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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 42-12(4): Retirement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to inform Members that Mr. Larry Elkin, President of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the government's longest serving deputy minister, has informed us of his decision to retire from public service on January 4, of next year.

Mr. Elkin has served and strongly supported the interests of the Northwest Territories, in various capacities, over the past 30 years.

He joined our government in 1970, as the assistant regional director in Inuvik, after working with the federal government as a northern service officer in Ottawa, and then in the capacity of an area administrator in Coral Harbour and later, Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Elkin moved from Inuvik to Yellowknife in 1972 to become the chief of program policy and planning and, a year later, he became the director of planning and program evaluation.

He was appointed director of the Department of Local Government in 1976 and became deputy minister of Public Works in 1981, a position he held until assuming his current responsibilities in 1991.

Since joining the territorial government, Mr. Elkin has served many Ministers, Mr. Speaker, including myself.

I have always found him responsible and faithful to the goals and objectives established by the government and a person who always gave more than a fair share of his time and expertise to help solve many of the problems we have faced over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure Members will join me in thanking Mr. Elkin for his dedicated years of service and wish him and his wife a healthy and enjoyable retirement. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 43-12(4): Child Day Care Program Symposium And Policy Development

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Department of Education, Culture and Employment received the child day care program from the Department of Social Services on April 1, I announced that we would be reviewing the program and holding a symposium to consult with child day care providers and individuals using and interested in child day care services. I would like to bring you up to date on my department's progress on these initiatives.

Through the interim child day care program, the Government of the Northwest Territories provides subsidies for users of day care and support to child care providers through start-up and operating subsidies and training.

The child day care program provides linkages to other programs offered by my department, by assisting some parents in taking advantage of employment and training opportunities and by creating employment and training and business opportunities within the child care field for residents of the Northwest Territories. The Child Day Care Act and regulations establish standards of safety, health, program content and staff qualifications for child day care facilities and a system of inspecting and licensing to enforce these standards.

In late September, a first-ever Northwest Territories symposium called, Caring for Our Future, was held in Yellowknife for child day care providers and people concerned with child care from across the territories.

It was well-attended, with 86 delegates participating. These people were from communities both with and without licensed child care facilities. This enabled broad consultation with virtually every community in the Northwest Territories.

The symposium was designed to serve a number of purposes. First and foremost, we wanted comments on the existing program and recommendations to develop a new program policy.

The symposium also furnished opportunities for professional development on topics identified by child day care providers.

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These included, first aid by St. John Ambulance, cross-cultural program planning, self-esteem, family day homes, creative art ideas and storytelling. I was impressed with the enthusiasm, hard work and commitment demonstrated by all attending the symposium.

The policy development workshops addressed program philosophy and standards, culturally relevant training and programming, levels of funding and access to funding, attracting and retaining qualified staff, and partnerships.

Some of the recommendations from these workshops can and will be implemented immediately. These include, coordinating activities between day care centres and agencies such as public health and St. John Ambulance and the development and distribution of a child day care newsletter. Other recommendations will be considered in the development of a permanent child day care policy proposal for the Northwest Territories. These include, recommendations relating to eligibility and funding assistance for parents and day care facilities, as well as recommendations concerning training and standards.

Finally, there are recommendations that are long-term in nature, such as the construction of child day care facilities, which require careful thought and will be considered in the development of the department's strategic plan. I will table a copy of the summary of recommendations later today.

In addition to consulting on the program through the symposium, the department is currently reviewing the history and administration of the existing program. This review will give a detailed account of the patterns

of program funding since 1989, and will help to confirm or identify problem areas in funding.

Analysis of recommendations from the policy workshops, as well as information from the program review, will be used to develop a new child day care policy for the Northwest Territories. Consultation with interest parties will continue throughout the policy development process.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to table a proposed child day care policy during this session. However, a thorough review of the program and public consultation is essential if we are going to develop a policy that meets the needs of Northwest Territories residents. The process is well under way, and I plan to have a new policy proposal finalized this winter, which will be ready to be tabled at the winter session of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 44-12(4): Community Policing

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about community policing. The Department of Justice is actively looking at ways of making certain that the policing needs of communities are met. The priorities of the department are priorities that have been suggested to us by the communities and regions, and by Members of this Assembly. These priorities are: a greater presence of native people as police officers; a greater role for community members in the policing of their communities; and, the safety of all community members, especially those who are more vulnerable. These goals are consistent with the goal, of the Department of Justice and the government, of ensuring that communities control the delivery of services at the local level and with the goal of addressing violence in our society through a policy of zero tolerance.

Fort Good Hope has already put forward the names of its proposed community constables, and plans are made for them to go to the RCMP academy in Regina for training, early in the first part of 1994. At this point, Coral Harbour is having a little difficulty recommending enough participants for the program,

but we intend to proceed with a similar pilot project either there or in another community in that region.

We were most disappointed when the previous federal government, at the end of their mandate, cancelled the aboriginal constable development program, an initiative that was useful in providing assistance to a number of aboriginal northerners who are currently serving in northern communities. We will be encouraging the new federal government to reconsider this decision.

We believe that NWT communities may also wish to consider policing alternatives which would provide them with even greater authority over their own police services. Officials from the Department of Justice met just last week with representatives of the RCMP and the federal Solicitor General's department, to identify exactly the kind of support we can expect from the federal government in pursuing our goals.

The federal First Nations policing policy was developed to meet the needs of Indian reserves in southern Canada. Based on earlier meetings that my officials have held with federal representatives, we have been concerned about the inflexible approach which would have meant that many NWT communities would not have been included under the new policy. We continue to have some concerns, given the federal policy of excluding Metis from the application of aboriginal programs, but we are satisfied that now there is sufficient

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flexibility that we can work together with the Government of Canada in presenting a complete range of options to our communities and regions.

One of the options that the Solicitor General has put forward involves tripartite agreements for RCMP services, between the federal government, the territorial government and a community. This would continue RCMP services, but would provide for greater community control, and would include a commitment to provide an aboriginal police officer to the community within a specified time. Before the end of this fiscal year, we hope to complete a framework agreement with the federal government, to enable these tripartite agreements to be developed.

These tripartite agreements are only part of the picture, though. It will also be possible for communities or regions to move toward the development of independent policing services. I

support making this option fully available. Of course, there will need to be a local consultative process to determine that whatever is developed meets the needs of all community members. If a community or region wished to move toward a fully independent police service, a transitional plan would be developed, to allow for experience to be gained locally, before RCMP services are terminated. Alternatively, there may be mixed RCMP/community policing models which communities or regions may wish to consider.

Before a detailed presentation on these options is made available to Members, to groups and regions, we will be seeking firm commitments from the federal government, concerning global issues related to these changes. For example, we wish to ensure that capital assets belonging to the RCMP, such as houses and detachment buildings, would be transferred to community police agencies. This is an issue which is somewhat unique to the north, because in the south, detachments are rarely located on Indian reserve lands.

Our intention is to develop a clear description of the range of options available, the role of the community and of each level of government, and the steps which would need to be taken. This would be the basis for presentations to communities and regional groups next spring. Community justice specialists in all the regions can play a facilitating role in these presentations, along with senior staff of the Department of Justice.

All of these actions could bring about major changes in policing. As this work develops, we will also need to consider whether it is necessary to have a Northwest Territories Police Act. This could provide the framework for local policing authorities, and for setting policing standards which require all police services to meet a basic level of public protection.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to be able to tell Members about these exciting prospects for community policing in the north. I will welcome the comments and advice of all Members as this work proceeds. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 45-12(4): Food Allowance

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to correct a statement which I made in this House on Monday, November 29, 1993. When I referred to the increases in the social assistance food allowance, I said that there had been an increase in the allowance in April, 1992. That was in error, Mr. Speaker. The increase of 5 per cent in the food allowance was effective October 1, 1992. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 46-12(4): Heritage Legislation

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The heritage resources of the Northwest Territories are important non-renewable assets that require comprehensive legislation to ensure their protection and preservation for future generations. Existing legislation has become seriously outdated, particularly in light of new directions in the heritage field, current political and economic realities, land settlement agreements and modern land development practices.

To address these issues, my department is developing new heritage legislation. After considerable research and consultation with other departments, Education, Culture and Employment has developed a number of options for this legislation.

These options are presented for discussion in a paper which will be used for consultation this winter with claimant groups, and other established culture and heritage groups in the Northwest Territories. I will provide a copy of this document to each Member of the Assembly. The department will use the information received through consultation, to develop a legislative action paper. The department is prepared to start consultation with interest groups. I expect to table the action paper proposing specific recommendations for new legislation, during the next session of the Legislative Assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Changes Required To The Apprenticeship Program

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about the apprenticeship program which is available under this government. There are individuals who are interested in entering the program, from small and remote communities, but are unable to meet the need as quickly as they would like.

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, for example, a journeyman plumber from the region comes to my community and he spends approximately 200 hours per year there. There are potential students who are interested in the apprenticeship program but the requirement is, Mr. Speaker, not acceptable to the people in the small communities. Journeyman plumbers spend approximately 200 hours in the community. According to the system, if the student wants to be eligible to attend these

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technical institutes, he would have to have 1,800 hours to be eligible. In order for the person to attend the southern institution, my calculation tells me the person would have to spend about nine years in the community, under the supervision of a journeyman from the region. The problem is, if you live in a small community, you are penalized. I would like the appropriate Minister to seriously look at changing the system in order to make it more accessible to individuals who are interested in remote and small communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Accomplishments Of Mr. Larry Elkin

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments made by the Premier about Mr. Elkin, who announced his retirement yesterday. He's a constituent of mine, Mr. Speaker, and a former colleague. In fact, we've known each other for well over 25 years.

We have paid tribute to other deputies in this House, and I remember many of us made comments about the contributions of Mr. Jim Bourque. I won't go over the chronology of events already covered by the

Premier, but I should make reference to one or two issues, Mr. Speaker, that may be valuable for people to know.

When Mr. Elkin went to take the northern service officer course in Ottawa, in 1964, it was under the direction of a man called R A J Phillip, known as Rajah. He decided he was going to try to create a northern core of well-trained people, who would have experience in just about every level of government in Ottawa, right throughout the federal public service. Then, when they went north they would be very, very well trained to do the jobs they were going to do. Mr. Elkin spent the year in what was called the northern university. People who went through it were called GNUs. You became a GNU after you did this one year program in Ottawa. Then you were sent to a community, as a settlement manager or a northern service officer.

In Mr. Elkin's case, he was sent to Coral Harbour and Rankin. The idea was that you would make your mistakes in a couple of places and not have to live with them. That was the theory. You went to one place, obtained experience, then if you screwed up, at least you wouldn't have to live there for the next five or ten years and live with it. So, it was a way of giving people experience in that setting.

I first really got to know Mr. Elkin in 1967, when I was living in Igloolik. I had bumped into him the odd time and he had always struck me as being a fresh-faced young school boy. He looked pretty young. I was a bit of a rebel in those days. I know it's hard for you to believe, Mr. Speaker. But in those days, I was a bit of a rebel.

---Laughter

I remember Mr. Elkin. He was the assistant regional director. I can't remember what the incident was, but I remember in Igloolik it was a cold day, just before Christmas, and he straightened me out just like that. I couldn't believe...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, you allotted time has lapsed.

MR. LEWIS:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LEWIS:

I was just coming to the exciting bit, Mr. Speaker, about being straightened out by what I thought to be a very young fresh-faced person, who looked as if he was just out of high school. I thought, by God, this person is tough, and he is a person of substance. From that day on, I learned to respect this individual.

I won't go through the details of his career with this government, but I believe the way in which he was trained, Mr. Speaker, may give us some ideas about how we may want to produce senior people in our public service, because we've made a big issue of it many times.

Over 30 years, these are some of the accomplishments of Mr. Elkin, Mr. Speaker. While he was responsible for the Program Planning Evaluation Department, which was part of the Executive at that time -- it was almost like the deputy of the Executive -- he was responsible for the coordination of the project to develop and construct the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Museum, which was very controversial at that time. It went through, it was built and that's another story.

While he was the deputy minister of Local Government, he spearheaded the development of community government throughout the territories. During this period, more than 17 communities became incorporated, taking over the governing of their own affairs.

Over the last five years -- and we're all aware of this, Mr. Speaker -- he was responsible for the overall coordination of development, design and construction of the new Legislative Assembly building. Not many people know that.

While deputy minister of Public Works and Highways, he developed the effective structure in Public Works and Highways for design and construction, for the vast majority of government infrastructure, including schools, sewer and water systems and housing. These have been used as examples, by other northern countries, of the way things should be built.

He was also chairman of the Construction of Canada/USSR Arctic Sites Exchange Program, and helped to establish good working relationships with

the Russian government and the northern republics. He also established the NWT as a leader in design and construction in this northern environment. He established close working relationships between Canada and the USSR, as the chairman of this committee on many items relating to the Arctic.

He has served many Ministers, Mr. Speaker, at this level of deputy minister for the past 20 years, a remarkable achievement. Among my colleagues, he was known as the mandarin. He was the mandarin of mandarins because he had survived so long. It's a remarkable achievement. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, if you're looking for somebody who

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could pass on skills to those bright young people who want to be successful mandarins, this is the person you should look at as a resource. He should not be wasted because he does not intend to leave this community. His kids are here. His grandchildren are here and he is committed to doing what he can, I know, to make the north a better place to live. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Responsible Wildlife Resource Management Conference, Belgium

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell the Legislative Assembly about my trip this week to Europe and Brussels, Belgium, to speak at the conference on Responsible Wildlife Resource Management, held November 29 and 30, in the European Parliament. Accompanying me, was the deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Joe Handley.

The conference was organized by the European Bureau on Conservation and Development. This non-profit organization supports the concept of sustainable use of resources. The conference was intended to provide an opportunity for Members of the European Parliament to hear from those responsible for wildlife management throughout the world. Participants came from Europe, Africa, Greenland, Australia, United States and Canada, all with an interest of maintaining trade in renewable resource products with

Europe. This conference was especially important to us, in the Northwest Territories, because 85 per cent of wild fur is sold to the European market.

People we met and talked with include, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of non-governmental organizations including animal welfare groups, and officials from various governments within the European Parliament.

The European Parliament is a big organization which is very complex, with elected representatives from most of the European countries, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Switzerland and Austria. Each country has representatives, through their allotment of Members of the European Parliament. The parliament reviews laws and regulations proposed by the European Commission, which is like our civil service. The top decision-making body is the European Council of Ministers, who take advice from the European Parliament before passing the laws and regulations which set out agreements on economic, cultural and political interests of their common goal. Each country, while being independent, agrees to cooperate in ways that satisfy the interests of their constituents.

The European Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the European Commission are continually lobbied by interest groups which are against the harvest of furs and so forth. The fur industry is of particular interest to European Parliament, largely because of the lobby efforts by animal welfare and animal rights groups. These groups are active in each country and have been effective in reminding Members of the European Parliament that unless animal rights legislation is passed, with humane trapping, the politicians will face consequences, in their constituency, during their next election.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask consent to finish my statement?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Members of the European Parliament, like MLAs in this Legislative

Assembly, try to listen to all viewpoints and make their decisions, based on the best information available.

As I said earlier, 85 per cent of our wild fur trade is with Europe. We can not sit back and let animal welfare advocates in Europe influence their politicians so that we may face a ban on wild fur products, like what happened to seal products in the early 1980s.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Agreed.

MR. ANTOINE:

Even though the seal ban was aimed only at stopping the harvest of harp seal pups off Newfoundland, the end result was the destruction of the entire seal fur trade in the Arctic countries. This killed the seal industry for the Inuit harvesters in the Canadian Arctic.

Some animal welfare and animal rights groups who do not understand our situation, would like to stop all fur trade. On behalf of all our trappers and hunters, in fact, of our life-style that has existed for thousands of years, it is important that European politicians and bureaucrats hear our side of the story, at least until we have markets for our furs also established in other parts of the world.

The Department of Renewable Resources has done work assisting trappers to use humane traps. A lot of money has been spent by this government in trapper research, trapper education, trap exchange and public education. All of this investment, as well as our people's life-style, will be lost if we do not protect existing markets, re-establish old ones, or find new markets.

While in Brussels, I explained to the conference why our fur industry is important to us in the north. We have few other alternatives for most of our people, and we have made good progress in changing our way of trapping. Our harvests are more humane, than the current practices that exist in other parts of the world, such as cattle feed lot operations, pig farms, egg farms and slaughter houses. Our trapping methods are more humane than those.

I explained how our people have lived in harmony with their environment for thousands of years and continue to manage their renewable resources. Our presentation explained to them about our people and our land. I believe the European politicians have a

better understanding of our situation and the need to support what we are doing.

As well as attending the conference, I met with individual Members of the European Parliament, their staff, scientists, non-governmental organizations that support the fur trade and those who are against the killing of all animals. All three days

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in Brussels were full, from morning to evening. It was a very busy schedule. Indications are that the fur trade, including seal pelts, is making a come back around the world. It is important that we position ourselves to take full advantage of this opportunity. In my mind, we can best do this by marketing our furs, exclusive furs from the north. For example, calling it Arctic Furs, an exclusive product.

For too long, our furs have not been marketed to their best advantage. We have to establish ourselves as producers of a unique, high quality product, such as the Russians did long ago with their sable, which is a cousin of our martin.

Animal rights activists are responding to the upturn in the fur trade, by redoubling their efforts to have the proposed 1995 humane trapping legislation made so demanding that we will kill the fur trade.

On January 1, 1995, the European council regulations to ban the import of furs caught in leg hold traps, will come into effect. While other jurisdictions in Canada might have some difficulty, we in the Northwest Territories, can meet the target date because of the efforts of the trappers and the Department of Renewable Resources.

Animal rights groups are now lobbying European Parliaments to change the rules so that every fur producing country has to fully ban leg hold traps. Before anyone can sell wild fur, they want to review and revise international standards for humane traps, to make them even more stringent than they are now, and to put into place more regulations and tests so that it will be impossible to trap wild fur. They are desperate and will do anything they possibly can to influence their politicians.

While we do have allies in Brussels, such as the International Fur Trade Federation and the European Bureau on Conservation Development, unless we personally influence the Members of the European Parliament, I'm convinced that they will be swayed by

well organized, well-funded, animal welfare and animal rights groups.

We are at a critical time, Mr. Speaker. The fur trade is making a come back. The European trapping regulations are coming into effect in one year, and in two months, the International Standards Organization or ISO, meets to finalize trap standards. How those standards are defined is critical. If they are too rigid, we will not be able to meet them, and our European markets for wild fur will be gone.

We, as elected MLAs and as aboriginal northerners, have to make at least one more trip to Brussels and to Strasbourg, to influence our European Parliament counterparts. If not, I'm afraid that between now and the ISO meeting in February, animal rights groups will get their way and win.

While supporting organizations and officials can have some influence, it is only as elected representatives that we can talk on an equal basis with the European elected representatives. Those are the ones who will vote on the trap standards and regulations next year.

Going to Europe may seem, to some of you, a bit of a holiday, but it is not. It is a necessity, on behalf of our constituents who are trappers and hunters. The message is clear, our trapping industry is now on the line. Next, it will be our forest industry, which we are just developing.

In some instances, Europeans would like to make us into a living museum of what they have lost. We can not let that happen, for the sake of our lifestyle and our future generations. All the Europeans have been our main fur market for the past 500 years, this may be changing. Yet, we can not alienate or ignore them yet. For at least a few more years, we have to continue to work with Europeans, while establishing other markets for our renewable resource products, perhaps in Asia, North America, South America, as well as in Canada. If we do not, we will close the door on the current markets and see the fur prices fall and the end of the fur industry as we have known it.

I think it is time to be alert, as our global economy unfolds.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but be amazed at how small our world is. As I walked down a street of apartment blocks and houses in Brussels, on my way to the European Parliament to talk about trapping in the Northwest Territories...In some ways, it is a long way from Europe to a trapper's cabin. Other ways,

such as technology, global markets, jets that travel at a thousand kilometres per hour, make our world very small. Landing in pollution-covered Amsterdam and Brussels, also brought home to me how much we have to lobby the rest of the western world to get their environmental problems under control.

---Applause

If they do not, we will not have anything to trap or hunt in the future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On The Appointment Of
Municipal Advisory Committee For Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will be returning to my constituency to attend a public meeting Monday night, called by the municipal administrator to discuss the status of the town of Iqaluit. I would like to acknowledge the support I've received from the Honourable John Todd, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, for early appointment of an advisory council. I understand, from Mr. Todd, that the appointments could be made in time for members of the advisory committee to participate, along with myself, in Monday's public meeting.

I also want to thank Mr. Todd for agreeing that meetings of the advisory council and the municipal administrator will be held in public. Finally, I want to thank the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce and the Iqaluit Ratepayers' Association, and their presidents, Mr. Stephen Roberts and Ms. Anne Crawford, respectively, for their work in soliciting and putting forward a list of very capable and representative citizens of Iqaluit who are willing to sit on this advisory committee at such a critical time for the community. I am confident that whoever Mr. Todd appoints, from the list of names submitted, we will have a very capable advisory committee.

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Mr. Speaker, there are very many important issues for them to pursue. The first, being an accurate statement of the current financial situation of the town of Iqaluit, which is still not available today despite Mr.

Beaumont having been in office for three weeks; ensuring that the financial statements are prepared by independent auditors with no previous involvement in the debenture controversy; advising on collective bargaining negotiations now under way; planning capital projects, such as a new community hall, paving and dump relocation; ensuring that the interests of ratepayers are protected, in matters such as the future of the Apex road subdivision; the handling of the dismissal of the senior administrative officer; and, finally, and most important, preparing for an early election of a new council.

Mr. Speaker, I know my constituents are anxious to put the recent regrettable events in the community behind them, and look forward to a bright future and the challenges ahead. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re Unfair Application Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement about what I perceive to be unfair application of the business incentive policy, by the regional office of the Housing Corporation in Iqaluit. A constituent of mine in Pond Inlet, Simon Merkosak, lost out on a contract to do the electrical work on three houses. He is of Inuit descent, and employs mostly local people in his contracting business.

Mr. Speaker, the reason he lost out on the electrical contract for the three houses in Pond Inlet was that he had to import an NWT journeyman electrician from Montreal --his brother-in-law -- to do the supervising and installation, thereby making his company ineligible for any percentage reduction in his bid under the business incentive policy. In his bid, Mr. Merkosak received no consideration whatsoever under BIP, for any of the factors other than the labour costs involved with the hiring of an electrician.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, Kheraj Enterprises of Resolute Bay received the contract to do the work because they beat out Mr. Merkosak only after the BIP was applied to their bid. Kheraj Enterprises received consideration under the BIP program because Kheraj stated in his contract documents that

he would be hiring a long-term resident electrician from Yellowknife to do the work. Mr. Speaker, it turned out that the person who did the electrical work was from Newfoundland and was not a long-term northern resident.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about the application of the BIP in this case. If we're going to award contracts, we must make sure that the contractor involved lives up to the commitments made in the successful bid. Mr. Speaker, I will be pursuing the matter further in question period. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Renovation Of Fort Providence Church

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I wish to speak on the Lady of Fort Providence Church. The church was in very bad condition. During the last few years, the community has been renovating it to restore the church to its original conditions. The priest advised us last week at church, that the renovations to the church would be completed the first week of December. We will be able to celebrate Christmas in our original church, for the first time in years.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, many groups took part in providing money for this project. The parish raised more than \$9,000 through local fund raising and through donations from parishes in the Northwest Territories and southern Canada. The hamlet of Fort Providence donated \$5,000, as part of a pledge to match community donations. The hamlet also provided the time of several of their employees, to get this important historical project up and running.

Even though I thought the government was a little slow in coming up with the money to do this project, I'm proud to say that they contributed a total of \$77,000 to the renovation of the church in Fort Providence. Mr. Speaker, \$57,000 of the money the Government of the Northwest Territories gave to this cause was for the NWT workers' training program. The money was used to hire a carpenter who specialized in historical renovations, to train three Fort Providence residents in carpentry.

The people who have to be thanked individually are too numerous to name. The community rallied around the project and a lot of time and material were donated by the residents of Fort Providence. When you add up all the donations of money, materials and labour, approximately \$200,000 was spent on this very worthwhile effort. I'm proud to say that the residents of the community did most of the work. I'm proud of the community spirit that refused to allow the church to be torn down. This project is an excellent example of what can be done, if all levels of government and members of the community work together to complete a project of this magnitude.

I proudly invite any resident of the Northwest Territories, who wants to see this important part of our heritage, to visit us in Fort Providence. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Requirement For Social Worker In Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that, in Sanikiluaq, there has not been a social worker since June, even though social workers go to the community during social assistance days. The government

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liaison officer is now responsible for three different areas and the community has gone through hard times because they don't have a social worker. They shouldn't have to be looked after by social assistance workers. Right now, the social workers go to the community just to handle that area. A lot of times, the GLO is given the responsibility to issue social assistance and to do the work of a social worker. That person might not always be there.

In addition, DPW hasn't had a building maintainer in Sanikiluaq since July. Mr. Speaker, the government liaison officer has three responsibilities and she is also holding jobs which can be full-time jobs by two different people. So, we're requesting that they should get a social worker and building maintainer, so

they will remedy the problem in the community of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re DPW Minister's Visit To Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to publicly thank the Minister of Public Works and Services for his visit to Fort Smith, on September 7 of this year. Mr. Speaker, I invited the Minister to my constituency, to meet with all the business people in the community.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new academic building to be built in Fort Smith. This meeting gave Fort Smith businesses the opportunity to request that the Minister avoid a tender call on the project and, instead, allow the building to be constructed under project management or negotiated proposal. If this is successful, Mr. Speaker, it will be one of the first projects of its kind in Fort Smith in a long, long time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Fort Smith residents and businesses, from time to time, have had a reputation of not being able to work together. However, I believe there are many issues which have been addressed by the community pulling together when there were concerns with our local banking. The residents worked together and found a solution very quickly. The tanker base is another example that comes to mind.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has taken the time to hear the community. I now encourage the Fort Smith businesses and the Department of Public Works to prove they can work together on this project, particularly to complete it successfully, and within the budget forecasted. Mr. Speaker, this is one initiative of a negotiated contract which not only I support, but one which my constituents support.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Minister of DPW for taking the responsibility of addressing the political concerns of attempting to find a method to ensure our jobs and our funds expended in our economy, stay within our economy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re Difficulties Of The Visually Impaired

MR. WHITFORD:

Mr. Speaker, as some of the Members will recall, last week I had the opportunity to experience visual impairment, by wearing a pair of special glasses that would simulate low visibility, out in the main hall of our Legislative Assembly. These glasses did, indeed, limit my vision and my ability to move around freely and comfortably, even safely. The experience was scary, but fortunately for me, it was only a simulated demonstration. For over 150 people here in the Northwest Territories, the experience is real and lasting. The effects do not go away simply by removing glasses or, for that matter, even putting them on. Perhaps a slight improvement can be made by wearing special prescription glasses, but there is nothing like one's own good eyesight. My challenge lasted only a few short minutes. To the visually impaired, it is a daily challenge, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what the Canadian National Institute for the Blind was trying to make us aware of is, that new buildings must be constructed with consideration for those whose normal activities are in some way impaired by illness or by accident. Here, we have sheet glass walls, protruding landings, doors with automatic closing devices and very light-coloured handles. Mr. Crow, a former Member, would have had a very difficult time here, even with his white cane.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the CNIB for giving me an opportunity to become more aware of the effects of visual impairment, and for the services they are providing to the people of the north who need their services. Mr. Speaker, there are about 150 known blind or visually impaired persons in the NWT who are using CNIB services. There are about another 200 who have not yet been contacted. The message here is, be aware and take care.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 136-12(4): Status Of Superintendent Of Personnel Position, Fort Smith

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on November 29, 1993.

The superintendent of Personnel position in Fort Smith has been vacant since October 11, 1993.

The workload in the Fort Smith Personnel office has been greatly reduced, to the point that we may not need to retain all four positions in Fort Smith. The department is assessing our staff requirements for the Fort Smith office and will be making recommendations to me, before the end of this fiscal year.

We are fortunate in Fort Smith to have two experienced personnel officers who show potential to develop into good managers. Both of them have priority status under the affirmative action policy and are presently enrolled in a management development program at Arctic College. To supplement this program, they will each be acting as

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superintendent of Personnel for one-month periods, until the position is filled permanently. This combination of course work and practical managerial experience will make them good candidates for a superintendent position.

Our plan is to fill the superintendent position in the spring of 1994.

Return To Oral Question 132-12(4): Cost Of Community Alcohol And Drug Workers' Conference

Mr. Speaker, I have another return to oral question asked by Mr. Patterson on November 29, 1993, on community alcohol and drug workers' conference, March, 1993, cost.

Mr. Speaker, the cost to the Department of Social Services, for the community alcohol and drug workers' conference held at the Yellowknife Inn on March 16 to 18, 1993, was \$69,259. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Before we go into question period, I'd like to give my ruling on the point of order of the Member for Thebacha.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

Yesterday, the Member for Thebacha, Ms. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, rose on a point of order, seeking clarification from the Speaker as to whether Members had the right to ask questions of a Minister which might impinge on the issue of Cabinet secrecy. As Members, including Ministers, are referring, with increasing frequency, to issues involving Cabinet documents, and this area of questioning is somewhat complex, I appreciate the desire of Members to gain a better understanding of the rules and procedures governing this area of parliamentary practice.

First, I would like to place the honourable Member's request for a ruling in context, with the debate in the House. On page 839 of unedited Hansard, the honourable Member for Iqaluit stated that he "understood that the Minister presented a submission to Cabinet for improving the wages of alcohol and drug workers." I wish to make it clear that I did not rule this question out of order. I did, however, caution Members to be careful when they are referring to matters that are not within the knowledge of all Members of this House. I stated, and I quote, "If the Member has knowledge that is the knowledge of this House about this particular event, then Mr. Patterson can pose his question." Citing documents not within the possession of the House, poses problems for the chair and for all Members. It is a long-standing parliamentary principle that, when documents are the subject of a debate, those documents should be before the House for all Members to review. I quote from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms, 6th edition, citation 495(2), which states, "It has been admitted that a document which has been cited ought to be laid upon the table of the House, if it can be done without injury to the public interest."

The reason for laying documents before the House is clear -- it is to the benefit of all Members, and improves the quality of debate of this Legislature -- if all Members are in the possession of documents referred to in the House and are aware of the facts contained therein. In my brief comments, I was just reminding Members of this principle. At the time that the honourable Member for Iqaluit made his comments respecting the Cabinet submission, I had no knowledge of whether the facts and documentation

cited by the Member were within the knowledge of all Members of this Legislature.

With respect to the issue of whether a Member can ask a question involving a matter of Cabinet secrecy, this Legislature is governed by our rules and procedures and by the body of law developed on parliamentary privilege. Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules & Forms, 6th edition, citation 26(1), states, "A question of order concerns the interpretation to be put upon the rules of procedure and is a matter for the Speaker or, in a committee, for the chairman to determine." Questions pertaining to issues involving Cabinet deliberations can be asked; they are not prohibited by our rules.

Nor is Cabinet secrecy, or the breach of Cabinet secrecy, a matter which invokes a claim to the parliamentary privilege. Beauchesne's, citation 31(8), states, "There is no link between the convention of Cabinet secrecy and the law of privilege."

Cabinet secrecy has long been a political convention in Canada. The essence of effective government is the ability to fully and frankly debate political issues before developing a consensus opinion of the government. Without Cabinet secrecy, the Executive simply could not continue to govern with any degree of solidarity or effectiveness. Cabinet secrecy is only a political convention and is not a rule of this Legislature, nor does it attract the protection of the law of parliamentary privilege. I again cite Beauchesne's, citation 31(6), which states, "Cabinet solidarity is a question of personal ethics and may be debated in the House, but cannot be made the foundation for a question of privilege." Accordingly, any Member may ask a question of a Minister, eliciting information on Cabinet deliberations. These types of questions will not be ruled out of order, as they contravene no rules or privileges of our Legislature. It will be the responsibility of the Minister to whom the question is asked, as to whether they invoke Cabinet secrecy and refuse to answer the question.

For the assistance of Members, I direct their attention to Beauchesne's, citation 416(1), which states, "A Minister may decline to answer a question without stating the reason for refusing, and insistence on an answer is out of order..."

While the Member for Thebacha does not have a point of order, her request for a ruling in this area was useful to the chair and, I hope, to all Members of the House.

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, you are very kind. Mr. Speaker, my question is about negotiated contracts. According to Mr. Pollard's budget address, the government is spending \$8 million on negotiated contracts. In his speech, he mentions, even though we go to a northern negotiated contract, contractors are still required to provide full value for money. I would like to ask the Government Leader, since this

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is a major issue within the government, how are contractors required to provide full value for money? Is there some kind of value for money audit done on each negotiated contract?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

(Microphone turned off)...Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I am sorry, the question was directed to the Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to some of the questions over a period of time and, in terms of value for money, I would like to get a clarification from the honourable Member on that term. What does he mean by value for money?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, would you care to clarify?

MR. LEWIS:

I will quote from the budget address. "Although competitive tenders are not called, the northern project contractor is still required to provide full value for money." I quote that from page three of the budget address. So I would like to ask the Premier, since this is a major policy issue for the government,

how do you determine whether a contract provides full value for money? There is such a thing as a value for money audit, which is different than the normal audit that is conducted under the normal rules of audits.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

In the overall negotiated contracts, the contract price is fairly well predetermined. There is a budget allocation for a certain project. The department responsible, generally knows about how much those projects are going to cost. When a contract is brought forward, it takes into consideration what we had determined to be the amount that would be required for that project.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are negotiated contracts in several different departments of government. So, on what basis do you decide which contracts should be negotiated, and which should not? What is the basis for deciding?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, generally the Minister responsible for the particular department evaluates whether the negotiated contracts would bring maximum benefit. Other times, there are different organizations they are aware of, or development corporations, that request they be given a

chance at the various opportunities that might be within their region. It is evaluated on that basis.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in Mr. Pollard's budget address, he said that contractors may not beat expectations, with respect to performance and satisfactory project completion. Since we are looking at full value for money, in the case of the negotiated contract in the building of the airstrip at Lutsel K'e, I know there will be a very large supplementary appropriation request. Mr. Todd, Mr. Morin and Mr. Pollard have indicated that contractors getting these negotiated contracts are required to provide full value for money. Is that what is meant by full value for money, that we are to be required to have a lot more money than was originally planned, to build a particular facility?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker. By and large, most negotiated contracts come in at the estimated cost that has been negotiated. From time to time, there are project officers assigned to the project as well, particularly, if people need some extra support to get going. In terms of the specific contract you are talking about, I would say with the past experience on negotiated contracts, that was an anomaly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

My final supplementary is to Mr. Morin, since he is in the House. Mr. Morin conducted an interview, Mr. Speaker, with...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, your line of questioning is directed to the Premier and you would have to complete that line of questioning to the Premier for your final supplementary. Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, I will direct the same question to the Premier. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for Public Works had an interview with CBC on December 1. During that interview there was an exchange between Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Morin. Mr. Hamilton asked, "At what point do you sit down and start rationally studying and quantifying this provision to see if you are doing the best thing with taxpayers' money?" Mr. Morin said, "We are doing the best thing with taxpayers' money, that is our job, number one." Mr. Hamilton asked, "Is that written down somewhere?" Then, Mr. Morin said, "It is written down."

I would like to ask the Premier, do you have a policy written down to guide people on negotiated contracts, please?

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MR. SPEAKER: Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 170-12(4): Criteria For Demanding Full Value For Money In Government Contracts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, when a request for a negotiated contract comes forward, the procedure is that the Minister responsible would be assessing exactly what that negotiated contract was. He or she would be assessing what the particular group or development corporation intends to do, how they intend to do it and how they will maximize the benefits, which is one of the criteria for negotiated contracts. That is all-encompassed in the request for a negotiated contract. The terms of the negotiated contract are approved on

the exact guidelines that are presented. That becomes part of the contract. thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 171-12(4): Process For Determining Maximum Value Of Contracts

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, as well. In an answer to Mr. Lewis, the Premier indicated that the objective is to bring the maximum benefit to the north with negotiated contracts. In his statement on northern and local content in transportation contracts, Mr. Todd noted that, "We often pay a premium for these special approaches, but I believe this is an investment worth making."

I was just wondering if the Premier could advise us as to whether she would be willing to table, in this House, the exact process whereby these contracts would be evaluated to determine where that maximum benefit is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 171-12(4): Process For Determining Maximum Value Of Contracts

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, certainly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 172-12(4): Social Worker For Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a Member's statement regarding social services. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. In Sanikiluaq, we haven't had a social worker since June. The government employee in Sanikiluaq has many responsibilities, including clients, who go to the administrator to receive social assistance. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Social Services could respond to the problem in Sanikiluaq. I'd like to

know if they can place a social worker in Sanikiluaq in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 172-12(4): Social Worker For Sanikiluaq

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Iqaluit stated earlier that Sanikiluaq hasn't had a social worker since August 13. They have advertised the position in the papers a couple of times and there hasn't been any interest in the position. At this time, it is being advertised in the north and in the south. The department has occasionally been sending different social workers from other areas, but I would just like to assure you that the advertisement is in the papers right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 173-12(4): Method Of Identifying Former Dumping Sites In The Arctic Ocean

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. The Government of Canada has undertaken to clean up and restore the Arctic environment through their Green Plan. There are numerous initiatives under way respecting land restoration projects. The Cambridge Bay situation I spoke on yesterday, has highlighted the obvious underwater contamination in the north. In view of the confirmed dumping of equipment, and the possible dumping of dangerous toxic wastes into the Arctic Ocean near current or former Distant Early Warning sites, my question to the Minister is, what has or will the Minister do to address the matter of identifying and confirming possible ocean dumping sites in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I'm not familiar with what initiatives, if any, are under way by

the department to address this particular problem.
Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. I understand that these days, in Yellowknife, you cannot find a free meeting room anywhere because of government-sponsored conferences that are going on. This is great for the economy of the city of Yellowknife, and I know this is prime time for Christmas shopping, which may account for the deluge this week. But, my question to the Premier is this, is the Government of the Northwest Territories committed, wherever possible, to spreading conference business and holding government-sponsored conferences throughout the Northwest Territories to spread the economic benefits as widely as possible?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, definitely, yes, we are.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

MR. PATTERSON:

I'm pleased to hear that, Mr. Speaker. I guess my supplementary question would be, is there a process or policy in place to ensure that departments are aware of this worthwhile objective of our government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, Ministers and departments have received letters of direction from myself, frequently, to continue to remind them that there are other places in the Northwest Territories that can offer fine meeting facilities and accommodation. I realize that, from time to time, there are arguments that it is far more appealing to have meetings in Yellowknife, but those directives have been sent out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to hear that. I wonder if I could ask the Premier if she would then be willing to provide Members with copies of these directives, so we can monitor the performance of these directives ourselves? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 174-12(4): GNWT Commitment To Spreading Conference Business Throughout The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the directives are a letter and a memorandum that went out a couple of times to different people. I can provide that information, but it is in the context of a memo which I know we had done on a couple of occasions during the honourable Member's time as a Minister. I try to keep bringing up that particular issue to the attention of people periodically, because, from time to time, they seem to forget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question to the Minister of Government Services and Public Works. It is my understanding that the business incentive policy is to help northern and local businesses that are starting up, to be able to compete in the bigger marketplace. Was it the government's intent, when they were creating the business incentive policy, to help the dollars that are spent on contracts to stay in the Northwest Territories? Is it also to help the local businesses to improve? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The business incentive policy was designed to make an equal playing ground for northern businesses versus southern businesses. There is a 15 per cent preference for northern businesses, and there is a five per cent local preference for local businesses. The spirit and intent of the business incentive policy is to encourage people to hire locally, hire northerners and to encourage northern business development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In determining where we are applying the business incentive policy, does the government break down the transportation, if the company is using northern transportation, whether they are using accommodation for northerners to work on those jobs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All tender documents have a preamble in front of them when you go to tender. Contractors are informed, and they know that they are supposed to fill out the tender documents properly. They need to fill them out, as stipulated. If they are buying their materials in the north, they get preference. If they are buying them in the south, they won't allow them to receive that preference. If they hire their labour in the north, they will get preference. If they are using northern accommodation, they will get preference for that. All of those preferences will add up. But, if they do not fill out the document, as is the case of Merkosak out of Pond Inlet, then they are not going to get any preference because we don't read minds. It is very clear, even if you are a local company, if you do not fill out the preference documents or the northern content, then you are not going to get it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on in this session, the Minister mentioned that, in this contract, Merkosak did not fill out the forms. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. If the Housing Corporation breaks down a bid package into different components, such as labour costs, transportation costs, accommodation and other miscellaneous costs, why won't a contractor be eligible for consideration under the BIP program for the parts of his bid that met the requirements of this program? If they are found to be lower, why wouldn't they get the contracts?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the tender documents, when contractors are requested to fill out the tender documents, there is a form which the contractor must fill out in order for him to get preference. If that form is blank, there will be no preference given to that contractor. That form has to be filled out, prior to the closing time of the tender date. I would be happy to assist Mr. Allooloo's local contractor, through Housing Corporation staff, to go into Pond Inlet and give him instructions on how to properly fill out the tender documents. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 175-12(4): Purpose Of Business Incentive Policy

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say is that Mr. Merkosak filled out the forms. Because the forms were not returned to Mr. Merkosak, he now cannot prove that he filled them out. When the government employee returned the documents to Mr. Kheraj and Mr. Merkosak, they put Mr. Kheraj's papers in Mr. Merkosak envelope and they put Mr. Merkosak's documents into Mr. Kheraj's. Therefore, Mr. Merkosak received Mr. Kheraj's successful bid and he did not get those forms that he filled out earlier because they were sent to Mr. Kheraj. Mr. Speaker, I will find a letter that was sent to Iqaluit on the date that he was bidding, and table it during the tabling of documents.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that a lower bidder, in actual dollars, was not successful. I guess I am making a statement rather than a question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Allooloo, I was going to warn you about having a long preamble. Since you didn't have a question, I cannot even call it a preamble. If Members can remember, question period is for questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 176-12(4): Accessibility Of Apprenticeship Programs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, subsequent to my Member's statement that I made earlier in this particular sitting. There are many young people across the north, especially in remote communities, who have big dreams. They would like to get a good education, jobs and raise a family. Because they are living in remote communities, they are not able to fulfil their dreams, to a degree. Our system is partly to blame for that. As I indicated, Mr. Speaker, the current apprenticeship program does not allow the potential students the opportunity to get a good instructor who is a qualified journeyman. What is the Minister's position on providing more accessible apprenticeship programs for potential students who are residing in remote areas of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 176-12(4): Accessibility Of Apprenticeship Programs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We take the concerns of the honourable Member very seriously. It's an issue that we believe, as a government, and I believe, shows as a Minister, that it is necessary for us to provide more and appropriate training programs to people who live in smaller communities.

I want to indicate to you that part of the initiatives that we are undertaking, along with the Minister of Public Works and Services, is a training and learning program, where we are taking advantage of capital projects to provide training opportunities so that we can encourage young people in the communities to take seriously, the opportunities to become apprentices in the trades areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 176-12(4): Accessibility Of Apprenticeship Programs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. It's a current program policy that does not accommodate the needs of the individuals who are, in fact, living in

remote parts of the territories in the west or the east. Would the honourable Minister try and modify this policy, in order to accommodate potential students who are not able to get it because of the remoteness of the community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 176-12(4): Accessibility Of Apprenticeship Programs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will. I believe it is important enough for us to consider. We are also considering a number of initiatives, including the whole matter of distance education, which could be helpful to those people living in smaller communities, to take advantage of learning or take advantage of potential trades, apprenticeships for their own good.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. If I can take this moment to welcome to the Assembly, Mr. Bob MacQuarrie, a former colleague and a former speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 177-12(4): Maintenance Worker For Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated earlier under Members' statements, I'd like to ask the Minister of DPW a question. In Sanikiluaq, we don't have a maintenance worker in DPW. I stated that the government liaison officer has a lot of work to do in that region. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of DPW is aware that we have to be more careful of spending money. When we have visitors coming

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over to do maintenance work, it probably costs a lot of money to transport workers from community to community. Maybe the Minister for the Department of Public Works can consider getting a maintenance worker for Sanikiluaq, or is there a person available in

Sanikiluaq, under the Department of Public Works, who could get employment for there?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Morin.

Return To Question 177-12(4): Maintenance Worker For Sanikiluaq

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of this issue. Whether or not there is a PY designated for Sanikiluaq. I understand the Member's concern about having a person in the community to do maintenance and I will follow it up and get back to the Member by tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 178-12(4): Ads For Competition For Sanikiluaq Social Worker

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up on that question asked by my friend Mr. Pudlat. To the Minister of Social Services, she indicated in her response, that the position for a social worker in Sanikiluaq had been advertised twice now. I find it surprising that a position has been advertised twice, in a time when there's such high unemployment. I'd like to ask her when and where the advertisements took place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 179-12(4): Use Of French Newspapers For Advertising Competitions

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Personnel. Each department has a budget under the Canada/NWT agreement on French and aboriginal languages. It's had that for some period of time. The Department of Personnel has dollars set aside for advertising under that agreement and yet there appears to be very few French advertisements appearing in any of the newspapers and particularly, Mr. Speaker, the French newspaper, L'Aquilon. It's a weekly newspaper which goes to all of the major communities in the territories where there are French speaking people. I'm sure they would be interested in jobs that this government has to offer. I'd like to ask the Minister, why is that situation as it is, that they are not using the French newspapers for advertising?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not familiar with the policy on language requirements for advertisement. I'll have to take his question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 180-12(4): Cost Of Sending Student From Pond Inlet To Iqaluit

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Education, is it possible to determine the costs of sending a student from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit, including airfares, accommodation, meals, allowances, supervision and any other costs that the government incurs? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would have to take that as notice. It requires some detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question is taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I have a question for the Minister of Education with regard to his statement earlier today, on the child day care program symposium. He stated that he will be tabling a summary of the recommendations later on today and then in an area which is not written in my paper, he stated that he will not be tabling it, I don't know what it was. I'd like to have that clarified. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I missed the question. Could I ask the honourable Member to repeat the question?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Question 181-12(4): Child Day Care Program Symposium And Policy Development

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated in his statement today, that he would be tabling a copy of the summary of recommendations from the day care symposium and then later on, in an area which I do not think I have in my paper, he said that he would not be tabling. I wanted to find out what it is that he is not going to table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 181-12(4): Child Day Care Program Symposium And Policy Development

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, if the honourable Member notes in the statement, what is not available at this particular juncture is the final child care policy. When I get to the point of tabling documents, I will be tabling the recommendations and the summary of the recommendations of the symposium that was held here in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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Supplementary To Question 181-12(4): Child Day Care Program Symposium And Policy Development

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He indicates in his statement that the department will be making further consultations with interested parties. I would like to know what form of consultation the Minister is referring to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 181-12(4): Child Day Care Program Symposium And Policy Development

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Generally speaking, the consultations are to make certain that the recommendations are, first of all, a reflection of the comments and the discussion that took place during the symposium and secondly, that the proposed changes that would be anticipated in a new policy should be discussed with those who are operating child care centres, so there is no contradictory policy in the programs that are being offered.

If it is our intention to improve the programming, then obviously we have to make certain that they understand what changes are occurring. The other aspect is to make certain that, if we are to improve our programming access, we also have to find a method by which we advise the communities that those programs will be available to them.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 182-12(4): Consultation On Child Day Care Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was listening with interest to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment's statement earlier today on child day care. I have been pressuring the government for

nearly two years now, to establish a permanent child day care policy. I am very disappointed to hear that we will not see one this session, as we were promised last spring.

Just to follow up on the public consultation, last year I asked the Minister about public consultation and he indicated that there was no public consultation planned in the process. I note today, in his statement, though, that he did say that, as well as consultation with interested parties, there will be public consultation. I was wondering if the Minister could advise this House, exactly what process the department plans to follow in the public consultation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Nerysoo.

Return To Question 182-12(4): Consultation On Child Day Care Policy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is difficult to respond to the remarks the honourable Member has made. I was under the impression that one of the directions that was given to me, was to go forward to seek public advice on some of the changes that were required in the new policy. I'm disappointed, I guess, that I'm being criticized for being a little careful about where it is that we're going. Particularly, in light of the recommendations and the directions that have been given to me by representatives from all across the Northwest Territories that there was a need for us to change the programs and the policy and there's a need for us to consider legislative changes. These directions were actually given to me by people who represented communities and, in fact, day care centres in the city of Yellowknife.

I had thought I should be a little more careful so that I had a policy that was reflective of the Members of this Assembly and, as well, reflective of the kinds of recommendations and directions given to me by the general public. On the matter of the public process, the symposium itself, was one portion of the public process.

What we need now is to make certain that the recommendations are acceptable and reflective of the directions of the public, the kinds of changes that day cares in existence are seeking, and, the potential community direction that would allow for the development of other child care centres, including the

potential for child care centres in high schools. That was, in fact, the recommendation of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 182-12(4): Consultation On Child Day Care Policy

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the Minister's comments, particularly with regard to school day cares. I know that the Minister sent me a letter on that subject. I was wondering, though, if the Minister could advise us how people were selected to attend the symposium on child day care?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not certain about the manner in which they were selected. I left that totally up to the administrator. I will take the question as notice and report back. But, generally speaking, it was with the view that the communities made the decision themselves.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 183-12(4): CBC Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, the Minister was interviewed on CBC radio and he was given two examples of contracts from local, small business people in Fort Simpson, who were not given an opportunity to bid on a local contract. He was asked if this was fair practice to the business people, two business men that weren't given an opportunity to work. Mr. Morin replied, "Yes, I think it's a fair practice." In what way is it fair to the two people who were not given an opportunity to bid on this tender?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 183-12(4): CBC Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't comment on the part of the interview that was done with the person who was talking about transportation contracts, but I will comment on Department of Public Works contracts and Housing Corporation contracts. We negotiated contracts in Fort Simpson for lease-back of office buildings, and roads construction, and a local company got a portion of that. So, they benefit. It was fair. The band in Fort Simpson carries out the housing contracts. They have traditionally done that. It was usually done through block funding, where the band said they had a right to administer and run their own housing programs. When we changed the programs to access programs, we negotiated a contract with the band.

The other contractor who never had the opportunity to work on it, if he had talked to the band or worked with the band, he would probably get work, because the criteria is very clear, that you use local people and you use local businesses. If they are both local businesses, they will have a fair shake on it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 183-12(4): CBC Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

MR. LEWIS:

The Minister seems to indicate that there is some criteria then, to determine what is fair, so there is a proper use of taxpayers' money. I would like to ask the Minister this, then, since he said, "One of the criteria we use when we negotiate a contract is that." By "that", he means that this particular group has been doing this work.

In instances throughout the territories, where people have always had the contract, does that mean that these people will have negotiated contracts to do the work that they've been doing for the last few years? Is that the criteria you would use for determining who will get contracts, Robinson's Trucking, or any other

outfit, that has been doing jobs for a certain number of years?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 183-12(4): CBC
Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not necessarily. It is interesting that the Member does mention a Yellowknife firm like Robinson's Trucking because they have benefitted from negotiated contracts. Robinson's Trucking benefited from the Transportation department negotiating a contract with Wrigley and Robinson's Trucking as a joint venture. They've also benefitted from a negotiated contract in Whale Cove for a granular program, I believe. They formed a joint venture with the Keewatin business people. Businesses from all communities benefit from negotiated contracts.

We don't only use the criteria you had in a contract, you continue to have a contract. Yellowknife, itself, back in the late 1960s benefitted from negotiated contracts. There were extensions of leases to Newton Wong, or Humphrey Realtors Limited, or Solar Construction Company Limited. They all benefitted from the same thing. They got an extension of those contracts. Now the criteria is very clear and straightforward. To negotiate contracts, you have to assist new businesses get started, you have to strengthen the local benefit for expenditures.

Negotiated contracts require 100 per cent northern and local benefit. Local people have to benefit. It creates long-term benefits for communities. Capital experience develops expertise. That is how the benefits are given to local people. If we negotiate a contract, local people are going to benefit. It will then go regional and then territorial. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 183-12(4): CBC
Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has indicated that there is a policy, because he has talked about all

of the criteria that are used in determining the basis on which contracts will be negotiated. Since we are talking about \$8 million, which has to have some basis on which the money is spent, there has to be some kind of policy. Will the Minister provide me with this something that is written down, to guide expenditure of the money that is used for negotiated contracts? Because, I have not heard any indication that we have a written policy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 183-12(4): CBC
Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason you didn't hear it is because I didn't say it. What I said is, we have clear guidelines to negotiate contracts. They are very clear, people request to negotiate a contract because they feel they are not benefiting from the government spending money in their community. It is 1993. What I am hearing from the communities is that they are tired of getting the job of putting in the insulation or sweeping the floor. They want to administer and run the contracts in their communities. Our job is to assist them to do it. It has to benefit the local people. If it is to be done, then it has to benefit regional people. That is the route we take. There are very clear guidelines for when we enter into those. Once we have agreed with what the people request, we go to Cabinet. I get Cabinet approval to negotiate. For example, in the Housing Corporation, if we have a \$1 million budget to negotiate ten units, then that is what I negotiate with the people that I am negotiating with. Once it is approved, I go back to Cabinet for final approval. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 183-12(4): CBC
Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the interview I referred to, of December 1, at 7:50 am on CBC Mackenzie, the Minister was asked about quantifying this provision for negotiated contracts, to make sure that the government policy

provides the Ministers with the taxpayers' money. Mr. Morin answered that we are doing the best thing with the taxpayers' money. Mr. Hamilton asked, "Is that written down somewhere?" Mr. Morin said, "It is written down somewhere." So, I have asked the Minister once, and I asked the Premier once, would he provide me with a copy of what it is that is written down, that covers all these criteria so I know exactly what he is talking about. So far, I haven't read anything.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, if you are asking the Minister for the same document that you asked the Premier for, the Premier has already said that she would provide such a document. If it is a different document, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 183-12(4): CBC Interview Re Local Contractors In Fort Simpson

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was what I was going to say. There are clear guidelines. I will be happy to provide the Member with the guidelines that we use to negotiate contracts. There are clear, written procedures that we use to evaluate every negotiated contract. There is a reporting process used by our project officers. They keep track of all the money spent under negotiated contracts. That is reported at the end. It is very clear and straightforward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 184-12(4): Development Of Policy For Negotiated Contracts

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to negotiated contracts, as I indicated in this House, I certainly support such an initiative taking place. I believe the concern of some Members is the absence of a policy with how these guidelines are developed. Since the Minister has the guidelines already in place, would he take it as another initiative to attempt to develop a policy which would allow negotiations of contracts at the local, regional and territorial levels? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Morin.

Return To Question 184-12(4): Development Of Policy For Negotiated Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently, we are working with the department to develop a policy on negotiated contracts.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 185-12(4): Effect Of Child Care Facilities In Schools

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. In his response to the honourable Mr. Dent regarding child care facilities, he mentioned that child care facilities are being incorporated into new schools for students. Some communities in the Northwest Territories, such as Cambridge Bay, already have successfully operated private child care facilities. Has his department assessed the

detrimental effect on the existing child care facilities with the establishment of these new ones in the schools?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 185-12(4): Effect Of Child Care Facilities In Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the reasons why we could not have proceeded immediately, to put into effect some of the recommendations that have been suggested to us. Once the honourable Members have received the tabled document entitled, Caring For Our Future, which contains the recommendations from the child care symposium, you will realize the complexity of the kinds of things that are being recommended. As such, you will understand why it will take us a little longer than I anticipated to have renewed policies in place immediately.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 185-12(4): Effect Of Child Care Facilities In Schools

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the department to have students pay for their use of the child care facilities in these new schools?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 185-12(4): Effect Of Child Care Facilities In Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Again, Mr. Speaker, those are aspects that have still not been worked out. One of the issues for us is a question of access to the resources. It has been a problem previously, particularly with smaller communities. The question, now, is how do we go beyond the larger centres -- that have established facilities for many years -- to the smaller communities, such as Cambridge Bay or a community like Fort McPherson, Pond Inlet or wherever it is that we are looking at the other communities. In that sense, it is a bit of a problem, but there are also initiatives in other communities to introduce child care programs in the schools, for those who are attending high school programs. Those are all the complexities. It does need some additional thought and consideration on our part to make sure we have the child care policy, the legislation, and the regulations in place to allow us to consider all of those factors.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 186-12(4): Communities Not Participating In Contribution Agreements Due To Sobriety Clause

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Social Services. It deals with the contribution agreements that are under consideration now and those that are going to be shortly. I am concerned that some of the communities that previously were under a contribution

agreement have had some difficulty with a policy that former Ministers of Social Services imposed, notably the sobriety clause. Consequently, they decided it was in the best

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interest of the their community not to participate under the contribution agreement, if they had to comply with that. How many communities are still not participating in the contribution agreement, as a result of that sobriety clause?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 186-12(4): Communities Not Participating In Contribution Agreements Due To Sobriety Clause

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. None.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 186-12(4): Communities Not Participating In Contribution Agreements Due To Sobriety Clause

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding -- it may have been cleared up by now -- but the community of Iqaluit, had a problem and they resolved that by establishing another board. The community of Pangnirtung, the Minister's own community, had a problem with that sobriety clause, as well, and disbanded. I just wondered if they have been reactivated and if the community now has somebody there looking after alcohol and drug counselling?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 186-12(4): Communities Not Participating In Contribution Agreements Due To Sobriety Clause

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Whitford knows, while he was the Minister, the Upassuraakut board for Iqaluit was in the process of establishing themselves. That is in place now and the other community he is talking about is Pangnirtung, which is my community. The hamlet has decided to sign the contribution agreement, in light of the very young people who are under the age of 13, who have been doing some solvent abuse. It was the hamlet of Pangnirtung counsellor's wish to get the contribution funds to try and educate the community about solvent abuse for the young people. The majority of the community was concerned, if the very young people were sniffing substances, that it was very dangerous. In light of that, the hamlet of Pangnirtung has discussed this problem and agreed to sign the agreement for education and awareness of solvent abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I call the Assembly back to order. 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 2-12(4) asked by Mr. Lewis to the Minister of Public Works and Services concerning community POL sales.

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

The GNWT uses a cross-subsidy program where communities with low-landed costs pay a small amount more to offset communities with high-landed costs. This program was established in the early 1970s to ensure that all communities throughout the north could have access to petroleum products, at retail prices that were not excessive.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Mr. Ng.

---Applause

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ng's Reply

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the great potential, over the next several years, for mineral development in the NWT, and particularly in the Slave geological corridor, north of Yellowknife to the Arctic coast near Coppermine, the NWT has the opportunity to get in at the ground floor and maximize the business and employment opportunities for northerners. In the Kitikmeot, with the Izok Lake development of the Metall Mining Corporation in the planning stages for start of construction, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association is currently finalizing negotiations of an Inuit impact benefit agreement with the mining company, as allowed under the Nunavut land claims agreement.

Mr. Speaker, my concern for this area of the NWT without any settled land claims rights, is that local, regional and territorial interests and concerns may be bypassed and ignored by some mining companies, as there is no group or organization in power to protect their interests. The authority and jurisdiction for mining, exploration, and development in the NWT has, and continues to be, with the Government of Canada. I believe it

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is the government's responsibility to protect the NWT interests in ensuring that mining developments do not proceed, unless northerners are deemed to be maximizing their economic benefits from these developments.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. NG:

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the potential sale of the NWT Power Corporation, I can state that a majority of my constituents and I oppose the privatization of the Power Corporation until such time as we are assured that the existing subsidies will continue and the long-term interests of all northerners are protected.

With regard to the establishment of a northern workplace commission, I have some serious reservations about the apparent needless expenditures of close to \$2 million to review labour matters. If it is intended to support the establishment

of back-to-work legislative powers for the GNWT, then I support it even less.

On more positive initiatives from the government, I do support their initiative to lobby for funding to develop the transportation infrastructure in the Slave geological corridor. I truly believe this initiative, if successful in establishing an all-weather road, will open up the NWT to a new boom era, which will benefit the entire Northwest Territories and the entire country, if developed in an orderly manner.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the government's building and learning strategy, the staff housing strategy, and the community transfer initiative. I believe these programs are geared toward strengthening our communities and serving the needs of our residents in a more effective manner. With regard to the government initiative to develop a comprehensive strategy, to map out the needs and requirements for educating and training our human resources, although I support this initiative, I wish to point out that there are some immediate training and upgrading needs relating to the mining industry which I feel the government should pursue as a priority.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, although we can not ignore our social program needs, I believe our government must take the lead role, with the support of this Assembly, in addressing our high unemployment factor. The government must do this through their continued support of small business, the development and support of our growing renewable resource sector, and a commitment to ensuring that all northerners maximize the benefits from future mining developments.

The GNWT's support of these activities must not only be from developing and enforcing policies, but through a priority to implement a comprehensive strategy for education and training our human resources, a priority to negotiate a mineral accord to protect NWT interests, and a priority to maximize the utilization of our renewable resource sector.

Mr. Speaker, we only have two years to go before a new leadership takes office. Let's all do our utmost in our remaining term to improve the lifestyle of all our residents. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, Tabled Document 41-12(4), entitled, "Caring For Our Future: Child Day Care Program Symposium, Yellowknife, September 24-26, 1993" a summary of the recommendations in English and Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Allooloo.

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, Tabled Document 42-12(4), a letter to the Housing Corporation from Mr. Merkosak, dated September 6, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to table, Tabled Document 43-12(4), a letter from Mr. Barry Taylor to Emily Overbo, the chief territorial firearms officer. There has been a gap in communication between these two people. It is about the request to have approved range status, several hundred kilometres from here to attract tourists.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 42(1), I wish to table, Tabled Document 44-12(4), Response to Petition 2-12(4), presented by Mr. Allooloo and responded to by the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

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 whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates; Committee Report 5-12(5), Standing Committee on Legislation Report on Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act; Committee Report 7-12(4), Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report on the Committee Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts; Committee Report 8-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board; Committee Report 9-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions - Final Report on Arctic College; and, Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops. By the authority given to me by Motion 1-12(4) regarding sitting hours, I put the Assembly into committee of the whole until the committee is ready to report progress. Mr. Pudluk will be in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The committee will come to order. What does this committee wish to do this afternoon? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I believe to ask the Government House Leader that we make every effort to continue on with the budget items. Therefore, we would like to ask the Minister to bring in his witnesses and proceed with DPW. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree that we do the budget this afternoon?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

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

Department Of Public Works And Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We were on page 08-25, details of capital, petroleum products, building and works. We were on Baffin. That will be entirely up to the Minister if he wants to bring his witnesses and go to the witness table. It will be entirely up to him. We were on Baffin, total region, \$2.240 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if he is going to be bringing in witnesses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, are you willing to bring in your witnesses at this time?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two more pages to deal with. I don't think witnesses are necessary at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Baffin, total region, \$2.240 million. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to know what pages you are proceeding on? Page 08-25, is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Yes, Member for Thebacha. Baffin, total region, \$2.240 million. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I think there was a request on behalf of the Members that, in order to proceed with the budget in an expedient manner, if Ministers would concur with bringing in their witnesses even though there is only a couple of pages left, it could avoid a number of questions being asked to the Minister. I don't know if that decision is at the discretion of the Minister or whether the committee requests it. How is a ruling made? If you could assist us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

We are looking at our rules. It is usually a normal practice that the Minister brings the witnesses in, but that will be up to the Minister if he doesn't want to bring his witnesses in. It will be up to the Minister, daily, if he doesn't want to bring them in. Member for Kitikmeot.

Committee Motion That Minister Bring In Witnesses, Out Of Order

MR. NG:

Mr. Chairman, if it is in order, I would like to move a motion that the Minister bring his witnesses into the committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

In the rules it says, with consent of the committee that a witness appear to supply information as a requirement. The Minister may bring his staff into the House if he wants, but it's not necessary. I'm going to call the motion out of order.

---Out of order

Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess to alleviate the problem and to give the Member for Thebacha some comfort, I will request that my staff come into the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Minister. He is willing to bring his witnesses in to deal with this budget. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the Minister's witnesses in at this time. Mr. Minister, are you going to sit with your staff or are you going to remain in your seat?

Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses at this time?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Mr. Bob Doherty, Deputy Minister of Government Services and Public Works. Dave Waddell, Director of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We are on page 08-25. Baffin, total region, \$2.24 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

For the record, and for clarification, I would like to go back to Fort Smith, fuel tank construction from Snare Lake. Yesterday, a question was asked, "What size tanks were going into the..."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Hold on, Mr. Koe. I will ask this committee if it wants to go back to that particular area. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like consent to go back to Fort Smith.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We will go back to the top. Fort Smith, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like clarification on the Snare Lake fuel tank construction. In looking at Hansard yesterday, the question was asked, "What size tanks and how many were going into Snare Lake?" At one point, the Minister said there were five 20,000 gallon fuel tanks, and another he said five 90,000 litre tanks. I assume it is the same thing, but can he clarify?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five 90,000 litre tanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. We already agreed on Fort Smith. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I need just one other clarification on Fort Smith, for Snare Lakes. Is part of this tank farm for the power corporation, too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Petroleum products are currently delivered and stored in 205 litre drums. We have to have an increase to five 90,000 litre steel berm tanks for heating fuel. Heating fuel and gasoline are going into those tanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

For the record, it is not for the purpose of providing fuel for power generators, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

If the NWT Power Corporation buys fuel, it pays the market price.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any further comments on Fort Smith? We already agreed on the dollar amount. We will go back to Baffin, total region, \$2.24 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$3.745 million. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the increased tank capacity for Arviat, I would like to find out if these tanks are going to be used also by the power generator. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the scope of work on these fuels -- P50 heating fuel and gasoline -- what is existing in Arviat is, 3.369 million litres for fuel, 371,000 litres for gas and we are going to expand that to 6.536 million litres for fuel and 1.383 million for gas. We also have a problem in Arviat that the horizontal tanks that are there now are sinking, so we have to redo that and the berm, as well as the fencing. So, there will be adequate fuel for all needs in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, that means that the power corporation is planning to move the power plant out of the centre of the community. Will these tanks be able to take in the fuel required by the power generator? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would meet all of the fuel needs for the community. That must include the NWT Power Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$3.745 million. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a note, for the record, that I resent the Minister's ignorant remarks, once again. It is not only for my comfort, but the comfort of the committee, with regard to bringing in his witnesses. However, with respect to increase tank capacity safety code, for Arviat, there is funding that is being requested that is not applied to other tanks. With regard to increasing this tank capacity, why is this labelled "safety code," which is not the case with other tank farms? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is because of the problem that we had with the sinking. All tank farms are now designed to safety code and the new environmental codes as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

So, Mr. Chairman, is it fair to say that we would be anticipating other tank farms looking at extra costs incurred in the future to bring them up to the safety code and ensure that they are environmentally safe?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is our responsibility to make sure that they meet environmental codes, as well as safety codes. Any tank farms that don't meet that would be brought up to standard, but our tank farms are designed to meet the existing standards of today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Are there any existing tank farms that do not meet the safety codes for environmental purposes? Should we anticipate an increase in funding for these other tank farms that are already in existence?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not that I am aware of.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$3.745 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region, \$430,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$6.895 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Equipment acquisition, Inuvik, total region, \$195,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Baffin, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$310,000. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you. I would like to find out where the mobile equipment is going to go in the Keewatin region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Just a moment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is to replace a 1986 fuel truck in Arviat, to replace a 1986 fuel truck in Repulse Bay and also in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$310,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, \$605,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total activity, \$7.5 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I had my hand out before we went to total activity. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, in the communities in the eastern Arctic where we are providing fuel tank construction and mobile equipment, what is his department doing as an initiative to encourage privatization, as opposed to the government building and providing these tanks? Are they encouraging entrepreneurs in these tasks? I'm trying to find out if there are any long-term plans to encourage this being done by private enterprise? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We own all tankage in the Northwest Territories we are involved in, except for in Cambridge Bay. That is privatized. That has cost us an extra 21 or 22 cents a litre because it is private. We have just made an adjustment for that. All our deliveries are private. People have private contracts to deliver the fuel. The tanks are owned by the government. We are looking at the whole issue of POL pricing and cross-subsidies, and we should be done that by the end of the year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

What were you looking at? I'm sorry, there was another conversation going on here and I couldn't hear the last part of what you were saying.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

We're looking at the cross-subsidy program and the prices of fuel people are paying in the communities, and how we get the fuel to those communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I am thinking about the larger communities where the private companies own these types of fuel tanks. I know we're on the highway system and we can get the fuel on a short-term notice, as opposed to the eastern Arctic. But, even though they are privatized, I'm wondering if there is any long-term planning to look at privatization of these fuel tanks and the whole delivery of fuel in the smaller communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at the delivery and pricing portion. But, we are not considering selling the existing fuel tankage at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

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MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Can the existing fuel tanks and the equipment that goes with it be considered along with privatization of petroleum products?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I just think that if it can be looked at, you would encourage some significant private entrepreneurship. You would encourage organizations and corporations in the communities. You would allow for a sense of ownership for one of the fundamental needs in the community, even if you look at privatization of tanks and equipment. Not only will they take pride in looking after the equipment, but the costs wouldn't be as horrendous to the government. I think you should

try to find a method to phase out of it, because it happens in all the larger communities. I think it would be of significant benefit to the members of smaller communities to look at privatizing petroleum products.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total activity, \$7.5 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

On page 08-7, department summary, total capital expenditures, \$12.781 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Does that conclude Public Works and Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses at this time. What does this committee wish to do next?

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Justice is available, we would like to proceed with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we are ready to deal with Justice as soon as the Minister returns to the House. He'll be here in about two seconds. One, two, there.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this committee agreed that we will deal with Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Justice

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Page 06-7. I wonder if the Minister would like to make opening remarks?

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital budget for the Department of Justice deals exclusively with corrections. Our 1994-95 capital requirements are modest. They are the absolute minimum that we need to maintain the system as it is.

Our estimates provide for:

-upgrading the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in Fort Smith to include secure cells and wheelchair access;

-replacing the ceramic flooring in the kitchen at Yellowknife Correctional Centre to comply with health and safety standards;

-replacing the stove in the kitchen at Baffin Correctional Centre; and,

-repairs at young offender facilities, the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, and the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre.

The corrections division will be revising their capital standards and criteria and preparing an analysis of the life expectancies of the existing facilities starting in the fiscal year 1993-94. These projects are being carried out in order to prepare for anticipated changes to correctional programs resulting from the master plan prepared in 1992. This process will result in a revised five year capital plan.

Advanced planning and research for architecture completed an extensive review of the Northwest Territories corrections system. The review was an in-depth examination of the existing system, the expressed desire for communities to take an active part in the justice system, offender profiles, employment situations and the region of origin of the offenders.

The resulting report, the 1992 master plan, drew attention to criminal and demographic trends in the north and projected a major increase in the demands placed upon the correctional system by an increasing population with serious social problems, such as poverty, housing shortages, drug and alcohol abuse and dysfunctional families.

Over the past decade, the corrections admission rate has increased by 45 per cent. This increase in the number of incarcerations has consistently exceeded increases in the

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population. The existing system is already overcrowded to the point where there is no more space to house offenders.

All adult facilities are operating at, or above, rated capacity on a continuous basis. The trends identified in the master plan will continue to place ever increasing demands on an already overcrowded system. Additionally, there is a tremendous need for more programming within institutions and at the community level. The type of programming required includes: drug and alcohol abuse counselling; family violence counselling; life-skills training; and, continuing education and vocational training. Culturally-relevant corrections programs such as wilderness camps and land skills survival programs are being developed and are currently being funded through operations and maintenance programs. As

plans develop for these programs, capital dollars may be required.

Corrections and the Justice system must evolve through the coming years to meet the demands placed on them. The Department of Justice presented a report on the overall capital plan for corrections for the next few years to the Standing Committee on Finance when we met a few weeks ago.

The report addressed the recommendations of the master plan, the issue of division of the Northwest Territories and discussed new facilities in regions of high demand. There is also a need for alternatives to traditional jails and prison alternatives that more effectively rehabilitate offenders. The report introduces the concept of community residential centres in smaller communities to facilitate community-based programming. Finally, the report identifies some redirection of resources to match regional demand.

Regrettably, there will still be a need for more facilities of a secure type even in the best of worlds. The need to maintain existing facilities, to repair, upgrade and to build new facilities as required, will continue for the foreseeable future. For fiscal year, 1995-96, it is our intention to prepare a five year capital plan which includes funding for culturally-relevant corrections programs, land based corrections facilities and future institutions.

I invite Members of this Assembly to examine the 1994-95 capital forecast and I will try to answer any questions that the Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there might be a need to answer some detailed questions which I may not be able to, such as the type of tiles on the floor I'm going to use and the type of stoves I'm going to order, so I'm going to ask my department to appear as witnesses with me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Okay, after we've heard from the Finance committee. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, I would like to report that the Department of Justice provide the committee with a briefing on the changes being recommended to the approach taken to corrections programs in the Northwest Territories. Members support, in principle, the approach outlined by the department. The basic elements of the approach are as follows.

-Devote resources to communities for the establishment of community justice committees and the development of alternatives to incarceration.

-Devote resources to community-based residential centres across the Northwest Territories.

-Build additional institutional facilities in Nunavut and the MacKenzie Delta to better reflect existing and projected inmate populations.

-Continue discussions with Ottawa to repatriate federal inmates, from the Northwest Territories, now serving long sentences in southern institutions.

On the basis of the recommended approach, the Minister and his staff expect the capital costs for community-based residential centres to approach \$5.1 million by the year 2006. Construction or renovations are expected to be close to \$43 million.

The committee suggested, during the review of the 1993-94 capital estimates, that the department include funding for culturally relevant corrections programs such as wilderness camps and land skills survival programs in the 1994-95 capital estimates. This has not happened. The committee recommended that future budgets address this exclusion.

Given the magnitude of estimated capital costs and the exclusion of important programs from the capital forecast, the committee is very concerned that the department is presenting a five year capital plan that totals only \$2.8 million. This amount represents more than \$21 million less than what was put forward last year.

The committee appreciates that the department's plans require adjustment and that the recommended approach must be approved. However, committee Members do not understand why the department did not come forward with their best estimates for capital spending over the next five years.

A realistic estimate on the capital expenditures required for corrections programs are not included in the 1994-95 capital estimates. Committee Members wonder, then, where additional funds will come from, in future years, to support correctional programs. Will other departments be required to scale back their plans in order to accommodate the absence of these required programs in the capital plan?

Committee Motion 47-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 16, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Justice prepare five year capital forecasts for corrections, which include:

(a) expanded culturally-relevant corrections programs which require community and land-based corrections facilities; and,

(a) future institutional facilities.

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These five year plans should be included in the 1995-96 capital estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. The motion is to order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the department's plans to repatriate federal inmates, the committee suggests that the department exercise caution in negotiating with the federal government. In light of experience with other devolution arrangements, the federal government must not be allowed to "off-load" its responsibility. Any agreement must be carefully reviewed to ensure that funding is adequate for long-term needs.

The committee noted that the department is requesting \$100,000 for renovations to the Yellowknife Corrections Centre. Members are concerned about the relative economy of investing more money in renovations to that facility. The committee would like to see the department consider other options to house those inmates.

Those are the committee's comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Before I call the general comments, I wondered if the Minister would like to bring in his witnesses at this time. Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I have on my left the Deputy Minister of Justice, Geoff Bickert. On my right, the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Solicitor General Branch, Nora Saunders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to the Minister's opening statement. It is with regard to the upgrading or replacing the ceramic flooring in the kitchen of the Yellowknife Corrections Centre to comply with health and safety standards. I didn't know that ceramic floors were considered unsafe. How is a ceramic floor unsafe? Are we setting a precedent? Based on cases in court, precedents are set. Are you setting a precedent here so that all the

government buildings are going to have to change our tiles from ceramics?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the health inspector has expressed a serious concern about the condition of the kitchen floor at YCC. Concerns deal with the present vinyl asbestos tile, the lack of splash guards under the appliances, and the quarry tiles that are lifting. The asbestos tile will be replaced with quarry tile. The grouting of the existing quarry tile is porous. It is considered unsuitable, at this time. So, it will be replaced with an epoxy grout, which is less porous. The appliances, as well, in the kitchen will be sealed to the floor so that water and grease will not collect under the appliances. The health inspector looks at it like they look at kitchens in the restaurants of Yellowknife. They find certain conditions unacceptable. For public health reasons, they give you some suggestions on how to make changes to get approval to pass their inspection. This is basically what has happened here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arngna'naaq.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's opening remarks, the Minister indicated that there should be, will be or are, closely relevant corrections programs, such as wilderness camps and land skill survival programs, which are either being developed or are currently being funded. I would like to find out where these programs are being run at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Most of the money that we have for operating these types of facilities are in the O & M budget. What we have right now, we are funding through the wilderness programs for young offenders. They are done through contract with people like Elijah Erkloo in Pond Inlet, the Tungait young offenders wilderness camp in Iqaluit, Wilfred Jackson camp outside of Fort Good Hope and Jimmy Maring just outside of Aklavik. We also have some program dollars being spent on correctional institutions that are able to provide wilderness programs. Both the Baffin Correctional

Centre and the Isumaqsunnigittukkuvik have active land programs.

The Yellowknife Correctional Centre is developing a guiding program, which would allow inmates to enter the second year of an Arctic College program. This is guiding for outfitting and fishing camps. Those are some of the ones that we have. We are having discussions with communities that are expressing an interest in trying to develop programs or proposals that might turn into projects, which we would be prepared to fund, if we have a need for them. We are trying to expand the number of options we have, especially for open custody children who require less supervision and are less of a security problem than the secure custody children, but also to try to keep children as close to home as possible, to give the people of those children a chance to take a hand in giving them some guidance and some support at times that they find very troubling.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for Kivallivik.

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister or the department knows how effective these programs are or whether they have been running long enough to show what kind of effects they do have on young offenders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Kivallivik. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

We have had responsibility for these for about a year and a half now. The Member will appreciate that the capital plan, the programs, the facilities and the staff we inherited, are all responsibilities that we have taken very seriously. We have tried to take a methodical approach to deciding what to do with them. For instance, in the case of bush camps, we have kept them running, but we have had extensive discussions with these operators and groups that run them. We had discussions with other people who are interested in such ventures and have started work toward developing certain common, standard operating procedures and guidelines so that operators know what it is we're looking for when we enter into contracts with them.

We are trying to create sort of a level playing field for these contractors, to ensure that the young offenders are assured, as well as the parents, the public, and Members of the Legislature, that there are some clear parameters to what we are willing and are not willing to accept. As a general rule, the wilderness camps that we have, and have had, are seen as good, positive experiences for us. We're just trying to find ways to be more supportive of the operators and those people that wish to make such proposals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ningark, then Mr. Koe.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the honourable Minister of Justice talks about the concept of community residential centres in smaller communities. He also talks about facilitating community-based programming and a need for an alternative to jails, and what have you. When planning facilities for communities, people who are knowledgeable in this area are our elders. They have been applying their own traditional justice system from the beginning of time, when man committed his first offence.

Mr. Chairman, traditional justice, in my opinion, is very gentle, but very effective. A traditional justice system has limited restrictions, but with long-lasting results and I would urge the honourable Minister and his officials to perhaps start consultations with the elders in the respective communities. That's just a point I wanted to make. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark, Member for Natilikmiot. Mr. Minister, did you want to comment on that? If not, I will move on to Mr. Koe. Mr. Koe, Member for Inuvik.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wholly support the comments and recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Finance. I also support the comments made by the Minister in his introductory remarks on this department. I'm a little curious, given what was stated in the remarks, why we have to wait another year before we put actual needs into the budget. Last year, 1993-94, there was \$1.133 million, for 1994-95 there is \$322,000 and, it is my

understanding that for next year, 1995-96, there is \$155,000.

I'm really curious why the actual needs, which have been indicated to me to be in the \$40 to \$50 million range, are not reflected in the documents that are before us. I would just like some comment from the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Inuvik. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the previous capital items that were included were put there by the previous department that was responsible for corrections. One of the things that I became aware of, as the Minister responsible for corrections, is the real lack of any firm information base, on which to make projections. There is, in fact, a real inadequate information system, which I think the Standing Committee on Public Accounts or Standing Committee on Finance recognized over a year ago. We are working on that. We are trying to make sure that the information we need to manage corrections is readily available. I think we have just about completed that.

In short, there was no way for me to substantiate allocating capital monies the way it was. That's why there has been such a major deletion, to the tune of over \$20 million. I couldn't substantiate it. The basis of the planning is unknown to me. What I have set out to do is, following the tabling of the master plan, agree that the process we're going to follow is to determine what kind of capital money we need to maintain and upkeep the present facilities we have, to take into account the impact that division is going to have on the territories, and to plan for communities and regions, asking for specific ways in which we can give community-based programs and facilities an equal chance to get in on the capital plan.

In order to do that, we, first of all, needed to get approval by this Legislature, by the Standing Committee on Finance and Cabinet, for that direction. Now we think we are close to an agreement, the planning will be done and made available to Members, I hope, by next fall. It will substantiate what a new five year capital plan will look like, how much money we think we need to upkeep the present facilities to get maximum use of them, what type of regional and community programs and facilities to budget for, to support our projects, and to be clear

about accepting division. That is something that is going to affect our planning in a major way.

There is nothing in this programming process yet, to help us articulate what our O and M projections are going to be either. That's the other area of work we need to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I thank the Minister for his response. One of the comments made in the Minister's statement was about repatriating federal inmates. I support that move and any negotiations to attempt that. Obviously, we have to build some sort of a facility to do that. Obviously, I have made my choice known, as to which area any new facility should go. I would like to state it for the record, again, for any new correctional

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facility, my priority would be to see it in the Inuvik region. There are several reasons for that. One, is that it will meet the departmental goals and objectives. One of them is to eliminate the current overcrowding and balance it, where there are existing facilities. The second is for economic reasons. The Inuvik area is in a fairly slow economic time. A facility like this creates jobs and other opportunities for small businesses and for local people. I am sure yourself, Mr. Minister, and your officials know that the Inuvik region has been playing a lead role in the development of community justice systems and creating some bush camp facilities to look after youth and some of the other people who seem lost these days. They have taken steps to do that, and a great deal of that on their own. I know the department is looking at some proposals from certain individuals to move the process ahead. I would like to make those comments known, for the record, and obviously support the initiatives taken by the department. I would like to see them advance a little faster than they are, currently.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Inuvik. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, if there were some way we could proceed a little faster, we would try to do that. If the demographics and the statistics start to indicate that we need to proceed even faster in order to meet our demands, we will be compelled to let the Members of the Legislature know, in very short order. At this time, we think our projections, on developing a capital plan that is well-thought out and substantiated by next fall, for presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and this Legislature, gives us the time we need to do our homework for the projections to start building facilities. Four years after that is a reasonable time frame. If it becomes urgent or necessary, we will be back to let Members know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just reviewing the Minister's remarks with regard to adult corrections. It is basically stating that all of our facilities are currently up to capacity. Since the Minister is now responsible for both these correctional facilities and Justice, in order to have a look at and analyze the current facilities, to expand them or to try to avoid other future expenditures -- even though he is trying to attempt to develop some kind of a plan -- is there some way that it could be looked at, within the justice system, to address other solutions with respect to using adult facilities. I am trying to determine whether or not, within the plan, they are looking at more land programs. I recognize that he said that the wilderness camps are being developed through operation and maintenance programs, but to what degree is this done? Are they looking at more of these types of facilities, as opposed to just wilderness camps, more structural type facilities, that would address wilderness camps in other parts of the Territories? Where is he at with that particular initiative?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the capital plan gave us a couple of options. One of them was to address the lack of programming space and bed space in the present facilities. They suggest that, in Option A, we should

just build larger facilities, like the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, to meet the needs. Option B, which is the one that we have all agreed to follow, is to maintain the present system as it is, but encourage and support the community and the regional institutions that are proposed and wilderness camps for adult and young offenders to meet our needs. That is the proposal we are following. We have indicated to communities that we are interested in talking business about proposals, on how they wish to take responsibility for their own people, how we might help them do that, both for adult and young offenders. We have hired, and split among all the regions, community justice specialists who are prepared to help groups, communities and individuals move to meet us in that direction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I find it necessary to make some comments with regard to young offenders facilities, not only the one in Fort Smith, but the one in Hay River. I am trying to figure out how to word my comments so that it applies to the capital budget that we have in front of us. Mr. Chairman, there is a considerable concern about these facilities with regard to ensuring safety for the public. I, and many of the communities, believe that since the facilities in Hay River and Fort Smith have been changed to a different type of facility than they were initially intended, there seem to be more breakouts in these types of facilities. I am wondering if there are measures that can be taken. One of the concerns that I had when they were going to do this, was that they would have to modify the facility significantly for it to be compatible to the type of programs they deliver, but there has been no modification. I have noted breakouts both in Hay River and Fort Smith since this triple designation has come into place. I am more concerned for public safety. Some of these incidents, when they have breakouts, could be fatal. We've been very fortunate that no lives have been lost, as yet. What type of system can you put in place to avoid these incidents. Even though you say that there will still be a need for secure facilities, even in the best of worlds, and you can't avoid breakouts, there's got to be some type of system which can be implemented to avoid this in the future and to give comfort to the public, that there are safety measures in place, for the public. So, how can you change it to address this concern?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there isn't any disagreement about the concerns that the Member raises, as to the safety of the public, the welfare of these young offenders, the concern from the public for the well-being of the staff and the management in these facilities. There will be questions about the structure and the way that these facilities are built and as I have said, there is a fluctuation in the number of young offenders.

Sometimes, the majority of them are secure custody offenders, other times, the majority of them are open custody offenders. We only have a few facilities available to us at this time. Until we are able to get the kind of flexibility we need, by seeing more community/regional-based facilities coming up to meet our needs, the facilities like River Ridge, in Hay River, will have

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to meet our needs. They meet our needs by the triple designation that we've given them. We've checked with the staff continuously, the managers of these facilities, to ensure that they feel competent enough to run the facilities the way that we've asked them to, as triple designated facilities. We've given them assurance that their concerns, if any, will be addressed as soon as possible, that they should feel free to make recommendations to us in the event they feel triple designation is not possible or is not the way to go. At this time, there is no disagreement with it. The staff and the management feel confident that triple designation is a manageable thing that adequately meets the needs of everyone involved.

It's recognized that facilities like the River Ridge facility, were designed with secure custody in mind. I'm sure in the future, when there are other facilities built in other regions, in Fort Smith, that that facility will revert to what it was originally intended. But, at this time, the needs of this government are that we need flexibility to meet the needs we have. That's where we are.

We've been supporting the management and the staff of these facilities by providing training, by checking regularly with them about the way in which they operate the facilities, about the training needs they identify and ask to be provided to staff. They

recognize themselves, that all the training in the world can not prepare you for all incidents.

The nature of facilities, such as correctional facilities, whether they are adult or youth, lends itself to the fact that there will be people who try to run away, walk away, break out, assault people in the process, who will commit serious offences in the process. That's the nature of this business.

I read this morning that, annually, there are at least 11 broken necks in Canada from young people hurting themselves playing hockey. I don't know how that relates to violent incidents in young offenders facilities. We are bound by legislation that says young offenders should be given the least amount of restriction possible. The only way to give the public total assurance is to make these types of facilities disappear, or if they have to stay there, to lock everybody up. That's not the way we do business in this field today. We train staff, we have people that manage these facilities, keeping in mind the needs of the young offenders, that they have special needs. They are not to be treated harshly. They are not to be treated as adult offenders. We have to recognize their youth. They are not fully mature people. Legislation provides for that.

At the same time, the staff that run these facilities are asked to keep an eye on them and be supportive of them, without having to have them handcuffed or overly restricted. I think it lends itself to the fact that sometimes people will run away. Just to keep it in perspective, many of these young offenders are just troubled youths who have committed a crime and gotten into trouble, but who are genuinely good children, good people. We can't banish them. There is probably more violence in the bars of the Northwest Territories on any given night than there is all year round in these facilities. We really have to keep it in perspective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Well, attempting to keep things in perspective, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if he can attempt to answer my question. I'm trying to see what the Department of Justice is doing with respect to the current facilities to try to avoid continual reoccurrence of break outs? I just want to make a comment. If you look at Yellowknife Correctional Centre, you have all

different types of inmates there and there are things in place at YCC to avoid breakouts, there are stricter systems in place. Be it through camera monitors, or through the bull pen having razor wire. You have things in place that discourages inmates from breaking out. In the young offenders facility, it seems that either young offenders are encouraged to break away or you're not putting strict types of systems in place to avoid these break outs. As a result, you're adding a lot of discomfort to the public, because of what they do when they breakout. There is no doubt they are troubled youth. Normally, youth that break out of facilities don't take people hostage at gunpoint or severely beat somebody. I'm trying to find out what methods the Minister's department has put in place to make every effort to discourage them from breaking out of these facilities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, we've had extensive discussions with the managers of these facilities. There have been some suggestions made by the manager of River Ridge, for instance, about renovations for this facility. I know the Member for Thebacha was demanding last year that I not come forward with any capital money to do renovations. I want to point out that one of the observations made is that the control room in that facility is not strategically located, in the view of the staff and the management.

That observation was made, keeping in mind that this a facility originally built to be a secure facility. Even with a triple designation or just a secure facility, that question has come up about that particular room. We're going to look at it and if it is the view of management that it is absolutely required, we will probably move on it.

There has been a system set up, where we regularly go through security procedures and we are working with the management to evaluate the performance of the staff and the type of training we provide them. Jeannie, you're not listening, I'm trying to give you an answer. The staff that we have in these facilities have to be able to, in our mind, do the job that is demanded of them. So, that has become a normal part of our operations.

Just last month, we did an audit of the River Ridge facility. The report is coming to me, but there was

nothing considered urgent or which needed immediate attention when it was done. I will see when the written report comes to me. Because people staff these facilities and run them and human beings become unpredictable sometimes, we have to be ready all the time without turning them all into high-security camps. We see it as our job to continuously monitor and come up with ways to reduce the number of incidents. I think that's what the Member is asking about, and that is what we see.

None of us like to see these type of incidents. We don't even like to hear about young offenders who walk away from camps

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and from homes where they are entrusted. To have young offenders disappear and commit offences is considered serious to all of us. It particularly upsets the staff and the management of these facilities because they feel very, very responsible for them and they know this government has placed responsibility on them. They know that the communities and the parents of these offenders have also given them this responsibility. All of us feel a very high level of commitment, to looking always, at ways to reduce this. We are trying to make it a regular part of our job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

I would just like to remind Members that we are on the capital plan and it would be better if we could try and stick to the capital plan. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that we are on the capital plan, and that's why I have been trying to ask my questions carefully. I just find that, in this budget for the Department of Justice, one of the things we spend a phenomenal amount of money on are these correctional institutions. I believe they are there, not only for attempting to rehabilitate offenders but also for ensuring public safety. As a Member, I don't feel that comfort of safety in my constituency with regard to the young offenders facility that we have there.

I'm trying to find out what type of modifications are required through capital, to ensure that there is safety in the community. I want the public to be safe from the offenders that are in these facilities since the Minister's department has changed the intent of the type of institution. With that, Mr. Chairman, I would

like to ask, does the Minister anticipate that there may be capital modifications required, not only for the Fort Smith young offenders' facility but also for the Hay River young offenders' facility, since they've had an increase of break outs of young offenders?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, historically, what has been happening is all across the country, people have accepted that large facilities to house offenders - whether they are youth offenders or adult offenders - is not the way to keep going. And, that we have to make efforts to make sure that youth and adult offenders are held as close to home as possible, and to have programs available for them that are relevant and will help them to rehabilitate and be prepared for the day when they return to their communities and families and try to become a positive, productive part of society.

The view of everybody that is engaged in that is, how do we have to restructure our capital plan so that money we spend goes more and more toward community-based facilities. At this time, there is no need for capital money to do renovations in these facilities. I mentioned one that was brought to my attention by the management of River Ridge this morning. We've assured the manager that we are going to take a serious look at that and if we agree that it is essential to do it, then we will try to proceed. That is a capital item that has come up. I know, from time to time, we are asked by the managers to look at changing the locks. In this case, the manager at River Ridge has had that done, which is a capital item. Other than that, what we look at are the security practices of the staff. The managers assured us that everything that is required to run this facility as a secure facility within the community of Fort Smith is there. Whether or not the staff have been able to diligently follow these procedures remains to be seen. That is going to come up in the review which we are conducting right now.

We will deal with it internally because there are employees involved. I am not comfortable with discussing it in public because I am not the front line manager of this facility. I see it as a management issue. If something like that has to be done, there are other personnel issues that may come up as a result of incidents like this. At this time, while we all regret

that incidents like this happen, we are relieved that nobody has been hurt.

We are feeling good. I feel confident that the managers of these facilities are doing a good job and have everything they need in place to minimize these type of incidents from happening. I spoke to them this morning and said, explicitly, that, if there are suggestions they feel they are making which are not being acted on in the way they feel comfortable with, then they should be sure to raise it with the Deputy Minister and myself, if necessary, so they feel they are not being asked to do a job that they cannot adequately do with the support and those things we have in place. The morale and feeling is good. I get a sense of teamwork. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Are there any general comments?
Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I am not concerned about the lack of morale or the lack of teamwork. I am more concerned about public safety. Since the Minister mentioned the concern of the location of the control room, does he feel that if you change the location of the control room, it may avoid reoccurrence of these break outs which will give some comfort to the public in respect to safety?

I wanted to note that, on November 30, when I questioned the Minister in the House, I received the letter shortly after from the Fort Smith Metis Association who have been very concerned about public safety, and concerned as an organization with regard to the continual break outs. They feel something has to be done in order to avoid it.

The Hay River Secure Facility was initially intended for a receiving home years ago, and it was modified to a secure facility. The Fort Smith Secure Facility was intended for just a secure facility. Perhaps the location of these control rooms is wrong. If you switch those over, could that possibly attempt to give some comfort to the public that the possibility for less break aways may be there if these type of modifications can be done? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I have raised this as an item that the manager of River Ridge raised with me this morning as something she thinks we should seriously look at. I've assured her that we will look at it seriously. It is up to the manager to have discussions with her supervisors if that is what they agree is the course to follow. It is their judgement. I am not going to inject myself into it. I am not in that business. I see myself as someone who wants to make sure

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these people, who have an enormous responsibility, are given the best support possible. That is what I assured them of this morning. Suggestions like the one the Member for Thebacha is making are going to be treated very seriously and acted upon if that is what is considered to be required by the manager and the senior staff.

I should point out that I have a big concern about the public safety, as well as all of the Members. I continually point out that I have equal concern about the morale of the staff because that is what is absolutely essential, in my mind, if we are going to continuously demand a high level of diligence and performance from these people who have a very difficult job to do at the best of times. The kinds of demands that are placed on them are enormous. It is my responsibility, and the responsibility of senior management within this department, to make sure the staff and managers are able to maintain a very high morale amongst themselves so they are at peak performance all the time. That assures public safety.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I have one last comment that I am going to make with regard to this, Mr. Chairman. This session, the Minister tabled these documents regarding zero violence and the policy in respect to zero violence.

On one hand, I know the Minister is making a great effort to try to get out to the public that any type of violence should not be tolerated but, on the other part of the spectrum of his responsibilities, he has a couple of facilities that have continual break aways that have violent incidents occurring. It is coming from both sides of the Minister's initiative he is trying to address. One area is not being addressed.

I recognize he is saying he is concerned about staff morale, and rightly so. The major concern I have is in the safety of my constituents. I feel that is my responsibility. It seems to say that if you are going to try to encourage and get a message out to the public that you are not going to tolerate any type of violence, then you should take the responsibility upon yourself to discourage any type of violent incidents such as break aways from happening. I think these type of things have to be addressed in these facilities because these type of incidents cannot keep going on. Since April, there have been at least four or five. We are fortunate that we have not had a fatal incident. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Member. The statistics that we have show the highest level of the population of the Northwest Territories growing the fastest, is the age group between 12 and 25. Statistics across this country show that there is an increasing number of youth that are committing more and more offences and the incidence of violent crime in that age group is escalating. For instance, the number of sexual assaults has increased across this country by 20 per cent in the last five years, or something like that.

I think the managers and staff of these facilities are keeping an eye on these trends, and it is telling us something about the condition of society in the north. Our incidence of incarceration is the highest in the country. Everything about the north points to the fact that we need to do something different. The idea of giving responsibility for youth and adults back to the communities and back to their own people, is one avenue that we all agree should be pursued, so it is the way we are going to proceed.

We should recognize that the Young Offenders Act of Canada, for instance, says you can only keep them for a maximum of three years. There are adult offenders who commit violent crimes, such as homicides, and...Would you lend me your ear, please? It is discouraging, Jeannie, when you ask me a question and I try to answer and you're talking to Mr. Dent. I'm not sure who you are listening to.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

(Microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Order, please. Continue, Mr. Minister. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I know our committee of the whole rules are flexible, but I don't think it allows for a Member to have to take all of these ignorant remarks that are directed towards me. I would like to request that the Minister of Justice's remarks be withdrawn from the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The Member for Thebacha is requesting that the Minister remove his remarks. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The Member should feel free to rub out any remarks that she finds offensive that I made this afternoon. I can apologize for them, but it is frustrating sometimes to take questions very seriously and try seriously to answer them, and not be accorded the same respect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. I have Mr. Patterson on my list, but he is not here at the moment. General comments. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Question has been called. All those in favour? Point of order, Member for Kitikmeot.

Point Of Order

MR. NG:

Mr. Pudlat was not in the room and I don't believe he had his interpreter piece on for the discussion on the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

What was your point of order about again?

MR. NG:

Mr. Pudlat was not in the room, at the time. He sat down and didn't have an opportunity to hear the motion.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The motion is very, very simple. It is to report progress. It is not debatable. I'm going to call the vote again just once more. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Defeated

General comments. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say I know there has been quite a bit of criticism of the approach with certain young offenders' facilities in certain communities. I just want to make note of the efforts of the Minister and staff to provide culturally-sensitive services to young offenders in the Baffin region. I want to acknowledge the support given to Elijah Erkloo's open custody facility in Pond Inlet, the support given to the Ullivik open custody facility in Iqaluit which is run by respected Inuit elders, the support to the Mingotuk on-the-land facility which I have spoken about previously in this House.

What I want to say is that what impresses me is that there is a holistic approach being taken, it seems, whereby the secure facility -- which we all realize is necessary -- is only part of a larger program and only one option available to young offenders in the Baffin region. If they want to go to an on-the-land facility and it would benefit them, that option is available. If

they want to stay in the community for schooling, or counselling or other reasons, that option is available. If they need to be in a secure custody facility, that facility is there. But even that facility is being operated by an increasing number of aboriginal people and in a manner which lets young offenders realize that there are other options and programs available to them.

I just want to acknowledge this. I know the Minister has come under attack for some problems that have arisen recently. I know it is a very difficult business, running these facilities. I want to say that, in my view, progress is being made in the Baffin region, in the spirit of greater community and cultural involvement in this very challenging area. I want to make those positive comments. I think progress has been made in my riding and I'm sure it will occur in other communities as well, given the commitment of the Minister and the attitude of his senior and regional staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. I would like to thank the Member for the positive comments he has given us. We should say that the work we've done in Baffin, a place like Iqaluit, has really been refreshing for the staff and for myself. It really is a positive experience. We were approached to do some work with community leaders and it's turned out to be a good, positive experience for everybody, for us as a department, for the people who are making that proposal, for the community and region as well as the young offenders. What it does is it gives us as well, in the department, some real confidence about going to places like Aklavik and Inuvik and other small communities across the territories. It gives us confidence to know that these things can work and be very good things. Aside from just making the commitment on paper that we will focus on community and regional facilities, it gives us something real to hang onto that's invaluable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. General comments. Shall we go line by line?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Detail of capital, correctional Services, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$188,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$114,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What kind of upgrading are they doing to this correctional centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is asking about the capital expenditure for the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe, could you clarify the question for the Minister?

MR. KOE:

I believe that's the item we are on, and that's the question I asked, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

We are on page 06-10. Fort Smith. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a capital item to complete an annex to the Women's Correctional Centre in Fort Smith, to provide secure facilities. There are three secure cells to be added to that facility, plus wheel chair access for the facility. That's what that money is for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I understand the capacity is ten beds, so you are expanding it to 13 beds? Has this jail or centre ever been full?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, that facility for women has always been kept quite full. It doesn't have, however, any facility for remand. It has no secure provisions in it, for when we need to deal with inmates who become violent or require some restraint. We don't have that facility available. It was required that this type of facility be added onto what is now just a building with, really, minimum security.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$114,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total buildings and works, \$302,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Total activity, \$322,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Back to page 06-7. Department summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$322,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Now this department is concluded.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the officials at the stand. Thank you. What does this committee wish to do next? Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the indulgence of the committee, if we could proceed with the introductory remarks of the Minister for the Housing Corporation. After that, we can decide what the next stage should be.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Does this committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Morin, would you proceed?

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation,
Introductory Remarks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you committee Members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the NWT Housing Corporation's 1994-95 capital budget.

As I told Members last week, we have begun discussions with the new federal government to get funding reinstated. However, at this time, the only CMHC funding we are guaranteed for 1994-95 is \$3.056 million for retrofitting and modernization/improvement projects for existing public housing. As far as new units are concerned, beginning in 1994-95, our capital budget is based solely on GNWT funding.

Despite the loss of federal funding, we have been able to continue delivering new housing units with less money because we have made a number of important changes in the way we deliver programs. There is a continuing emphasis on home ownership, in response to the high level of public interest in our new access programs.

Our priority is to encourage home ownership as much as possible, for those people who can afford it. In 1992-93, about 40 per cent of new units were home ownership units, and 60 per cent were public housing. Last year, it was 60 per cent home ownership and 40 per cent rental. This year, the target will be 70 per cent home ownership and 30 per cent rental. Since many of our new home ownership clients currently live in public rental housing, vacancies will become available in public housing for other families.

I am very encouraged by the tremendous public interest in our new access programs. I know some Members are getting complaints from constituents about slow delivery. This is due to a very short time frame we had to get the programs developed,

approved and out in the field. However, I am pleased to advise you that we have already started access delivery for 1994-95.

The corporation will also continue to identify potential cost-savings and work to improve the efficiency of current programs. For example, we will repair existing public and home ownership units so these homes will last longer. This is less expensive than building new or replacement units and allows us to make use of the little CMHC repair funding that is left.

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With respect to the critical issue of federal funding, the GNWT has taken an aggressive approach with the federal government to get funding reinstated for new social housing.

I had several meetings with the former federal housing Minister, the Honourable Elmer MacKay, which results in the NWT retaining 6.44 per cent of the national housing budget in 1993-94. This represents \$11 million in additional funding that the GNWT did not have to find.

My recent meeting with the new federal Minister, the Honourable David Dingwall, was encouraging. We made a strong case for the need for continued federal funding for new social housing construction in the NWT, and I believe Mr. Dingwall understands our situation and will take the issue to his Cabinet colleagues on our behalf.

I would like to acknowledge the advice and support of the Members of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing. The committee has been very constructive and positive in its approach. I will continue to work closely with the committee in the months ahead.

Advisory committee Members, Silas Arngna'naaq and James Arvaluk attended ITC's annual general meeting in Kujuuak, Quebec, in September. A strong resolution calling for reinstatement of federal funding for social housing was passed at that meeting.

Recently, in Yellowknife, I also met with Rosemary Kuptana, President of ITC, and she has committed to continue to work closely with us on housing issues. She has spoken about the NWT housing shortage on several occasions. Ms. Kuptana made an excellent presentation to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples about the urgent need for continued federal funding for housing in our communities.

I will continue to work closely with the advisory committee, native organizations and all MLAs, to lobby the new Liberal government very aggressively on this issue. I know that Jack Anawak and Ethel Blondin-Andrew will continue to help us. They have already played a valuable role by ensuring that the new federal housing Minister was briefed on the serious need for housing in the NWT, prior to my recent meeting with him.

Cutting costs will allow us to deliver more units -- it's that simple. We have a responsibility to the people in our communities to make sure we get the most housing for the dollar.

The corporation is also committed to supporting economic development at the community level. We have restructured housing delivery to increase economic opportunities for local and northern businesses. We have broken down our large contracts into smaller components, so that local and northern companies can compete. We are buying screw-jacks, windows and fibreglass tanks from NWT manufacturers.

Existing and potential northern manufacturers have been asked to come forward and express interest in providing some of the components we need for our houses. Twenty-nine submissions have been received to date. We will work with them to add to the list of made-in-the-NWT components for our houses.

Housing projects also provide much needed employment in our communities. We are working to maximize training and employment opportunities for local people on housing, and other GNWT building construction projects. To test the key elements of the building and learning strategy, 24 trainees are on the job in six pilot communities, and they are doing very well.

Over 250 copies of a draft version of the building and learning strategy were sent out to MLAs, the construction industry, aboriginal groups, communities and contractors. The response has been very positive and supportive. The strategy will be tabled in this session.

That concludes my remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, very much.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the opening remarks. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

SCOF report on the NWT Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

SCOF report. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Antoine, proceed.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ANTOINE:

This is with regard to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Housing continues to be a prominent concern of the committee. The Minister and the corporation are continuing efforts to solve the critical housing shortage in the Northwest Territories. These efforts are being undertaken in the midst of federal cost-sharing reductions and eliminations.

Committee Motion 48-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 20, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation negotiate, on an urgent basis, with the new federal government to reinstate some form of cost sharing to support social housing programs. The cost sharing arrangement should reflect the federal government's fiduciary responsibility to provide housing to aboriginal people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

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AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister noted his intention to continue to work closely with the Advisory Committee on Social Housing. In the standing committee's view, the advisory committee is not working effectively. Meetings are rarely called and advice is not sought from the Members. Members find this disturbing, particularly, given the current crisis situation in meeting housing needs. The Standing Committee on Finance would like to see the terms of reference for the Advisory Committee reviewed, with a view to either strengthening or dissolving this group.

The committee acknowledges the corporations' work in developing a variety of housing programs including: access to home ownership; rent supplement; senior citizen's home repair; and, home owner improvement. However, the committee encourages the corporation to continue to explore alternative means of providing housing that is cost-effective and meets the needs of the communities.

Committee Members noted that there is confusion about the corporation's programs in the communities. The confusion results from the fact that there is both an access program and an access housing unit. The committee suggests that the corporation review this situation and take whatever action is required to eliminate this confusion.

Members feel that various regions and communities should have some flexibility in accessing government support housing. This could be accomplished through some type of "block funding arrangement." The added benefit of this type of arrangement would be that the decisions could be made at the community level. The committee is impressed with the "build and learn" strategy being implemented by the corporation.

That's the standing committee's response to the Housing Corporation, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine, for the presentation. What is the wish of the committee? Is the Minister of the

Housing Corporation prepared to go line by line? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Do you want to get into general comments, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I have permission to bring my witnesses in?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, before we get into general comments, can we have the concurrence of the committee that the honourable Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed, Mr. Minister. The committee will come to order. Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses, please.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witness is the President of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Larry Elkin.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Whitford.

General Comments

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments will be brief. I was just going to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on the efforts he's making in such an important area -- at least I've heard in this House how important it is for the smaller communities -- as housing, as it is elevated to the highest priority. I

believe the Minister has taken that initiative and has gone forward to Ottawa to lobby strongly on behalf of the people that are in dire need of housing.

This is one of the most critical things in the north because of the environment that we live in. I just wanted to take this opportunity to ask the Minister to encourage that effort. Some of the larger communities are a little bit better off, there is a private market that can take care of things.

That said, Mr. Chairman, it shouldn't be taken that the larger communities are to be forgotten. I will just put a little plug in for our city here. Although we have a good, private market, there is still a need for public housing because there are a lot of people who cannot afford to live in commercial units and do require public housing.

We have a number of units that are under the control of the Housing Corporation here in Yellowknife and, in my opinion -- from what I've been able to ascertain over the years that I've been an MLA -- there are far too few. Keep in mind that the city here does attract a tremendous number of people from the outlying communities. They come here for a variety of reasons, be they medical, social or economic reasons. We have facilities here that are not found anywhere else and consequently they attract people from the communities for long-term medical treatment. We do need public housing that people in those particular categories can afford.

In addition to that, I think it shouldn't be forgotten that Yellowknife is probably the largest aboriginal community in the territories. We have many, many hundreds of aboriginal peoples that live here in this community. We should keep that in mind when allocating housing. I know that in the city and in some of the larger communities, they are not eligible for the HAP program. That, too, is a detriment to aboriginal people, Dene and Metis people, that require and should benefit from those type of programs.

I would certainly encourage the Minister to continue to look at ways and means of cutting down those barriers that prevent Dene and Metis people that live in the city, from being eligible for HAP housing outside of the areas that are already

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designated Ndilo and Dettah. A good number of people do live in other areas and they would certainly appreciate the consideration.

Just to reiterate the point I was making, Yellowknife has a large aboriginal population and people do come here for the variety of reasons I stated. They make their living here, and make their life here. It is unfortunate that we don't have enough housing to take care of them. With that, I just wanted to thank the Minister for the effort he's made, wish him good luck and promise him our support when it comes to his efforts in Ottawa. Those are my comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Whitford, don't forget there are Inuit living in Yellowknife. Okay.

---Laughter

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. There is a motion to report progress and the motion is not debatable. I'm told that we do have a quorum. 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

The chair will rise and report progress. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Morin and staff.

MR. SPEAKER:

Before we turn to the orders of the day, I would like to give a warm thanks to two pages who have been with us all week from Coppermine, to Barbara Panioyak and Christabelle Westwood. Thank you very much. You did a great job.

---Applause

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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, and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion. 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, the meeting of the Western Caucus at 7:00 pm this evening. At 9:00 am tomorrow morning of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Friday, December 3, 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

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

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

- Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act

- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act

- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act

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

- Committee Report 5-12(4), Standing Committee on Legislation Report on Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act

- Committee Report 7-12(4), Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report on the Committee Review of DeLury and Associates Limited Contracts

- Committee Report 8-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board

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- Committee Report 9-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on Arctic College

- 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 Friday, December 3, 1993 at 10:00 am.

---ADJOURNMENT