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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

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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, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Whitford

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

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

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Good morning. Orders of the day for Friday, December 3, 1993. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On "Diamonds In The Rough," Women In The Mining Trade Calendar

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, Mr. Whitford spent several hours in the Explorer Hotel, while many of us were sweating it out with the Western Constitutional Development Steering Committee. But I think he spent time to much better advantage than we did. He was fortunate enough, Mr. Speaker, to meet women called, "Diamonds in the Rough." There were nine of them who were featured on a calendar, which has been produced by these women geologists. The proceeds for the calendar will go the Walter Gibbins memorial fund, which was established in 1992. These funds will be used to purchase scientific texts and other learning materials for schools throughout the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, this calendar was inspired because the women have been rather upset by a very macho article that appeared in a national magazine showing Marlborough Country type men sitting on heavy machinery, looking across the tundra with visions of great wealth. So they decided, instead of writing an article of outrage to the editor, they would produce their own calendar. This calendar contains people like: "Wildcat Wanda," who is sitting with her packsack; "Pahoehoe Pattie," who is sitting on a float of a float plane; "Kimberlite Kate," who is also on a piece of heavy machinery wearing a hard hat;

"Polymetallic Pam; and, "Geophysical Jennifer." I won't go through the whole calendar because Members should really get this calendar for themselves and see what I consider to be a wonderful statement about women, by women, and the statement is so powerful. I wish people would do it more instead of being outraged. They should use humour to make a point, which is wonderfully stated in this calendar. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis, I think today you are an honorary "diamond in the rough." Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Spruce Hen Observations And Comparisons To Aboriginal People

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will try to use humour to make a point. Mr. Speaker, when I was driving back to Yellowknife from one of my weekend trips, on November 29, it suddenly hit me -- a spruce hen, that is.

---Laughter

I would like to assure the Members that I wasn't speeding and it was definitely the chicken's fault. Mr. Speaker, they do considerably less damage to your vehicle than a bison. As I continued on my way, I got to thinking about this spruce hen and I had this sudden inspiration. Mr. Speaker, the spruce hen is a strange bird. As we all know, they are members of the grouse family of birds and are not the smartest in the world. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, when you ring or cut off the necks of these birds, they will keep going because they are not smart enough to realize they are dead.

---Laughter

Some people have even speculated that if someone cut off my head I would continue talking.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, spruce hens are grey and white in colour and, from a distance, look like they might be eligible for affirmative action. The interesting thing about them is once you clean them, you never know what colour the meat is going to be or what they will

taste like. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, these birds eat spruce needles and store them in a little pouch in their throat for late-night snack purposes. They also eat gravel to aid in their digestion, so they taste gravelly.

Lately, Mr. Speaker, some of these chickens are on the chip seal portion of the highway between Yellowknife and Hay River, so they have this unique northern/southern taste, the sprucey, tarry kind. Mr. Speaker, the reason I am going on about these spruce hens is I am trying to use them as a symbol for one of my favourite causes, the gradual assimilation of native culture by the overpowering influence of Euro-Canadians. Over the last ten years, I have sometimes wondered if I have been successful in getting my point across.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Gargan, your allotted time has elapsed.

**MR. GARGAN:**

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

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, spruce hen are dark on the outside, but after cleaning the meat can be red or white. So, for the purpose of my statement, I'm going to call the red meat chickens, "Indian chickens," and the white meat chickens, "white chickens." You can never tell by looking at one of these birds what colour the meat will be on the inside. Mr. Speaker, as an expert on wildlife, I know that when you simmer an Indian chicken long enough, the meat will turn white.

The chicken doesn't stand alone, Mr. Speaker, in this case. There is also Indian pork that turns to pork chops and also the Indian calf that turns to veal. Mr. Speaker, my people are a lot like the spruce hen in this respect. They are in this great melting pot, being overwhelmed by white cultural influence, at the detriment of their own culture.

Mr. Speaker, the pot is boiling and the Indian chickens are getting well-done. We may not be able to put out the fire under the pot. Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to support programs, like the DCI's healing program I spoke about earlier this week, programs that encourage cultural awareness amongst aboriginal people. It is a proven fact, Mr. Speaker, that people who have pride in their heritage and pride in themselves are less of a strain upon social programs. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Northern Heritage Column In The Mackenzie Times Newspaper

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is quite rare that I look forward to reading newspapers or getting a newspaper, but the Mackenzie Times published in Fort Simpson is an exception. Not so much for the news it contains or the editorial comments that are, in themselves, okay, as the issue warrants but, Mr. Speaker, I always look forward to the back page of the Mackenzie Times. There is a column entitled, "Northern Heritage." The editor, Joe Mercredi, who is originally from Fort Smith, is a product of a very colourful career culminating in the editorship of a newspaper, among other things.

He has managed to capture the true essence of a northern history recount. I, and many readers were born and raised here, in the north, and grew up at a time when great changes were happening here and abroad. The problem at that time was, unlike today when events can occur anywhere in the world and we hear of those events almost instantaneously through our communications network, we did not know what was going on. About 40 or 50 years ago, when I was growing up, it took months to get news and the news was in bits and pieces here and there. It was difficult to link those things together given our communications at the time.

The Northern Heritage column brings much of the northern history together in a series of articles recounting those events. Each week names bring back a flood of memories: the old steamboats; the Royal Canadian Corps signals; the Hudson's Bay;

and, the church. But, by far the most interesting articles I read, which really plucked away at my heart strings, have been the articles on the residential schools that Mr. Mercredi seems to have gleaned from a number of books and, of course, the grey nuns. This is the latest article that has been featured in this column.

It goes back many, many years, back into...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, your allotted time has elapsed.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

I seek unanimous consent to conclude, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. It recounts the history of the grey nuns, from the time they were formed in Quebec. It describes their history of the provinces and, eventually, their activities in the territories, here. Sadly, the articles will probably conclude with an article that will say how few of this very distinguished group of young women are left, who were such a powerful influence on people of my generation. I recognize many of the faces in the pictures that accompany these articles. It is quite refreshing.

Just to conclude, Mr. Speaker, this column seems to have really captured the essence of northern history and recounts it from a different perspective. I think we need to see more of this, before history is lost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Absence Of Ministers In The House

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on Ministers' absences from this

Legislature. Mr. Speaker, since the opening on November 17, there have been only three days when all Ministers have been available to this House. Although the Cabinet may believe all of these absences were necessary, I would like to advise that it has been noted by Members that the working of the House has been seriously hindered by the absences of Ministers.

Some of these absences could have been handled in a different manner, ensuring that the work of this House continued at a steady pace. It has impeded the ability of this House to proceed with the review of the budget as originally planned. On behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, I would like to ask that Ministers make every effort to be in attendance at all proceedings of the House in order that we might expeditiously complete the business of the House and better serve the people of the territories. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudlat on December 2, 1993, about Public Works and Services maintenance positions in Sanikiluaq. The department has two positions in Sanikiluaq, a power plant operator/supervisor and a settlement maintainer.

The power plant operator/maintenance supervisor position in Sanikiluaq has been vacant for five months. The department is now operating the plant through contracted services. Responsibility for the operation of the Sanikiluaq power plant is scheduled to be transferred to the NWT Power Corporation in April, 1994. The NWT Power Corporation will be hiring a power plant operator who will be replacing the department's contracted services. The department did not want to staff a position that is scheduled to be transferred to another organization.

The settlement maintainer position has been vacant since the end of May, 1993. A Sanikiluaq resident

was hired on a casual basis, for June and July. A plumber with the department, in Igloodik, handled maintenance responsibilities until mid-September. Since then, the department has contracted with a Sanikiluaq company, J T Ann Construction, for maintenance services. Two staffing competitions have been held. The first was unsuccessful. The second competition has just recently closed and the results should be known shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 82-12(4): Review Of Mining Activities And Developments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Ng on November 24.

Mr. Speaker, mineral development in the NWT has the potential to provide significant opportunities for training and employment of northern residents, for new business development and new public infrastructure.

We must work in partnership with the industry, aboriginal organizations, our communities and the federal government to remove barriers and secure commitments so that benefits flow not only from new projects, but also from ongoing exploration and production activities.

These and many other issues will be addressed in a comprehensive NWT mineral strategy, which is presently being prepared and will be available for public consultation in the very near future.

Mining can be a very uncertain business. Projects may or may not be built, or could be delayed many years. The actions we take, in relation to potential projects, must therefore be compatible with their timing and status.

For mining projects which have proceeded to the advanced exploration and feasibility study stage, such as diamond properties and Izok Lake, infrastructure issues must be addressed at an early stage, due to their long lead times necessary. Led by the Minister of Transportation, we have devoted considerable effort to raise awareness of, and support for, construction of a road to link our existing road system

to new mining properties and the proposed port near Coppermine.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the NWT Power Corporation have been working with mining companies for a number of months, on studies to identify sites for new hydroelectric facilities. A study has also been completed on the possible use of oil from the Mackenzie Delta for these new projects.

Ongoing efforts to increase literacy and encourage residents to return to school are vitally important to ensuring that northerners benefit from new employment opportunities. The government will also be investigating the feasibility of transportation subsidies to offset higher costs of travel for workers who live in remote communities. In order to assist us in making decisions on investing for new jobs, the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has commissioned a study on the financial benefits the GNWT receives as a result of new jobs being created in the mining industry.

The planning and implementation of training programs needs to track the status of potential new projects, depending on whether they are at advanced exploration, the feasibility study stage or construction and operation. For proposals such as Izok Lake, we have completed the necessary advance work to assess the skills of potential workers in the Kitikmeot communities to refine the actual job profiles. The actual training programs are being developed through Arctic College.

With several properties now being bulk sampled for diamonds, work on skills assessment and job profiles for diamond projects in the Lac de Gras area will need to start up in the new year.

Prior to construction of a new mine, a training package with the new operator needs to be finalized. For example, discussions will begin shortly on a training package for the Colomac Mine.

A benefits agreement must be entered into, between a mining company and the relevant aboriginal organizations or our government, prior to the start-up of a new mine. The GNWT has provided funding to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to support their negotiations for the critically important IIBA with Metall Mining Corporation for the Izok Lake project.

Arrangements on business opportunities would be captured in a benefits agreement for a new project. A study on strategies to improve NWT business

opportunities related to the ongoing mining and exploration activity in the NWT was planned for completion last summer, but was delayed due to several unforeseen problems. We expect it to be available by January, at the latest. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is also planning to establish an office to handle industrial benefits from major projects.

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We are pursuing the devolution of responsibilities for minerals. Devolution will enable us to obtain a share of the revenues from mining activities, will give us legislative powers over the management of territorial benefits and the ability to more effectively encourage and promote increased mining activity for the long-term benefit of northerners.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of work is being done to ensure that benefits from mining activities accrue to northerners. This covers some of the highlights. I will also be tabling a paper about our overall approach to mining. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question that was asked by Mr. Charles Dent, on December 2, 1993, regarding the child day care symposium delegate selection.

Eighty-six delegates from across the Northwest Territories participated in the recent child day care symposium held in Yellowknife on September 24 to 26, 1993.

Licensed child care programs, child day care committees and other interest groups were each invited to select one representative to attend the symposium. To ensure representation from every community, invitations were sent to the hamlet offices where there were no licensed child day care programs or active child day care committees.

A comprehensive report of the proceedings is currently being printed and will be forwarded to each delegate. As well, all delegates will be receiving --

and MLAs have received -- the summary of recommendations from the symposium. These recommendations will assist the department in the development of a child day care policy.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. 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. Allooloo.

**ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 45-12(4), comparison of disputed adjusted bids which shows the unsuccessful bidder, Simon Merkosak, should have been awarded the contract if the proper adjustments were used in applying the northern and local business criteria of the business incentive policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 46-12(4), a letter from one of my constituents in Gjoa Haven, regarding the social assistance food allowance rate reduction. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

**ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 3-12(4): Amendments To The Hours Of Service Regulations And Large Vehicle Control Regulations

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 6, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that the Minister of Transportation

immediately consult truckers and workers in the construction industry with a view to amending the hours of service regulations and the large vehicles control regulations so as to expand the hours that may be worked by truckers employed in the construction industry;

And further, consultation should also be held with a view to remove the requirement for an overweight permit for those truckers operating in the geographic area of a construction site.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

Bill 5: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 6, 1993, I shall move that Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

Bill 6: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, December 6, 1993, I shall move that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement; 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), 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

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Transport Board; Committee Report 9-12(4), Final Report on Arctic College; and, Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops. With the authority given to me by Motion 1-12(4) regarding sitting hours, I will put the Assembly into committee of the whole, until the committee is prepared to report, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday we were in general comments of the NWT Housing Corporation. What is the wish of the committee? Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, we would like to address the Department of Renewable Resources. If we are completed, we would like to look at the NWT Power Corporation. Since we have noted Mr. Pollard is back, we would like to get into the Department of Health. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we agree that we will stand down the Housing Corporation and go to Renewable Resources, NWT Power Corporation and the Department of Health, in that order? Do you agree?

**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 Renewable Resources

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does the Minister of Renewable Resources have opening remarks? Mr. Kakfwi.

Introductory Remarks

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have introductory remarks for the committee. Mr. Speaker, the proposed budget for the department's 1994-95 capital estimates is similar to previous years. The proposed items are the usual requests for equipment, renovations to existing office complexes, warehouses for storage, facilities for forest fire operations and construction of new offices where office space cannot be leased.

Facility conditions are evaluated based on reports and standards from the Department of Public Works and Services. The remaining capital items are to replace or purchase equipment, usually for field or research staff in communities. The public expects us to work with people out on the land. Without snowmobiles, boats and motors, it is difficult to provide departmental services to these people or to conduct studies. I welcome the comments of the Standing Committee on Finance and look forward to discussing the capital estimates. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine, do you have opening remarks from the Standing Committee on Finance?

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Renewable Resources, the committee noted that the department is planning to spend \$458,000, in the fiscal year 1994-95, for mobile equipment in all regions. The project substantiations provided to the committee show a long inventory of snowmobiles, ATVs, boats and

outboard motors. Many of these requests appear to duplicate those made in the previous year. When questioned by the committee, the Minister advised that the department relies on replacement standards developed by Public Works and Services to replace mobile equipment for field operations personnel.

Committee Members feel that the department could cut back on expenditures for mobile equipment without hampering the efficiency of the department. One means of achieving savings is to lease locally-owned equipment as necessary. The committee also believes that the process used in disposing of capital equipment can be improved. Therefore, the committee makes the following recommendation.

Committee Motion 49-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 18, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Renewable Resources reduce its mobile equipment inventory in all regions. This reduction in inventory and the related savings in capital dollars should be demonstrated in 1994-95 and subsequent fiscal years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The motion is in order. To the motion. There is no quorum. Thank you. There is a motion on the floor by the Standing Committee on Finance.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried.

Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

In last year's report, the committee recommended that the department's video equipment budget of \$10,000 be removed and that the activity be privatized. This item was removed for the fiscal year 1993-94, but the capital budget for the fiscal year 1994-95 shows proposed expenditures of \$115,000. The activity has, obviously, not been privatized. The committee is not convinced that it is necessary



to expend government funds to invest in video production facilities. There are private sector resources capable of providing the required service, most likely at a lower cost.

Committee Motion 50-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 19, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the funding identified for video equipment for the fiscal year 1994-95 be deleted, pending a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of all feasible options for acquiring the required services. The options considered should include the following, as a minimum:

-in-house productions;

-development of a government-wide video production facility; and,

-use of private sector resources to provide the required service.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. 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

Continue, Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the Standing Committee on Finance's report. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Would the honourable Minister like to bring in his witnesses? Mr. Minister, for the record, would you introduce your witness please.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me the deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Joe Handley. Mr. Rick Feil, the director of finance for the department, will be joining us shortly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page 10-7 of the capital estimates. General comments. Mr. Koe.

General Comments

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some general comments in the area of environmental protection. Earlier this week, my colleague from the Kitikmeot, mentioned some of the contaminants under the sea, and the inability of the federal government and our government to determine what's there and whether they are contaminating the water.

I have other concerns in terms of a lot of the other issues from pulp mill effluents, that come down the rivers that feed into the Mackenzie and, subsequently, flow downstream into the Beaufort Sea. I know this department is responsible for the administration of the Environmental Protection Act and the Pesticides Act. I'm just wondering what kinds of things the department is doing in terms of enforcing and looking after the areas under the Environmental Protection Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

The deputy minister will take the question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will break my area into three main areas. First of all, on the Mackenzie River basin. We have been working with the other provinces that share the basin, BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and the federal government, to come up with a trans-boundary water agreement that will put some control on the kind of pollutants that end up in that water system. Those negotiations have been going on for basically 12

years now. We're reaching the point where the provinces are in agreement with us and I believe the federal government is onside.

We will have a trans-boundary water agreement in place, hopefully by late next spring. That agreement will be a basis of understanding on both water quality and water quantity in the Mackenzie. Of particular concern to us are the pollutants coming out of the pulp mills. In terms of ocean dumping and the contaminants in the ocean, all of the water in the ocean is under federal responsibility. We continue to monitor what is happening, and in January we will be receiving a report from the federal government on pollutants and other matter that is in the ocean that the federal government knows about.

Our role there is simply to monitor and pressure the government to do whatever we can, in terms of ensuring that material that is potentially harmful doesn't end up in the ocean. The position of our government and our department is basically, no ocean dumping. We don't feel it is necessary to dump anything untreated into the ocean. Last year, there was an issue of scrap metal and I think that issue clearly outlined our position.

The third area of responsibility has to do with Quebec Hydro's plan to build a large dam on the Great Whale River. Whenever water is dammed up like that there is a creation of some pollution that ends up in the waters. In this case, it would probably be mercury from flooded forests. We are working with Quebec Hydro and with the federal government to try to come to an agreement that there will be a thorough assessment done of the impact of that project on Sanikiluaq and the Belcher Islands, as well as the whole Hudson Bay, before it goes ahead.

Again, we're negotiating that one. We haven't come to any final terms in terms of how the assessment will be done or what the guidelines will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Your response raises a whole slew of other questions. You mentioned Quebec Hydro, and on our back step there is tremendous hydro development

in the Snare Lake area. I'm just curious, what type of work are you doing before these developments take place, such as base studies before the hydro dam is put into place. One of the concerns is that we don't seem to have any baseline information so that once a project is developed or once a contamination occurs, we have something to measure the impact of that contamination. I'm just curious, what are you doing as a department to investigate potential hydro developments in the Dogrib country?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, we have not done anything yet in terms of collecting baseline data, specifically for the proposed Snare River hydro dam. As this project gets close to reality, we will be collecting the baseline data that would be necessary.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

The same type of question goes for the water contamination and pollutants that flow into the Mackenzie River basin. I know when I was in the negotiating business, that was a major concern of people who were downstream from where the contamination seemingly occurs. Neither government, federal or territorial, could accurately say that this was there before and this is what is there today. All we know is that our fish species are being contaminated and, in some areas, water doesn't taste the same as it used to. People in the communities notice these things so they're concerned.

Scientifically, no one can say for certain this is what is happening. I'd just like to ask, again, what are you doing in that area at this time?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the main activity we're participating in right now is what is called the northern rivers basin study which is a federally-funded study of northern rivers, primarily in Alberta, looking at all pollutants in

the river but specifically at the pulp mill impact. We have a fair bit of information right now on dioxins and toxicants which have both come from the pulp mills or, possibly, from some flooding which happened.

We continue to monitor it and are doing some studies. We, of course, feel there could be more done. However, we're doing whatever we can within the resources we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How exactly is this monitoring done? Do you have equipment? What type of testing are you doing? How do you determine levels of contaminants and dioxins in water? Do you have a science lab somewhere or do you use federal labs, or whatever, in other places?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

We're relying on the federal government, at this point, to provide the equipment and to do most of the analysis themselves, although our people do participate at times. They have the equipment. Also, the pulp mills have some equipment and do a fair bit of testing themselves, in terms of the pollutants from their specific operation. We don't have that kind of equipment ourselves.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I find that interesting because, obviously, the pulp mills are going to be a bit biased on the type of information they release and, in some cases, I would assume the federal government too because of the amounts of subsidies they may put into some of these businesses to keep them going.

The reason for my line of questioning, Mr. Chairman, is that there is \$25,000 going to be allocated for, I assume, safety. It says tools and equipment but, in your mandate, the division requires safety and other technical equipment. I'm just curious, how much

safety and technical equipment can we buy for \$25,000? When I was younger, I worked for Fisheries and Oceans and I know the types of equipment they need to analyze dioxins and toxicants in water and air are in the millions of dollars, so \$25,000 is not very much. We're responsible, as a government, for these areas. I would have assumed there would be more allocations for technical equipment to be bought.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the only equipment we're proposing to buy this year is air sampling equipment which will be used for the Giant Mine emissions, Snare Hydro and so on. It's a mobile facility, trailer type facility.

Inland water is still the responsibility of the federal government. I suppose, until that becomes our responsibility, we wouldn't be investing heavily in water sampling equipment. The federal government does have a fairly extensive water lab and we have to rely, at this point, on their analysis. We do participate and monitor what they are doing, though.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that it's currently a federal responsibility for the waters. You've said that, obviously, there are concerns and there are no current ocean dumping sites. I pointed out in my statement a couple of days ago, that it's also recognized that in the past there have been ocean dumping sites. Are those sites now identified? I had posed that question to the Minister that day, but he wasn't quite sure, so I'm just trying to get that clarified.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the federal government is doing an identification inventory of those sites and so on. We expect to receive a report on ocean disposals and so on, in January, 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

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**MR. NG:**

Is the federal government being pursued for an initiative to clean up the sites they know of?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Under the environment protection strategy, there is a provision for the federal government to clean up the sites. They are doing them. I don't have the order in which they're doing them with me, but they have a list and an order of the sequence in which they're doing it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

So, currently, obviously, they have undertaken to identify some of these sites and you have some information available. Could you make that available to myself?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Yes we could.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. I have Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I will allow Mrs. Marie-Jewell to go ahead of me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a couple of questions with regard to Renewable Resources recognizing the commitment of the government to build a tanker base facility in Fort Smith. I'd like to ask the Minister whether the size of the tanker base has yet been determined by the government, and whether the comprehensive fire management review study has been completed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask Members to accept that unless they want me to personally try to answer these questions, I'm much more comfortable in referring all the questions to the deputy minister. I have great interest in this department and have been getting briefed, but the level of confidence is heavily on the side of the deputy minister, at this time. Just to make sure the answers are good answers for the Members, I will be deferring all the responses to the deputy minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your comments are noted. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The size of the hangar has not yet been determined. That will be determined once the analysis of the fire program review has been completed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Last year, during the budget process, I asked when we determined this review to be completed. I recognize the review is under O and M, Mr. Chairman. However, the tanker base -- whether it's going to be through an O and M lease or whatever -- is a capital infrastructure. I'd like to ask the deputy minister when he anticipates the study will be completed, in order to determine the size. I think that's the major stumbling block now that's holding up proceedings of construction of that tanker base. I'd like to know if he can confirm that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the consultant has finished his work. We are doing some further analysis within the department. I expect the review will be totally completed within the next month to six weeks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

During the last session the previous Minister made a commitment that that review would be completed by the end of May. Recognizing that it won't be completed for another month to six weeks, you are looking at a good ten months later than you initially anticipated. Would it be appropriate to anticipate, because of the completion of this study, that has placed an impediment on determining the size? Therefore, progress on that tanker base being built is very slow. Can I receive comment on that, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, it is impossible to design the hangar or decide the size of it, until we have the fire program review completed. It is slower than what we had anticipated. It has been a more complex task than we thought it would be.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I am trying to find out when they would anticipate construction of this hangar. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If everything went well and we were able to begin planning the design for the hangar by February, then construction could be started within a matter of three or four months, although DPW could tell me better. But I expect it would be somewhere in that range, to finish the design and enter into a contract with someone to build it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is, providing everything goes well. If the study is not completed until February, and they don't anticipate problems, you will probably look at three months from February for any type of construction. You are looking, again, into the next fire season. We have tried to say, each year as we pass the fire season, many of those benefits keep going to the south, as opposed to staying in the north. Once the study is completed, then the whole proposal package has to not only go to DPW for construction, but through the Cabinet process for the funding

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required. At the earliest date, when would they anticipate proceeding with construction for this tanker base?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, I think the earliest date we could look at would be some time this coming summer. That is, assuming there are no major problems and we would get supplementary money to build the hangar, because we don't have the money in this budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

It has been noted there is no money in this budget. It has also been noted that the process in getting this construction started has been extremely slow. As well, the government has made a commitment. Is the

Minister aware of any indication of the government renegeing on that commitment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman. The commitment has been to see this project through to completion. I am not sure it is not unconditional. There are probably some general conditions attached to this project going ahead. But, at this time, I don't see any major problems. As a government, we are trying to be rational about the approach we are taking. The review is happening, there are discussions going on with DPW, in trying to figure out the design we need and the type of use this facility is going to have. It is going to take some time to determine the amount of money we need to budget for it. I understand the Member's desire to get this project dealt with speeded up, but everyone is trying the best they can under the conditions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I believe it is the intention to try to get this project moved, but I just want to make the comment that it is certainly my intention to attempt...The academic building is going to proceed with construction after April 1, in Fort Smith. At the same time, if all goes well, as Mr. Handley stated, they would be looking at construction early in the summer or late spring for the tanker base.

I am trying to avoid having to import resource people to construct these facilities. We want to maximize as many local people as we can. It is noted the way the government is planning we would not be able to totally utilize only local labour. In order to try to keep the dollars and local labour fully busy throughout the season, these types of projects should be addressed accordingly so you can avoid bringing in southern resource people to build these facilities. I am somewhat concerned that you have two major projects going on simultaneously, whereas this past year, the social assistance in my community has probably skyrocketed compared to any other community. Therefore, the poor planning of the government is being reflected once again. I am concerned about that. That is one thing the Cabinet should look at. That is the purpose of community

consultation and planning. I just wanted to make that comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, last year, if memory serves me right, there was some money identified for Fort Providence. I thought that was approved. I see the deputy minister shaking his head, so maybe I don't have my head on right. Could I get some clarification on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did have money in the budget last year to do some renovations to an office building, in fact, I think it may have been to build a new office. But we received information that the town was looking at a new plan. At this time, we were asked not to proceed with it, effectively by Mr. Gargan, until this plan was resolved. We have been in contact with MACA and the community, and have asked them to let us know whenever the new plans for the town are finalized. At that point we'll decide what we're going to do. In the meantime we have patched up the existing building to make do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that, but I still don't know whether that whole community planning process has been resolved. I have copies of the maps where they have designated certain areas as residential areas and commercial areas. I would prefer that the lots along the river banks be designated as residential areas. As long as the community is resolving that, we will have to wait and see.

The other thing, too, Mr. Chairman, is under the new tax law, the reserve, although it has exemptions in some areas these wouldn't apply any more to reserve residents who are on payrolls outside the reserve. It is still the same for establishments on the reserve who have payrolls going out of the reserve. I wanted

to mention that. I realize the forestry operation is now in Hay River. In order to be tax exempt in any way, they have to be physically on the reserve.

I believe the department is now looking at a seven year contract with Evergreen Forestry. I appreciate that. Perhaps in your plans you may want to look at relocating so that the operation is actually in the town. And, of course, it will cost the government less because if tax doesn't apply, perhaps the operation would also cost less. Just give it some thought. Kakisa is requesting that they have a special crew there, too. That is under O and M. It has been agreed to by Evergreen, I understand. Just give it your best. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

I have no comment. I think the advice is good.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

With regard to labs, we have Renewable Resources labs in Fort Providence mainly for testing bison. Providence is an area where you really should have some kind of lab to test water quality, to indicate, for the rest of the communities down the river whether the water is safe. That

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has been agreed. I realize that Providence would be the first one hit if contaminants were to be detected. I would hope that in your long-term plans it will be planned for. It is not good enough to have the federal government testing.

You say you monitor, but how much monitoring do you do? I just don't know how you can have a person there 100 per cent of the time watching the testing, but not really knowing how the results of those tests are determined. If we do have a person who knows how to determine the results of those tests then we should keep that person up here to do our own monitoring on water quality.

Again, this is a concern. I think Fred mentioned deformed fish. I mentioned that too. We also see a

lot of dead fish in the river. I can't answer for the fish, but I know that something is definitely wrong because those fish cannot just up and die without answers. That concern will be expressed every year, I suppose, and it is going to start being expressed increasingly by other Members along the river I am sure.

I did hear on the 8:30 news yesterday, about these fish being caught in Fort Good Hope, too. Their feeling is that it is from the oil field. People are raising concerns. In order for us to get some confident answers, we cannot keep relying on other research labs to do our tests for us. I think we should hire our own people and start doing it ourselves and ensure the levels that are determined are the actual levels.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that the department is continuously pressuring the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Department of the Environment, to do the work they are responsible for, such as monitoring the quality of water and doing testing of fish. That is their responsibility. There is a down side to getting too involved in that we start spending money in areas that are actually the responsibility of a different government.

We could probably give Members an idea of how much it would cost us if we should some day get into the business of testing water quality in some capacity and doing testing of fish. I think if that's what Members want we could ask the staff to give us an idea of how much it would cost to do the type of work that the Member is suggesting and give the information to Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

The other thing, too, because of the great resource we have, the reserve requested the department to see whether they might be able to use Swot Lake for cultural programs. I don't think the department has supported that. Swot Lake is used sometimes in the summer, but it is not used all the time. In the last several years it hasn't been used and even if it is used it is in a very limited way.

Swot Lake was first established to look at fires around that area. Now there is less fire in our area, but we have about eight buildings that aren't used. We hope that you would look at having those facilities used, if not for cultural programs then at least open it during the winter months so that other organizations can use it. Even schools in Hay River, for example, should be able to have trips out there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, Swot Lake is what we call a satellite base. It's a camp we build for use by fire crews when there's a fire in that area. The amount of use, of course, as Mr. Gargan said, depends on the number of fires or the chances of fires in that area. We would be certainly willing to make that facility available for groups of students, for example, who want to go out there, provided it was available if our fire crew needed it. We would require first call on it.

I had a meeting with the deputy ministers of Education and Social Services recently, and we're looking at those kinds of options to jointly develop plans for camps to get young people out into the bush.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, last year, or this fire season, the department has gone way over budget with regard to expenditures. One of the things fire tower operators in my own constituency noted, where there was a limited amount of fire, was a number of choppers that are flying around even though they have fire towers there. I think we really have to look at the establishment of more fire towers and fewer choppers. It's a lot easier on your own if you have fire towers, as opposed to choppers flying 16 hours a day to spot fires. I know fire tower operators are always saying to me, "What are those choppers doing? I'm already doing the job." But they still have choppers flying in their vicinity.

I know the Nahendeh Member isn't here, but last year Renewable Resources met in Fort Simpson and I was there for that meeting too. One of the requests they made, as part of their plans, was to look at fire towers

being established in Wrigley, Sibbeston Hill, Redknife Hill and the Horn Mountains. Those are different areas in which you might want to establish fire towers so you cut down on the amount...I'm certainly not trying to take away from the helicopter companies, but it seems to me that for the amount of costs we incurred this year, one of the things to consider is how you can most effectively deliver the programs in a given season without going overboard. At least with fire towers, you know. They operate from May to October, and you know how much it will cost to pay the person to stay there and the amount of chopper services they require every other week. I think those can be determined. But you can't determine how many flying hours a chopper will work. Because of that you run into quite a large expenditure.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Once Mr. Gargan is finished with his general comments, we will take a short break. Mr. Gargan, do you have more questions? Okay? Thank you. We will take a break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The committee will now come to order. Before the short break, we were on general comments. I had Mr. Pudlat and then Mr. Antoine. Mr. Pudlat.

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**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had mentioned earlier that you would be working closely with the Quebec hydro project. I was happy to hear this, but I have a comment to make. One of the communities I represent is Sanikiluaq, and Sanikiluaq is pretty close to the communities that are going to be affected by the hydro project. I cannot tell you exactly what the location of the land is that I am concerned about it. I haven't seen it yet.

There has been some damage done to the land that I am referring to, however. When I visited the community of Sanikiluaq, some projects had gone ahead with regard to the hydro project. After these projects proceeded, geese were no longer landing in the area where they used to land in Sanikiluaq. Some geese have been found nearby that are dying because of the pollution from Great Whale River.



The people of the north depend very much on northern country food. They hunt northern wildlife. As the project proceeds I think there are going to be more communities and camps established near the hydro project. I understand that Great Whale River residents have been asked questions with regard to the hydro project. There were some studies done but Sanikiluaq was not included in these studies. There were questions that Sanikiluaq residents would have had many answers for the project topics.

If the hydro project in Great Whale River goes ahead and they establish tailings sites, I will be concerned about the wildlife habitat. I am afraid they will be exposed to contaminants. I understand this is being looked into. There is a feasibility study being done with regard to this. I am going to request that with the environmental studies that are being done, we are kept informed with regard to what is happening because I am very concerned about the project, the wildlife and our environment. Hopefully, the Minister understood my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. As the Minister indicated earlier, he wants the deputy minister to respond to questions unless Members specifically request the Minister to answer the question. In that case, the Minister will endeavour to answer the question. If the Minister wishes to respond to the question, I'll leave it to his discretion. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern of the MLA for Sanikiluaq about the land and water around that area is one that this government took account of a couple of years ago when this issue first arose in the Legislature. The Member's concerns have been taken into account and the government has taken this project very seriously. At this time, there are a number of processes in place to look at the impact of this proposal from Quebec Hydro on the area.

One of the things that Quebec Hydro was asked to do was to look at the offshore issues and impacts that their project is going to have, for instance, in the area around Sanikiluaq and, generally, the area on the east side of Hudson's Bay and James Bay. The other thing that Quebec Hydro was asked to do was conduct a consultation program with Sanikiluaq. The company presented their environmental impact study this fall, in September. We've reviewed the study and

are presently preparing to send letters to the federal Ministers involved with this to indicate our position.

We will be arguing that the document that Quebec Hydro has prepared is inadequate. It doesn't meet the minimum guidelines they were asked to meet. In short, we don't think they've done a very good job at all with their study and it should be redone and rewritten so there's more information on the impact that the project is going to have on Hudson's Bay and, specifically, on the Belcher Islands.

I understand that the people from Sanikiluaq will be taking the same position, since they too have reviewed the document and have expressed the same concerns as we have. The Nunavut Coalition of the Keewatin will also be taking the same approach. We've been working with these groups to make sure we're all aware of what we're doing, the things we're saying and to make sure there is some coordination in the approach we take. That's the information we have. Once we received that study, we met with the Department of Renewable Resources, and Justice met with representatives from Sanikiluaq and the other two groups, Nunavut Tunngavik and the Nunavut Coalition of the Keewatin, in Montreal, recently to discuss the concerns. As I said, it was shared equally by all Members that the study was totally inadequate. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I have Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My general comments to the Department of Renewable Resources are with regard to one part of the mandate of the department. Like many Members who spoke, my concern is the environmental protection measures. In my constituency we have two rivers joining. One is the Deh Cho, and a lot of the water comes from the provinces of Alberta and BC. The other one is the Liard River which comes in from BC. My constituents have been telling me for the last few years that the water quality is getting worse. The fish quality is also getting bad. An example is, last summer one of the elders who has a fish net out of Simpson showed me some fish that were in very bad shape. The fish we call suckers had big sores on them. The fish we call pickerel had big sores on them and the white fish as well. He was telling me that it's been like that most of the summer.

We gave about four or five different species of fish to a renewable resource officer to see what the problem was. They took them and we haven't heard what happened to these fish. My concern is that the people we represent in here bring these issues to us, and we bring them to the Department of Renewable Resources because there is no other place in the north where we can take animals and fish off the land to get them tested. We don't have the resources ourselves.

This is the only department in the north that has a mandate to provide environmental protection measures. One of the goals is that the quality of the environment is protected and enhanced. Based on these departmental mandates and goals, I would like to know what I can do. Is there a process or system in place so that whenever a constituency has concern about the quality of fish and animals I could take it to this department. I would like to be assured that tests are done on these animals and that the results of the tests are made known

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to me, or to the people who are concerned. I would like to know if there is a system in place for us.

I heard from the honourable Members in this House today that there is a great deal of concern about the environment. We are all aware that the animals that we've known to be on the land and in the water...their conditions are deteriorating. There is nothing we can do to stop it, but at least what we can do is try to identify what the problem is. In a very speedy manner, it would be good to do that. I would just like to hear from the department, a satisfactory reply to my concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The last comments made by Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Antoine are dealing with capital estimates because we are talking about capital testing equipment, so I will allow the Minister to respond to the question. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

With regard to the Member's concern about fish samples being taken and the results not being known, the deputy minister has taken note of it. We will specifically deal with this information and get back to the Member with that. We're not aware of those specific examples.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

My other concern was...maybe I could rephrase it. Does the department have equipment, a lab, or some place of a capital nature for whenever there are samples like fish, for example, to be tested to see what is causing them to be in the poor shape they are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the department has labs for dealing with mammals, like foxes, caribou and so on, but we don't have facilities or specialists to deal with fish. As I said before, that's a federal responsibility right now. When you give us samples like this we would have to take them to the federal government and they would do the more thorough analysis of it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know where the labs are for the mammals. As for the fish, where would the federal Department of Fisheries labs be? Has the department ever thought of putting a capital facility to test the fish, themselves? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the headquarters for the Arctic for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is in Winnipeg. That's where they would do most of their analysis. The federal government does have a water lab here, but they don't do extensive work on fish and so on in the north. Quite often we have found that the fish samples we have been sent have had to go to independent labs, because sometimes the research is very specific and even the federal government doesn't do that themselves. They contract it to independent operations. I

think Calgary, for example, is one where I have seen products come back from.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Has the department ever considered putting up a testing lab of that nature in the north? I ask that because we have more and more waterborne pollutants coming into our waters. We're going to be seeing more and more reason to test the fish because many of our people along the river eat the fish. With all the different pollution that is going into the rivers, we're going to see a decline in the fish. I would just like to know if the department has any plans to put some form of testing for fish in the north. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

We have not looked at the feasibility of setting up a lab where we could do water samples or fish samples and so on, yet. Primarily because water is still the responsibility of the federal government, we would be taking on a responsibility that the federal government should be carrying at this point.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I would like to ask if the Department of Renewable Resources has ever approached the federal department to establish a facility to test fish in the north. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

No, we haven't raised that specific question with them, to my knowledge.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

In the area of pollution, we know there are definitely waterborne pollutants. I would like to know exactly what sort of pollution is going into the water, like everybody else. As I said earlier, in the Mackenzie in the Deh Cho a lot of the water comes out of Alberta. There are a number of rivers that go through central Alberta and there are a number of pulp mills along these rivers. As well, there are a lot of communities, farms and logging sites along these rivers. These probably add to the pollution in the river.

This is not a capital question, but since we are on general comments I would like to ask the department if they have ever identified how many pulp mills are along these rivers and how many communities are putting pollutants into the rivers? These are the two areas that I would like to identify. I'm talking about the two rivers that join in Simpson, one of them is the Mackenzie River and the other is the Liard River that flows out of British Columbia.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister, can you identify the chemical components in the basin?

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. We know how many pulp mills there are in the Mackenzie River basin area. We also know how many communities. But, in terms of the specific

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quantity of effluent and exactly what is in it, we don't measure that right now. Through the Northern Rivers basin study, which is funded by the federal government and jointly done with ourselves, BC, Alberta and so on, we are doing tests along the river. They tell us the parts per billion and so on of various chemicals in the river. But, in terms of tracing them back to specific mills, we haven't done that yet. We can provide a list of the mills and communities and so on, if you want that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Yes, if the department could provide me with that information, I would appreciate that. The final

question is in the area of air pollutants. For a number of years we've been told that the north is slowly being polluted by airborne pollutants from other parts of the world. There is a term I've heard, it is "Arctic haze," which has been used to talk about the pollution that is coming into the Arctic.

As a result of airborne pollutants certain animals like the caribou are affected. We are told that we cannot eat the kidneys of the caribou any more because of the pollution. I'm told that polar bears have mercury in them, and so forth. I would like to ask the department if this is, in fact, true and if there are any other animal species that have been tested so we know what kind of pollution is coming into our lands and where the pollution is coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Deputy Minister.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

We can still eat all the animals in the north. We can still, in fact, eat caribou kidneys. There was a study done, though, by the federal government which showed high levels of cadmium in caribou kidneys. There have also been studies done on cesium and studies done on mercury in various animals. The evidence is that all the Arctic animals, and probably all animals around the world, are showing signs of accumulating some contaminants within their system, in particular, their organs.

It is of concern to us, and our department has participated in what is called the Finnish Initiative or the Arctic Environment Strategy, where we are working with other countries that are circumpolar around the north to come up with ways of dealing with airborne pollution, in particular. Most of the pollution we are finding in the Arctic, the airborne pollution, is either coming from the south, the industrialized parts of the United States and maybe even Canada, and over the pole from European countries, eastern Europe in particular.

It is an international problem and it is a difficult one to work with. We are cooperating with other countries through the Finnish Initiative to try to get control of it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

I have Mr. Allooooloo and Mr. Lewis. Mr. Allooooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of your capital, your share compared to other departments is very small. You are viewed by the communities as one of the most important departments because you have been in the communities for a long time and you have been able to assist them in wildlife management, forestry and you help hunters. To my people, at least, you are the most important department. Yet, your capital budget is very small. Is it the view of the government that your equipment -- your skidoos, boats, et cetera -- necessary to do your work in the communities is sufficient today?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that the equipment we have now, the boats, motors and skidoos that we need for our staff to carry out their duties in the field, are adequate. There is a comment that we could always use more, but so could everyone else. It is our view that we have sufficient equipment to meet our needs at this time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chair recognizes Mr. Lewis, Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister about disposal of hazardous waste. I know that when he was on his constitutional talks, he was able to communicate with Mr. Horsman, who was the Deputy Premier of Alberta at the time and responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. I believe that Mr. Kakfwi was able to get some agreement on disposing some of our wastes in Swan Hills. We made a choice, in other words. Instead of building our own facility to look after our own waste we decided to export it. It is kind of nice to export something for change. The story I hear is we pay something like \$2,000 for every 50 kilograms of junk they burn for us. If we had looked at having our own capital facility so we can get rid of it ourselves, we may have created some jobs if there was enough work. Maybe the answer is we just don't produce enough waste to justify doing it ourselves. That is the only question I have. Did you look at the possibility of developing our own waste management program so we wouldn't have to export

it to Alberta and pay \$2,000 for every 50 kilograms they burn for us? That was a quote...(Microphone turned off)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Yellowknife Centre. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding, maybe four years ago, that the amount of capital required to build such a facility was out of range for our government, and also other governments in Canada. Alberta, through their budget, were able to afford such a facility. It has been the desire of this department of government to try to reach some sort of an agreement with the Government of Alberta to allow us to ship our hazardous waste to them and have them dispose of it for us. Mr. Allooloo, the former Minister, with his officials reached an agreement recently with the Government of Alberta to that end. I know it has taken a number of years to conclude but it has been done. As I say, the reason we haven't built one is we cannot afford it. It is quite an expensive item, as far as I know.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Could you give us some idea of what we actually spend? I don't know how much we ship to them, but do you

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have a ball park figure how much it costs us to burn our waste down there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Handley will respond to that.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, we don't have a total of how much. The territorial government, itself, doesn't produce a lot of hazardous waste. As a government, we don't own much, therefore, our costs are going to be minimal.

The policy we have is whoever generates the waste is responsible for having it taken to Alberta and destroyed. The mines or the Power Corporation, for example, or whoever generates it would do it. The total amount that we have, if it was all done away with including the federal government's share, we are probably looking at maybe several hundred thousand dollars. The cost of building a waste treatment facility to treat all kinds of waste would be several hundred million dollars. The dollars would not make it worthwhile for us to do that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know our government, and this Legislative Assembly, some time ago agreed that in the consolidation of departments that department would be responsible for parks. In this capital budget we don't see parks included in Renewable Resources. I don't believe it is not in the minds of Cabinet Ministers to move parks over to Renewable Resources, but it is a question of time. When are parks planned to go over to Renewable Resources so their capital will be included in the department?

Also, I would like to state that the reason parks should be under Renewable Resources is because this department has personnel in every community and parks doesn't. There are not parks officers in every community. We could eliminate parks people, therefore, saving the government money. When are you planning to put the two together? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, there has been some discussion with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism about the reorganization and the transfer of that section. It is put on hold. If they are still in agreement to go with the move, the question is when would be a good time for it and we haven't reached any conclusions yet. There are a number of other priorities of government, so we felt it would not offend anyone to take time to look at it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you. Is there a question now whether parks should move over to Renewable Resources?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

There have been some concerns raised with the proposed move. The reason for the temporary halt is to deal with those concerns and to make sure what we are doing is done right and for the right reasons. We are halting to deal with internal concerns that have been raised.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it my understanding now that parks may not be moved over to Renewable Resources?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

I am not certain I can answer that. We, as the Department of Renewable Resources, are more than willing to receive it if the other department would agree to let it go. We are prepared to do the work. We work as a team and if there are some concerns raised then we have to work through them. We have been doing that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

I know Economic Development and Tourism also does the fish assessment in order to establish quotas. In order to make things simpler, since Economic Development doesn't have a person in every community who has a vehicle and equipment to do those assessments, and Renewable Resources does,

is that also being looked at to move to Renewable Resources? It makes sense to be in that department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

There are discussions with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, especially in the areas of fish quotas and the other work that is currently done by that department, to share the work that should more naturally be under Renewable Resources. As I say, we're willing to discuss and take it if we can reach an agreement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ningark, Member for Natilikmiot.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of my riding is situated on an island. Gjoa Haven is on King William island. The general population of that community depends highly on country food, either for subsistence or to supplement their income. There are some outpost camps along the mainland that sometimes require emergency transportation in order to get to the community nursing station for a medical. Gjoa Haven is also looking at a commercial fishery. The Gjoa Haven Hunters' and Trappers' Association is requesting the department get an ocean-going vessel. An ocean going vessel could have multi-use. In the fall, during the month of September, the high winds become very common as in the Yellowknife area. I wonder if the department is aware of the fact that the HTA is requesting a sea-going vessel. If it is, then I would urge the department to consider that very seriously. Is

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the department aware of this capital infrastructure required by the community? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I understand from the deputy minister that he's not aware of a request being made by that community.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Mr. Minister, when I was in Gjoa Haven during the summer, as one of my functions as an MLA for that particular community, I was requested to meet with the hunters' and trappers' association. At that particular meeting, Mr. Chairman, the community showed me the boat they were trying to get from the boat builder. I'm not sure from where but somewhere along the eastern coast. If the department and Minister are not aware, I would like them to consider that request very seriously. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the Member raised a question about whether the government has received such a request and if they are responding to it. The best I can say is that it may have been received by another department. What we will do is see if such a request was received by another department, for instance Economic Development may have received it. We will track it and report back to the Member as soon as we can. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chair recognizes Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my last visit to the community of Arviat, which was the beginning of November, I was making my usual rounds of visits and an elderly man asked me to come over and visit him. During this visit the gentleman started talking about the conservation of caribou. As everyone here knows, our group of people were a caribou nomadic people. He pointed out that too often the government, when it is doing something, goes to extravagant means to do their work. I agreed with him because I went in to see the Department of Renewable Resources last year. We went to see the equipment

that was in Renewable Resources and I was pleased to see that so much advancement had been made by Renewable Resources in the way of conserving wildlife, at least in the Northwest Territories.

He made a suggestion to me about one small area of the Northwest Territories, which is in the area of Yathkyed Lake, where he had grown up and was raised as a child. All his hunting took place around Yathkyed Lake. He pointed out that at the southern end of Yathkyed Lake is a point where caribou try to cross. When they go in the water and get to the other side they are not able to come up the bay. So, there are many caribou that drown trying to cross this area of the lake, in their migration south. He suggested the government could -- and this, I think, is a very simple solution -- build either inukshuks or a fence that goes across this one point which would reduce the number of caribou that drown in this area. I wonder if the department has ever come across something like this around the Yathkyed Lake area.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

We can follow up on this suggestion. I wonder if the Member could spell the name of that lake for us, just for the record.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. A good suggestion. Member for Kivallivik.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lake is Yathkyed Lake.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Hansard will appreciate that. Thank you, for the suggestion, Mr. Minister. General comments. Does the committee agree we're ready to go into the details? Page 10-7. Department summary, capital expenditures, buildings and works, total capital expenditures, \$3 million...My apologies, I stand corrected.

Wildlife Management

It is page 10-9. Detail of capital, wildlife management, building and works, Kitikmeot, total region, \$7,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total buildings and works, \$7,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$92,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total region, \$92,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I'm sorry, the page is 10-9, for those who are just arriving. Total equipment acquisition, headquarters, \$92,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$92,000.

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, \$99,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Conservation Education And Resource Development

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have agreement. Page 10-11. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a motion on this one.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Which one, Mr. Antoine? On page 10-11? You can read the motion.

Committee Motion 51-12(4): To Delete \$15,000 From Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Carried

**MR. ANTOINE:**

On the video equipment for Yellowknife. I move that the 1994-95 capital estimates for the Department of Renewable Resources, under the activity conservation education and resource development, for the item equipment acquisition headquarters, in the amount of \$15,000, be deleted.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Members would agree that we would follow the motion provided it can be demonstrated that we can save money to do this. If we can show, in our view, it's cheaper for us to do this in-house then we should continue to do so. I'm just suggesting it should be subject to some real facts and figures. I appreciate the intent of the motion but if, in fact, it's costing more money and it's not as efficient as it may appear to be I would like to have the option to come back to the Standing Committee on Finance



and this legislature in the next few months, February or March.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be voting in favour of this motion. I think the Minister always has the option of coming back in a supplementary and presenting the arguments, at that time, as to why an activity should be funded. I think in this case, especially in the Standing Committee on Finance when we asked about it, we were not satisfied that this was an activity that should be funded.

The Minister is going to have to justify why a \$15,000 monitor is needed, instead of a \$2,000 one. Or, why, instead of a BVM 1910, they don't buy a BVM 1310 which is priced at only \$6,700. That's a straight retail quotation, not a government price. Most editing suites do use the smaller one, rather than the larger. That's the big difference. Even if we are going to do it in-house, I think the department should be able to come back and justify the expenditures exactly as they're putting them to us. I don't think that they've even come close with this one. As well as the fact that I would support the privatization of video production, I will be supporting this motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need clarification on the particular equipment. It's under the title of conservation education. I wonder if this equipment would be used to educate or influence the anti-animal rights movement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The chair recognizes the Minister. We have a question for the Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the reason I was making the suggestion is because there are a number of elements which I think Members should look at. One of them is that the type of equipment required for good quality broadcast material is a field that I think,

maybe with the exception of Mr. Dent, none of us are experts on. What is broadcast quality equipment? You can read the labels and tell the difference.

The reason I made the suggestion is because we have an in-house operation right now that produces video equipment programs for the goals we set. We're quite satisfied with it. We have a young aboriginal person who has taken the time to train and learn how to do the job. We think it's a good, efficient operation. It's meeting a need, not only of government but of that particular staff person.

That's the reason for the suggestion I've made. Even to feed some of the stuff into the private sector, we still need some basic work to be done in-house to prepare something to be done by the private sector.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this point, we have a motion on the floor. There are only two choices, either to make an amendment or to defeat the motion. The chair will now recognize Mr. Allooloo, and then Mr. Gargan.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I vote on this motion, I would like to ask this Minister, if this \$15,000 is deleted, would the department then have to go south? According to his words, northern businesses are not capable of doing this type of high quality work.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Handley will answer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Handley.

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**MR. HANDLEY:**

For much of the work we would have to send it south. Some of the work we could possibly have done through TVNC who have the equipment, but we can't always get access to it. It's equipment that's in demand.

What we're asking for would also be equipment that could be shared with Education, Culture and Employment. Most of this work would go south.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

The Minister made reference to a person that the department has been training. If he does not have equipment, will the department now have to let this aboriginal person, the Minister mentioned they had been training, go? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, that is my understanding. That's why I've asked Members to consider the suggestion that I made. Perhaps Mr. Handley could add more detail about this particular individual who we have assigned to this work.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The chair recognizes Mr. Handley.

**MR. HANDLEY:**

Mr. Chairman, the individual who is doing this work is a man who is a northern resident who has taken three years of training in the audio-visual production area. He is an artist, himself. He does excellent work for us, in terms of carrying on the role of director of a lot of the projects we do. If we are doing a video, for example, on the fur issue, then he goes out and directs what is happening. He is also competent with a camera and with the other equipment.

If we don't give him the equipment to work with, we really have very limited use for his capacity in the audio-visual and artistic field in preparing this stuff, and we would likely have to hire someone to do that for us. He needs equipment to work with.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Handley. I will just remind the committee that we have a motion on the floor. The motion is to delete some capital from the estimates. It appears that we're getting off topic a bit. I would like

to bring it back to the motion. On my list, I have Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Koe and Mr. Lewis. Mr. Allooloo, to the motion.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to understand the circumstances before I vote on this motion, that is why I was asking those questions. I would ask my last question. For the work that the department has done, what sort of equipment did they use in the past? Did they have to go south for the majority of the work because they didn't have this equipment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Allooloo, and I will remind the committee again, that we are speaking to the motion. I've extended a bit of latitude here and this could go on for quite some time. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, we have a staff person that deserves to be used to his full potential with all the training, the skills and the talent that he brings to the job. This \$15,000 piece of equipment is going to help us better utilize the full potential of what this man is willing to bring to government. I think we have to take time to consider this. It is a serious motion, in my view.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair will recognize Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the motion is to delete \$15,000 under the activity conservation, education and resource development. If you look under that item, the intent is for certain areas of conservation, education and equipment for multi-media information feasibility studies. The most important one is the fur management section, which provides support to the trapping industry and requires a specialized capital equipment purchase.

I'm an aboriginal person. Renewable Resources has about a \$2.3 million capital allocation that is targeted, perhaps, more to the aboriginal people than it is to any other people. Hunting and trapping, renewable resources and non-renewable resource areas have everything to do with the land, the animals and the affected people. So, I will not be voting in support of

such a motion. I think the survival of an industry is in jeopardy if we don't. We are starting to chip away at one target group, that is the way I view it. So, I'm not going to support the motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The chair will recognize Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, since we like to influence and educate anti-trapping groups throughout the world, and since the money here is used to try and educate those groups about our way of life, I will not be supporting the motion to delete this particular section. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The chair will now recognize Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I hope you grant me the same privileges that you granted other Members in asking some questions. I need more information before I can vote appropriately. The department officials said they have a trainee on the job and I thought I heard that this trainee has been on the job for three years, and has been doing quite well. I may have got that wrong. This situation brings to mind, if he is a trainee and has been working in the job, what kind of equipment has he been using to date? And, now, because we are going to delete this piece of equipment, we don't need this individual or he can't do his job? That doesn't make sense. I'm really curious as to the status of this trainee and if he is as professional as I heard. It doesn't make sense that one new piece of equipment all of a sudden makes an individual obsolete and not able to do his work. I would just like clarification on that point.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Again, I will remind the Members that there is a motion on the floor to delete capital. As I said before, I extended a bit of latitude in order to

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clarify some points. But, if it gets too far into questioning beyond the motion, I will bring it back to order again. Minister Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the intent of the motion is to not allow us to proceed with buying a piece of equipment, specifically a camera that this particular staff person needs. He is no longer a trainee. He has gone through a training program for three years and is now employed by this government under Renewable Resources to run this audio-visual unit. He is charged with making productions on things like water conservation, fur management harvesting and those good things that all of us enjoy seeing.

What we are saying is this individual, in order to maximize his skills and productivity for the government, needs a camera. The camera costs \$15,000. I mean a monitor, I am sorry. We need this equipment to fully utilize his skills. If we don't get it, then it means we continue doing what we have been doing without this equipment. We think it is going to cost the government more. I don't argue with the intent of the motion, if I understand the motion. Perhaps the suggestion might be to withdraw the motion and suggest the whole audio-visual unit within Renewable Resources be reviewed, instead of taking specific items and denying this unit those things they believe they need. I think that would be much more comprehensive and agreeable to the government and certainly to the committee.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. You either support it, defeat it or amend it. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I will be supporting the motion. A motion was passed last year by SCOF to..."The committee recommends the Department of Renewable Resource's video equipment be removed and the activity privatized." Under that, the response was, "The department will be reviewing their video equipment." Now the Minister is saying, give us that leeway. You had a year. A point of clarification, the intent of the \$15,000 is not for a camera. In 1995-96, they want to buy a \$60,000 camera, but the intent of the \$15,000 is to buy a BVM 1910 monitor, which, to me, is a TV screen. It is a pretty expensive TV screen. It doesn't justify the intent of last year's motion or this motion. The intent is to have the department review these things and come up with better justification. So I will be supporting the motion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the big problems with the mandates of departments is they are sometimes shifted around. At one time, we looked at all the departments that were involved in training. We found there were seven of them. Everyone had their own little training unit. It was decided all of the training would go into one department. That is why we have Mr. Nerysoo's department.

The same thing with computers. Everyone was going their own way with computers, until it was decided we would have a system for looking after computers. I have raised this issue many times in the past. In fact, I remember talking on this issue with Renewable Resources some years ago and I asked them why they are in the movie business. Why are you doing this? They said, I am glad you asked that, we happen to have one of the best movie makers in Canada on our staff. He just won a big award. So everyone gets all excited and says, we have to give him the equipment. Within one year, the big movie maker was not there any more. So the equipment just sat there with no one to do anything with it.

I take issue with this business of just automatically saying this is great because the cause is wonderful. No one will argue with that. But why should every government department be in the movie business? What if the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation decided they wanted to promote housing? Mr. Morin says, we have to get the message out, I want a camera man who will do a good job for me. Then Mr. Kakfwi says, I need another camera now because I want to show how aboriginal justice could be better done in our communities. I want to have my own PR man to tell the real story. We are always hearing about safety. Mr. Todd might say, I have to get that message out there, I need a better camera and monitors. I need really good advertising people. I could go down the list.

So I am going to move that we amend this motion to put in the word "defer," so this government could come up with a policy on what it is we are trying to do with promotion. I understood that this whole business of cameras was in Mr. Nerysoo's department. If you want it, why can you not make a deal with them so you can get the work done, and they can get the resources.

Committee Motion To Remove "Deleted" And Replace With "Deferred", Out Of Order

I would like to move that we amend this motion by deleting the word "deleted" and replacing it with the word, "deferred."

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have a motion on the floor and there is a motion to amend the motion by deleting the word "delete" and adding the word "defer." The mover of the motion is still here. We have to have the mover's concurrence, I believe. Mr. Antoine. The committee will take a five minute recess to confer with Mr. Hamilton on this matter.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee will now come back to order. I have conferred on the matter and the ruling of the chair is that the motion to amend the motion is not in order.

---Out Of Order

Therefore, we shall return to the motion. Speaking to the motion, I have Mr. Gargan next on my list to speak, Mr. Dent and then Mr. Antoine. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm not too sure what this \$15,000 is for. I'm getting signals that it is for a television screen. Are we talking about television monitors? You have stuff in the bush that is stationary so that animals that are around are not interrupted by humans. Is that what we are talking about? I'm confused here. We are looking at public awareness, public education and this equipment is required for that.

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Mr. Antoine, coming back from Brussels, has indicated that, as much as possible, we have to educate the European people about the animals and the way we live. But, I'm afraid if we eliminate this essential equipment that is for that type of thing, then I could very well see the death of a nation. I would like to get some clarification. What do you mean by a television monitor? There are television monitors for security and other reasons. I suppose if it is the kind of television monitor I think it is, then I would think it would be a lot easier for people to have television

monitors, as opposed to being present and doing all the shots with a big camera.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The motion is to delete, from this capital budget, video equipment in the amount of \$15,000. We've heard that it is a monitor, a BVM 1910 monitor, is what I wrote down. The motion is to delete the video equipment with a cost of \$15,000. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has not advised us specifically why this one piece of equipment is so badly needed. At SCOF, we were told that it was a video monitor. I think we made the assumption that it was going to be used for editing videos. Part of the problem that I'm having with it is, from my sources, I understand that a Sony BVM 1310 is probably the most common video monitor in use in editing suites in Canada.

I said 1310, not 1910. Just today I called a video supplier and asked the retail, off-the-shelf price for a BVM 1910. I was quoted a price just over \$9,000. Now here, we have \$15,000. What is the extra \$6,000 for? We haven't been told that. The justification, so far, hasn't stood up. Even if we were to decide that we need in-house video production, do we really need the Cadillac of monitors, which is what we are buying with the BVM 1910? The 1310 retails for \$6,700 off the shelf, to a retail buyer. The government could probably get a better price than that. I say, in times of tight dollars, as we have right now, we could better spend -- even if we are going to buy a video monitor -- the \$7,000 plus on projects that Mr. Gargan says we need to spend money on, rather than just buying a video monitor.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. The chair recognizes Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for SCOF having this motion is not to go against any of the things that honourable Members are saying about providing information to the public on natural resource

development. The point here is that, last year, this department had equipment we asked them to do away with and we asked them to privatize this area because of what Mr. Lewis is saying about each department having their own production system.

In this particular case, Renewable Resources is buying a monitor for \$15,000 and in their substantiations for next year they're going to be asking for a \$60,000 Betacam 400 camera. In the following year they're going to be asking for editing equipment for \$40,000. The point here is that it is more than \$15,000. The department is setting up their own television production centre. We've asked them to look at privatizing this work. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has equipment like this, as well.

Are we going to be buying equipment like this for each department, or is there a policy that the government has that says to put all this type of equipment in one area and share the work? That is where we are coming from. It is not to go against fur management or any of that. The point is we're looking at capital. It starts with \$15,000 and is going to add up over the next couple of years. The point is, is the government heading in this direction? We asked them, last year, to privatize it and they haven't done that. That is the reason why the motion is in place today. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The chair recognizes the Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the point I just want to bring out...Last year, in the capital budget, we asked for video equipment to be deleted. However, it obviously wasn't and it has come back into this capital budget. I think it's critical to point out that, on one hand the government is making every effort to privatize wherever they can. Here is the prime candidate for an area that can be privatized, yet they feel strongly that it should be put back into the budget. Obviously, they have ignored SCOF's recommendations from last year. Either the department or the government has to make a sincere effort, instead of just paying lip service, to address these items on a consistent basis and not on an ad hoc basis.

With that, I find it's necessary to go along with the area of privatization. There are many companies in the north that can provide this type of service to the department as they need it. It probably will be at a cheaper rate. We'll be looking at this again probably next year or two years from now because this type of equipment is updated so quickly. What we're saying is, in the long-term, to save dollars for this government, let's look at privatization. Let's privatize this area and delete these funds because they're unnecessary. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that I was of the opinion that the reason they're purchasing equipment bit by bit is so it doesn't impact on the whole capital allocation. If you put all the equipment together, you're looking at \$130,000 in one year. But, by doing it the way they're doing it, I thought we were spending wisely. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, in the event the motion goes through, I would suggest the Minister consider National Geographic as the people who would do the work.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you. Is it to delete or to defer? I'm confused.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The motion, as it reads, is to delete. Point of order, Mr. Allooloo.

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Point Of Order

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Before we broke, there was a motion to defer, by Mr. Lewis.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo, your point of order is taken. In fact, when the House reconvened it was ruled by the chair that the amendment was out of order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

The amount of \$15,000 is deleted.

Conservation education and resource development, equipment acquisition, total activity, zero.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 10-13. I'll just go back here, for the record. Total region, zero. Total equipment acquisition, zero.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, zero.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Environmental Protection

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Page 10-13. Environment Protection. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$25,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$25,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, \$25,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Operations

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 10-15. Field operations, building and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$345,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Inuvik, total region, \$144,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Baffin, total region, \$410,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Keewatin, total region, \$189,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$163,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total buildings and works, \$1.251 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$21,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$112,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Inuvik, total region, \$133,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Baffin, total region, \$77,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):** Keewatin, total region, \$123,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$65,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$531,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, \$1.782 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Fire Management

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 10-19. Forest fire management, building and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$124,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Inuvik, total region, \$842,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total buildings and works, \$966,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$388,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$388,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, \$1.354 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We will return to 10-7. Department summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures have been amended to \$3.260 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.



---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, before the department is concluded, I would like to ask the Minister whether you have resolved the whole issue of developing a policy between MACA and Renewable Resources, with regard to walk-in freezers.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

It hasn't been concluded, but there is a recommendation coming to me next Monday for review. Based on the review, we will be, perhaps, in the position to move on it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Total capital expenditures was \$3.26 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Does the committee agree that the matters of Renewable Resources are concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes the Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, initially, when we came into committee of the whole we wanted to address Tabled Document 11-12(4), with regard to the strategy from the workshops in Fort Providence and Cambridge Bay.

However, all the information wasn't readily available, so we went into the departmental budgets. Since the information is readily available, I believe the caucus chairman wants to address that matter. Then, if there is time left, we will do the opening remarks for the Power Corporation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Does the committee agree that we deal with Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have agreement. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few brief comments to make on this document. As caucus chair, I am pleased to make some brief comments on Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops. Mr. Chairman, this document summarizes the important deliberations on matters related to division and the operation of government, leading up to 1999, which were held in Fort Providence in April, and Cambridge Bay in October. On behalf of all Members, we appreciate the hospitality of Mr. Gargan and Mr. Ng, when we visited their constituencies.

Mr. Chairman, topics in the report include: a mid-term review of the Premier and Ministers; the operation and accountability of standing committees; guidelines for Members' conduct; events flow chart to 1999; legislative amendments for elections and electoral boundaries; information exchange and decision-making on division issues; and, education training and human resource

issues.

Mr. Chairman, this report is the first strategic planning document produced by all Members of this House. The strategic planning workshop forum, has proven to be a strong vehicle for consensus building, especially in dealing with the many difficult issues that will result in fundamental restructuring of government in the Northwest Territories, as a result of division in 1999.

Mr. Chairman, as Members are well aware of the contents of our report from the strategic planning workshops, I would request unanimous consent to consider Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops as read and recorded in Hansard. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to have the record read and recorded into Hansard. Do we have agreement?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**Introduction**

On April 1, 1999 the Northwest Territories will be divided with the creation of Nunavut and a new Western Territory. This, and pending decisions on Aboriginal land claim settlements and self-government agreements, will culminate in an unprecedented restructuring of government in the Northwest Territories. There is a vast amount of work to be accomplished in the next five and a half years to ensure a smooth transition to the two new territories.

The caucus of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly met in Fort Providence on April 4 to 6, 1993 and in Cambridge Bay on October 4 to 8, 1993. These 'strategic planning workshops' were held to provide MLAs with a less formal setting to deliberate the many issues related to division of the Northwest Territories and the operation of the Legislature and the GNWT in meeting the challenges of the future. The Reshaping Northern Government Working Group, composed of three Ministers and three ordinary Members, coordinated the workshops and shared responsibility for chairing meetings.

This report summarizes the results of the Fort Providence and Cambridge Bay deliberations, principles of agreement and the on-going work of Caucus on these matters. The report will serve as a

foundation for further work by the Legislative Assembly and the GNWT and as guide for the work of the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the western constitutional process.

**Division Event Flow**

To provide caucus and the public with an understanding of the magnitude of work leading up to 1999, a flow chart showing events in three areas (government operations, aboriginal claims settlements and implementation, and division) was prepared and widely circulated. This chart, which will be updated on a regular basis, also contains specific deadlines that must be met.

**Elections Issues**

In order for separate elections to take place for the Nunavut and western Legislatures in 1999, preparatory work will have to be undertaken by the current Assembly and its successor.

Caucus reached agreement on the following principles for election issues:

3.1 In terms of election processes, the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the western constitutional processes are advisory bodies to the GNWT, the Legislative Assembly, and the federal government.

3.2 The GNWT is the Government of the Northwest Territories until division, and has the authority to make decisions on elections, based on advice from the Nunavut Implementation Commission, the western constitutional process and the federal government.

Caucus also reached agreement on the following:

3.3 A presentation on all elections issues will be made to the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the western constitutional process.

3.4 The 13th Assembly will be advised that there is a time gap between the creation of Nunavut in April 1999 and the normal time for east-west elections in November 1999.

3.5 A motion will be prepared for introduction at the Fourth Session to have the Electoral District Boundaries Commission review and recommend to the House at the resumption of the Fifth Session in February '94, alterations to the existing constituency boundaries to conform with the boundary as established in the Nunavut Act.

3.6 Appropriate amendments to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act will be prepared for consideration by the Assembly no later than the fall session of 1994 to implement the recommendations of the boundaries commission.

3.7 Revised constituency boundaries, conforming to the Nunavut Act boundary, will be in place for the next territorial election.

3.8 Options for separate boundary commission processes will be identified for consideration at a future strategic planning workshop. These processes will have to be initiated in the period 1995 to 1997 in order for the establishment of new constituency boundaries in the east and west.

3.9 In order for elections to occur in 1999 for the two new territories, the Elections Act will have to be reviewed, in consultation with the Nunavut Implementation Commission and western constitutional process, and amendments made by the 13th Assembly by 1998.

3.10 The GNWT will respond to recent communications from the federal government indicating a willingness to modernize the Northwest Territories Act, including amendments to give the Northwest Territories the power to call its own elections any time within a five year term.

#### Financial Issues

The creation of two new governments in the Northwest Territories in 1999 will require early financial planning and direction; both new governments will be heavily dependent on federal funding. There will still be a large gap between own-sourced revenues and expenditure needs in the west, and an even larger gap in the east. The actual cost of division and operating two new territories is still a point of contention between the GNWT and the federal government.

Other significant factors related to division and financial planning include:

-accounting for possible effects on funding for Nunavut and the new Western Territory as a result of decisions the GNWT makes regarding budget allocation, programs and policies before 1999

-accounting for possible imposition of financial responsibilities on the two new territories stemming

from existing and future GNWT multilateral and bilateral intergovernmental agreements

Caucus reached agreement on the following principles for financial issues:

4.1 Programs and service levels during the transition period and after division must be maintained

4.2 Funding formulas for Nunavut and the new Western Territory should be based, in part, on the expenditure requirements of each jurisdiction.

Caucus also reached agreement on the following:

4.4 New databases on fiscal capacity will be needed for Nunavut and the new Western Territory. In other words, information on the ability of the two new territories to raise revenues needs to be compiled for determining separate funding requirements.

4.5 The financial responsibilities of the GNWT and the federal government for land claims and division implementation needs clarification. Additional information on the cost of division will be prepared for all MLAs and to keep the Nunavut Implementation Commission / Tungavik / western constitutional process up to date on this and related issues.

4.6 Additional information on formula financing and tax related issues will be prepared for the Nunavut Caucus, the Western Caucus and GNWT representatives on Nunavut Implementation Commission and the western constitutional process.

4.7 A list of all existing intergovernmental agreements and short descriptions will be prepared for the Nunavut and Western Caucuses, and will include:

a) current and long term liabilities pursuant to the implementation of land claims agreements

b) clarification of the nature of all agreements (for example, transfer, devolution, delivery on behalf of third party, et cetera.)

4.8 A list of existing GNWT assets and liabilities (with regional detail where possible) will be prepared and will include loan funds and arms-length bodies such as the NWT Power Corporation and the Workers' Compensation Board.

4.9 The cost to the GNWT for claims implementation and division will be identified and adequate financial assistance will be sought from the federal government to ensure northerners are fully involved in this

process. Aboriginal claimant groups will be encouraged to ensure that adequate funding is provided to implement claims settlements and self-government arrangements.

4.10 An information item outlining the application of the existing formula financing agreement to Nunavut and the Western Territory will be prepared for the next strategic planning workshop.

#### Education / Training / Human Resource Issues

During discussions on new models of government for the east and west, Members stressed that the forms of new government (which will in part be determined by the Nunavut Act and the western constitutional process) are not nearly as important as the ability of northerners to participate and find meaningful employment with these new governments. The discussion

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focused on training northerners for employment opportunities in the Nunavut administration and new institutions of government in the west.

At Fort Providence, caucus reached agreement on the following principles for education, training and human resource issues:

5.1 Innovative leadership and management programs, based in the north and the south, are needed to prepare youth for employment opportunities arising from restructuring of government in east and west prior to and following division.

5.2 Programs for youth must address their social environment through a stronger commitment to community development and career counselling initiatives.

5.3 A focus on motivation and academic excellence is required to encourage the development of a highly skilled workforce.

5.4 Programs should be established for public and private sector aboriginal employees to upgrade their existing skills and prepare them for government employment opportunities arising out of restructuring of government.

5.5 A review of entry level standards and criteria for public sector jobs may be required and, where possible, recognition given to traditional or practical skills and experience and the valuable role they can

play in developing or emerging jurisdictions in the Northwest Territories.

5.6 A renewed focus on taking full advantage of in-house training opportunities and in the public and private sectors is needed.

5.7 More emphasis is required in the GNWT human resource plan for employee career planning to prepare existing staff for future opportunities.

At Cambridge Bay, caucus agreed on the following:

5.8 Reaffirmation of the significance which Members place on education, training and human resource issues and that these issues will be part of on-going updates at future strategic planning workshops. A report on the success of the construction worker training program will be prepared.

#### The Operation Of Consensus Government

The spectre of fundamental changes to the structure of government institutions in the north as a result of division, land claims and self-government is daunting. The many crucial decisions that will have to be made in a few short years reinforce the importance of operating consensus government in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Caucus reached agreement on the following principles for the operation of consensus government:

6.1 Party politics is not desired at this time.

6.2 A strong commitment to open dialogue and respect among all Members is essential if consensus government is to work.

6.3 The responsible Minister or the Cabinet, as a whole, are not required to resign on the defeat of a bill or major initiative unless it has been predetermined that it is a vote of confidence.

6.4 Political direction should be developed and reviewed in strategy sessions and these sessions should be held regularly.

6.5 Working definition of consensus government: A decision-making process that depends on goodwill, respect and communications among Members including the execution of a common plan by Cabinet and the Government Leader.

6.6 The Chairs' Liaison Committee will develop guidelines to aid in the operation and accountability of

standing committees for consideration at a future caucus meeting. These guidelines should address:

- a) a mechanism for reassigning Members to different committees
- b) criteria to be used by the Striking Committee to balance standing committee workloads among all Members
- c) a standard approach for disciplining committee Members to guide committee chairs

Regarding division issues, caucus agreed on the following:

6.7 The Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. James Arvaluk, Ms. Jeannie Marie-Jewell and Mr. Kelvin Ng are nominated to form a caucus working group to make recommendations to caucus in November '93 on a mechanism or mechanisms for information exchange and decision-making on all division issues, and in particular:

- a) a decision making forum to make recommendations on the division of assets and liabilities;
- b) the terms of reference for that process;
- c) the general principles to guide the work of the forum;
- d) the magnitude of the work of the forum; and
- e) suggested experts on public finance to provide technical support for the division of assets and liabilities process

#### Members' Conduct Guidelines

Caucus agreed that Members' conduct guidelines will be introduced by way of formal motion at the Fourth Session for full public debate.

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#### Mid-Term Review Of The Premier And Ministers

Caucus agreed that there would be a public mid-term review of the Premier and Ministers immediately following prorogation of the Fourth Session.

The following rules and guidelines will apply for the mid-term review:

#### Rules

8.1 The mid-term public review will be held in the Territorial Leadership Committee forum immediately following the prorogation of the Fourth Session. The chair will make a brief opening statement to the committee on the nature and purpose of the review.

8.2 The order of Ministers' reviews will be determined by ballot draw, conducted by the Clerk of the House. The Premier will be reviewed last. The Clerk of the House will advise all Members of the review order prior to the convening of the Territorial Leadership Committee.

8.3 Each Minister will make a statement to the committee not to exceed 20 minutes on their overall contribution to the operation of Cabinet and realization of GNWT / Legislative Assembly priorities during the first two years of the 12th Assembly. Premier's/Ministers' presentations should include, but not be restricted to, Cabinet committee and portfolio assignments and joint Legislature/Cabinet committee assignments. Further, each should state how they generally perceive their leadership and Cabinet roles and responsibilities in planning for the remainder of the term.

8.4 Following each Minister's statement, every Member may ask up to 12 questions. Members' inquiries on past portfolio assignments should be restricted to general questions on how policies were implemented at the time, taking into account direction from Cabinet and/or the Legislative Assembly and considering circumstances which contributed to or determined a course of action.

8.5 The chair will call to order any Member who deviates from the agreed process or is in violation of the rules and conventions governing question period. Motions of non-confidence introduced in the Territorial Leadership committee will be ruled out of order.

8.6 After conclusion of the Premier's review, the chair will make a concluding statement to the Committee and declare the matter of the mid-term review of the Premier and Ministers concluded.

#### Guidelines

8.7 All Members should be extremely cautious about remarks made during the course of the review because parliamentary immunity does not apply in the Territorial Leadership Committee.

8.8 Members should avoid asking detailed questions requiring technical answers or on matters not

normally in the present knowledge of the Minister. Ministers should avoid unnecessarily lengthy responses.

8.9 Other than the exceptions noted in this process, all the rules and conventions of the House governing question period apply to the questions during the mid-term review.

8.10 These arrangements for the Territorial Leadership Committee's mid-term review of Cabinet shall not create a precedent for or change the existing rules of the House.

#### Reporting To The House

Caucus agreed that a report shall be made to the Legislature for each future strategic planning workshop.

#### Third Strategic Planning Workshop

Caucus agreed that the next strategic planning workshop will be held in the community of Fort Smith in April, 1994.

#### Workshop Items For Consideration During/After The Fourth Session

11.1 Electoral Boundaries Commission (Formal Motion)

11.2 Members' conduct guidelines (Formal Motion)

11.3 Report of the Caucus Working Group on information exchange and decision-making on division issues (Tabled Document)

11.4 Mid-Term review of the Premier and Ministers (Territorial Leadership Committee)

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we have general comments on Tabled Document 11-12(4)? If not, Mr. Koe.

#### **MR. KOE:**

Thank you. Since there are no general comments, I would therefore move, that Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops be adopted.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. If there is a question, I will call in the Members to make a quorum.

We now have a quorum. We have a motion to adopt the report and I would like, for the record, to ask Mr. Koe, who is the mover of the motion, to read the motion into the record.

Committee Motion 52-12(4): To Adopt Tabled Document 11-12(4), Carried

#### **MR. KOE:**

Mr. Chairman, I move, that Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops, be adopted.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

#### **AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

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#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. All those in favour? Mr. Allooloo.

#### **MR. ALLOOLOO:**

I request a recorded vote.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

All right. It shall be a recorded vote. All those in favour?

Recorded Vote

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

Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

All those opposed, please stand up. No opposed. All those abstentions, please stand up. No abstentions. The motion is carried...

---Carried

...with 13 voting in favour, none opposed and no abstentions. Thank you.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 11-12(4), Report from the Fort Providence/Cambridge Bay Strategic Planning Workshops is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

We would like to start addressing the Power Corporation. I recognize that the Government Leader is not here, but she did indicate to me that she would ask one of her Ministers to read her introductory remarks. I think we can probably conclude after that item.

Northwest Territories Power Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. In the absence of the Government Leader, who is also the Minister for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Pollard will read the opening remarks. Do we have the concurrence of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as people know, there is nothing in the capital books with

respect to the Power Corporation. What I would propose doing is provide, to the committee, the information that was provided to the Standing Committee on Finance. Mr.

Schauerte has that in hand at the present time, if that's acceptable to the committee, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Continue, Mr. Pollard.

Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before the committee in the stead of the Premier, who is the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, to address matters of interest and concern respecting the Power Corporation. After the opening remarks, if it is the committee's wish, I would ask Mr. Ron Kidd, President and Chief Operating Officer, to join me at the witness table, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories assumed ownership of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation on May 5, 1988. The corporation is established under the terms of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act. The mandate of the corporation is:

i) to generate, transform, transmit, distribute, deliver, sell and supply energy on a safe, economic, efficient and reliable basis;

ii) to supply water and sewerage services;

iii) to undertake programs to conserve energy;

iv) to ensure a continuous supply of energy adequate for the needs and future development of the territories; and,

v) to undertake any other activity authorized by the Executive Council.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, the corporation's operation has been guided by business principles and has been managed successfully as a stand-alone enterprise. This is demonstrated in the record of operational decisions, in corporate policies, and is reflected in the development of this capital budget.

On April 1, 1992, responsibility for the corporation's rate setting shifted from the Executive Council to the Public Utilities Board. At that time, the corporation became fully regulated, according to the Public Utilities Act, and was subject to the same regulatory review process as private sector utilities operating in the Northwest Territories.

At this time, the corporation has had a general rate application before the Public Utilities Board and public hearings are scheduled for December 7 to 9 in this particular year in Hay River, Northwest Territories. The corporation's 1994-95 capital budget was presented to the corporation's board of directors on November 19, and received approval at that time. With that background, I will conclude my remarks and would be happy to respond to any questions committee Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. At the beginning of the presentation, the Minister indicated that he would like to

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bring in the witness. Do we have the concurrence of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witness, please. Thank you. The Minister also indicated that there are no money items. This is purely for information. Mr. Antoine, chairman for the Standing Committee on Finance.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee acknowledges the improved reporting format presented by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for this capital review. The reporting format could be further enhanced by presenting consistent five year plans that are comparable from year to year. A consistent reporting format over a five year period would illustrate changes to plans and the addition of new projects in the planning cycle.

Members are concerned about the corporation's apparent inability to harness and market excess system capacity. This was noted, specifically, in relation to the Taltson River power generating station. Committee Members have serious reservations about the economic feasibility of privatizing the Power Corporation. Therefore, the committee looks forward to receiving a full briefing on the government's plans in this regard. Further, the committee will take the opportunity to assess the information that the government used in drawing any conclusions reached to date.

That is the report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. My apologies, I forgot to ask the Premier to introduce the witness. Madam Premier, would you please introduce the witness for the record.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is Mr. Ron Kidd, President of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, located in Hay River.

General Comments

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments on the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Alloo.oo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see in the capital plan that they are doing some work in Hall Beach. As you know, Madam Minister, the tanks of the power plant in Hall Beach are right in the middle of the community and the community's concern is that, in the event of an accident, a spill or an explosion, the big tanks are right in the community. Would the Power Corporation consider moving the tanks to a safer place? The



power station could stay because it is physically impossible to move.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I'll defer the question to Mr. Kidd.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the question is that there is a desire to move the power plant in Hall Beach, is that correct?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Kidd, I believe that was the question.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

The tanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, the witness could use a translation device so I can hear properly. I'll rephrase my question. I know there is some work that is going to be done in Hall Beach. The tanks are right in the middle of the community and the community has concerns about accidental spills or explosions, which would affect a lot of community buildings. These are big tanks. I wonder if the corporation would consider moving the tanks, and building a pipeline because it is not feasible to move the power plant at this point. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, at this point, the corporation has no plans for moving the tanks in Hall Beach. The capital item that appears is the completion of the work under way this year. The difficulty with respect to moving

tanks, is the extreme capital cost that is associated with doing something like that and the ability of our customers to pay for such a cost.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the corporation work with the community, so that the danger of accidental spills or explosions would be minimized? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, the corporation is always pleased to speak with members of any community with respect to any matter with which they have concern. This would certainly be no different. We would be more than pleased to speak to the people in the community of Hall Beach.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I realize the Power Corporation doesn't affect my constituency, but on a policy matter, the reserve has been getting power poles, lighting and things like in certain areas for safety purposes. One of them is by the ice crossing, the other is by the entrance by the reserve, one by the alcohol and drug treatment centre and another by the senior citizens' home. What is your policy with regard to costs? When I spoke with the band council and band manager on the reserve, he said they were being charged for just about everything. It's going to cost around \$5,000 for them if they

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want lighting put in those areas. I'd like to ask, for my own purposes, what your policies are regarding street lighting.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, our position is that if the community requests street lighting, given that the community pays the cost for such lighting, then we do everything we can to respond to their requirements. If you are interested, I can give you a copy of the policy in written form.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments on the NWT Power Corporation. I believe this is an information item only. Right?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I have one question with regard to the issue of demand metres that keeps haunting me from different constituents. Not only from my riding, but from other business people in the north.

I'm of the understanding that the Power Corporation does not have all the necessary demand metres in place, in order to be able to state that these demand metres are fairly distributed to all businesses that should be utilizing them. It's done, currently, on a basis wherever they can address them. Can we get some indication as to whether or not there's the intention to place demand metres where they should be for businesses, or to ensure there's some method of fairness in how these demand metres are placed? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

The corporation is in transition with this matter. We have a program to install demand metres wherever appropriate. Our program is relatively well-advanced. We expect this matter to be resolved within the next two years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The technician can't hear, as I was turning up the ear piece a little louder. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I agree, Mr. Chairman, it's difficult to hear at the best of times, with our system. Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering since Mr. Kidd has stated these demand metres would be looked at probably in a couple of years, what parts of the territories have these demand metres in place?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, all parts of the territories, to the best of my knowledge, have demand metres in place, at this point. The question is, the threshold of consumption at which they are installed. There are still several locations where demand metres are yet required. To the best of my knowledge, the bulk of the requirement has been addressed and it's just a matter of finishing it up.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Do you anticipate the completion of placing these demand metres where they should be, will be done within the next two years? Is that what you stated?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, that's correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I would certainly be happy once they're all in place on a consistent basis because, currently, we have businesses that don't have them and businesses that do have them. It does cause some questioning as to why they're not in place, and why some businesses

get charged way more for the power consumption that they don't even use, compared to other businesses that do not get charged accordingly. The inconsistencies in the applied rates, no doubt, cause some controversy and resentment on the Power Corporation as a whole.

The other comment I wanted to make is, Mr. Chairman, I noticed improvement district 18, with Alberta has most likely negotiated with the NWT Power Corporation for the excess power that's currently in Fort Smith. I now see power lines running from Fort Smith to Fort Fitzgerald. I believe that Fort Fitzgerald will be hooked up to electricity, probably within the next month or so. Has that been as a result of either negotiations with improvement district 18, or with the Alberta government, to make use of some of the excess power in Fort Smith? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, that is, in fact, the case. We have arranged with Alberta Power for the sale of some of the surplus power to the community to the south.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

What's the rate of the type of power that's given? Is it possible to get that information?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, at this point, the rate is the same rate that is being charged to Northland Utilities in Hay River.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. I've had many requests from the community to ask or encourage the government to consider looking -- because of the abundance of

surplus power in Fort Smith -- to look at possibly converting some of the government buildings from oil consumption to electricity. Since there are a couple of major projects being delivered in Fort Smith, such as the academic building and the renovations to the school, these conversions can probably take place while these renovations are being done and while these new buildings are being done. I'd like to ask if the Power Corporation is making any effort to encourage them to look at

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heat by electricity, at a lower rate than if they had received it from oil. As a result, they would not only be making use of the excess power, but they would also have tremendous cost-savings to this government. I'd like to ask if that option is being looked at.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, those sorts of options are being explored. We have an arrangement with the community of Fort Smith to look into that, to take advantage of converting some of the heating systems in existing larger buildings in the community. We would see this as a viable opportunity, certainly until the time the natural low growth in the area reaches the point where we would need additional capacity.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

My last question is, how does the process...There were two other comments, one with regard to excess power for the cathedral. Currently the cathedral is under a boiler system. Because it is run by the parish, how can they approach the Power Corporation to see if they can switch from a boiler system to electric heat to be able to get...I think it's Giant Mine that gets a negotiated contract with the type of electricity they need, and other big companies that they have the ability to negotiate with. How can they request some type of negotiated price for electric heat for a building like that? What would the process be, in order to achieve something like that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, the communication is already developed between the Power Corporation and representatives of the church, and the matter is under examination.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

That's good to hear because I'd like to see our church being used. Mr. Chairman, I encourage the Power Corporation to look at these types of options. I'm trying to encourage them to make use of all this excess power that's going to waste that we have in the Taltson Dam.

The other comment I wanted to make was for electrical services to Salt River. I know a couple of years ago there were electrical services to Colville Lake. Colville Lake probably has a smaller population than the Salt River Reserve. I'm sure many of the treaty people would live on the reserve if they decided to place electricity in there. I would like to ask the Minister, if they decided to look at electricity for Salt River -- and I did ask it before -- how long would it take for the process to be completed, in order to achieve electricity to be run from the highway to the Salt River Reserve?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, the discussion has taken place with the Salt River residents. What we had offered, as the Power Corporation and I, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum, is the most economical way for it to be done, for the group to put in the power poles themselves and then we would string the line. What we really need is, the community -- and I think it was Mr. McDonald -- was supposed to get back to us so we can sit down and scope out the cost of the project with them putting in the power poles, then we would help them go forward to secure the necessary funds that would be within the capability of the Power Corporation to support.

I don't know why it's taking so long because we made the offer and we would like to see that outstanding offer realized and completed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I know there was one proposal submitted, but I don't think it was passed through the band office. That's probably where some of the stumbling block is. It seems to me that the prime time could be now to install the power poles. I've talked to the chief on it, and the chief has agreed that he supports that concept of getting electricity to Salt River. I just find that now, with improvement district 18, from Alberta, negotiating that power line to Fort Fitzgerald and them having the nodwells there and putting in the power poles now, they can possibly use that equipment. Instead of bringing all this equipment back up from the south again, they can probably make use of that equipment that's around the community, to assist in putting the power poles from highway 5 in Fort Smith, into the Salt River Reserve. It would be achievable at a lesser cost than would initially be anticipated. I wonder if I could ask the indulgence of the Minister to look at that while that process of providing power is currently being done to Fort Fitzgerald. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm certainly willing to do that. As well, I know we'll be going down to Fort Smith on December 12. It may be the opportune time to have a meeting with Mr. McDonald and the residents of Salt River, and try to come to some agreement on how we're going to move ahead with that. This is a commitment we made quite some time ago. Like I say, I would very much like to see it concluded. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting to be conducted

with the band present, because of it being on a reserve. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the Power Corporation. I understand there are some businesses being established at the moment. I also think the power they consume would be very costly. Are they subsidized, with regard to the rates? In many businesses, it's realized that you have to pay ...(inaudible).

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**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Could we get a clarification? I know part of the honourable Member's constituency is Sanikiluaq. Right at this point in time, that's a separate power plant and is not included, at this point, in determining rates. If it's an overall question, I wouldn't mind some clarification on where the question relates to. Is it Sanikiluaq, or is it to other communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I'll clarify this. The people in the Baffin region, for instance Sanikiluaq, Lake Harbour or Cape Dorset, are getting their own HAP housing. I just wondered whether the people with HAP houses pay the same amount for power, or whether you do an assessment on whether they're paying the same amount for power as anyone else who is in public housing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Minister for the Power Corporation.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, in social housing, the rate the individual pays is very much less because the Housing Corporation pays most of the power bill. When you own your own home, it's an individual power bill that's sent to the individual home owner. That person is subsidized to the Yellowknife rate.

There is a subsidization, but there is a difference. When you own your own home, you get your bill separately. I would say, in many instances, that a person living in social housing pays much less for power because it's paid for by the Housing Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. (Translation) Do you have any more comments to make? (Translation ends) Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the western Arctic, we have very good power lines from the dams, hundreds of miles away. In Yellowknife, we get power from elsewhere, hundreds of miles away. It's the same in other communities. We have nothing like that in the eastern Arctic. We have to use local power and we have to import oil from other provinces to run power plants. It's my understanding that it's a lot cheaper to use power from dams. I know there is a dam in Gillam, Manitoba which has surplus power and right now is selling power to the United States. Their capacity is not being utilized. I wonder if the corporation would do a study to see if it is feasible to put lines through to the Keewatin region, like Arviat, Rankin Inlet and other communities, with the view of reducing the expenditure of oil in that particular region and to help the people have lower power costs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I'll defer the question to Mr. Kidd.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Kidd.

**MR. KIDD:**

Mr. Chairman, the Power Corporation has already looked at the possibility of overhead transmission lines from the provinces of the south up into the Rankin area. The difficulty we find is that the cost of building the line, together with the cost of the power and the relatively small quantities of power that would be transmitted along the line, would result in a project that is very clearly uneconomic compared with the diesel alternative. In fact, it approaches very closely

the reality whereby the interest on the money associated with the project would buy a new diesel plant each year. In addition, there are difficulties from a technical perspective because of the small amounts of power. We regret that's the case but, unfortunately, it is at this point.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Further general comments. Is it agreed that we are concluded this item? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I would like to make a couple of comments with regard to the town of Inuvik and the high temperature hot water system that operates through the utilidor system in Inuvik. The hot water comes from the Power Corporation. I didn't get a chance in the SCOF hearings to make my point, although I've made my point to most other departments.

The Standing Committee on Finance made a recommendation that any plans for existing and future capital projects have to reflect the phasing out of the current system. I just want to make my point to Mr. Kidd and to the Minister, that there are some plans for new buildings and renovations to the heating systems of the existing buildings, Grollier Hall, for instance. Hopefully, that is going to be deferred until the plans are all in order.

It is the concern of my constituents that if we start phasing out some of these bigger buildings, at the end of three or four years we'll have one building left. Right now, it looks like that will be the hospital, if things continue on with the way it is planned. They will end up paying all the costs for the heating system and all that cost will be on this government. So, we want to avoid that. I just wanted to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that the Power Corporation is very involved in this. I know they're involved in the committee in the town of Inuvik, and we appreciate their knowledge in this area. Everything is being taken into consideration into the planning of buildings and future construction in the town. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. That was a comment with some implication for response from the witness. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, we are quite familiar with that matter. It is also in the interest of the Power Corporation to look at this matter. The matter is under review and, as the Member has indicated, there is a committee in Inuvik that the Power Corporation is working with on how we make decisions, not only in the best interest of the consumers, but the Power Corporation, as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Is it agreed that this item is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Thank you. Madam Premier and Mr. Kidd. Thank you for appearing before the committee. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Koe's motion is not debateable, it is a motion to report progress. 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

I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Before we go to item 19, report of committee of the whole, I would like to extend our thanks to two pages from Cambridge Bay who have been with us all week. They are leaving tomorrow. They are Jessica Illaszewicz and Tamalyn Gillis.

---Applause

You were very patient and you did a good job. Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, Committee Report 3-12(4) and Tabled Document 11-12(4), and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted, and that Tabled Document 11-12(4) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Secunder to the motion. Mr. Arngna'naaq. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Order

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Could I seek unanimous consent to return to item 12, tabling of documents?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a tabled of document in response to a request by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake. Tabled Document 47-12(4), is a list of participants for the day

care symposium held on September 24 to 26, 1993, in Yellowknife.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document, Tabled Document 48-12(4) is a letter from the Fort Smith Metis Association with regard to their concerns on the River Ridge escape, and in particular regard to the comments made by the Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. We'll return to item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Western Caucus at 2:30 pm this afternoon. The meetings for Monday morning are at 9:00 am, of the Standing Committee on Finance, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and at 12:00 noon of the Caucus Working Group. Orders of the day for Monday, December 6, 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
  - Motion 3-12(4), Amendments to the Hours of Service Regulations and Large Vehicle Control Regulations

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16. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93
  - Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94
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

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

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 Monday, December 6, 1993, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT