



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Arngha'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, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Whitford

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Good afternoon. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 35-12(4): Comprehensive Review Of The Liquor Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, most residents of the Northwest Territories would agree that alcohol abuse poses a frightening risk to the health and happiness of our communities. At the same time, the reality is, for many people, responsible and moderate liquor consumption has become an accepted part of the contemporary Canadian lifestyle. As Minister responsible for the administration of liquor control in the Northwest Territories, I would like to take this opportunity to announce a significant initiative that will relate directly to this government's role in the sale, distribution and regulation of liquor products.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, the territorial Liquor Act sets out the framework for our current liquor control practices. This legislation provides for the sale and distribution of liquor, for the issuances and monitoring of liquor licences, for local options systems that allow communities to exercise some jurisdiction over liquor control, and for a number of other key regulatory areas.

Last month, I wrote to honourable Members of this House to indicate that I was planning to carry out a comprehensive review of the Territorial Liquor Act. Today, I am pleased to advise that we will be proceeding immediately with this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, although this act has been amended several times over the years, the principles and substance of our liquor control legislation have not been examined in detail since 1969, when the Choquette report recommended that former Commissioner Hodgson should bring in the existing regulatory system. The act is now over 23 years old and it is badly in need of an overhaul. It is time, particularly considering the recent reminders provided through addictions awareness week and by the tabling of the final report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, to get serious about improving our liquor laws.

In launching this initiative, I want to assure honourable Members that the review will be driven by a process of public discussion and community consultation. The Department of Safety and Public Services will be undertaking an ambitious communication strategy to find out how NWT residents want to see liquor products regulated. It is not going to be good enough to simply copy liquor control models from other jurisdictions. We need legislation that reflects the values, the priorities and the ideas of people in communities all across the Northwest Territories. We need a made-in-the-NWT approach.

The intention is to bring forward a legislative action paper outlining new and positive approaches to liquor regulation around this time next year. Once the House has had an opportunity to review these principles carefully, we will proceed to draft a new Liquor Act.

It will be important to count on the participation of the Liquor Licensing Board and the participation of MLAs and their constituents. This venture simply can not succeed without extensive involvement by individuals, groups and communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

Recently, we have seen a number of good examples of the way public participation, and input from Members of this Assembly, can be instrumental in the development of liquor policy. For instance, there have been repeated requests from the public, from the Standing Committee on Finance, and from individual Members of this House for a fresh look at the privatization of certain public operations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that, earlier this year, Cabinet did in fact approve the privatization of the liquor warehouse distribution centres in Inuvik, Hay River and Norman Wells.

These initiatives have now been successfully completed.

In August, many Iqaluit residents turned out at the liquor licensing hearings to express their opinion about the prospect of a new cocktail lounge. The members of the Liquor Licensing Board listened carefully to their views and denied the application. This sort of public participation has proven to be an important component in licensing decisions and is something we want to encourage at every opportunity.

Issues have also been brought to our attention, very recently, by a number of parents and school authorities who have been concerned about the availability of low-alcohol beverages currently being sold openly in convenience stores and grocery markets. We are now acting quickly to put effective mechanisms into place that will restrict the sale of these products to youngsters.

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---Applause

Mr. Speaker, these are only a few examples of what can be accomplished when people get directly involved in the development of government liquor policy. There are many others. I am certain that, by working together during this comprehensive review of the Liquor Act, we will succeed in crafting new legislation that is effective, balanced and reflective of northern values. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 36-12(4): Response To The Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, later today I will table the government's response to the Report of the Traditional Knowledge Working Group. The Report of the Traditional Knowledge Working Group, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in July 1991, contained twenty recommendations for government action. The recommendations flowed from a working group established by the former Government Leader to, "seek ways in which our government and non-

government organizations could work together to document traditional knowledge and ensure that it is applied both by government and other agencies."

The traditional knowledge working group's recommendations addressed a wide range of activities. Building on those recommendations, our government's response recognizes the importance of traditional knowledge to our northern ways of life. We chose to use the 20 recommendations as a starting point for a plan of action designed to encourage and promote traditional knowledge.

The plan, which is contained in the response, includes a new policy. This policy establishes the government's commitment to the use of traditional knowledge. It provides a framework for decision making for all departments and agencies of the government. However, we will need people's support and commitment -- at the community level as well as throughout the government -- to make it work.

Although the importance of traditional knowledge is being increasingly recognized throughout the world, I must emphasize that this is the first policy of its kind to be formally adopted by any jurisdiction. As well as the policy, our government's plan of action assigns the responsibility for coordinating the government's traditional knowledge initiatives to the Department of Renewable Resources. This department is primarily responsible for supporting the traditional land-based lifestyle that fosters and promotes traditional knowledge.

The government will also review existing grants and contributions to identify those for which the promotion of traditional knowledge will be a priority. Other actions include the appointment of a traditional knowledge coordinator in each department, an annual awards program, a public awareness campaign and improving cross cultural training for government employees.

The government's response will be circulated in our official languages throughout the Northwest Territories. A work plan outlining how the government will implement specific actions on traditional knowledge, will be developed over the next few months and discussed with aboriginal cultural organizations and elders.

A process of collaboration and dialogue between this government, elders and cultural organizations was used to produce both the working group's report and our government's response. I would like to thank all

who were part of this process and to affirm our government's commitment. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 37-12(4): River Ridge Incident

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide to Members of this Assembly information about the incident which occurred at the River Ridge Young Offenders Centre on Sunday night.

Five young offenders broke out of the facility around midnight. They left one staff member locked in a cell and another one injured after being assaulted. Both open custody and secure custody offenders were involved. They drove away from River Ridge in a car belonging to a staff member. They were apprehended by the RCMP on the road to Hay River, after rolling the car in the ditch.

No staff or young offenders were seriously injured. Counselling support is being provided for those who suffered trauma during the course of these events.

As a result of these discussions, there will be immediate changes in security practices at River Ridge. During the next few weeks, staffing policies and all procedures in the centre will be reviewed in greater detail to determine whether other changes will be required.

It is anticipated that charges arising out of this incident will be laid against all of the young offenders involved.

An incident of this nature is always taken very seriously by correctional authorities and it will be analyzed to determine whether there are lessons that can be learned to improve the management of all correctional facilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Minister's Statement 38-12(4): Towards A Strategy To 2010: A Discussion Paper

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been 11 years since the Special Committee on Education produced its report, Learning Tradition and Change in the Northwest Territories, and seven years since the report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. Since then, there have been fundamental changes in the economy and in political and constitutional development, as well as in education, culture and employment in the Northwest Territories.

The shape of government itself is also changing. The current Legislative Assembly has emphasized the importance of planning, the delivery of quality programs and the importance of reporting and measuring program results.

The establishment of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in August 1992, has provided opportunity to use program resources more efficiently and effectively by creating stronger links between cultural programs, child day care, education, training and employment development. This consolidation, coupled with the current climate of change throughout the NWT, provides my department with an excellent opportunity to consult with northerners to ensure that our programs and services will meet the needs of the future. As a result, the department is developing a strategic plan to guide the direction and delivery of education, culture and employment programs to the year 2010.

During the spring and summer, information was collected from our many partners, from the general public and from department staff. From this information, we have established some general directions in the document called, Towards a Strategy to 2010, which the department is proposing to use for more extensive consultation.

The document identifies a number of principles upon which the future direction of education, culture and employment programs can be based.

These include the principle that decisions be made as close to the community as possible. If programs and services are to meet community needs, people in the community should have more say in directing the design and delivery of services.

The document is also based on the principle that culture is fundamental to individuals, to communities and to institutions. Culture should be the foundation of all our programs and services the Department of Education, Culture and Employment offers.

Another principle addresses the need for a solid base of knowledge, skills and attitudes on which people can build and develop skills for life. Learning should be a process that begins in early childhood and continues through elementary and secondary schooling, and throughout adulthood.

Strong reading, writing and math skills are essential today and will continue to be important for the future success of our students. These skills are necessary for developing an educational foundation for the future. In addition, employers are looking for new and improved skills in technology, communication and problem solving.

Part of a teacher's role today is to help students develop these basic skills and to support students so they can learn how to learn, in order to meet the continuing challenges of a rapidly changing world. The role of students is to approach their education responsibly. The support of their parents and communities is essential for their success.

Mr. Speaker, we are living in a globalized society in which information is essential for growth and development. In order for the people of the Northwest Territories to take their place in such a society, they must have access to information. Rapid advancements in technology are opening new avenues to sharing information. Our existing networks for distance education, school and public libraries, television, radio and telephone, should be linked to form the base for a comprehensive information network for people of the Northwest Territories, making information sharing a reality in the north.

The strategy has three critical elements, strengthening and developing partnerships, improving our programs and services, and using our resources more effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, as I travel around the Northwest Territories, I have recently become aware that there is a sense of change among northerners and a renewed sense of optimism. For many years, northerners have looked forward to land claims and the division of the territories and these things are now becoming realities. We are at a key point in the development of

the Northwest Territories and my department wants to ensure that our programs and services are able to meet the changing needs of northerners. The directions for the future proposed in the consultation document need to be debated by all stakeholders in education, culture and employment and the public in general. The comments and directions we receive will shape the development of a final strategy to be completed in the spring of 1994. This strategy, in turn, will guide our programs into the next century. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Dangers Of Mining, Safe Working Environment

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning, 1.5 kilometres underground in the Mikasa Mine, a hard rock and deep gold mine near Kirkland Lake, Ontario, a rock burst occurred, trapping two miners behind a huge wall of rock. At this time, their fate is still unknown. Another 20 miners working in the area at the time escaped alive but with some minor injuries. Rescue efforts are continuing around the clock as workers move forward rock by rock and, at times, by hand.

Mr. Speaker, in Yellowknife, we live in the middle of a major mining zone. Yellowknife is predominantly a mining community and this accident has touched many of my constituents who live with the dangers of mining every day. We know that mine safety is critical to a safe work place and there should be no compromise in mine safety inspections and strict enforcement. But equally important is that the workers, as well, practice safe working habits. That combination will pay off. But, while there

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is every effort made to create a safe working environment, there is no accounting for natural events. Such was the case in the Mikasa Mine, where the very rock itself exploded inward due to the tremendous pressures found at 1500 metres or more underground.

At this time, we can only watch and hope. Our thoughts go to the families and to the co-workers of the two trapped men and that we pray for their safe deliverance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Financial Support For Native Policing Programs

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the late 1960s, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Development has provided financial support to assist in the development of policing arrangements for Indian communities. It has entered into a variety of arrangements with band councils in most provinces for the provision of policing services.

Aboriginal communities, not unlike other segments of Canadian society, have experienced a rapid growth in crime. Coupled with this situation are the concerns raised by Indian leaders about the adequacy of policing services and their ability to deal with the unique needs of aboriginal communities.

Currently, there are approximately 74 communities covered by the First Nations Policy. Not one of those communities are in the north. Mr. Speaker, the policy was developed in 1991. Our government has only made initial inquiries about the options available under this program. The benefits of First Nation community police forces are too significant to pass over.

This is an opportunity for each community to determine how and by whom they will be policed. More importantly, it is an opportunity to ensure that policing will be sensitive to culture and beliefs. It is time for this government to recognize that the aboriginal policing and justice administration is of significant importance to the Dene and Inuit of the Northwest Territories.

It is time for this government to respond to the needs and desires for aboriginal policing in this territory and begin to walk down the path to developing the programs appropriate to that aspiration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Federal Deficit Impact On NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to an interview with the federal Minister of Finance, Mr. Paul Martin, last night, he confirmed what Canadians had feared most: the federal deficit is much greater than anyone ever predicted. In fact, the deficit, between \$44 and \$46 billion, is frightening.

Against this gloomy picture, it is obvious to me that we can't be very optimistic about special assistance from the federal government to deal with our deficit reduction problems until we've exhausted all possibilities of dealing with it ourselves.

I believe the new federal government will be required to take very tough measures. I believe we will be judged on our ability to do likewise. Our weakness on the revenue side -- our limited ability to raise taxes -- means government will have to reduce and revise its expenditure priorities.

In my view, this means that, for the foreseeable future, we should go slow on the creation of more levels of government and the intended expense for new bureaucracies. Our priorities should be on infrastructure, especially transportation, housing and training facilities and the concentration on the development of our human resources and on attracting outside capital.

I don't believe our current economic problems in Canada are related to the constitutional failures of the Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords, it is much deeper than that. It relates to our inability to pay for the services that people have come to expect. I believe the next couple of years would be best spent dealing with economic matters and on the practice of good government, rather than more constitutional wrangling and the creation of even larger bureaucracies and more government, as we develop new forms.

On this issue, we should follow the lead of the Prime Minister. He has decided that constitutional talks should rest for a while. If we must continue, it should be a low-cost activity and a low-key activity, while we attend to the real business of good government.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Lighting On Legislative Assembly Grounds

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring a matter to your attention and to the attention of the House, which I believe requires immediate action. It is on the question of lighting on the Assembly grounds and on the walkway to the Legislative Assembly building.

During the winter months, individuals -- both staff, constituents and ourselves -- arrive and leave this building in the dark. Unfortunately, the Legislative Assembly building is positioned in the unlit outskirts of Yellowknife. Those individuals who are walking must come some distance in the dark. In addition, we require our staff to work irregular hours, often quite late. They arrive and leave by themselves at unusual times, when few people, if any, are around.

I believe that emergency measures must be taken immediately to provide proper lighting so that people do not have to fear for their safety when visiting or walking to this august building. I realize that funds are scarce. However, it is a question of safety and peace of mind for those individuals who must walk and who choose to walk. Their concerns and safety must be addressed. Thank you.

--Applause

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Funds For Local Radio Stations

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, we have radio stations in our smaller communities. They are a very valuable asset to the communities. Under budget restraint, the contribution grants for \$6,000 in smaller communities seems too small for operating radio stations. When we are in our constituency, it is very difficult to release money to operate radio stations.

In my own community, we always have to contribute money to radio stations since we do not get enough contributions or grants from the government. Mr. Speaker, the \$6,000 have been in the plans for I don't know how many years. Perhaps, sometime, we could have these contributions raised for operating radio stations. Mr. Speaker, the contribution amount for \$6,000 is the one I'm talking about.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Policy On NWT Access Roads

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a couple of minutes of Members' time today to speak on a matter which many of the people in the eastern Arctic are concerned about. Over the past few days, we have listened attentively to discussions about difficulties that some of the Members are having, and this has to do with the highways.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that we, in the east, would have highways to speak of. This, however, is not the case. For too many years, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been preoccupied with the comforts of southern Canada and how those comforts could be brought up north. In doing so, it has concentrated on the western Northwest Territories and not the whole of the Northwest Territories. In fact, I believe that to be the case today.

The concern I am raising has to do with access roads. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Todd has made reference to this a number of times in this House, and I appreciate that. However, once again, the indications that we receive in the east are that there are no policies on access roads. There is a major difference between access roads and highways.

Access roads which are being requested would be used mainly by hunters, trappers and fishermen. This is where I have difficulty. While we were at a meeting of the hamlet council in Baker Lake, early this month, a representative of the Department of Transportation stated that a policy on access roads would have to be created which deals with recreational roads.

Mr. Speaker, why would a policy on access roads have to be created? Are there not any access roads in the west? How is it that the Government of the

Northwest Territories is able to make roads in the west and not in the east? I would like to point out that a hunter from the south would be considered a recreational or sports hunter, but when you come into a community, of which the majority are aboriginal people, the hunters and fishermen are not recreational hunters. They are actually trying to feed their families. I have stated many times, when Inuit hunters are hunting, they are hunting for food. They are hunting to supplement the food they receive from Social Services or from their employment. This is true, at least, in the communities which I represent.

They are not out there hunting to show what...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues. The hunters are not out there hunting to show what game they have caught to their friends. They are working with the little resources they are able to acquire. I would like to encourage Mr. Todd and the Department of Transportation to complete this policy, in whatever shape it is going to take, with utmost haste. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tribute To Valerie Cairns

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise this House today of a young Metis lady in my constituency and her accomplishments in the field of aviation. Valerie Cairns is a young Metis lady, born and raised

in Fort Smith and graduated from PWK High School in 1987. Valerie Cairns is the daughter of Delphine and Carl Cairns, who must be very proud. Mr. Speaker, Valerie spent two years in Abbotsford, BC, pursuing her goal of becoming a commercial pilot. She took her flying lessons at Coastal Pacific Aviation and the necessary academic courses at Fraser Valley College. Valerie received her commercial pilots' licence in May of 1992, her multi-engine endorsement in December of 1992, and her instrument endorsement in April of 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Valerie started working as a commercial pilot for Northwestern Air Lease on September 1, 1993. She has already qualified as a first officer on the Metro II and on the Beech 99. The president of Northwestern Air Lease says that Val is a very good pilot, with excellent potential, and is a valuable addition to the staff of Northwestern Air Lease.

Mr. Speaker, Valerie Cairns is an excellent role model for the youth of today. A young woman of aboriginal descent pursuing a career in a non-traditional occupation serves as an example to all youth of the Northwest Territories. It sends a message that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.

---Applause

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Mr. Speaker, I know it gives me a great feeling of pride as an MLA to fly home seeing her as a co-pilot. I personally look forward to the day when I return to my riding in Fort Smith in an airplane flown by Captain Valerie Cairns.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Difficulties Of NWT Hunters

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to make a statement with regard to hunters in the Northwest Territories. Today, Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from one of my constituents. He is a family man and

a very good hunter. He said, "Being a hunter in the Nunavut area is just about impossible. I don't want to be a social assistance recipient, but I have no choice but to receive social assistance from the Department of Social Services. This is not a life. I need help for me to be independent in my life-style. I have looked for a job. I cannot find a job. I cannot carve. The only thing I know is hunting to provide food for my family. I cannot even do that any more. I need money to have a machine..." -- I am interpreting -- "...so that I could go out hunting."

Mr. Speaker, the hunters in the Northwest Territories are very important to us. They are important to our life-style and we are not giving them proper assistance, Mr. Speaker. We need to address that question because there are hunters who are very good at hunting, but are not able to go out and provide food for their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ng on November 22, with respect to communities unable to fulfil their municipal cap provisions.

With regard to the Member's supplementary question on the number of municipalities in financial difficulty, I would advise that those municipal corporations requiring debt recovery plans are those that are in positions of financial difficulty. Under the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act and the Charter Communities Act, municipal corporations are not supposed to incur deficits from one fiscal year to the next. Currently, there are seven municipalities in various stages of a debt recovery plan.

The municipalities for which debt recovery plans are in place are the hamlets of Cambridge Bay, Arctic Bay and Clyde River. In all three cases, improvements are being made to their financial administration and the outlook for their financial recovery is good. In the hamlet of Pangnirtung, a three year debt recovery plan was completed in one year, due in part to the

hiring of a qualified financial controller. The hamlet is now out of debt.

In the town of Iqaluit, a debt recovery plan is now being prepared under the direction of the municipal administrator.

In the hamlets of Lake Harbour and Igloodik, debt recovery plans are being developed by the hamlet councils, in consultation with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo. I am sorry, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, you didn't see me raise my hand, but I have a return to an oral question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike, we are on oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

Could you please turn on your mike and make your request again, Ms. Mike, for the record?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to go back to returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Mike.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on November 23, on the alcohol and drug board of management. The decision to eliminate the board of management was made on April 13, 1992, by the Cabinet. At that point, the funding to operate the board was removed from the department's budget. However, at that time, the grants and contributions policy for Social Services required the board of management to review and make recommendations on all new requests for funding. The department reallocated money internally to allow the August 12, 1992 meeting of the board to review new proposals.

Mr. Speaker, I have two more returns to oral questions.

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Return To Oral Question 79-12(4): Alcohol and Drug Policies

I have a return asked by Mr. Antoine on November 24, 1993, on alcohol and drug policies. Mr. Speaker, the department takes, very seriously, the views and recommendations coming out of the various conferences on alcohol and drugs held over the years.

The 1984 Fort Churchill conference Mr. Antoine referred to was an important milestone, in terms of providing input into the development of the alcohol and drug programs.

However, the program has evolved since that time. For example, the June, 1987, document entitled, A Model for the Development of Alcohol and Drugs Services in the Northwest Territories, which was tabled and discussed in the Legislative Assembly, provided the basis for further development.

The department is now in the process of completing an overall strategic plan. One of the major components of that plan will be a strategy to address

alcohol and drug addictions. The alcohol and drug workers' conference, held in Yellowknife in March of 1993, marked the beginning of this process.

The recommendations coming out of that conference, the information and ideas generated at the solvent abuse conference held last week, together with the results of consultations that are now under way, will guide the final drafting of the strategy. This plan is expected to be completed in the fall of 1994.

Further Return To Oral Question 83-12(4): Revised Directive For Alcohol And Drug Projects

I have another return to oral question, asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell, on November 24, 1993, on a revised directive for alcohol and drug projects. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Members of this House that later today, I will be tabling the Department of Social Services' grants and contributions policy, schedule A-4, the directive respecting alcohol and drug services, community projects.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education whether this government has enough resources to start French schools where they are necessary, French first language instructions where there is a demand? My question is, has the department got enough resources to address that concern? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to indicate to the honourable Member that, under the present situation, there is only one French first-language school and that is here in Yellowknife. In terms of other schools, the potential for those costs is to be provided by the

Government of Canada, but there are criteria to determine where numbers warrant those schools. In those particular cases, the schools will be considered but only where the situation results in the appropriate numbers.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

MR. ALLOOLOO:

I know my friend from Iqaluit is here, but I would like to ask the question to the Minister. Would that department have enough resources to start a French school in Iqaluit, which has a significant Francophone population?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, that would depend on whether there is a request that has been submitted by the parents of that particular community for a French first-language school. Secondly, it would depend on whether the submission and proposal meets the criteria that have been established under the languages agreement between this government and the Government of Canada. Generally speaking, the Government of Canada is totally responsible for paying for the issue of French first-language education. We would have to work out the terms and conditions with the Government of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the federal government has made about \$12 million available to our governments in Canada, both the provinces and territories, last May. My understanding is that our

government was the only government that did not apply for that fund. Is that true, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 137-12(4): French Language Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct a suggestion that there was funding available and we did not apply for funding. The fact was that when the announcement was made, I believe that it was \$112 million by the Secretary of State, those resources were for the governance of schools. In other words, it was for the setting up of boards or management structures in order for those agencies to have responsibility over school programming. That was the case.

In fact, in that situation, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon were not part of that particular announcement and were excluded by the Government of Canada from that funding. We

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have since indicated to the government Secretary of State and the Government of Canada and through working with the Yellowknife French Parents Association and Federation Franco-Tenoise, that there is a need for the Government of Canada to respond to requests for governance and for the Government of Canada to pay all costs for governance of French first-language schools. We are, in fact, submitting a proposal and request to the Secretary of State for that funding.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 138-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs made a statement on a discussion paper, Towards a Strategy to 2010. In the statement, he talked about the department developing a strategic plan to guide the direction of delivery of education, culture and employment programs and also said that,

"we have established some general directions in the document called, Towards a Strategy to 2010". My question to the Minister, is there a document available, or will the Minister be tabling a document some time today in this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 138-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the honourable Member will give us a chance to get through the order paper, I certainly will be tabling an appropriate document. In fact, I'll be tabling two documents, one in English and the executive summary in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 138-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

MR. KOE:

Unfortunately, I don't have control over the order paper. I would like to ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In various committees of this Assembly, the Minister has been quoted as saying that, "the strategy will be ready by this fall." I'm just wondering if the time frame has now changed because I note in his statement that the strategy is going to be complete in the spring of 1994. I was just wondering if this is a change in the timing of the strategy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 138-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member may be incorrect. In fact, the suggestion that was made previously was that a draft document, a discussion paper, would be developed. The time table of that was also provided to the House and the standing committees. It is according to the agenda that was

proposed in the number of remarks I had made previously.

We will conclude our final discussion by the spring, hopefully by April of this particular year. It may be approved by this session in February, March and April.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 139-12(4): Policy On Access Roads

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. I would like to know how soon we can expect to see a policy on access roads. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 139-12(4): Policy On Access Roads

HON. JOHN TODD:

The policy for access roads is complete. It will be reviewed by the Cabinet very, very shortly. We have made provision in the budget, based on the input we received from MLAs last year. Mr. Ningark, in particular, spoke forcefully about the need for one. I'm optimistic that it should be approved by the end of this session. The dollars are in the budget and it has been approved by the Legislative Assembly. We'll be able to proceed forthwith, with discussions in communities to work out cost-sharing arrangements to build these access roads as early as the new year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 139-12(4): Policy On Access Roads

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been requests for access roads in both Baker Lake and Arviat. Baker Lake, in particular, in addition to the request for access roads, had requested a bridge so that the

hunters would not have to cross a river. With these requests, the department came back to the hamlet council stating that they would like to look at the making of this bridge again. I would like to find out from the Minister whether we would be able to proceed with the making of this bridge this coming summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 139-12(4): Policy On Access Roads

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, optimistically speaking, we would like to be able to do that. However, as I said to the honourable Member, we do intend to initiate discussions immediately after the policy is approved. Baker Lake and Arviat are two of the communities that have requested that discussions take place with the department. I can't commit, at this time, as to whether the bridge will be able to be done this summer. But, I will commit to the honourable Member that we will initiate discussions as quickly as possible in the new year. The bridge is part of the access road into White Hills, I believe. I want to assure the honourable Member, if it is at all possible, we will endeavour to do exactly that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

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Question 140-12(4): Status Of Appeals Committee Request To Sit Six Months

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the second day Members have had to pass by a citizen camped out on our patio of the Legislature. Judging by the signs, they suggest that the long delays in the appeals process seem to be the main issue. A few days ago the House was informed by the Minister that the chairman of the appeals board had suggested that he sit as long as necessary to clear up the 30 or 40 outstanding cases. I believe the chairman is seeking approval and, of course, funding to do the necessary work to finish that job. I would like to ask the Minister if he could further advise this House on the status of the chairman's request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 140-12(4): Status Of Appeals Committee Request To Sit Six Months

HON. JOHN TODD:

I would like to point out, first of all, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman camped outside is one of 44 and he has chosen to demonstrate his frustration by doing that. However, there are 43 other appeals under consideration at this time. I have been advised by the chairman of the WCB, Mr. Gilmour, that the board considered a proposal developed by Mr. Bourque, the chairman of the appeals committee in which he asked for the financial resources to sit for six months to try to deal, as quickly as possible, with this unfortunate situation and the length of time it takes to deal with appeals.

The board of directors have given approval, in principle, to the proposal, pending total approval of the operating budget at the next meeting of the board on December 13. So, we have approval, in principle, to proceed with a six month sitting of the appeals committee to deal urgently with the 44 appeals we currently have and the three that are pending. I'm optimistic, with Mr. Bourque's support, that we will be in a reasonable position six months from now and that these appeals will be heard.

I think it is also important to point out, if I may, that an appeal is an appeal. Based on what I've read and what I've seen, approximately 20 per cent of the appeals are overturned. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

MR. LEWIS:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1977, we created an Education Act which replaced the old Education Ordinance. Though there have been some amendments to it, we still operate under the provisions of the act of 1977 -- February 1977, I believe it was. My question to the Minister of Education is, are there any plans to write a new Education Act?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Nerysoo.

Return To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to the honourable Member for Yellowknife South earlier during this session, yes there is and I will be making a statement on that particular matter, outlining the framework with which we are going to proceed with the work. We will be coming forward in January with the actual consultation document, itself, and we will be proceeding with the actual, totally revised Education Act -- at least according to the time table -- in the fall of 1995.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It has been about 16 years since we've had a new Education Act. I notice that the document today provides for a strategy for the next 17 years. My question is, is the work that is being done now based on the act that we currently have? Or is this strategy for the next 17 years going to have to be developed on the basis of a new act that may come at some time in the future?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would have to consider both. The fact is, our present legislation has been amended a number of times. In some cases, the legislation is not really reflective -- and in fact, is contradictory to -- new amendments that already have been approved in this Legislature.

The other thing is, there are circumstances such as governance. In other words, this Legislature has agreed to accept that divisional boards and district boards of education exist. While we have provided

some amendments, there is still a great deal for us to allow for general governance of educational programs that don't exist right now.

The other point that I want to make is, if the honourable Member could allow me to clearly articulate in this House through a statement in the next week or so I will be able to clarify some of the issues that are related to the changes. The problem with trying to indicate the changes right now is that the consultation document will outline the framework of many of the changes that are going to be dealt with. It is difficult for me to articulate those issues right now without developing the consultation document.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to ask the Minister, is this document, Towards a Strategy to 2010, is that the document that would be used for public discussion leading toward the creation of a new act? Is that the purpose of this document?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This whole matter of the documentation itself and the strategy are to articulate and clarify the whole matter of this government's responsibility and direction we wish to take for educational programming. The Education Act is the manner in which we govern the whole educational area. There have been many changes that have taken place, but there are some things that we have to resolve: Our responsibility for improving programs and services that are not under the Education Act; our responsibility for things like dealing with using our resources, whether it's financial or human resources, much better; dealing with developing partnerships such as private enterprise, with government assuming

responsibility for education; Arctic College responsibility for post-secondary education. All these issues are a broader matter, but the Education Act deals with the legislative issues such as the matter of governance, whether or not it's French or English first-language programming.

The other responsibility is dealing with such issues as attendance in schools. Those kinds of things that are more specific in the Education Act. This is generally the direction, as was the case of the Special Committee on Education which developed a framework, and within that we amended the legislation to create things like Arctic College, the boards of governance and those things. I think, as the honourable Member indicated, these need a major overhaul and the consultation document will clearly articulate those issues.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'll just try one more time. Would the Minister confirm that this document, Toward a Strategy to 2010, is not the vehicle that he intends to use in order to devise some kind of framework for a new Education Act?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 141-12(4): Plans For New Education Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, there are two issues. One, this framework generally gives the direction, as was the case on the previous Special Committee on Education. What we're basically doing in this direction is developing a framework of our educational services and programs and the direction we wish to take. This, in the final analysis, could have a very large influence on the Education Act, but that is only one aspect.

There are more specific changes that need to be dealt with in the Education Act. Those issues will be

specifically dealt with in the Education Act consultation document.

There are two documents: one, the general framework we wish to undertake for education; and, secondly, a more specific Education Act which will give us the mandate and legislative power to implement the directions we wish to take with the new strategy.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in recognizing the Minister's statement made today, regarding the River Ridge incident, the Minister of Justice indicated to this House that there will be some immediate changes in security practices at River Ridge. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice, can he advise this House as to what type of changes in security will these be? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, some of the changes that we're going to implement are actually changes that should have been followed as a matter of normal procedure. What we need to do is try to minimize the human failings in following procedures in facilities like this. Just recently, we did an operational review of the young offenders' facilities, including River Ridge. The report indicated there were no urgent or immediate difficulties, but that something may have been missed. Some of the procedures are ones that have been identified by the management of the facility. I am unable to tell the Member specifically what those security measures are because they wouldn't be security measures if I did. All I can say is that they are security measures and procedures which have been followed. We may have to review the way in which these procedures are followed and how closely we monitor them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister got up and made a significant Minister's statement. However, he fails to indicate, to this House, what type of changes he is proposing, or his department is proposing. He fails to know what type of changes they are proposing. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister, would he determine what type of immediate changes in security practices at River Ridge is his department proposing, and advise this House accordingly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the security procedures in these facilities are of a confidential nature. I'm not going to elaborate on them because there are people who

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will be going into these facilities at some time or other, including the present occupants who would very much enjoy reading Hansard and hearing it through the media. I don't think that's the intention of this legislature.

I do know that we have security procedures and operational manuals that are reviewed to make sure these reflect our assessment, and those of the people who manage these facilities, that the procedures and security measures we take reflect the needs as assessed by the managers of these facilities. We are trying to set up a system where we, on a regular basis, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these procedures.

I said, about a month or so ago this was done at River Ridge. As far as I know -- I haven't seen the written report yet -- but there was no call for immediate or urgent changes to procedures at that time. It may be that staff may have been momentarily lax in one or

two small areas, it's humanly expected sometimes. That may have lead or allowed the incident to develop the way it did the other night. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's somewhat disappointing as a Member to listen to Ministers make statements and not be able to justify or clarify what they've said in this House. I'd like to ask the Minister, since he has indicated in his statement in this House this afternoon that there will be some immediate changes in security practices at River Ridge, and since he has stated that these changes are confidential in nature, my concern is the concern of the public in my constituency. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can, somehow, clarify his statement to give comfort to my constituents, to ensure that are security practices that are going to implemented in the River Ridge facility, and to avoid these types of incidents from reoccurring. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the statement was intended to reassure the public that, as a government, we are taking measures to ensure these facilities are secure, that the staff that are doing so in these facilities are working under conditions that are providing maximum security to them, and that they reflect the legislation that governs the care of these young offenders. This legislation basically says we should use the least amount of restriction possible while these young offenders are in our care.

The Member is looking for some assurance that we're taking this incident seriously. I can assure her that it is seen as a very serious incident. If there is concern that procedures were not followed, were not well thought out, or not adequate for the circumstances and the nature of the young offenders who are living there, we will find out. We are reviewing it right now

to ensure that the public, the staff and the young offenders' interests are all taken into account.

Specifically, I can not provide detail. But if there is an indication that there was a broom handle or a mop handle left unattended and accessible by these young offenders, that may breach some of the security procedures. If keys that lock and unlock doors in this facility were made accessible by staff not following procedure, then that is a concern. We are going to review things, like how young offenders can get access to keys and how we minimize their access to keys. We are going to find out how it is that they got keys, or if they did, to take possession of a vehicle. Those are the concerns that we are dealing with right now.

There were meetings with the management at River Ridge, all of yesterday. They are reviewing the incidents and the procedures that were followed in conjunction with management of that facility. I believe certain measures will be taken.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

My last supplementary. He still hasn't answered my first question. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister stated that they are going to review and try to avoid these types of incidents from happening in the future. I recognize that he said these changes may take time. But, in his statement in this House, he said, "There will be some immediate changes in security practices at River Ridge." All I want to know, to give comfort to my constituents, is what are the immediate changes? Can he, somehow, answer simply? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 142-12(4): Changes In Security Procedures At River Ridge

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I can't answer the question the way that the Member wants me to answer. It would be a shotgun approach and it would, I think, disregard the

interests of the staff who are working at the facility. It would show disregard of the management at River Ridge.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Member asked a question and I'm trying to answer it. The short answer is, no, I can not provide her specific, immediate answers to her question about what immediate measures I'm taking. I mentioned a couple of things, almost in a hypothetical sense, that will be addressed. I'm telling her that measures will be taken, once they're agreed to by the management -- who are the people charged with operating these facilities -- and once they are in agreement with our staff, these measures will be done.

I don't think one or two little responses are going to do the public any good. The public should know that we are taking it seriously and we are. The public should know that the government is approaching it as a matter which needs an overall review and, if immediate changes are done, they'll be done in conjunction with management. Once those are done,

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I'll be prepared to give Members some indication about what has been implemented at River Ridge. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 143-12(4): Sand And Silt Problems In Coppermine River

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. It is with regard to Coppermine's marine problems, as they relate to the sand and silt in the Coppermine River being deposited from the mouth of the river along the shore of the community. It has caused over the years, a shallow water situation, anywhere from a quarter to half a mile away from the shore. This year, the sea lift had to operate half-loads on their barges into Coppermine, as they have been grounded in shallow water for the past few years. NTCL has indicated to

the community that they may have to adjust their rates to take into account these circumstances. My question to the Minister is, is he aware of this problem and if so, what are his plans to address it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 143-12(4): Sand And Silt Problems In Coppermine River

HON. JOHN TODD:

I am aware of the problem with respect to NTCL and because of the requests for local wharfage made by the community when I was there. But, I wasn't aware of the problem as it related to silt and NTCL coming in with half-loads. Sorry.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 143-12(4): Sand And Silt Problems In Coppermine River

MR. NG:

In a situation like this, where there may be direct financial repercussions to the community and the government as a result of this, would the Minister be making a priority to address this issue?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 143-12(4): Sand And Silt Problems In Coppermine River

HON. JOHN TODD:

Absolutely. Like I said, this is the first time I have heard of it. I don't think there is any correspondence on it. I have visited Coppermine three times and, with all due respect, it has never been raised with me directly. I want to assure the honourable Member that I will take steps later on today to find out what the status of this situation is and get back to him, post haste.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 144-12(4): Policy On Sale Of Public Housing Units To Tenants

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister responsible for housing. Mr. Speaker, my question is not meant to give an impression of dissatisfaction with the policy or the actions of the government. I want to get some clarification on behalf of the people I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I travelled throughout the territories this spring with the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. This is another matter, however. Some tenants who were living in public units indicated an interest in buying the public units they were living in. Some have indicated that they have actually bought public units.

My question to the honourable Minister is, Mr. Speaker, is there a policy within the Minister's department whereby tenants could, in fact, buy a public unit when he or she chooses to buy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 144-12(4): Policy On Sale Of Public Housing Units To Tenants

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a northern rental sale program that we can use to sell the old northern rentals to the tenants who are living in them. All they have to do is get in touch with the housing authority to purchase those units. Some public units cannot be purchased because they are cost-shared through CMHC and they have to be used for 35 years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 145-12(4): NWT HC Contract Procedures

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Housing. Last Friday, I was questioning him on the electrical contract that was awarded to Mr. Kheraj. Mr. Speaker, in the

Minister's answer, he mentioned that Merkosak Construction did not give the breakdown of the contract. I have a letter dated September 6 addressed to the housing corporation with the breakdown of the electrical contract. Did they not get that copy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 145-12(4): NWT HC Contract Procedures

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When tender goes out for any contract for the NWT Housing Corporation or DPW, the people bidding are required to fill out the tender documents properly. It is laid out in the very beginning of the tender document that you will fill out your local preference, northern preference and where you are going to buy your materials from, northern or southern. The documentation is there for contractors to fill out. Once the tender closes, if that information hasn't been filled out, then it cannot be added at a later date. The tender will be evaluated as such. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 145-12(4): NWT HC Contract Procedures

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is understandable. That practice has to be there to protect the government and the contractors. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's response, he stated that this contract was labour only. In the documentation that I received from Mr. Merkosak, apparently after the bids were opened by the government, the government then sent those bid documents back to the contractor. Apparently, the Housing Corporation worker put Mr. Kheraj's documents into Salamonie's envelope and Salamonie's documents into Kheraj's envelope. Mr. Salamonie phoned me. That was how he was able to see all the documents that Mr. Kheraj put together. Is that true, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 145-12(4): NWT HC Contract Procedures

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if that is true. That is what the Member tells me, so I will take his word for it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 146-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, it has to do with the Minister's statement today. I was wondering if the Minister could advise us if he is intending to table the document that he outlines in this paper. If so, when might we expect to see that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Nerysoo.

Return To Question 146-12(4): Tabling Of Towards A Strategy To 2010

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated to the honourable Member for Inuvik that I would be tabling the document today. While I did not indicate it in the statement, I am prepared for tabling it when we get to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 147-12(4): Construction Of Baker Lake Bridge

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Transportation with regard to the bridge in Baker Lake. They had originally planned to build the bridge this past summer with some assistance from the Department of Transportation, however, the department was not able

to come back in time for the community to construct this bridge. I would like to know from the Minister why they were not able to come back to the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 147-12(4): Construction of Baker Lake Bridge

HON. JOHN TODD:

It was my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the community had thought it could put a small bridge across this particular river or stream that people use to go hunting. It was the concern, and still is the concern, of the department that we have a safety responsibility in where we spend our money and how we construct bridges. We have to meet certain standards, and we are mandated to do that.

The department felt that what was being suggested by the municipality, while it was creative and was acknowledged as creative, would be a bridge that would not meet the basic safety standards required of the department when they install or finance bridges. It is not the intention, I want to stress to the honourable Member again, for us not to complete this project. There are discussions under way with the municipality, and I will work hard to try and seek some resolve and some strategy or plan into place as quickly as possible that will: one, get this access road in place and; two, place the priority on the installation of the bridge so the people have the ability and mobility to move about in that particular area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 148-12(4): Policy On Removal Of Snow From Trappers' Access Roads

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. I believe it was about two years ago the Department of Transportation implemented a policy with regard to removal of snow from the trappers' access roads off the highway near Fort Smith. It applies to all trappers just off the highway. By way of implementation, trappers had to go to the highway office to purchase a flag for a fee of

\$35. Last summer, the Minister drove to Fort Smith from Hay River and I showed him where some of these trappers' cabins were and how close they were to the highway. Since we have had a fair amount of snow, particularly around my constituency, has the Minister had a chance to review that policy and determine whether it was required? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 148-12(4): Policy On Removal Of Snow From Trappers' Access Roads

HON. JOHN TODD:

I have had an opportunity to review the policy. We have looked at the needs of trappers, given their current fiscal condition in the fur area. It is my understanding that we had an agreement with Parks to clear the snow in the trappers' area. There was some slight confusion about the flags and the \$35. I was told yesterday that we are now clearing the snow into the trappers' cabins at no cost to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

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Question 149-12(4): Assistance For Parents To Visit Child In Opening Custody Facility

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question I have is directed to the Minister of Social Services. I have been told that one of my constituent's children is in Iqaluit in the open custody facility. He was transported there in August and he'll be returning home next August. The parents of that child would like to go visit that individual. I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services, whether people being held in open custody could be visited by the parents and if the parents could get some financial assistance to go visit the individual? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 149-12(4): Assistance For Parents To Visit Child In Open Custody Facility

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Social assistance received by the individual can be used. They can also pay the social assistance recipient a certain amount of money for airfare. I will look into this for the Member and get back to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 150-12(4): Status Of Families Living On Beach In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Housing is aware of the unfortunate situation of two families living on the beach in Iqaluit. I know efforts were made last year to provide them with alternative housing through the Minister's good offices and those of the Minister of Social Services but, unfortunately, those arrangements collapsed late this summer and they were forced to move back on to the beach.

The Minister is aware that I provided him some suggestions on how to deal with that problem. I wonder if he could inform the House of the current status of those two families on the beach? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 150-12(4): Status Of Families Living On Beach In Iqaluit

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of this issue is that there has been alternative units allocated to Iqaluit. There was one being built there this summer. It says on November 30 a family should move into it. My understanding is that the unit the other family was living in, the owner decided to sell the unit so they were asked to move out. It will have to be adjusted by the allocation that has been given to Iqaluit this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(4): Status Of Families Living On Beach In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were three families on the beach and one of those families -- I'm grateful and happy to report -- will be dealt with by the alternative unit that was arranged by the Minister. The problem however, Mr. Speaker, is that there are still two families who are now unhoused and there was only one alternate unit provided this summer. My question is, I recognize one family has happily been looked after, what about the other two families? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 150-12(4): Status Of Families Living On Beach In Iqaluit

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that those families are off the beach. They were provided housing by the town of Iqaluit's Social Services department, and then that arrangement came to an end when the person, who was approving the housing, sold that unit. So, they were asked to move out and they ended up moving back to the beach. Those families were currently living on the beach at the beginning of this session. My understanding now is that the corporation has made arrangements for those two families and they moved them into row housing, GNWT row housing, on a very temporary basis. That's my understanding, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 151-12(4): Availability Of Funding To Communities Visiting Greenland

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of MACA. Some time last October, around October 12, the hamlet employees of Pangnirtung made a trip to Greenland to find out how their government works over there. The trip was funded by this government. Were they representing the whole Baffin region when they made that trip?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 151-12(4): Availability Of Funding To Communities Visiting Greenland

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to answer that today. I'll have to get back to my honourable colleague. I would think if it was an individual municipality, it would only be representing the municipality and not the region. If it was the region being represented, I would hope that it would be through the Baffin Regional Council if it still exists, although I think it's currently under receivership. I'll have to get back to the honourable Member on that question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

Did he take that question as notice?

MR. SPEAKER:

No, he didn't, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Pudluk, do you have a supplementary?

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Supplementary To Question 151-12(4): Availability Of Funding To Communities Visiting Greenland

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, if he didn't take my question as notice, I have a supplementary question.

---Applause

I believe he indicated that the BRC was not involved in this trip. I believe at that time the BRC did not exist. My supplementary is, if the other communities would like to make a trip like this, could this government fund them to make a trip to Greenland, Labrador or anywhere?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I apologize to the Member. I should have taken his original question under notice. I'll take his second question under notice and then I'll get back to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 152-12(4): Funding For New Sanikiluaq Recreation Complex

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister responsible for recreation. In Sanikiluaq the recreational complex is very old. I wonder if the Minister responsible for recreation could tell us when they will be producing new funding to build a recreational gym or arena? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 152-12(4): Funding For New Sanikiluaq Recreation Complex

HON. JOHN TODD:

The funding for a new community hall will be part of the capital planning process and the municipality will determine what priority it places on replacing or renovating the community hall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 152-12(4): Funding For New Sanikiluaq Recreation Complex

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Yes, Mr. Speaker, I realize the community of Sanikiluaq have been requesting a community hall. They are very happy to be receiving an arena. The old arena is very old and I think it costs a lot of money to heat the building. I realize that the government has to do capital planning prior to considering a community for a capital project, so has there been a new capital project plan created? Is there a new community hall in the capital budget for Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 152-12(4): Funding For New Sanikiluaq Recreation Complex

HON. JOHN TODD:

Not at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 153-12(4): Author Of River Ridge Facility Report

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It is with regard to the River Ridge report that he tabled in the House yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I find parts of this report quite confusing in the way it is written. Could the Minister verify for this House whether this report was written by his staff? Or was it written by an independent individual not from his staff? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 153-12(4): Author Of River Ridge Facility Report

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the report was written by the staff of the Department of Justice. It was initially done by the staff in Fort Smith and revised by the senior staff here, to the format it is now in. I should remind Members that this report resulted from a call from the Member of Thebacha last year, asking if a status report could be made available to Members, with regard to the facilities in Fort Smith, Hay River and Iqaluit for young offenders being triple designated.

It arose, also, out of a question about whether the changes we were making were conflicting with court cases and with legislation that governs in this area. The staff were involved because there was concern it might be against their wishes that this triple designation was imposed. I think Members wanted to know if the management and staff from River Ridge were of the view that they were capable and willing to make these changes. They wanted some indication of whether it met the interests of the public, whether it

met the needs of this government, and whether it provided for the needs of the young offenders and the staff. I believe the report, in very simple terms, lays that all out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time allotted for oral questions has elapsed. Item 6, written questions.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 20-12(4): Capital Contracts List

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question for Mr. Morin.

Will the Minister of Government Services and Public Works please provide a list of the negotiated capital contracts mentioned in Mr. Pollard's budget address, including the names of companies or other groups negotiating the contracts, the value of each contract and the communities involved?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Written Question 21-12(4): Young Offenders' Facility Incident Reporting

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Justice. Since he takes too long to reply in oral questions this might get a more specific answer.

Mr. Speaker, the report tabled by the Minister of Justice on the River Ridge young offenders' facility is a positive report, in his view. However, I'm aware of at least four separate incidents which have occurred at River Ridge and Hay River facilities, since it began housing both open and secure custody offenders.

These incidents include kids attacking a worker, trashing cabins and campgrounds, drinking on a camping trip, taking a resident hostage at gunpoint and recent incidents where a worker was hurt. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, why are these incidents and the department's response not included in this report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 8-12(4), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Public Works and Services concerning the staff housing unit appraisals.

Return To Written Question 8-12(4): Staff Housing Unit Appraisal

The Department of Public Works and Services contracted with professional NWT appraisers to conduct appraisals on any GNWT owned single family detached units in the level I communities of Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Hay River.

Appraisers typically use one of two methods to determine value. The first approach is called the market value. The market value is determined by a comparison with similar units that have recently sold within the community. The market value is adjusted for unit age, location, size, conditions and additional forces on real estate prices.

The second approach is the cost replacement method. This method determines the present replacement cost for similar construction and is depreciated based on age and unit condition. This approach is typically used where there are no market forces affecting house prices.

In level I communities the appraisers have placed more emphasis on the market value approach. It is the opinion that this approach better reflects house prices in these communities and this method was used in all level I communities.

Sample appraisals and a detailed outline of appraisal methodology will be circulated to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. We'll take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I'll call the House back to order. We were finished with reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to my honourable colleagues in Yellowknife, Frame Lake and Inuvik, I wish to table, Tabled Document 33-12(4), Towards a Strategy to 2010, a Discussion Paper, with a summary in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, Tabled Document 34-12(4), directive, Social Services grants and contributions, alcohol and drug services, community projects.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 35-12(4), response by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the report of the traditional knowledge working group.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 36-12(4), Navajo Justice - A Fact Finding Mission, Trip Report - May 17, 1993 to May 20, 1993. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Lewis.

Point Of Order

MR. LEWIS:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on, I asked a written question and there was another Member who has a more full written question to the one that I asked. I would like to withdraw the written question I asked Mr. Morin about negotiating contracts.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, it is an unusual request. If it was oral questions, the question would have been asked. But if the honourable Member asked for unanimous consent of the House to withdraw his question, then I would allow it. Mr. Lewis.

The question will then stand. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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REVERT BACK TO ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 154-12(4): Status Of Arviat Search And Rescue

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Premier. On behalf of the Members of the House, what is the status of the search and rescue in Arviat? I would like a full report of the status of the search. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier

Return To Question 154-12(4): Status Of Arviat Search And Rescue

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Minister of MACA gave a report. Perhaps the honourable Member could clarify which search and rescue he is talking about, please.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 154-12(4): Status Of Arviat Search And Rescue

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a rumour that we hear, whether or not it is a fact, that the search and rescue may be officially stopped, although there are still volunteers doing the search and rescue. It is a fact? What has been found so far? Is the search and rescue being continued or stopped?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the report we had yesterday may be dated. I will take that question as notice and provide the response at the earliest opportunity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister has taken it as notice. Item 5, oral questions. We will return, then, to tabling of documents. Item 12, tabling of documents.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. SPEAKER:

Pursuant to section 21-1, on behalf of the Management Services Board, I wish to table, Tabled Document 37-12(4), the Report on the Audit, the Accounts and Financial Transactions of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund for the Period Ended March 31, 1993.

Tabled Document 38-12(4), Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act and Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act for the Year Ended March 31, 1993.

I would like to table, Tabled Document 39-12(4), the Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year 1992-93, which was transmitted to my office today. It is required to be tabled under section 24 of the Official Languages Act. The report summary and executive summary are translated to all official languages of the Northwest Territories. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 40-12(4), a letter dated November 29, 1993, addressed to myself from former mayor of

Iqaluit, Charlie Ruttan, commenting on Mr. Todd's return to my written question tabled the other day. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. That concludes tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement by Premier; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; Committee Report 3-12(4), Report on the Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates; Committee Report 7-12(4), Committee Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts; Committee Report 8-12(4), Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board; and, Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday, we had the Minister of Social Services at the witness table and we were in general comments. What is the wish of the committee? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were addressing the Social Services budget under general comments. There was a question posed to the Minister that she didn't answer because of technical difficulties that we encountered. We would like to continue with the Social Services budget and determine the time frame from then, whether or not we will continue on with another budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that we continue with the Department of Social Services?

---Agreed

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

Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates

Thank you. Would the Minister like to bring in a witness or witnesses?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Department Of Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the record, I will ask that the Minister introduce the witnesses, please.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Mr. Ken Lovely, Deputy Minister of Social Services. On my right is John Doyle, Director of Finance.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Minister. When we concluded yesterday, as the Member for Thebacha indicated, there was a question directed to the honourable Minister from the committee. If you can remember the question, would you care to respond? Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the alcohol treatment centre that is planned for the community of Rankin Inlet, which is a nine-bed facility, the question was whether or not that would be cost-effective, as compared to 15 beds. It's true that a 15-bed facility, as opposed to a nine-bed facility, has a significant difference in the operation and maintenance. I had started discussions with the Minister of Health to see if this facility could be built along with the health facility that is planned to be built some time in the future. The discussions are under way with the Keewatin Regional Health Board to see if there's a possibility of combining the alcohol and drug treatment centre with the new health facility. The other costs will be considered to see whether or not it will be more cost-effective. The reason it is only a nine-bed facility is that the budget that was allocated only allowed for nine beds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to address a point that the Minister or her department may be failing to recognize. In any studies that have been developed with regard to alcohol and drug treatment centres, it is determined that in order for the facility to be cost-effective and the funding spent to be feasible, these facilities have to have at least 15 beds. When you are creating a facility with only nine beds, you are creating a white elephant. You're not utilizing your funding that you wanted to expend on it in the most effective way. So that is why I am trying to stress to the Minister that to build a nine-bed facility, is going to cost her department a lot more in the long run, than if you looked at the possibility of a 15-bed facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a lot clearer now as to what the Member for Thebacha is saying. It is in just the talking stages now, and there is talk of combining the treatment centre with the health facility. If there is going to be a cost- saving because of that, we know there are definitely going to be cost-savings on the operation and maintenance parts of it, for instance, for the utilities. As I said before, it is in the discussion stage right now and Mr. Pollard and I have agreed that if it is going to be more cost-effective, there is no reason why we shouldn't be looking at having it combined with the health facility. If we are, in fact, going to combine it with the health facility and there are cost-savings, perhaps there could be extra rooms added. If the treatment centre was to be built on its own, yes, it would definitely be more costly than being combined with the health facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem that I can envisage is, there are no current plans for a facility in the Keewatin for a health centre. You don't have that funding in the budget -- and I know it's to a different Minister -- but the Department of Social Services, at the same time, has requested funds to build an alcohol and drug treatment centre in the Keewatin. There's no current simultaneous expenditure for both a health centre and an alcohol and treatment centre.

So therefore, your facility now, as it stands in our budget, would be an independent facility. Your independent facility in your discussion stage is for a nine-bed facility and what I am saying is, this nine-bed facility would not be cost-effective.

So, therefore, until you can integrate it into the health facility, whenever it does come into the budget, you should consider looking at a 15-bed facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said before, it is in the discussion stage and I have not had a chance to look at it again after the capital budget was reviewed by the Standing Committee on Finance. This is one of the possibilities we are looking at, based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance from a year ago. I do agree, there has to be some planning coordinated between Health and Social Services. Yes, I do agree with that, but this is something I know can work. We have to start somewhere.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess then my question is, if the Minister agrees that these two facilities should be integrated, then why is the Department of Social Services, in this capital budget, asking for money to plan a stand-alone facility without the Department of Health having the same type of health facility in the same budget? What they're doing is putting the cart before the horse and they're not planning properly. That's the concern that I have, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Only recently, the talks and discussions have taken place with the Department of Health. I do agree with the Member from Thebacha.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

If I could get one further clarification, if the Minister agrees. How is she going to address this funding request to build an alcohol and drug treatment centre, which she's proposing as a nine-bed facility, with the absence of funding from the Department of Health for a regional health centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

That is something that I have to talk to Mr. Pollard about. We have not discussed it in detail but we have made an agreement that, if it is going to save dollars for the government, there is no reason why we shouldn't be looking at combining the two facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

So is it the intention of the department, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, to place a hold on planning funding for this alcohol and drug treatment centre until the Minister talks to Mr. Pollard to ensure the planning is reflective of what both departments want to achieve?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do know that the Keewatin Regional Health Board has a needs assessment being carried out in the Keewatin. I do agree that I would have to talk with Mr. Pollard to find out whether or not we are going to be combining the facilities or not. Up until the health assessment is completed, there is not a whole lot we can do within our department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. We are reviewing the 1994-95 capital estimates of Social Services. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the general comment that should be made about this budget is that, in spite of the pressing social needs in all parts of the Northwest Territories -- which I think were very clearly spelled out in the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services -- and in comparison to the total capital budget, this department seems to have a very small capital budget. I just want to make that comment.

Unfortunately, these social issues are not going to go away. We are not going to get fewer elders or fewer requirements for elder facilities. We are not going to get fewer children in need, and neither are requirements for treatment programs going to diminish. My general comment would be that it is unfortunate that the department does not seem to have been successful in marshalling the data necessary to present and justify capital needs, in comparison to other priorities of the government. I think that's where the Standing Committee on Finance's recommendation comes in, that the data has to be put together to lay the groundwork for these capital plans.

I only have to look at the Baffin region where, for some reason, the necessary work was not done to lay the groundwork for the long-awaited group home. So, once again, it has slipped from the capital plan. I believe the department is now committed to getting that work done. There was some question about whether it was a regional or a headquarters responsibility and it fell between the cracks. This is an example of a pressing need that should not be overlooked because the necessary homework wasn't done. I'm hopeful that will be fixed up in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman, on the issue of alcohol and drug treatment centres, I think it should be pointed out that the department appears to be acting somewhat inconsistently, in the Inuvik and the Keewatin regions, on the issue of an alcohol and drug treatment centre. The response of the Standing Committee on Finance got to its recommendation last year was that there had been agreement reached to integrate the proposed alcohol and drug treatment facility with the planned Inuvik regional hospital.

The Standing Committee on Finance was given that commitment, in response to last year's recommendations that agreement had been reached between the Departments of Health and Social Services. That was reported to the Standing Committee on Finance and I think that's in keeping with the recommendation that there are advantages, economies of scale, and it is helpful to have medical services readily available preparing for treatment, or in treatment.

Yet, the same department has not yet been able to make that commitment in the Keewatin region. Just to underscore what Mrs. Marie-Jewell said, if it makes sense in the Inuvik region -- and I think we all believe that it does make sense -- then it should also make sense in the Keewatin region to integrate those facilities to achieve economies of scale, savings and efficiency. I just think that the sooner this is spelled out to the people of the Keewatin, the better. Right now, anyone looking at the capital plan would assume that there would be a stand-alone facility and when you build up public expectations, sometimes it is hard to change them further on down the road.

I've noted the Minister's commitment to seriously explore this issue and her comment that it should await the community needs assessment, which I think is acceptable. But I think what Members of the Standing Committee on Finance are recommending is that, as soon as possible, the government's intention and desire, in principle, to combine these facilities should be communicated to the health board and the people of the Keewatin so that expectations are not raised that there will be a stand-alone facility.

I think that nothing more needs to be said on this issue. Hopefully, by this time next year, we'll find that the necessary groundwork has been done so that the appearance of a stand-alone facility in the capital plan will no longer prevail. I do believe it would be premature to start designing a facility or even pre-designing a facility until that community needs assessment has been completed and the feasibility of integrating with a health facility is explored. I think the Minister has basically agreed with that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I don't have comments like Mr. Patterson, but I have several questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Arvaluk, I apologize, I believe that Madam Minister would like to respond to Mr. Patterson's comments. Then I'll recognize you after that, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment in response to Mr. Patterson's general comments on raising the expectations of the residents of the Keewatin. As the Minister responsible for Social Services, I will not initiate anything like this unless it is requested at the community level. The reason we are talking about having this nine-bed facility for Rankin Inlet combined with the health centre is because the chairperson of the health board of the Keewatin requested to have these discussions take place between Health and Social Services.

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I want to make it very clear to this committee, as the Minister responsible, I will not initiate anything on my own, unless I have some support at the community level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Thank you for your patience, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very patient. Although I recognize and appreciate that there is a budget for alcohol and drug programs and a treatment centre in the Keewatin, my several questions are not exactly along the same lines as Mrs. Marie-Jewell. But, there are the same principles to my questions. That is, during the budget process and the SCOF deliberation of the Minister's submission of capital plans, there were no plans set in place that said it should be Rankin Inlet. It was under Keewatin various. I appreciated that because of the philosophy behind the alcohol and drug centre, to be in a more civilized and better atmosphere for mental health purposes.

For example, even in Yellowknife, we have an alcohol treatment centre away from the city so they will not be distracted by this metropolitan-type lifestyle when they are trying to recover from this illness. I am surprised

to see that the Keewatin alcohol and drug treatment centre is slated to be in Rankin Inlet. In the Keewatin there are already two dry communities, Arviat and Coral Harbour, where you would think a mental health worker or the Minister responsible for Social Services would consider these more appropriate and effective places to treat patients.

I guess my first question is, has the Minister already decided this should be in Rankin Inlet and, if so, if it will be annexed to the health centre? The second question is, since the health centre for Rankin Inlet is not in the budget to date -- although it is being discussed in ongoing talks, an evaluation is taking place, and there is a feasibility assessment taking place with the community -- will we have to wait before the health centre is built before an alcohol and drug centre can be integrated? We don't know how long that will take.

The Keewatin region has patients coming into Yellowknife all the time, and I think the Keewatin deserves to get one as soon as possible even if the health centre is not built in the immediate future. My second question is, will we have to wait before the health centre is built before we can get an alcohol and drug centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I guess the matter you are referring to is on page 13-11 of the capital estimates. That would be the appropriate time to ask these questions. However, I will allow Madam Minister to reply.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the review of the Social Services capital budget, the Member for Aivilik asked me if this facility could go under Keewatin various. That was his question during the Standing Committee on Finance review. If my memory serves me correctly, I remember responding, "Yes, it can be under Keewatin various." As far as a decision being made, that decision has not been made, as I responded to you during the Standing Committee on Finance review.

Your second question about if the Keewatin is going to have to wait for this facility to be built so it is built at the same time as the health facility, there are options that can be looked at. In a similar way, the schools are built without gymnasiums with plans to have the gymnasium part of it built in later years. If we can be

very creative with this, we can go ahead and make a design so that this building can go ahead with the plan of having it combined in later years with the health facility.

These are the things that can be looked at. I will not decide that on my own, it is something that will have to be discussed at the community level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said the next step should await a community needs assessment. After the community needs assessment shows a desire to have a program in a dry community, like Coral Harbour or Arviat, is the Minister open to considering another location then if the community assessment wants it that way?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Honourable Minister for Social Services.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm open to options that the region and the communities consider best for their region. Personally, I don't agree with placing this facility in a dry community. To me, there would be an added cost in transportation. I am assuming that if we put the facility in a dry community, it is going to be servicing other communities that do consume alcohol. Where there is alcohol consumed, is where the problems are. I am open to options if requested and supported by the region. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

General comments. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the point of having a community needs assessment on the capital plans then. If the capital plan is to proceed with the alcohol and drug treatment centre -- if the Minister would entertain the community needs assessment desiring its placement in a dry community -- then would she go beyond a nine-bed treatment centre to make it cost-effective?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, I am open to options. As long as it is supported by the community and the region, I am open to it. If the needs assessment proves that it should be in a dry community, then it will be in a dry community. However, if the needs assessment indicates that it should be in another community which is not dry, then that is where it will be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, would she then remove her comment that she made in her previous statement, that she does not personally favour having a treatment centre in a dry community?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My personal opinion does not reflect the wishes of the Keewatin. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I will remind the Members to stay to the topic. We are discussing the Social Services capital estimates for 1994-95. Let's try not to get too personal. It is the review we are getting into. General comments. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated there was a needs assessment being undertaken in the Keewatin. I understand there is also one being done in the Kitikmeot. How do you determine what the capital priorities are without these needs assessments being completed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister for Social Services.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was talking about needs assessments being carried out in the Keewatin, I was talking about regional health boards' needs assessments. I know when I had that portfolio it was being carried out, but I don't know the status of it to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

How does the Department of Social Services carry out their assessments for capital?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital items we are dealing with today have been carried over from the 11th Assembly. I am merely carrying them over. There is a directive in the department that we are going to have a process in place for capital planning, along with other recommendations that were put forward by the committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I brought this up during the SCOF review. I questioned the deferral in the Kitikmeot region specifically regarding the elders' residence having been deferred, when it was in the capital plan in prior years for construction for this year. I still don't have a reasonable answer as to why the deferral took place. It was a point that my colleague from Natilikmiot had brought up during the session, as well, I believe.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister of Social Services.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year it has been deferred because the cost-sharing programs we have

in place with the federal government were cut. I also stated that in my opening remarks yesterday.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments on the 1994-95 capital estimates, Department of Social Services. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

If I recall correctly, there was an elders' residence in Fort Resolution that was not deferred. What would be the reasoning of deferring a residence in one community versus another?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along with my opening remarks yesterday, I stated very clearly the Fort Resolution elders' facility has been deferred since the review of the capital budget for Social Services by the Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Any further general comments from the floor? Shall we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Family And Children's Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On page 13-9 of the capital estimates for 1994-95, detail of capital, family and children's services, buildings and works, total region...Am I on the right page? Pardon me, headquarters.

Building and works, headquarters, total region, \$143,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. In terms of child welfare facilities, does the department use any bush or on the land camps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask why? Has it been looked at and investigated? Is there a reason why these types of facilities are not being utilized?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can I ask Mr. Koe what facilities he is talking about? Through our contributions and grants we do fund local organizations that have on the land projects.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe, would you care to clarify?

MR. KOE:

Yes. There has been a lot of discussion on the use of group homes, emergency homes, emergency group homes, emergency family homes and whatever else you call them. Plus, in our special committee report we talked about the use

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of other types of homes. A lot of the current facilities are not providing that type of care and service. Most of them are somewhere else. They are in another community or a major centre. So you are always bringing people out of their environment into a foreign environment and expect to cure them.

What we heard from the people is we have camps and we can enhance them. In the Inuvik region, they are building some good facilities to utilize for treatment. These are used for young people so they can have an environment where they can experience their own culture and have elders and trained counsellors to work with them in an environment they should be more used to. A lot of kids are not used to

it, but the move is to try to get them back into the culture some of us have been brought up in.

In terms of planning, is the department looking at utilizing more on the land facilities, rather than keep building up these group homes and different institutions with locks and sliding doors?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I try to encourage the department, especially if the majority of the children or the population is of aboriginal descent I prefer to be looking at culturally-relevant programs. If there are such programs out in the communities, I can voice that to the department heads. I am open to such ideas that my colleague is talking about. At the present time, it is true that the group homes we have in the large centres don't have any on the land programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total region for headquarters, \$143,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Fort Smith, total region, \$5,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$7,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$155,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Contributions, headquarters. Total region, \$220,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$220,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, can I get the details on the headquarters contribution to the family violence program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Fort Smith shelter renovation is \$40,000. The Inuvik shelter fence is \$20,000. The MacAteer House is \$15,000. Qimaavik Iqaluit is \$40,000. Rankin Inlet, \$30,000. Cambridge Bay, \$45,000. Taloyoak repair plumbing, \$30,000. Projects as requested, \$30,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total contributions, \$220,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity, \$375,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Alcohol, Drugs And Community Mental Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We will move on to page 13-11 of the capital estimates for 1994-95. Details of capital, alcohol, drugs and community mental health, building works, headquarters, total region, \$176,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns that can be heard across the North is that there are no facilities in the Northwest Territories that provide treatment for young people or teenagers. There is no place where they can currently go, other than just outside of Edmonton, or to Winnipeg to get alcohol and drug treatment. Is the department doing anything to utilize some of these facilities that are currently in the north to try to provide this type of service for young people with addictions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that we should be utilizing more of our facilities in the territories, rather than sending people out of the territories. However, we have to keep in mind that it depends on the individual assessments of their treatment needs. If we do not have that expertise in the territories, that is when they are usually sent out of the territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total region, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I believe the facility we use is Whitespruce in Saskatchewan. I think some of our young people go, but it is

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a very costly venture to send these children out. I encourage the department to quickly look at this

aspect. They should be providing facilities in the north to look after our own people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. I believe that was general comments, if Madam Minister wishes to respond.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for his suggestion. We will look into it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Buildings and works, total region, \$176,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

This is on page 13-11, correct? Mr. Chairman, there is one thing I would like to get clarified in regard to the Rankin Inlet treatment centre. Mrs. Marie-Jewell indicated that unless we have the combination of two facilities in one, then it would not be cost effective and we would have a white elephant. By virtue of combining a health centre with a treatment centre, are we also looking at changing the classification of alcohol as a disease? We don't classify it now as a disease, so it is not really the responsibility of Health, it is your department's responsibility. Can we get that clarified? I do not know if it is best to have a combination of both in one building. I have a concern. You are looking at a whole different principle of treatment than if you are treating on a crisis kind of situation. They are both classified as treatment, but one of them is not classified as a disease. What are your feelings on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before I ask the Honourable Minister to respond to Mr. Gargan, I believe Mr. Gargan is referring to the Keewatin facility. Could I have the agreement of the committee that we approve the headquarters for buildings and works, total region, \$176,000?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$35,000. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, the intent was not to reclassify the treatment site with alcohol and drug programs. The Standing Committee on Finance made the recommendations to the government that the treatment centres and health facilities be combined in the future. It was in light of the fact that our government was in restraint and that it would be more cost-effective to have the facilities built in the same place. The intent of that was never to reclassify whether alcohol is a disease. It was purely on the cost saving basis that the recommendations went forward. That is my understanding of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. To the item, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Under this direction that the department is going you are looking at that approach. The amalgamation is taking place anyway, so Health and Social Services are going to be together. Their budget will be combined. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Health and Social Services are amalgamated, the budgets that exist now would appear under alcohol and drug programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And not as the Rankin Inlet health centre and treatment centre heading?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something that the department will have to work out with the Department of Health when Health and Social Services are consolidated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Keewatin Region. Mr. Koe, then Mr. Lewis.

MR. KOE:

Yes, there was considerable discussion on the Keewatin alcohol and drug treatment centre. I'm just wondering what is the understanding of what's going to happen with planning money? Is it going to be on hold until the regional or community assessments are done? Is it going to be planned in isolation? What did you agree on with my other colleagues that were asking questions earlier?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister of Social Services.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pollard and I had a very brief time in discussing this. My understanding is that some of this money would be used for needs assessment and I'm also hoping that the Keewatin regional health needs assessment will be completed some time this year. I don't know how far they are with it but it is something I plan to work on, along with Mr. Pollard, who is now responsible for the Department of Health.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Is my understanding correct then, that whatever facilities are built or planned for, are going to be treated similarly to what we are doing in Inuvik, where there is a move to try to combine the two facilities under one roof?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Koe, just conclude, I think we missed the last part of what you said.

MR. KOE:

I said, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Keewatin would be treated similarly to Inuvik. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Keewatin, Mr. Lewis, you had your hand up. Mr. Lewis passes. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question, I asked a whole lot of questions in general comments. On this specific one, what would happen if the community needs assessment, that the Minister will be conducting for the health centre, showed that the people in the communities other than Rankin Inlet want to improve their community health facilities, rather than wanting a big health centre in Rankin. What would happen to the alcohol and drug treatment centre plan that already is to be part of that big health centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Member for Aivilik's question is a hypothetical question for me that really has no substance. We are talking in the absence of the Keewatin regional health needs assessment. It not having been completed, I can not answer Mr. Arvaluk's question at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I guess that requires a bit of clarification. I understood the needs assessment -- I don't take it as being hypothetical -- is trying to find out from the communities: what the real needs are; what the costs are; whether they want to have the improved health facilities in the community; what would be the need in terms of birthing, surgery and X-

rays; and, what are the most common illnesses in the communities. I don't think my question was a hypothetical one because everything is open to those kinds of questions when you are doing the community assessment. That was my base for the question. What would happen if the communities decide what they really want is better health centres in the communities rather than a big one in Rankin Inlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer Mr. Arvaluk's question, earlier on I stated that I am open to options. I will not initiate unless I have the support of the community and the regional level. If the assessment identifies that it should be in another community rather than Rankin Inlet, so be it. I am open to it. Maybe the last time I wasn't very clear on it, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this time the Member understands when I said I am open to open to options, what I meant by that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. We're dealing with details of capital, alcohol, drug and community mental health in the Keewatin. The chair recognizes Mr. Gargan, if Mr. Arvaluk is done. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, if a needs assessment is done on a regional basis, it doesn't necessarily mean that all communities would have the same level of social problems at any given time. Am I to understand the Minister is suggesting that it would probably go to the community that has the most or the worst problems?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the needs assessment that is being carried out with regional health identifies a community, and it is substantiated with the kind of suggestions that Mr. Gargan is saying -- if it is substantiated, yes, it is then valid as far as I can see.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan, then Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. GARGAN:

In other words, that's one area. How about a place like Chesterfield, where they have handicapped people? I think the building in Chesterfield is going to be shut down very soon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Social Services does not fund that handicapped group home. It is funded through health. We're talking about the alcohol and drug facility in Rankin Inlet, I believe. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

You most certainly are, Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister already indicated that, in order for the project to go ahead, it has to be cost-effective and she suggested that it's going to be a combination treatment centre/health centre. Has she changed her message since five minutes ago?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The health centre we are talking about is like a nursing station. It is not a group home like the one you are talking about in Chesterfield Inlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. I think it is Mr. Gargan again.

MR. GARGAN:

For the record then, who takes care of group homes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister, this might clarify it.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the adult handicapped home in Chesterfield Inlet is funded through Health. It is not funded through Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I think there appears to be a problem with the location because the Minister is now indicating she will now do an assessment to determine the type of building and where it should be located. I would like to put forward a motion to clarify this so we can go on with the other items of the budget.

Committee Motion 40-12(4): To Delete Rankin Inlet From Keewatin Region, Carried

I would like to move that the community of Rankin Inlet be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. We have a motion on the floor to delete the item at this time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Just a moment, that is my understanding of it. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I didn't indicate that the amount be deleted, I indicated that I move that the community of Rankin Inlet be deleted. If I may speak to the motion, Mr. Chairman, if the motion is in order?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We have a motion to delete the words "Rankin Inlet." That will probably mean that this is

generic for Keewatin. Is that the intent of the motion? If so, the motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I am trying to see if we can proceed with the budget. I believe what is causing some of the problem is that the funding that is being requested is for an alcohol and drug treatment centre in Rankin Inlet. The Members are questioning the Minister and asking if she can do an assessment and a study to determine where and whether it would be possible to place this facility in the Keewatin.

Further, we want to know if she can make sure this building is cost-effective. The one proposed now is not cost-effective. So, in order to address the concerns of Members, I believe we should delete the words "Rankin Inlet." If, in the assessment, the location of Rankin Inlet is seen as the best location, then so be it. But, until that assessment is done, I think it is only fair that a specific location not be identified at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

Alcohol and drug community health, Keewatin now reads "alcohol and drug treatment centre." Total region, \$35,000. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to the treatment centre in the Keewatin. The Minister has indicated that a needs assessment would be done in the Keewatin region for the centre. I would like to ask her who would be doing the needs assessment? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member from Kivallivik. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be done along with the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Two departments. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Is that to say then, that it will be done by the department from Yellowknife or from the communities of the Keewatin? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member from Kivallivik. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regional office would be involved along with the Department of Health and the Keewatin Regional Health Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Member from Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, would the needs assessment then also be done by the alcohol and drug workers in the communities of the Keewatin?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the alcohol and drug workers in the communities that the department funds have concerns, it is up to the community agencies to be addressing those concerns when the needs assessment is being carried out. The only authority I

have is when I sign the contribution agreements to these agencies, along with the terms and conditions. From what I understand, it is not one of the conditions or terms that I tell them what to do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Keewatin, total region, \$35,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, headquarters. Total contributions, \$165,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Total activity, \$376,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 13-13, details of capital, community and family support services. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$43,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$1.576 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Keewatin, total region, \$1.260 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$2.879 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$56,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total equipment acquisition, \$56,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Contribution, headquarters, total region, \$100,000. Mr. Koe, then Mr. Lewis.

MR. KOE:

What is the non-GNWT elders' residence?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, Aven Senior Centre, Woodland Manor, Northern Lights Special Care Home. They are in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

On that point, I assume the residents of those facilities pay some sort of fees. Are the fees the people have to pay who stay in those non-GNWT residences set by the individual homes or by government policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, I would have to check that one out. We don't have the information with us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

This is an O and M issue, but it deals with capital buildings that the residents stay in. The concern I have is that in Government of the Northwest Territories' buildings, or ones run by government agencies, there are fees paid by the seniors who live in these facilities. But the fees they pay in hospitals and long-term care wards are different from what they pay in seniors' homes. I think they vary from community to community. What is the department doing to review these fees paid by seniors who live in the various facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these facilities are run by their own boards, but I will let Mr. Lovely elaborate further on the question.

MR. LOVELY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you are probably aware, there is a review under way with regard to the

overall income support provided to NWT residents. One of the areas we are looking at are the fees that are charged to elders in these facilities, with a view toward standardizing them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the status of that review? Is it another two years or six months away? How long is this review going to take place and when can we expect to see some results?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review is fairly comprehensive and is being carried out with other departmental planning efforts. We are looking at September, 1994, as the completion date for the overall plan that will include things like fees in personal care facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lovely. I have Mr. Lewis on the list and then Mr. Dent.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This figure seems like a figure just pulled out of the air. It covers three different facilities in three different communities. Is this a figure that is used every year or is there some formula? Is there some specific arrangement whereby a figure is entered into the books on the basis of discussions with the different facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Yellowknife Centre. Madam Minister.

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HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are anticipated expenditures of \$55,000 for the Fort Smith region and \$45,000 for Yellowknife. They come in as an application to the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

That accounts for the \$100,000, but what about the Hay River one? It seems they are going to get nothing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hay River is in the Fort Smith region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on Mr. Lewis' question. It is suspicious that it comes out to \$100,000 even. Could the Minister advise whether the facilities get the funds they request? What is the process? Are they sending in requests for three or four times this amount and this is all the government is able to free up, or is this what they have requested to cover the costs of renovations and capital equipment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the capital contributions the department makes for renovations or purchasing equipment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the advantage of being on the Standing Committee on Finance, so I have the project substantiation sheet in front of me and I know what this money is for. My question is how is it determined that Yellowknife will get \$45,000

and the two other facilities will qualify for \$55,000? I suspect at the Aven Senior Centre, needs are actually much greater than \$45,000. With the amount that is being allowed for renovations, I believe that facility is falling into disrepair. How did we determine that we have this much money to provide? Is it in response to requests from the agency or can the Minister tell me specifically what the agencies have requested for renovations and why we have come up with these figures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I had already said that we do receive the applications and there are talks that are ongoing, but I guess I didn't say that. The agencies submit applications to the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then the question is, are each of the facilities getting the exact amount they applied for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes to grants and contributions that the department provides, it is never an exact amount the department gives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have a plan to address the shortfall in the funding for renovations and capital equipment over the longer term for these facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, these are non-government buildings we are talking about. We don't have any long-term plans for renovations for these facilities that have independent boards that run them. However, with the 100 per cent owned GNWT facilities we have, there is a process in place through Public Works for renovations if there is wear and tear within the facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On many occasions, across the Northwest Territories this government has provided facilities for seniors' residences. In these three locations, at least, the government has volunteer agencies that have gotten together to put the facilities together. If the government owned and operated them, the government would spend the money for the repairs and renovations required to keep them in good shape. As it stands now, they, as Mr. Koe has pointed out, are limited in the amount of funds they can collect for the cost of running. This government doesn't come anywhere near providing them with a reasonable amount of funding to cover the cost of renovations and the capital upkeep that is required, whether it is reshingling, repainting or doing those things that are required to be done to make sure the building stays in good shape and is renovated as needed to provide the services for the people inside. In effect, this government is casting off the burden that is carried across most of the territories onto the backs of these volunteer agencies in these communities. This is not fair. The government is going to have to look at addressing the long-term implications of under-funding these three facilities because, in the long run, it is going to come back to haunt no one else but the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Altogether, for non-GNWT elders' residences in the span of five years, there is \$685,000 allocated. As the Minister of Social Services, responsible for senior citizens, I am going to

say this not just to Yellowknife, but to any community that comes to the

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department seeking assistance. The communities themselves have a definite responsibility in looking after our elders, along with the Government of the Northwest Territories. The total cost cannot be relied on GNWT totally. We have, as citizens, a responsibility for our senior citizens. That is the position I have. I have spoken to many people in the communities who come to Social Services requesting funds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bottom line is if you are going to say to an agency that there is a limit to how much they can charge, you are going to have to reflect also that the government has a responsibility to contribute to the operation significantly. I have no problem with the community being involved in running it, but when you have a volunteer board then let the board run it. Let them set their own fees and fee schedule. Let them determine what is fair and adequate. In this situation, they are not being given a free hand to determine how they can raise the monies they might need to cover the cost of the operation that is, instead, being limited by the department. Don't expect autonomy on one side when it is all costs and not provide that autonomy when it is the income side.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Dent has said it all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to endorse what Mr. Dent has said on that issue, as well. I think it posed serious problems in the start-up, and that issue

contributed to the problems which slowed the start-up of the personal care facility in Iqaluit as well. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, for level II personal care facilities operated by private contractors, what is the department's policy on providing access to medical care for patients in those level II facilities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Madam Minister.

Point Of Order

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think we are starting to talk about operation and maintenance when we are dealing with the capital budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. That is not a point of order as such, but it is correct. Mr. Patterson, did you wish to rephrase that, ask it in a different way, or ask another question?

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, the committee has been flexible in allowing questions relating to operations and maintenance, such as the policy on funding. I think these are interrelated with capital issues. I would suggest that the Chair

allow the usual flexibility in the interests of thorough consideration of the capital budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Yes, I have been known for being very fair. I wanted to be flexible enough that Members can get their points of view across. If it is a question that is related, why I allowed it is that it is O and M that may be related toward the capital budget or capital item itself. There are situations like that. This is one of those areas. That is why I allowed it. Madam Minister, you can respond if you wish. It is your prerogative.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I absolutely don't mind with general comments, but I start to have questions when I am being asked questions directly pertaining to operations and maintenance costs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Patterson, would you like to re-phrase that? There seems to be a challenge of the Chair. I will take it into account, if that is the case.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell that the Minister is reluctant to answer my question. Perhaps you will allow me a short moment to indicate to the Minister that I am concerned about the issue of access to medical care for patients in level II personal care facilities, who, in some facilities, are being allowed to have access to local nurses and doctors but in other facilities are not. Since the Minister may not wish to answer those questions here, this afternoon, I will let her know that it is an issue I will be pursuing in question period. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The item we are dealing with is contributions, total region. The amount is \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total contributions, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total activity, \$3.035 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Summary on page 13-7. Total capital expenditures, \$3.786 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Where does the committee suggest we go from here? Madam Minister, these matters are concluded and I'd like to thank yourself and the witnesses for their participation. You're free to go. The chair recognizes the Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can continue on with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, we would be willing to listen to the Minister's opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Please turn to 16-7. Is the Minister prepared to make his opening remarks? Mr. Nerysoo.

Introductory Remarks

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm prepared, but I'm not quite sure how long Members want to sit and listen to the opening remarks.

Mr. Chairman, committee Members, many of the introductory budget remarks made in previous years have noted the impact of change. Dramatic changes are occurring in the territorial financial, economic and political environment which have an impact on the level of service government can provide and cause us to explore different and better ways of providing programs.

Growing financial restraint across the government is limiting capital resources, but the demand for program services continues to increase. In 1991-92, the capital budget for education was \$31.2 million; in 1992-93, the budget was \$26.6 million and in 1993-94 the budget for Education and Employment is \$32.3 million, including about \$3 million in capital for culture and heritage.

Government of the Northwest Territories' facilities contributing to Education and Culture and Employment programs are valued at about \$450 million. Simply to keep up with the replacement needs of these assets, on a 20 year cycle, we would need about \$20 million a year. Mr. Chairman, as the Standing Committee on Finance recommended last year, we need to make a concerted effort to improve our capital management and planning program, including planning based on demographics.

The demand for education, culture and employment programs is largely driven by increases in the populations using these programs. The school age population is growing at about four per cent a year and the birth rate in the territories is the highest in the country. The number of students enrolled in senior secondary grades has increased by 70 per cent from 1988-89 to 1992-93, from 1,397 students to 2,379 students.

Many of these increases are a result of providing senior secondary grades in communities. Senior secondary school participation by aboriginal students increased from 683 students to 1,193 students, between 1987 and 1991. Young people, some of them with children, are dropping back into school. They increase the demand for school space, senior secondary program facilities and space in schools for child care programs. More students are staying in school and as we meet with more success, additional demands are placed on our capital budget.

Effective training programs that respond to the needs of northern residents and employers are essential. Northerners need education and training programs to be prepared to take advantage of employment opportunities resulting from division and the restructuring of government, as well as opportunities resulting from potential mega-projects such as Izok Lake. Looking at youth, age 15 to 24 in the Northwest Territories, about 50 per cent of them are attending full-time school or post-school programs and about 4,000 youth could benefit from basic adult upgrading. In addition, there are many people who would benefit from upgrading programs coupled with basic life skills training. About 8,000 people receiving social assistance would benefit from this kind of training and support.

More and more people are becoming aware of the critical need for education and training. This is easily demonstrated by the number of students enrolled in Arctic College full and part-time programs. In 1992-93, about 1,360 students were enrolled in full-time programs and 6,900 students in part-time programs.

We recognize the importance of training and we must also recognize that increasing the number and variety of training programs offered places demands on our capital resources, particularly to replace existing college facilities in poor condition and for student housing.

Similarly, as people become aware of the variety of ways in which culture can be supported, there is a growing demand for cultural facilities and support for heritage projects. Community museums and libraries, shared spaces in schools and visitor centres and the need for community supported regional cultural institutes have all become more important to the people of the territories. In addition, many of the land claims groups are also looking to the government for additional cultural support. We have to develop a fair and consistent approach to working with communities and with all claimant groups.

The department has revised its planning process. We recognize that we cannot meet all anticipated needs immediately given the current budget. As a result of series of priorities was established that focuses on meeting critical needs first.

The first priority is given to projects necessary to maintain safety, the second priority is given to projects addressing shortfalls in space based on need. The third priority is for facilities with enough space but with program deficiencies and

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the last priority category is allocated to buildings which need to be upgraded.

A careful review of our planned capital expenditures demonstrated that some projects, such as the projects in Igloodik, Coral Harbour, Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset schools needed additional resources because the needs had not been adequately addressed in prior years. Other projects have been created to meet previously unrecognized demands, such as the Fort Good Hope and Pangnirtung schools. The timing has also been shifted in some areas to accommodate the development of joint use facilities, such as the libraries in Coral Harbour and Pond Inlet, while other shifts are being proposed to maximize longer term local employment opportunities and minimizing disruption to ongoing programs. As a result, some projects which had been planned in the last funding priority category, projects addressing space upgrades, are being proposed to be reduced or delayed, such as the Fort Simpson school.

We are trying to address our needs for infrastructure on a fair and equitable basis.

We are using population projections and consulting with communities in the development and finalization of our capital plan. Recognizing that capital planning is an ongoing process, we have continued to consult with boards and communities and have listened to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance. As a result, we have made changes to the capital plan to accommodate needs expressed in the Kitikmeot, South Slave and Dogrib regions. For instance, in the South Slave, the board placed a high priority on renovations at J.B. Tyrrell school in Fort Smith, which will now be moved ahead, while renovations to PW Kaeser High School will be delayed.

Likewise, in the Kitikmeot region, renovation work for the schools in Cambridge Bay and Coppermine will be advanced while the additions to the schools in Pelly Bay and Taloyoak will be delayed. In response to the concerns expressed by the Dogrib, necessary and appropriate project funding will be provided to address long-term needs for Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Edzo.

We want to provide a uniform level of infrastructure throughout the entire territories in response to need. We have developed -- and this has been made available to Members -- four new heritage policies

which should address the concerns identified by the standing committee last year. Mr. Chairman, one of our proposed objectives in the main estimates for 1993, is to review and revise our capital standards and criteria.

We are looking at ways to use space effectively, such as the joint use of facilities. We are also exploring ways to cut costs, such as purchasing renovated equipment for Arctic College programs from departments like transportation, and working in partnership with businesses and other agencies to manage and deliver capital projects. The department also supports the training of construction workers through capital resources.

Despite our best efforts, we likely will not be able to meet the expectations of people of the Northwest Territories who are just beginning to realize the impact of financial restraint and who recognize the value and importance of education, training and cultural facilities.

It is clear that we are going to have to develop better ways of consulting and more effective and efficient ways of using our funds. However, we also have to recognize that resources are extremely limited for projects required by new directions and the development of the system in areas such as senior secondary education and child care facilities in schools.

It is becoming extremely difficult to develop a capital plan, given our resources and the demands. The proposed capital estimates for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment strive to balance the need for capital programs with available resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Does the Finance committee have a prepared presentation? Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance response starts off with the capital planning for school projects.

Capital Planning For School Projects

School populations are soaring and with today's tough economic times students are returning to school as

never before. This was the message the committee received from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Just maintaining the existing investment in schools (approximately \$450 million) requires massive infusions of capital. Implementing high school grade extensions in the communities requires both the addition of classrooms and a redesign of school facilities.

The department informed the committee that they have responded to these challenges with a new approach to capital planning. There are two aspects of this new approach. The first is that school enrolments will be projected using statistical information about the population of communities. In the past, school enrolments were forecast using school statistics, specifically, the number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12.

The second aspect of the new approach to planning has to do with the standards and criteria used for the planning and design of school buildings. The standards and criteria deal with issues such as the number of square feet per student, the number of square feet per classroom, and ultimately, the size of facilities in the communities. The standards also respond to changes in teaching methods and technology, as they affect facility requirements. The department informed the committee that they anticipate having new criteria and standards drafted by December, 1993.

Committee Members noted a larger number of changes to the capital plan over that reported last year. The capital budget increased 28.2 per cent to \$38.2 million, in 1994-95. This overall increase is the net result of projected spending reductions of \$10 million and \$17 million of expenditures for new projects. The committee has examined each of these projects and their potential impact on communities. In some cases, the committee is recommending changes to the department's plan.

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One issue that is particularly troublesome to the committee is the recent appearance of school additions for four communities, Fort Liard, Hall Beach, Arctic Bay and Arviat. In all four cases, the additions are required for schools recently built. The difficulty is related to the method used in planning the schools, specifically, the methods used to forecast school enrolments. The department's new approach to planning was notably absent in these cases.

The committee noted that many new school and school addition construction projects were moved ahead or fast tracked in the capital plan. These include the communities of Trout Lake, Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Igloodik, Pangnirtung, Coral Harbour, Pelly Bay and Taloyoak. The justification for fast tracking these projects includes: existing overcrowding; the need for grade extensions; program deficiencies; or necessary upgrades to the physical plant.

On the other hand, several school projects were set back to later years in the capital plan. These include projects in Jean Marie River, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Lac La Martre, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Pond Inlet. The committee also noted cases where overcrowding and other deficiencies are creating the need for immediate attention. An example of such a situation is the school in Chesterfield Inlet which is experiencing extreme overcrowding.

During the review of the 1993-94 capital estimates, the committee recommended that the department live up to prior commitments and fast track the renovations to JB Tyrrell Elementary School in Fort Smith by advancing \$100,000 for design and tender document production to 1993-94 and construction to 1994-95 and 1995-96. When the standing committee reviewed the capital forecasts received from the Financial Management Board, Members discovered that the renovations for JB Tyrrell Elementary School had been moved even further back, to begin in the fiscal year 1997-98. The Minister, when appearing before the committee, agreed to review this situation. Following this review and the incorporation of information recently received from the community, the funding for this project was reinstated.

The committee had been informed, prior to its review, that the department had deferred the building of a new school in Jean Marie River. The fact that a new school is urgently required in this community was raised when the Minister appeared before the committee. The Minister said that the problem with this project was that the facility is over-designed for the community and construction costs are estimated to be more than what was approved. The Minister stated that the department would like construction to start on this project next summer, at the very latest. He said that materials could be delivered during the winter.

Previously planned expenditures in excess of \$10 million were cut from the five year plan. Members

were very concerned about the magnitude of this change in plans. The committee does not expect to see such massive readjustments in future capital plans. Members accept that a number of factors have, in combination, made dramatic adjustments necessary in this year. These factors include: forced growth; previously unrecognized demands; grade extensions and other policy changes.

Members also recognize that the department has created a new capital planner position and is implementing new procedures to guide the capital planning process. However, the committee believes that a recommendation is required to ensure that the department conducts effective, fair and comprehensive capital planning for schools.

Committee Motion 41-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 10, Carried

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment develop and implement a capital planning strategy which identifies and accounts for factors which affect the size and configuration of school facilities. The committee further recommends that this capital planning strategy be in place in time to guide the development of capital forecasts, including five year plans, beginning with the fiscal year 1995-96. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. 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. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further, the committee is concerned that the capital forecasts, now being considered, are based on standards and criteria that are flawed and outdated.

Committee Motion 42-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 11, Carried

Therefore, I move, Mr. Chairman, that this committee recommend that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment reassess major projects which require funding for the current year and make adjustments, where necessary, through the capital outlook process. Projects that require adjustments include the following:

(a) Yellowknife School District #1 requires capital planning funds in the order of \$150,000. These funds should be used to make an assessment of the overall picture for school facilities in the district over the short, medium and long term. Funding strategies need to be addressed, as well.

(b) A study should be undertaken to determine the feasibility of combining two school projects in Fort Simpson. The two projects are: the construction of a new elementary school; and renovations to Thomas Simpson School.

(c) Planning funds are required for Chesterfield Inlet. Overcrowding and other deficiencies need to be addressed in the context of short, medium and long-term plans.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I was informed by the Minister that most of the decisions made at the regional level are determined by the divisional boards of education. It was based on that position that I have been, for some years now, lobbying divisional boards. Are we also, at the same time, allowing the Standing Committee on Finance to determine what is best for the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, this motion is in response to the situations where it appears that, in the first two cases, the boards are not being listened to by the department. For instance, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance advised the committee that what the board was told in Fort Simpson was that it was a take it or leave it situation and that, "This is what you were going to get so you might as well jump on board and say this is what you want." After he had discussions with the divisional board following that, he felt that they would be quite interested in reassessing the feasibility of combining the two school projects in Fort Simpson if they thought that there was some possibility that could be looked at.

In the situation with Yellowknife School District #1, in the five year plan, more than \$10 million was cut from the five year plan to deal with Yellowknife from this year over last year. Those cuts weren't all in line with what the local school boards would recommend should take place. We are not trying to usurp the responsibilities of the divisional, public or separate boards. We are talking about instances where we saw problems with what had happened in the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. GARGAN:

The motions are reflective of the directions that the regional divisional boards want to go.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Dent, is the motion reflective of the committee's mandate and what the regional divisional boards want? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, we were advised that it would reflect the wishes of the boards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, when did the Standing Committee on Finance have these boards appear?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, the boards did not appear as witnesses. I contacted Yellowknife Education District No. 1 and asked them what they felt was necessary for planning requirements. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Antoine, is the person who advised the committee on the situation in Fort

Simpson. Mr. Arvaluk advised the committee on the situation in Chesterfield Inlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So, if you are on the Standing Committee on Finance, then you do have a problem with regard to the way you direct the budget. Mr. Chairman, I say this for one reason. I will address it at the appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

I think that was a statement, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is aware of a number of pressures that will increase the need for access to college programs across the territories. These include land claims implementation, emphasis

on affirmative action and preparation for Nunavut. Members noted that there are great demands for student housing, particularly married student housing. These needs are not addressed in the capital plan. The committee believes that people are missing opportunities to achieve higher levels of education due to the serious shortfall of housing for students. Members recommend that the option of leasing housing and other alternative arrangements be considered by the government to meet the identified need.

The committee did not feel that the capital forecast and five year plans under review address the pressures and expectations regarding training for adults. Further, the committee has not seen a long-range plan for Arctic College that addresses these concerns. Therefore, the committee makes the following recommendation to the department.

Committee Motion 43-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 12, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment put forward a long range plan for Arctic College which clearly identifies future demands for college programs. These demands should be used to identify facility requirements and incorporated into the department's overall capital planning strategy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

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---Carried

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following its review of the 1993-94 capital estimates, the committee

recommended that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs develop a policy covering museums, churches and other historical buildings to ensure consistency, fairness and equity in the application of standards and criteria for such infrastructure between communities. Further, the committee recommended that specific projects be deferred pending completion of the policy. When the Minister appeared before the committee for the review of 1994-95 Capital Estimates, he said that he would provide revised copies of the policies that respond to this recommendation. Committee members understand, after much urging, that these policies have been approved by Cabinet. I note, Mr. Chairman, for the record, that they have been tabled in this House already.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the opening remarks from the Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Before we get to the general comments from the floor, I would like to remind the Members of the committee of the whole to stick to the issues that are relevant to the matter at hand. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, can we get a copy of the opening remarks that the Minister presented? I wonder if the other Members can get copies as well? I would prefer to get them if they are translated into Inuktitut.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would gladly provide the information to the honourable Members. I will have it translated tonight or tomorrow for Mr. Pudlat, as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I move that we report progress, Mr. Chairman, then we will have about one minute to do what we have to do before we go to the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

The chair will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95 and Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates. I would like to report progress with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus at 6:00 pm. There is also a meeting of the Western Caucus at 6:00 pm this evening. At 9:00 am tomorrow morning, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation. At 10:30 am there will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Wednesday, December 1, 1993.

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

- Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates

- Committee Report 7-12(4), Committee Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts

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- Committee Report 8-12(4), Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board

- Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops

19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, December 1, 1993, at 2:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT