courtesy, on November 10, 1993, a complete draft report, incorporating the comments provided by both the town and the department, was forwarded to the town of Iqaluit for final review. The town was asked to indicate any concerns it might have with the department's comments by November 30.

It is expected that the final report on this audit will be issued to the Minister of Social Services by December 10, 1993.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. 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 7-12(4): Report On The Committee Review Of DeLury And Associates Limited Contracts

#### MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is pleased to present its Report on the Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts.

#### Background

Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 1992, the Standing Committee on Finance tabled its Report on the Review of the 1992-93 Main Estimates. I believe the report is Committee Report 17-12(2). The following comments were included.

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DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts. The committee is concerned with three contracts spanning a two year period, from November 1989 to December 1991, totalling \$530,279 that were sole-sourced with DeLury and Associates Limited of Burns Lake, British Columbia. We were informed that Mr. DeLury was one of very few people with experience in the negotiation and implementation of a land claim settlement. The committee questions the practice of sole-sourcing and value for money in these circumstances. In addition, the amount reported by the department did not agree with the Government of the Northwest Territories contract listing.

In recommendation 34, Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts review the contracts awarded by sole source to DeLury and Associates Limited to ensure proper accountability and value for money in these circumstances.

This recommendation was subsequently passed by a motion of the Legislative Assembly on October 2, 1992. Background materials were transmitted to me, as chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, by the chairperson of Standing Committee on Finance on November 17, 1992.

In following up on this recommendation, Mr. Speaker, the committee was advised of the following:

-That it would likely be necessary to draw on the expertise of an accounting professional with extensive experience in public administration audit.

-Consulting and Audit Canada could be retained to complete the review, through a memorandum of understanding with the federal government.

-The analyst would not have the usual authority that an auditor from the territorial Audit Bureau or the Auditor General's office would have in accessing government records. Accordingly, it would be necessary to rely on the good offices of the Department of the Executive to acquire and use information needed for the review.

#### Memorandum Of Agreement

#### Consulting And Audit Canada

Mr. Speaker, the Public Accounts department, at a special meeting held on June 15, 1993 in Hay River, NWT, moved that Consulting and Audit Canada be contracted, through a memorandum of agreement, to conduct an independent review of the DeLury contract.

A memorandum of agreement was negotiated with Consulting and Audit Canada and the consultants commenced their work in Yellowknife on July 19, 1993. The findings presented in the attached report are based primarily on interviews with and documentation provided by the deputy minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

The review conducted by Consulting and Audit Canada, was divided into two phases. The first phase that ended in the preparation of this interim report, included: planning and orientation; field work, which involved reviewing and analysing documentation; and, interviewing appropriate individuals.

The memorandum of agreement with the consultants indicated that the second phase of the review, which would include preparation of a final report and attendance at meetings of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, would be undertaken only if required. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts decided at a meeting in September, 1993, that it would not be productive or necessary for Consulting and Audit Canada to undertake the second phase of the review.

## Review Of DeLury And Associates Limited Contracts

### Interim Report Prepared By Consulting And Audit Canada

Mr. Speaker, Consulting and Audit Canada concluded that, although some deficiencies had been identified, the decision to award contracts by sole-source to DeLury and Associates Limited was taken at the Executive Council level, and was in compliance with the applicable statutory authorities set out in the Government of the Northwest Territories' Financial Administration Act.

However, several deficiencies related to the administration of the contracts were identified, including:

-Procedures used for the reporting of contract details in the government's contract listing were inadequate;

-A post-contract internal evaluation of this large consulting contract was not carried out;

-The total contract costs reported to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories were understated, in that certain travel costs were not reported; and,

-Consulting fees paid by the Government of the Northwest Territories in the amount of \$8,780 which related to services provided to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation by the contractor, may not have been recovered.

Further, given the documentation made available, Consulting and Audit Canada was unable to assess or comment on whether adequate monitoring, supervision, or direction over the contractor was maintained or whether the Government of the Northwest Territories obtained adequate value for money, in terms of the services provided by the contractor.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the consultants recommended that the second stage of this review -- namely, the preparation of a final report and their attendance at the meetings of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts -- be set aside, as this interim report provides all existing information from the documentation made available for review.

Standing Committee On Public Accounts Review Of Interim Report Prepared By Consulting And Audit Canada

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee called Mr. Lew Voytilla, Comptroller General, and Mr. Bob Overvold, Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, to discuss the findings of the interim report prepared by Consulting and Audit Canada. The issues raised and discussed with these witnesses include the following:

- the accuracy of the contract listing;

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- the authority and obligation to produce the contract listing;

- the question of value for money for the whole of Mr. DeLury's work for the Government of the Northwest Territories;

- accountability and the adequacy of contract monitoring; and,

- the reason why the Government of the Northwest Territories paid for work done by Mr. DeLury for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

### The Contract Listing

Mr. Speaker, the contract listing can be an effective financial management tool. However, the committee is not satisfied that the contract listing has provided the required degree of public accountability. Members noted that much of the controversy surrounding the DeLury contracts could have been avoided, had the contract listing been produced in a timely manner with clear, accurate information. Any questions about these contracts could have been asked and addressed, long before the total expenditures amounted to over half a million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to the recommendations of our committee;

### Recommendation 1

Our committee recommends that the Financial Management Board Secretariat formalize the process by which the contract listing is produced in order to ensure that accurate information is conveyed to the Legislative Assembly and the public in a timely fashion.

### Value for Money

Mr. Speaker, Consulting and Audit Canada reported that based on the available documentation, they were

unable to assess or comment on the value for money or the accountability and contract monitoring aspects of the DeLury contracts. The standing committee is not convinced, given the magnitude of the total expenditures for the DeLury contracts, that the Government of the Northwest Territories received sufficient value for money.

#### Accountability And Contract Monitoring

Mr. Speaker, the secretary to the Financial Management Board informed the committee that a new audit and evaluation division has been established in the Financial Management Board Secretariat, as part of the reorganization of Executive functions. The audit and evaluation division is composed of the territorial Audit Bureau, an information management section and an evaluation section. The secretary to the Financial Management Board suggested that the development of this in-house capacity to conduct program and project evaluations would hopefully address the concerns raised by the committee with respect to contract monitoring. The committee will be tracking the development of this organizational unit, with interest, to ensure that its concerns are addressed.

#### Recommendation 2

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, our committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories, and in particular the Executive department, document and monitor service contracts to ensure full accountability and the capacity to assess value for money. The committee further recommends that the concerns identified, regarding contract monitoring, be addressed through policy development.

#### GNWT Payment For Services Rendered To The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Mr. Speaker, government officials did not provide a rationale to the committee concerning the reason the Government of the Northwest Territories agreed to pay for Mr. DeLury's consulting services to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. In addition, no explanation has been provided regarding the government's apparent failure to recover the consulting fees for services provided to the Inuvialuit.

#### Recommendation 3

Therefore, our third recommendation from our committee, recommends that the government review the payment of consulting fees to Mr. DeLury, for

services provided to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, assess the feasibility of recovering these fees, and take appropriate action, as required.

#### Motion To Receive Committee Report 7-12(4) And Move To Committee Of The Whole

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Standing Committee on Public Accounts report and I would therefore move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Committee Report 4-12(4), be received and moved into committee of the whole.

#### MR. SPEAKER:

For the record, it's Committee Report 7-12(4). Your motion is in order Mr. Zoe. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Report 7-12(4) will be put into committee of the whole. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Koe.

#### ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to table, Tabled Document 24-12(4), a document titled, Reshaping Government in the Western Arctic. As I told Members earlier today, this proposal describes the creation of a regional government in the western Arctic. This draft proposal was developed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Inuvialuit Regional Council after extensive consultation with western Arctic communities.

The principles and concepts contained in the proposal were unanimously endorsed at a regional leaders' conference on November 20. This regional leaders' conference was attended by representatives of the eight municipal governments in the

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region, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and hunters' and trappers' committee.

The proposal will now be further refined by a committee representing the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and the municipalities. The people of the Beaufort/Delta believe that regional government will allow residents

to better realize their common values and aspirations to achieve more effective and responsible government. The regional government will also result in superior government programs and services and maximize community and regional decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of a regional government is not a new or unique idea. Regional governments exist across Canada, with regional municipalities, counties or other political entities. Members should note that this proposal has been endorsed by the people of the region, through their community governments and aboriginal organizations. This is the first time that a detailed proposal for reshaping government for this region has been endorsed by the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the municipal governments.

Representatives from these organizations will continue to develop this proposal and will table it in constitutional discussions. The people of the western Arctic wish to inform Members of the Assembly they are committed to working with the current constitutional development process in the Northwest Territories. We believe the presentation of this proposal will advance these discussions.

Mr. Speaker, Members should note that the Beaufort and Mackenzie Delta communities will soon seek the support of this Legislature, and the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, for the initiatives and principles contained in this regional government proposal.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal I'm tabling today is in recognition of this fact and is a positive contribution to political development in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi. Qujannamiik.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. I'd like to remind Members of the House, I allowed a fair amount of leeway with that particular tabling statement. The rule actually states, "the Member may make a brief factual statement to identify documents". I would ask Members to show courtesy to other Members. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, being known for brevity, I wish to table, Tabled Document 25-12(4), Audit Report, Commission for Constitutional Development.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 26-12(4), Arctic College, 1992-93 Annual Report, entitled, New Challenges. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 27-12(4), The Interim Financial Report of the Government of the Northwest Territories, for the year ended March 31, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, tabling of documents. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 28-12(4), Northwest Territories Power Corporation, 1992-93 Annual Report.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, tabling of documents. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome in the gallery, Mr. Roy Fabien, the former chief of the Hay River Dene Band.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

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

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 183(4) of the Elections Act, I wish to table, Tabled Document 29-12(4), a Candidate's Return Respecting Election Expenses and Contributions, filed by Mr. Bill Adamache, Mr. Harry Maksagak and Mr. Kelvin Ng, from the Kitikmeot by-election held May 10, 1993.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Koe.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS**

Motion 2-12(4): Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report From The Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, the caucus of the Legislative Assembly has held two strategic planning workshops in Fort Providence and Cambridge Bay;

AND WHEREAS, a document that summarizes the deliberations on matters related to discuss with the operation of government leading up to 1999 has been tabled in the Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Tabled Document 11-12(4) titled, Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order. To set the record straight on the orders of the day, under item 16, it reads Bill 2-12(4), that was a typo. It's actually Motion 2-12(4). So people can make the appropriate corrections. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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 by Premier; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; Committee

Report 1-12(4), Special Committee on Health and Social Service's Final Report; Committee Report 3-12(4), Standing Committee on Finance Report on the Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates; Committee Report 4-12(4), Committee Follow-up on the Department of Health's Response to the Recommendations Contained in Committee Report 18-12(3), tabled on March 24, 1993 with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The committee will come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we were dealing with Committee Report 1-12(4) and we were dealing with recommendation 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue to deal with the Special Committee on Health and Social Service's report. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that we deal with Committee Report 1-12(14)?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 1-12(4), Special Committee On Health And Social Services Final Report

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. As I mentioned earlier, when we concluded we were dealing with recommendation 15. Recommendation 15 was a motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Recommendation 15 is the motion that is on the floor, Mr. Chairman. I call for the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. Mr. Gargan, we have already called a vote. Does the committee agree with

the motion? All those in favour? All those opposed?  
Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, front line workers have identified a lack of training as one of the greatest problems they face in performing their duties. Additional training should be provided through conferences, workshops, distance learning, in-service training by visiting specialists and greater information sharing between workers. These activities would benefit the community by increasing the skills of front line workers and reducing the reliance on fly-in specialists.

Committee Motion 21-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 16, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that front line health and social service workers should be provided with greater training opportunities, and the government should present a report on progress made in this area to the 1994 fall session of the Legislative Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the committee if they could clarify what they mean by front line workers, where are the deficiencies, and what are the purposes of conference workshops and distance learning?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, can we have clarification from the special committee membership? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of our project, we did a survey of front line workers to ask them what they saw as the biggest concerns in doing their job. We heard, overwhelmingly, that a lack of training and training opportunities, was one of the problems they saw. Some of the areas in which people told us they

thought they needed more training included dealing with family violence, child sexual abuse, substance abuse, suicide and family...(Microphone turned off).

There are an awful lot of challenges to people in the field. We are not only talking about the challenges faced by social services workers. We are talking about the challenges faced by all front line workers, including community health representatives and people in the health field. Community health representatives clearly told us that they felt they should have better training in public health awareness and better ability to help and train people to understand how to prevent illness.

Nurses told us they thought they could benefit from training in fields of some of the specialists that were travelling through. They wanted to see increased opportunities for in-service training during the tours of specialists.

As well, people in the alcohol and drug field often mentioned to us that they thought there was a need to improve their abilities to deal with the problems they face in their communities. All in all, people said they wanted to receive more training so they could do a better job of dealing with the problems they face with their clients in the communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

When you refer to front line workers, you are referring to specific target groups that work directly with the public. When you talk about fly-in specialists, I'm not too sure what that means. Are we talking about doctors, psychiatrists, dentists and eye doctors? What are we looking at here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

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**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about all the specialists that Mr. Gargan just mentioned. For instance, people who work in mental health counselling wanted to be able to have some time to work with psychiatrists who come into the communities to try to upgrade their skills. People in

the communities told us that psychiatrists, for instance, don't visit the communities enough. They don't see enough of the professionals.

In terms of health centres, yes, we are talking about when doctors visit. For instance, when an obstetrician or gynaecologist visits the community, the people in the health centres told us they wanted an opportunity to gain from the knowledge that these health specialists may have in those areas, where they may be better able to serve the people in the community, because the obstetricians and gynaecologists aren't there all the time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, a survey was done with front line workers, I understand. I would like to ask who did the survey. The other thing is, I still have yet to see a psychiatrist go to Fort Providence. I don't know whether everyone there is in a good state of mind or not, but you can't depend on fly-in specialists. This is one of the areas where we see a high degree of demand. We see the doctors, eye doctors and dentists. Good, that is fine, the demands are there for them, too.

But in the area of mental health, child abuse and physical abuse -- those are all areas that a psychiatrist works in -- we never see them in the communities. Perhaps that is why we have so many problems at that level. Presumably, Mr. Dent has information from front line workers about all the communities where the psychiatrist does visit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Gargan's first question about who did the survey, the survey was commissioned by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services and coordinated through the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories. It was set up under the supervision of the Science Institute. Telephone and mail-out surveys were done in different segments. That report, along with the methodology, has been tabled in the House, Mr. Chairman, so it is available for all Members to have a look at.

In relation to whether a psychiatrist has been to Providence, I can only hope that Mr. Gargan is right and the people of Fort Providence have no need of psychiatric services. I'm afraid I can not answer on behalf of the Department of Health as to why they have chosen one community over another to send people to. One of the things our committee has said is, people should be entitled to similar services all across the territories. I would hope that people across the Northwest Territories are being treated in a similar manner. I should say we hope that they will be. However, we know that they are not, because we were told that they are not throughout our consultation process.

In fact, a lot of communities told us that they have not seen the specialist that they should see, either. The bottom line is in our report we say that we do need to get more counselling opportunities and more professional help into the communities. That's one of the things that we have identified as a problem and hope to ask the government to address through the adoption of our report.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I referred to Fort Providence, I wasn't suggesting that everybody was in a good state of mind and that's why we never see psychiatrists going in there. That's not my point. My point is that I think the psychiatrist visits Yellowknife, but where else does he visit? As far as I'm concerned, I don't think he ever goes to any community unless for the purposes of trial, to determine people's state of minds in cases.

I would like to request a copy of the tabled document on the survey. I want to know what it is called, so I can get a copy of it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent, would you be able to provide a copy to the honourable Member? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, the name of the document is, The Front Line Workers Survey. I will hand Mr. Gargan a copy of it right now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**



Thank you, Mr. Dent. That is very efficient of you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole purpose of front line workers is for them to deal with those types of situations that are evident in the communities. That includes alcohol and drug abuse, child abuse, wife abuse and all those social problems. The government has those people in place. Are we referring to government people or are we looking at people other than government people for this type of training? Are we looking at Arctic College?

I'm just wondering, because I know in Hay River, there is a movement to get teams of mobile people to travel into the communities to do that sort of training. Interest has been expressed for quite some time now for work in that area. What are we targeting here? Are we suggesting that the government give us a report by the end of the fall session on who will be doing this? Or, are we suggesting that the government should do it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The chairman of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that Members of the committee weren't trying to limit or to set out exactly who should do what. We want to see the opportunities for increased training to be provided to staff and other workers, as much as possible. That is why we have suggested that it not be just in-house training, but we also talk about conferences, workshops, distance learning, in-service training by visiting specialists and so on. That could include work by Arctic College, it could include a wide variety of means.

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What we have asked is, by next fall, the government present a report to the Legislature, detailing what steps they have taken in this regard. That would then give us a chance to assess how successful they have been, what areas they have moved in and what their approach is to getting the job done. The important aspect, Mr. Chairman, is to ensure that the people who are doing these important jobs -- as Mr. Gargan has pointed out, they're often dealing with people who have problems or who are in crisis -- get as much

training as possible so they have the best ability to do their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I totally agree with the motion in front of us and I will be supporting this particular motion. But one of the comments I wanted to make is with regard to the preamble to this motion. In it, there is a lot of emphasis placed on front line workers. I agree that training is of benefit to them, particularly in the smaller communities. In the Special Committee on Health and Social Services report, they indicated that communities were having problems with specialists not going to communities quite as often as they should.

This is not reflected in any of their recommendations. It is good, on the one hand, to say that if the front line workers get all this training, it is going to reduce the reliance on specialists who visit communities. To a certain degree, I guess that is true. But, on the other hand, I'm aware through reading this report, that the communities outside of Yellowknife and outside other regional centres are complaining that the specialists are not coming in as often as they should be to do follow-up work. I'm wondering why there isn't another recommendation pertaining to that in this report?

But, in relation to the motion on the floor, Mr. Chairman, I will be supporting it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Dent, are you prepared to answer the question?

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Zoe's concern, this is something the committee addressed. If you look ahead at the section where recommendations are showing up in numbers, under the Delivery of Health and Social Services, where we say this is what we recommend regarding the delivery of health and social services, you'll find in there that we do recommend that the specialist assignment visitation schedule also needs to be reviewed. Very early in the report we said that not all of our recommendations were included in the numbered recommendations. We did say that, of the more than

70 recommendations -- if you wanted to add them all up -- only 32 have been separated out into numbered ones. It doesn't mean that we don't feel the government should pay attention to the recommendations that are included in the narrative section of our report. I think that, as Members, we will be following up with the government to ensure they do recognize our concern that all areas where we make recommendations must be followed up on.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Employee assistance plans (EAP) are one way to help workers cope with the pressures of their jobs. The Government of the Northwest Territories has often been asked to establish an EAP for its own staff. Our survey of front line workers suggests that the need for such a program is especially great among health and social services employees.

Committee Motion 22-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 17, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that an employee assistance program should be developed, and made available to health and social service front line workers.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, we heard a lot about burnout among our health and social service front line workers. I would just like to distribute, to the Members of the committee, a letter we received recently from a doctor

in a small community who is married to a social worker. After seeing a copy of our front line workers survey, he wrote to tell us that he completely agreed with our recommendation. If I could, Mr. Chairman, I will ask the Pages to hand a copy of this around. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, since we are looking at health and social workers I would like to ask if it is covered under the collective agreement? Or, is that a new kind of benefit that we're looking at for those specific types of workers?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it right now, there is not an employee assistance program in existence for GNWT employees. As far as I understand, GNWT employees can qualify, for instance, for treatment if they're referred for treatment, but there is no sort of standard employee assistance program. This would be something that is new. The committee was of the opinion that, in particular, because of the stresses placed on some of the front line workers, that this is particularly critical because we often heard communities complain about turnover due to staff being burned out from stress. If you look at the letter the committee received from Dr. Wezelman, he outlines exactly the sorts of problems that social workers face, which are not necessarily the same as other employees. In answer to Mr. Gargan, yes, this would be a new program.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be very interested in finding out exactly what this means, this EAP. I would think this is maybe something the unions, under their collective agreement, would be looking at.

Are we actually going into an area which really shouldn't be addressed by this Assembly?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think given the amount of the turnover costs to this government, in terms of having to replace and train new people, that this is an area that we have to look at. In the long run, instituting such a program could probably decrease the costs to this government.

I think it was an area in which we saw a requirement and are, therefore, making the recommendation that it is one the government should examine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Again, Mr. Chairman, I know the surveys were done, but have the surveys gone beyond just telephone surveys? I'm interested in the unions. Why aren't they addressing these? Is this an area they should be addressing? If not, are they really that concerned about their own employees? Has this even been brought up by the unions? It can be answered, I suppose, because this is one area that is between the unions and the government. Are we now suggesting we look at a whole new category? Of course, it's also a budget issue. What exactly does that mean? Are we in a position to tell the government to increase the budget so those kinds of things are covered? I know, under the rules, we're not allowed to do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Chairman of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can in no way speak for the unions. I can tell you that, as Members of the committee, we heard all across the Northwest Territories, not just from employees, but we heard people in the communities tell us that the people who provide services to them -- the people who are

supposed to help them when they are hurting -- cannot do the job if the workers themselves are still hurting. We have to deal with that problem, or else they don't feel they're getting good services.

It wasn't only the workers who told us there needed to be an employee assistance program. We heard this from people at public meetings as well, who said our staff need to have help to deal with their problems so they can help us deal with ours. For us to make sure the job is being done properly -- if this is one of the things we have to look at -- then I don't have any problem with making this recommendation.

In terms of costs -- as I pointed out a minute ago -- our feeling is that the significant costs that this government is undergoing right now to replace and train new people to do jobs, with the significant turnover we have with front line workers, would pay for this kind of program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Dent just referred to if an employee has a problem and he wants to deal with it because it is affecting his position, it's probably as a result of alcohol or something to that effect. There are programs within government for those employees who have those problems. They can go out and get treated for it.

My problem is that, again, we are feeding the bureaucracy. When I was referring to front line workers, I was referring to the nurses, home makers, people who look after shelters, alcohol and drug workers and those are the people that I'm more concerned about. Perhaps the health worker and social worker are affected indirectly, but the people who are directly affected are the ones that are not getting as much help. If anything, those are the target groups that should be getting it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I believe Mr. Whitford wants to add something after Mr. Dents replies to Mr. Gargan. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, in fact, those are the target groups. As a matter of fact, the problem is not necessarily with

alcohol. The problem is, people who are counsellors, social workers, home care workers, and people in the health care field all deal with tremendous amounts of stress as they move from crisis to crisis.

They don't have an opportunity to get crisis counselling, stress relief or an opportunity to debrief. We are saying that the front line workers need a place they can go to unload or some system where they can be debriefed for stress. That's what we were told was the biggest problem among front line workers.

People told us that they didn't feel these workers could do their job adequately unless they could deal with their own stress. This recommendation is entirely in reaction to what we heard.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Special committee member, Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two things to say. First, it has been pointed out to me that I said "health and social services" when I was making the motion. It should read "...health and social service front line workers." I don't know if it will make a significant difference, but I just wanted to correct it, for the record.

Speaking to the motion, I think Mr. Dent said exactly what I was going to say. The problems that front line workers face are not just alcohol related. It is certainly one of the most stressful jobs of any employee in this government. I know many social workers personally and speak primarily from that perspective. It is a very stressful job. You are, in fact, taking on many of the social ills in trying to deal with clients and, inevitably, some of it rubs off and you take them home with you.

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It is not an 8:00 to 5:00 job, by any means, in the smaller communities. In the larger communities, it is a little bit different, they can get away from it. But, in the smaller communities, they cannot. I guess the question is, who do they talk to and who do they look to for help? One of the greatest shortcomings that social workers feel, next to the lack of training, is the ability to attend workshops and have a program where they can have their batteries recharged, so to speak.

I think this is one area that -- if the committee's recommendations are looked at, and I certainly hope they seriously are -- must be higher on the priority list. I certainly encourage Members to support this. We also heard from the health people -- the nurses -- in communities that they never get away from their job. They can't even go out fishing or hiking because they are always on call. The things that they see and have to do are quite difficult. I would encourage Members to support this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I don't know if this will help, but can I suggest an amendment to the motion?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we agree? Yes, proceed Mr. Gargan.

Committee Motion To Amend Recommendation 17,  
Defeated

**MR. GARGAN:**

Just after hearing other Members, I think I understand what the intent of the motion is and the target group. I thought I would add to the motion, "An employee assistance program should be developed, and made available to health and social service front line workers such as home makers, safe shelter counsellors, alcohol and drug counsellors."

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the amendment to motion 16. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I am going to vote against that amendment because I believe the "health and front line social workers", as in the original motion, covers all the categories that Mr. Gargan is concerned about. The majority of our workers in health and social service areas are in categories that are funded by government. There are government agencies that get contributions. They are in our transitional houses, they are in the alcohol and drug centres, friendship centres, in day cares, wherever they are working. There may be community health workers and nurses.

Mr. Whitford has made the point that we heard in every community we went to that the majority of the people -- especially if there are one or two people on staff -- cannot even take time off. They can't leave the community because they are on 24-hour call. They can't take a day off or a weekend off, and it is especially hard. This government is very quick to recognize people who have drug or alcohol addiction problems. We send them to the different centres to get cured. But if you have stress or any type of mental problem they do not recognize it and assistance is slow to be made available to these people.

This is why we are saying, "Let's get on with it. Let's look at our workers out there and let's help them." Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The proposed amendment is in order. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, was that formally moved?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Yes, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I too, will be voting against that particular amendment for the same reason as my colleague will. When we get to the main motion, I want to say a few more words with regard to it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the proposed amendment. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To add to Mr. Koe's statement a little bit, what we don't need is any addition to the bureaucracy on the approach we have been taking in trying to make some improvement to the front line workers. I think Mr. Patterson talked about that a year ago in Iqaluit, in how poorly they are treated in comparison to other civil servants. In that case, I will not be voting for the amendment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. To the amendment. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I, too, will not support the amendment because I believe it limits the motion. I think the motion is broader and covers more front line workers in its original form. I would hope we can pass it in its original form. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, it's fairly obvious that this Dr. Wezelman who wrote, interprets from the workers...his wife is a social worker. I would think front line workers would mean different things to that to everyone in the north. For this doctor, it means a social worker. Maybe for the nurses, it means the nurses. For the communities, it may be mean something else. The whole purpose of our thoughts would be clear and definite that these are the people who we're suggesting are identified as front line workers. The way it's written right now, leaves this open for interpretation.

If the motion is defeated, it really doesn't bother me that much, but it might bother the alcohol worker, Lady Spencer, the home maker, the alcohol counsellor or the school counsellor. No one has copies of these in the communities. In order for clarification, I would think that adding something like this would put to rest my fears, as well as fears of the community, of exactly what we mean by that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the proposed amendment. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, one thing I'd like to make sure that everyone is aware is, the front line workers' survey has been

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the proposed amendment. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, this doesn't refer to communities where they don't have nurses. In the case of Lady Spencers, are they front line workers? It also doesn't refer to home makers. Those are also people, I would think, who are also front line workers. In my community, it seems the targeted group that has the highest degree of alcohol are seniors.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the proposed amendment.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. All those in favour please signify in the usual...Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Gargan had a question, I believe, directed to the chairman of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. I think as a Member, he does have a point that it's not clearly stated in this motion. Being on the committee, I recognize his point. Once these motions come through, we're going to address the specifics. I think, at the very least, there should be some process in this House to allow courtesy to Mr. Gargan for his question to be answered. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm quite willing to address Mr. Gargan's question. In fact, Mr. Gargan, I think the committee recognized lay dispensers and home care workers as front line workers because we did meet with those people whenever given the opportunity. For instance, we have had lay dispensers take part in workshops with the committee and we have met with home care workers in communities. I think our understanding of a front line worker is very broad. Most have advised that, although they're not mentioned in a specific category in that survey, lay dispensers were interviewed for that survey I tabled last week in the House. I think when the committee says front line workers, we're talking about the

complete spectrum. I think we want to make sure that by putting labels on what front line workers are, we're not limiting what the response might be from the government when they respond to this motion. That would be my concern for trying to specifically set out exactly which people we meant by front line workers.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I would hope the intent of the amendment would eliminate that limitation. If we go back to the original motions, it's open for interpretation as well by government, as well as by ordinary Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the amendment.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment? Opposed? Thank you. The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

Now to the original motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in general support of the motion in front of us, but I'm wondering if the message to the government should be to include all employees which encounter mental problems or people who are in stress related work who deal with the general public. I wonder if the recommendation should be in general terms rather than being specific for health and social service front line workers. I realize that it's the Special Committee on Health and Social Services but I wonder if the message to the government should be to incorporate all employees that deal with the general public in stress-related fields. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I think the Members of the special committee would enjoy being able to make such a broad recommendation but, according to our terms of reference, we can only enquire into Health and Social Services. That sort of limits the scope and, therefore, makes it difficult for us to make recommendations dealing with employees in other departments, for instance. It doesn't mean that the Members of the committee wouldn't see the need for that sort of program in other departments, it just means that we are limited by the terms of reference which this Legislature passed before this special committee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, the same kind of situations at the committee levels, are the same at the government levels. They service the same thing. Somehow the principle should be adopted so that they can. I don't know who should or shouldn't be getting it, at the government level, but at least the government should adopt that same kind of principle.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

To the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, Mr. Pudluk.

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Elders

This Is What We Heard About Issues Relating To Elders

**MR. PUDLUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The elders hold an important place in our communities. They also share many of the views about the delivery of health and social services that were raised by the other groups during our review. But our elders also

have a number of concerns that are unique to them and deserve our special attention. Here is what we heard.

**People Told Us That Respected Elders Are An Under-Utilized Resource**

Most people view their respected elders as a valuable resource. They have the experience, the wisdom and the time to contribute to the quality of life in our communities. There is considerable support for involving them in a range of local counselling activities in the areas of health and social services. We also heard that many elders are eager to provide such assistance. At the same time, we heard from elders themselves, and from others, that this resource is not being used effectively in many communities. The problem seems to lie in determining the opportunities for such involvement.

We heard a number of suggestions on how to better involve respected elders in the workings of their communities. They could be used to assist alcohol and drug committees, justice committees and other local organizations in counselling troubled individuals. They could be involved in family mediation. In addition, they could teach traditional skills to young people through various camp projects on the land.

**People Expressed Concerns About Institutional And Community Based Care**

Mr. Chairman, elders are concerned about the care they receive in such institutional settings as hospitals, boarding homes and homes for seniors. They experience physical isolation, particularly if they have to move to another community. They do not always understand the treatments they are given and why. They are also uncomfortable in surroundings that do not reflect their culture, traditions, language and diet.

There is strong support for the provision of local health and social services for elders. At the same time, we heard that there is a shortage of home and community-based care programs, including palliative care, in many areas. As a result, a number of elders receive their care in institutions or from family members. Hospitalization is costly and the patient is away from the support of family and friends. As well, hospitalized elders are often further isolated due to language differences. In a case study submitted to the committee, a 40- day palliative care hospital stay for one particular terminally-ill patient receiving pain control and therapy cost over \$80,000 (including all related travel costs). For about one fifth of that

expenditure, this patient could have been briefly hospitalized while her pain control was stabilized and then returned to her community. Once there, a nurse could train local care givers and family members in administering the pain medication. This home-based palliative care would have been much less expensive than hospitalization. Even more important, the patient could have spent her last days at home surrounded by family members.

A number of family members and elders may already share homes because of the housing shortage in the north. The additional burden of caring for an elder at home may only add to the considerable stress associated with overcrowding.

We heard many times of the need for respite care. Elders need such relief when they are caring for grandchildren or other young family members. At the same time, those who care for elders at home require occasional relief as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Whitford.

We Heard That Elders Face Unique Income Support Problems

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many people told us that income assistance benefits are inadequate to cover the high cost of living in northern communities. But we also heard of a number of problems in this area that are unique to elders. In many cases, for example, elders are supporting not only themselves, but their extended families as well. Yet, they are not eligible to receive additional support to meet these added responsibilities.

We heard that elders who custom adopt may also be prevented from receiving additional benefits to help in caring for their adopted children. We also learned that some elders can experience considerable difficulty just trying to apply for income support. This is especially true if the applicant cannot read or write or if the age of the applicant can not be verified from birth, or other records.

We Heard That Elders Are Subjected To Various Forms Of Abuse

Mr. Chairman, most people told us that elders are respected members of their community. But we also heard of elders who are subjected to abuse, much of

it in their own homes. This abuse can take several forms. It can be physical. It can be emotional, in the form of neglect. It can also be financial. We were told of family members who forge elders' signatures on income support cheques. We also heard of relatives persuading elders to hand over their pension money which the relatives often spend on alcohol or gambling. The elders then have considerable difficulty in paying their bills and making ends meet for the balance of that month.

People Told Us That The Fuel Subsidy Is Inadequate

Mr. Chairman, people have their own definitions of what the fuel subsidy is designed to achieve. But all who raised this matter with us seemed to agree that the current subsidy is not enough to meet the current energy needs of our elders. We were told that it fails to reflect the differences in the cost of living between communities. We also heard that the problem is caused in part by the higher cost of heating substandard housing.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

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**MR. DENT:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

There is a motion to report progress. The motion is not debateable. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-12(4) and would like to report progress with three



motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. I would like this opportunity to thank the group of pages that have been with us for the last couple of weeks. Today is their last day. We have eight pages from the school in Dettah, four pages from Ecole Allain St. Cyr and two pages from St. Patrick High School. You did a very good job. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Mr. Speaker, there are meetings for Monday morning, at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance and at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, November 29, 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
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
  - Committee Report 1-12(4), Special Committee on Health and Social Services Final Report
  - Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates
  - Committee Report 7-12(4), Report on the Committee Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts
  - Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 29, 1993, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT