



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**4th Session**

**Day 14**

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

**HANSARD**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1993**

Pages 431 - 470

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, 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, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Whitford

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Orders of the day for Monday, December 6, 1993. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 47-12(4): Premier's Absence From The House

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the Premier's absence from the House, the Premier's return from Tuktoyaktuk has been delayed for a day, as a result of the tragic events on the weekend. Ms. Cournoyea will be in the House tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Re Condolences To Families Of Those Killed In Plane Crash Near Tuktoyaktuk

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, I would like to express our sincere condolences to the family, relatives and friends in the Delta area who have been affected by the tragedy in Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, a tragedy happened Friday evening, on December 3. After having problems with one of its engines, a Britain-Norman Islander plane, owned by Arctic Wings & Rotors Limited, crashed nose-first in a

small lake ten kilometres south of Tuktoyaktuk. All seven passengers on board were killed.

Among the dead were Edna Anna Elias, Jason Jacobson, Jimmy Cockney, and Willard Brooks, all from Tuktoyaktuk. Naomi Cardinal and her two week-old baby from Arctic Red River were also killed. The pilot with Arctic Wings and Rotors was also killed. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the community, and we ask the Lord to give the families the strength they need in dealing with such a tragic loss. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement Re Condolences To Family Of Person Killed In Fire In Rankin Inlet

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, it has not been a good weekend in the NWT. First we heard of the terrible plane crash near Tuktoyaktuk, then at about 1:20 am Saturday morning, there was a fire in the Sanajit staff house in Rankin Inlet. Fortunately, although it was in the middle of the night, most of the building's occupants escaped. Sadly, one of the hotel staff members -- and I have not received the official release of her name -- was unable to get out of the building and perished as a result of the fire.

Her unfortunate death reminds us all that tragedy may strike at any time. On behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and the Cabinet, I offer our prayers and condolences to her family and friends.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Member's Statement Re Condolences To Families And Friends Of Those Killed In Plane Crash Near Tuktoyaktuk

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Cabinet, I wish to express our deepest sympathies for the families and friends for the seven people who died Friday when a small plane crashed on a frozen lake between Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I express my condolences to those who

are left and who are wondering how something so terrible could happen to the ones they loved.

There are no easy answers to help us understand why something like this happens, Mr. Speaker, and there are no easy words to help the wounds created by such a loss. I just want to say that the hearts of all northern residents go out to the families and friends of those killed in this horrible tragedy. We offer to them our most profound sympathies, our strongest support in their time of deep, personal suffering, and we will continue to give thought to those who are feeling the sadness of this event. We also offer our prayers to those who require our support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. If all Members would join me for a moment of silence for the victims of the tragic plane crash in Tuktoyaktuk and the tragic fire in Rankin Inlet, and to think of the families and friends of the victims. Please rise.

---Minute of Silence

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Thank you. Please be seated. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Pages From Fort Providence

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to welcome the following pages from Fort Providence. Mr. Speaker, they are standing by the door, there. At the far left is Lorie MacKenzie, second to the right is Melissa Nadli, Trinett Constant is on the far right and Delmore Bonnetrouge is second to the left.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of driving these young people in from Fort Providence yesterday. I was very impressed, as their parents are, with their children being selected to serve as pages in this House. Mr. Speaker, these young adults were chosen by the principal of Deh Gah Elementary School on the basis of their high marks and attitudes. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of these kids and I know they will provide positive role models for other kids upon their return to Fort Providence. I ask honourable Members to join me in welcoming these young people to our place of Assembly.

---Applause

Further, Mr. Speaker, as most Members are aware, it is not difficult for me to arrange transportation and accommodation for these fine young people. There is little cost when I request pages from a constituency. However, unfortunately, the same situation cannot apply to pages from other constituencies that have to cover high costs of transportation. As Members, we all have the same desire for our younger generation to be exposed to the political arena. I say to the honourable Members in this House and you, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps a review of pages serving from our communities is one area we should seriously look at, for consistency, as a consensus government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Report Of Official Languages Commissioner

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have read the report of the Languages Commissioner titled, Eight Official Languages - Meeting the Challenge, and I find it to be an excellent piece of work. Any criticisms I have are very minor. This is the first report of the Languages Commissioner and provides much background information about language in the Northwest Territories, the Official Languages Act itself, and language rights. It's expected that future reports of the Commissioner would not need to cover information provided in the first 70 pages of this report. The first report, therefore, provides excellent information for future reference.

One section, on attitudes to official languages, provides some insights into the way people feel about official languages, but is very anecdotal. The information can only be useful if it is collected in a systematic fashion. Only then would it be possible to discern trends or changing opinions towards official languages in the future. The information on attitudes presented by the Commissioner is too impressionistic to be of any real practical use, and could be improved. Perhaps the Commissioner could arrange to develop some method to track changing attitudes in the future.

The substance of the report is contained in chapters four through eight, covering the next 115 pages. The most important section is chapter five, which deals with complaints and inquiries from around 250 different sources. This information is presented according to general topics and is extremely useful in highlighting weaknesses in the act, in policy directions and in implementation. The plan, to provide some statistical analysis of the data in future reports, is a very good one.

The government tends to be a little irritated, perhaps, by reports which deal with complaints. Especially, when it demonstrates many shortcomings of government. This report is quite critical of the government's inability to make use of funds allocated to it. However, this report should be welcomed by the government and also by people who are interested in language issues. It is well-planned, well-written and it is objective. It clearly sets out what the job of a Languages Commissioner is all about, so that people can fully understand the kind of problems we are dealing with. It is a good beginning by the Languages Commissioner and she should be congratulated on the quality of this report. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Project Surname

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during 1969 and 1970, the Registrar General of vital statistics initiated a naming project in order to eliminate disc numbers and disc lists which identified individuals of Inuit descent. The program was called, project surname. It entailed that each Inuit family would select a surname and be registered as such, for federal government purposes. Residents from the entire Arctic were named under this program. Since project surname was completed, there have been tens of thousands of new individuals born and registered in the Northwest Territories. Birth registrations have been done by missionaries, government bureaucrats, and by health care officials. Mr. Speaker, as individuals completing registration forms varied and changed, so did the spelling of people's names. This led to variations and inconsistencies in the spelling of names throughout

the Arctic for various reasons. The primary reason for the misspelling of names, is the utilization of the letter "k" or "q" in names. The Baffin and Keewatin regions primarily utilized "q" in their spelling, while the western Arctic primarily uses "k." The Kitikmeot region is almost split. The Natilikmiot communities use "q," while the Kitikmeot communities use "k."

Mr. Speaker, in the NWT, the Change of Name Act is administered by the Supreme Court. This results in individuals wishing to change their name, or correct the spelling of their name, having to hire legal counsel and apply through the courts for name changes. In other Canadian jurisdictions, the majority of the change of name acts are administered by the

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Department of Vital Statistics, resulting in minimal costs. Newfoundland's Change of Name Act is administered by their Department of Justice, again, a minimal costs to individuals wishing to change names. PEI is the only other jurisdiction, besides ours, which requires individuals to utilize the court system for name changes. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the legal profession, we all know that legal fees charged by lawyers are not inexpensive. In fact, the cost of their fees are often questioned by their clients, as they are more often than not perceived to be excessive. The majority of individuals in our communities do not have the access or the financial means to hire lawyers to carry out name changes or minor spelling corrections in their names. Mr. Speaker, I am pointing this out as I see the need for our government to enact the necessary changes to make it easier for individuals...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. NG:**

I am pointing this out, as I see the need for our government to enact the necessary changes to make

it easier for individuals to correct or change the spelling of their names, at minimal cost and inconvenience. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On GNWT's Handling Of Canada/NWT Languages Agreement

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I made a statement about my disappointment with this government's handling and administration of the Canada/Northwest Territories cooperation agreement on aboriginal languages and French. The issues came to light when the first annual report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories was tabled in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, it seems that some Cabinet Ministers are not completely enamoured with this report, nor do they agree with some of the information which was printed in the report. For example, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment stated, and I quote from unedited Hansard of December 1, "There is refutable information in this report." He also stated, and I quote, "I have read the summary and in my view, it is not completely accurate." Mr. Speaker, I understand that Members have the privilege of making comments on reports and I know that certain groups of people in this House have access to much more information and decision-making responsibilities than others, and should be given the chance to review and investigate the issues and concerns raised by people in positions such as the Languages Commissioner.

However, Mr. Speaker, I have great concern when Members, who are in a position of authority, make statements which try to alleviate the focus from their responsibilities. The main point in the Languages Commissioner's review of the languages agreement is that this government lapsed significant amounts of funds, which I believe could have been used to support and enhance many of our northern languages projects. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility rests with each Minister to encourage, enhance, and promote the use of aboriginal languages in the workplace and in the north. To me, it doesn't matter that the underspending was \$1,000 or \$1 million dollars. The

point is, all the funds should be utilized for the items for which they were budgeted.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. Mr. Speaker, the reason for my statement is that this Assembly will have to eventually deal with the issue of the Languages Commissioner. We have to determine who is responsible and we must decide to whom the Languages Commissioner is accountable. We need to do this, try to stay away from personality clashes and focus on the roles and responsibilities of the positions. We have to determine the correct facts related to the management of government programs and services. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Elders' Birth Certificates

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak a little bit more today about our elders and their birth dates. I have met many elders over the past couple of years -- not collectively, but as individuals -- regarding their birth dates and birth certificates. Many of the elders have come to me about their inability to have their birth certificates corrected. I have heard story upon story about the circumstances surrounding the time of each person's birth. One may be the year that there was great hunger or the year that the first missionaries came. These were usually told to them by one of their parents, or one of their older relatives.

As David Woodman has discovered, Inuit will tell circumstances about their surroundings with much accuracy. He has written a book called, "Unravelling the Franklin Expedition" and, contrary to popular belief, using Inuit testimony and connecting them to the diaries of various writers, he has been able to

come up with a theory which substantiates Inuit testimony about Sir John Franklin's demise.

Mr. Speaker, I liken this book to the statutory declarations that the Department of Safety and Public Services receives from elders regarding birth dates. I'm also glad to see that there is another Member, Mr. Ng, who will confirm my concerns. There are still a considerable number of errors in many Inuit birth certificates. Before project surname, we had to use disc numbers. Even I remember using them, as mine was E2591.

I give credit to those who initiated project surname and Abe Okpik for getting rid of our dog tags, as that is an incredible

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amount of work. However, as stated in the summary of project surname, "Mistakes have been made. Some of them will take years to straighten out, a few may never be corrected." Mr. Speaker, one of the remarks I heard went as follows, "People have spoken of when they lived on the land. They didn't have calendars. People didn't know what year they were born. When the RCMP came to find out birth dates, the RCMP guessed the date and people would just agree to the date suggested."

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "They didn't understand that years were numbered. Today, Inuit understand calendars." Another problem is at the time that project surname was conducted, people used their given names. For example, those who were born shortly after project surname will be registered in Winnipeg or other southern cities under a given Inuit name and not necessarily under their last name.

To complicate things even more, the nurse or interpreter, who registers newborns for live births, will spell the name differently from the present spelling by that individual. When that individual tries to get a birth certificate, the Registrar General is unable to find any record of live birth for that individual. Mr. Speaker, I

am saying this from first-hand knowledge. I have a younger brother who is alive today, without a birth certificate, all because the Registrar General in Winnipeg is not able to find his registration of live birth.

I am to the point now where I would even suggest that a comprehensive project, such as project surname, be conducted. The person who performs the project does not have to interview each and every individual. Most of the work has been done by Abe Okpik. He or she will only have to call on those who need to have their birth certificates corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Attendance At Geo-Science Forum

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week here in Yellowknife, I had an opportunity to attend part of the geoscience forum that is held annually to inform the industry of new technologies and events in the mineral world. Featured this year was the discovery of diamonds or diamond-bearing rock formations in the Northwest Territories, that I'm sure everybody is well aware of. The great stake and rush of 1993 will certainly go down in history, equal to the gold rushes of the late 1800s.

The information was abundantly available in the seminars. I had a chance to sit in on a couple of them to listen to the talks about where they find diamonds. It kind of brought to mind some facts about rock formations that a lot of northern people are familiar with, but had never realized the value of. They may have passed over these areas numerous times and, perhaps, remarked about the peculiarities of a type of formation, especially along cut banks and things of that nature. If they had known even the basics of geology, they may have been able to share in part of these mineral discoveries.

Something that I've been thinking about, and others have mentioned it numerous times too, is that more northern people should be taking basic geology courses. They travel across the land in their normal pursuits, trapping and hunting and things like that,

and they do come across areas that, at some point, could be valuable and could lead to their participation. A basic geology course offered to northern people certainly would go a long way. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Have you concluded, Mr. Whitford? Your allotted time has elapsed. Mr. Whitford has concluded. Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Minister Mike.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Oral Question 120-12(4): GNWT Involvement In Keeping The Circle Strong In Northern Communities Conference

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis on November 29, 1993, about Keeping the Circle Strong in Northern Communities conference and GNWT involvement. The Keeping the Circle Strong in Northern Communities conference, held two weeks ago in Yellowknife, was sponsored by Northern Addiction Services. Funding and other support for this conference came from both federal and territorial governments.

The focus of the conference was on solvent abuse, fetal alcohol syndrome, fetal alcohol effects, addictions and suicide. The conference provided a forum for experts from the north, other parts of Canada and, indeed the world, to share their knowledge and expertise.

The conference was designed to share information and ideas where much is still unknown. No resolutions or recommendations were formulated. However, a report of the proceedings is currently being prepared by Northern Addiction Services and will be available by December 15, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on November 26, 1993 on the quality of water on the Mackenzie River system. There appears to be several options for protecting specific water bodies. Under the federal Northwest Territories Waters Act, there is a section which allows for the protection of land around a lake and protects a water body from the deposit of any type of waste. The Governor in Council can direct the NWT Water

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Board not to issue a license to a specified water body. Under the Territorial Parks Act, administered by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, a natural environment recreation park could be established around the watershed of a water body requiring protecting. The Commissioner could then make regulations controlling the use and development of resources in that park. Establishment of a federal park would also offer similar protection for a water body.

Under the Territorial Area Development Act, administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Commissioner may designate an area in the territories as a development area. This would allow the orderly development of an area which could offer protection of a water supply. However, the maximum area of a designation must not exceed 150 square kilometres.

The designation of a heritage river does not give any legal protection to the river. If development occurs on a heritage river, it must do so in a manner which maintains the heritage value of the river. The designation of a heritage river is established by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Environment Canada. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 187-12(4): Maintenance Positions, Sanikiluaq

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About one week ago, I asked a question of the Minister of DPW. He responded to my question, but he stated that he does not know whether there was a DPW maintainer

in the community. When I was in Sanikiluaq, in October, that position was still vacant. I would like the Minister responsible for DPW to see if he can find out when the government maintainer position was last filled in Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 187-12(4): Maintenance Positions, Sanikiluaq

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Public Works and Services has two positions in Sanikiluaq, a power plant operator/supervisor and a settlement maintainer. The power plant operator/supervisor position has been vacant for months. The department is now operating the plant through contract services. The responsibility for the operation of the Sanikiluaq power plant is scheduled to be transferred to the NWT Power Corporation in April of 1994. That's when they'll be hiring a new person for that position.

The settlement maintainer position has been vacant since May of 1993. That position was filled with a resident, hired on a casual basis, for June and July. A plumber from Igloodik handled that maintenance responsibility until the middle of September. Since then, we've had that position on contract with JT Ann Construction. That's a private business out of Sanikiluaq. We went to competition and we didn't have anyone apply for that position, so we've gone to competition again. It should be closing fairly shortly and hopefully we will have someone apply for that position. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 188-12(4): Change Of Name Procedures

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. In view of what I outlined in my earlier statement regarding what many of my constituents have identified as a problem in the legalities and costs of hiring a lawyer to correct the spelling of their names, will the Minister commit to initiating the necessary amendments to allow for name changes, with minimal paper work and costs to individuals who wish to do so?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 188-12(4): Change Of Name Procedures

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the suggestion is a good one. I will ask the department to prepare some sort of response that would help address the difficulties that the Member is raising on behalf of his constituents.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. In 1988, we had what was called the Adbet Dependents Act. In other jurisdictions, it's called the Guardianship Act. The Minister has indicated there is a new act which he intends to table in this House. Would the Minister give us an indication of when this act will be made available so the public can see it?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The act will be tabled during the Fifth Session. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

I understand the department has hired Professor Nelson as a consultant, who is with the criminology department at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. I'd like to ask the Minister if she has had



an opportunity to meet with Professor Nelson in connection with this act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

I'd like to ask the Minister, was she aware that the consultant hired to develop this act was, in fact, Professor Nelson from Simon Fraser University?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 189-12(4): Tabling Of Guardianship And Trusteeship Act

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't get involved with the administration part of the function of Social Services unless there is a concern and politically sensitive issues, that's where my job comes in. I was not aware of this person you are talking about being in town, so I have not met with him. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. I'm trying to determine the facts, Mr.

Speaker, as they relate to the special study done by the Languages Commissioner in her review of the Canada/Northwest Territories cooperation agreement on aboriginal languages and French. On December 1, 1993, the Minister stated, and I quote from unedited Hansard, "the department has not had an opportunity to review the facts in these reports. There is refutable information in this report." My question to the Minister is, has the department completed its review and is the report available on what facts are refutable or not completely accurate?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The difficulty with trying to address these particular questions is, like all other Members, when one gets up in the House and makes statements chastising Ministers, it becomes very difficult to respond.

What was clear on that particular day was this: I spoke to one of the Members opposite, who indicated that we, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, had not spent \$427,000. Rather, we had only spent approximately \$152,000. That is incorrect. They should be reversed. We have spent \$400,000 and the fact is, we have not spent \$152,000 in Arctic College.

The problem with responding generally to the question is that we have not seen and assessed all the questions and the recommendations that have been made. Like Mr. Lewis, I agree with the importance, and I think the honourable Member's interests are articulated quite clearly. Time spent on reviewing the report can only give us an opportunity to clarify some of the initiatives this government has undertaken, in response to some of the significant concerns that have been expressed in the report already, since I have become a Minister and prior to the tabling of that report in this House. So, that makes it very difficult for us to generalize on some of the comments that have been made and at the same time respond, first of all, by asking the Commissioner questions and, secondly, by providing a detailed summary and response to the report in this House.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I was just quoting from the statements made by the Minister in Hansard on December 1. Another quote that the Minister made was in response to one of my colleagues. He stated that, "the federal Secretary of State agreed to a budget cut of four per cent." Yet, in a motion which I made in March, and from my understanding of the issue, the actual cut was ten per cent. I would like to ask the Minister, which is the correct number?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Again, Mr. Speaker, that depends on what you're talking about. The fact is, under the French language educational programming, the Secretary of State agreed to a four per cent reduction only. Under the aboriginal languages area, it was ten per cent. So, the problem is, it depends on what it is you're talking about. The general criticism directed to me by the honourable colleague opposite, was that we did not stand up to the government, in terms of making sure that certain cuts did not take place. We were not successful in the aboriginal rights languages area, but we were able to protect the French language area.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Again, I'm just quoting from statements made and the questions answered. I didn't ask those particular questions...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Point of order, Mr. Nerysoo.

Point Of Order

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the notion, or the suggestion, of quoting from unedited Hansard on a regular basis. Is it not a rule of this House that we must be careful with the matter of using unedited Hansard?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo, to your point of order, I think it's been the practice of this House, when Ministers make statements in the House that are recorded in unedited Hansard, Ministers are accountable for those statements. The honourable Member has quoted, so far, two different

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statements, but hasn't repeated each one. I think the line of questioning is fair and I will allow it to continue. If the chair feels that this line of questioning is getting too repetitive, the chair will end this line of questioning. Carry on, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**MR. KOE:**

Once again, I'm trying to determine the facts so we can properly assess the report and the issues related to it. The Minister, in response to a question again on December 1, stated and I quote from unedited Hansard, "there is a ten per cent allowance to move money from one project to another." My understanding of the agreement is that there is a 25 per cent allowance to reallocate funds upon approval of the federal government. Again, I'd like to know which is the correct number.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 190-12(4): Review Of Languages Commissioner's Report

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, the correct number is 25 per cent. The fact is, the honourable Member is misleading the House again by suggesting that it's 25 per cent that can be moved around. The fact is, it's project to project on...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Koe.

Point Of Order

**MR. KOE:**

I think there's an allegation being made that I'm misleading the House. I'm just quoting from unedited Hansard in my question and the statements made by the Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

If I could just make a response to your point of order. The problem with quoting from unedited Hansard is sometimes the quotation can be taken out of context. I think that was Mr. Nerysoo's original point of order. It gets difficult for Members of the House to follow a line of questioning that may be hinging on one sentence, as opposed to the overall context of the original words.

First of all, I would ask if Mr. Nerysoo would reconsider his statement, then I would ask if Mr. Koe would be cautious in the line of questioning to make sure there is enough context in the line of questioning so it's clear to all Members of the House and to the Minister, exactly what the question is referring to. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll certainly review the Hansard and if there's a suggestion of allegation, I will apologize for it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 191-12(4): Review Of South Slave Divisional Board's Terms Of Reference

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, on November 23 -- and I am aware that there has been a review of the South Slave Divisional Board of Education -- the Minister relayed the intention and purpose of the review. I'd like to ask the Minister whether there has been a terms of reference drafted to facilitate this particular review of the South Slave Divisional Board of Education? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 191-12(4): Review Of South Slave Divisional Board's Terms Of Reference

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there has been and I will be prepared to provide a copy of those terms of reference to the honourable Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 192-12(4): Status Of Alcohol And Drug Consultant's Report

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, during the consultation and incorporation of the final report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, we became aware that the Department of Social Services had hired some consultants to prepare an alcohol and drug strategy for the department to consider. I was wondering if the Minister could advise us as to the status of that consultant's report.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take his question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 193-12(4): Examine Guardianship Act In Detail

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. First of all, a slight correction. I asked the Minister if she had met with a professor from the criminology department at Simon Fraser University. I said his name was Professor Nelson and it is Professor Gordon. He has helped with the Guardianship Act in British Columbia, which has resulted in quite a bit of controversy. I would like to ask the Minister, would she undertake to examine this

act in detail, since it's the result of this person's work, to make sure she agreed with the underlying principles and philosophy of this new act?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 193-12(4): Examine Guardianship Act In Detail

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, during committee of the whole, when the House is sitting dealing with other issues, I have been reviewing the act and reading it over. I believe I'm now on page 37, so I still have a few pages to go. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

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Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It has been my understanding that the federal government has not been remitting the payroll tax for their employees who work in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister indicate the status of this issue, please?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. The federal government had some technical problems getting it onto their computer system. They have agreed that they will, in fact, deduct the amount from their employees and remit it to us in the very near future. We have an agreement with them in that order, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mr. Koe

Supplementary To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any other groups or employers who are not remitting the payroll tax?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I believe DND will come on board when the federal government does. The RCMP have filed. There are some people, such as Mr. Evoy who has said that he won't remit, although he'll deduct. I believe the Dene Nation is having some problems. I'm meeting with Mr. Bill Erasmus tomorrow morning for breakfast and that will be one of the issues on the agenda, Mr. Speaker. Those are the only ones that I know about, although I'm sure that there are people still out there who may or may not have received the information yet that, hopefully, we'll run across as time goes by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In the payroll tax legislation there are stringent penalty clauses and audit provisions for people that don't remit. My supplementary to the Minister is, what audits have been done to ensure employers are remitting the payroll tax?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**MR. POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I don't think we've done any audits at the present time. We're still getting the system

together and educating people, although I would admit to the House that once we are a little further into the process, there will be audits conducted. If there are delinquent companies, they will be dealt with under the act.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**MR. KOE:**

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister. What penalties have been imposed on the federal government, DIAND, the RCMP, and the Federation of Labour for not remitting their payroll tax deductions on time?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 194-12(4): Status Of Payment Of Payroll Tax By Federal Government

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we don't have the ability to do anything to the federal government and I have not asked the department to press any other charges against anybody else in the Northwest Territories. I prefer to try to work it out with these people, before we have to go to the law and ask people to comply in court. It's a new thing, there were some problems with people accepting it and I'm trying to be as understanding as possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 195-12(4): Payroll Tax Retroactive To July 1, 1993

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same subject, to the Minister of Finance, the payroll tax came into effect on July 1, 1993, and as my friend, Mr. Koe, said there were several groups that, for one reason or another, are not deducting the payroll tax. It is the federal employees primarily. I think the Minister stated to the House, that the groups that were not paying the tax

up until now, are having it deducted from their pay cheques. Can the Minister advise the House whether or not this is retroactive to July 1?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Return To Question 195-12(4): Payroll Tax Retroactive To July 1, 1993

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, we have been advised that it would be retroactive. The federal government has indicated to us that it would be retroactive. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the NWT Federation of Labour, they have registered. Whether or not they will remit to us, we won't know. Because of its size, the first time they would have to remit would be in January of next year. As I said, the Dene Nation has indicated that they would not be complying with the tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mr. Whitford.

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Supplementary To Question 195-12(4): Payroll Tax Retroactive To July 1, 1993

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of all the subjects that have been controversial in the past year -- certainly here in Yellowknife -- the top of the list has been the payroll tax, for a variety of reasons, of course. Among the people who are critical of it are the people who are paying the biggest part of this tax. I recognize the fact that you get \$650 dollars back, but there is a category of people who don't pay into this tax at all. Some of the people that fall into that particular category are people that earn a fairly substantial amount of money. I wonder if the Minister has taken steps to plug some of these loopholes that are currently being used by self-employed individuals, who will get the money back -- the \$650 -- although they don't put in any. Is the Minister looking at closing some of those loopholes?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 195-12(4): Payroll Tax Retroactive To July 1, 1993

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I haven't managed to come up with the right size plug for the loophole, but I assure the Member through you, sir, that we are still working on the problem. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 196-12(4): Locations Of Units Sold Under Staff Housing Strategy

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of DPW. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the sale of houses under the staff housing strategy, the Minister has provided information with respect to these units. I'd like to ask the Minister if it would be possible to receive not the details of the sale, but the location of these units, so I can somehow be able to develop my reply to the Commissioner's address on this issue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I get clarification? Do you mean communities' addresses?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 196-12(4): Locations Of Units Sold Under Staff Housing Strategy

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Can I remind Members, if Members speak among yourselves, could you push the mute button in front of you? These microphones are super-sensitive and people who are watching television are picking up bits of the side conversations. I would ask Members, if they do want to have a chat amongst themselves, to make sure they use the mute button.

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 197-12(4): Handling And Transportation Of Firearms

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Justice with regard to the safe storage displays and handling and transportation of firearms that came into effect. All the things that aboriginal people do has to do with the transportation of firearms. It does mention snowmobiles and ATVs. It also mentions vehicles. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister whether...I, myself, carry firearms in my vehicle that I display on a gun rack. The gun rack is still there, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I would like to ask if, as an aboriginal person, I would be breaking the law by displaying them?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance with regard to the payroll tax. Last year, this payroll tax was created by this government. The idea was to collect taxes from companies that operate in the north and who have workers in the north and the south. Originally, they didn't pay taxes in the north and the idea was to try to

capture tax dollars through a payroll tax. I would like to ask the Minister how successful this payroll tax has been? Has the payroll tax been able to do the things it was supposed to do? If he could tell the House, I would appreciate it, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, yes. It has come very close to the dollar values that we anticipated. We haven't been able to resolve the problem that Mr. Whitford has raised. We've gained a lot of information about the number of companies operating in the Northwest Territories, and where those companies are from. I was quite surprised by some of the information we received from people when they registered, Mr. Speaker.

Financially, it is working out as we anticipated and there has been the bonus of getting a better handle on the amounts of people working in the Northwest Territories, the companies they're working for and where those companies originate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. He stated that there were a number of companies and he mentioned he knew where they came from. I would like to ask him where these companies are coming from and maybe I'll combine this question into one and ask, how many of these companies there are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Well, there are really two questions. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can merely indicate that there are a lot of companies from southern Canada, from the provinces. There are a number of companies from the United States. As I said, I don't think it would be proper for me to read out names of companies and where they're from in the House. But, I would certainly be willing to provide the information on the numbers of companies and the size of companies -- because that would be done on their reporting schedule -- to the Member for his perusal. I think there are about 1,900 companies, Mr. Speaker. So, I will provide that to the Member for his perusal. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Finance with regard to the payroll tax. He indicated that there are 1,900 or so companies up here. Have they all complied with the payroll tax regulations? Have they deducted the amount of payroll tax and have they remitted those amounts to the government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 198-12(4): Success Of Payroll Tax

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, depending on the size of the company, you may be required to report annually, every three months or every six months. We're getting a lot of companies, that are supposed to be remitting annually, but who are remitting monthly. To our knowledge, there are no companies in arrears at the present time. There may be the odd company who still does not know about the payroll tax that is operating in the Northwest Territories. But, as far as we know, everybody is registered, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister responsible for constitutional development. On Friday, at the Western Constitutional Development Steering Committee meeting, a decision was made that the press would be allowed to report on the proceedings on the development of a constitution in the west.

Since the funding for the support group's staff for this initiative comes from the Minister's department, does he intend to report to this House on this work, since many of us think it is wrong just to simply depend on the press to inform Members?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, with the agreement of the chairman of the Western Constitutional Development Steering Committee, Mr. Fred Koe, and when the decisions of the meetings that took place on Thursday night and Friday afternoon are concluded -- that is, we've finalized the decisions with our communication with all Members of the steering committee -- then either myself or the chairman will be making a statement in this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**MR. LEWIS:**

As the Minister responsible for constitutional development, and since this initiative has been largely funded through the Minister's departmental funds, will

the Minister indicate that he, in fact, will be making this report to the Assembly?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the agreement was that the chairperson of this committee, Mr. Fred Koe, would normally be making all statements, unless otherwise agreed to by Members of the Western Constitutional Development Steering Committee. That would be the approach I would take. However, if there is a need for me to make a statement, such as the status of the research reports coming from the individual groups we funded, I would be prepared to do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**MR. LEWIS:**

Will the Minister agree that, since this is a major responsibility of his department, that any initiatives that he takes with the federal government will, in fact, be reported through this Assembly?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 199-12(4): Report On Western Constitutional Steering Committee Proceedings

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member that any major initiatives, especially with regard to approaching the federal government, any overtures and direction given by the group, and any firm commitments we make for meeting with the federal government, will be announced to the Members of this Legislature at the earliest opportunity. Thank you.



**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 200-12(4): Fire And Liability Insurance Carried On Government Units

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Given the tragic circumstances of the loss of life and property as a result of fire this past week in Rankin, I would like to ask the Minister if the Department of Public Works and Services carries fire and liability insurance on their staff housing and other buildings.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 201-12(4): GNWT Contribution Towards Road, Fort Chipewyan

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I had shown the Minister of Finance a copy of our local paper, the Slave River Journal, from Fort Smith. Within that paper, the front page, I was quite astounded to read that the Government of the Northwest Territories was contributing \$1 million toward the road between Fort Smith, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray, a road that I do not believe is achievable. However, I was quite surprised to read that. Can the Minister confirm if this comment in our local paper is a correct comment, that the Government of the Northwest Territories will be contributing \$1 million to such a project? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Return To Question 201-12(4): GNWT Contribution Towards Road, Fort Chipewyan

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Certainly not within my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, although I would caution the House that I have yet been able to catch up to Mr. Todd, who is the Minister of Transportation. Until I see Mr. Todd tomorrow, I can't say absolutely for sure, but certainly I have been able to find out nothing to date, since Friday. I haven't seen anything -- in any correspondence or anything else -- that has come across my desk, in that fashion. I don't believe, at the present time, that I can say 100 per cent, but I am 98 per cent sure that we are not involved in anything at the present time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 201-12(4): GNWT Contribution Towards Road, Fort Chipewyan

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the events that have been happening in Rankin Inlet and not knowing for sure whether Mr. Todd will be here tomorrow, I would like to ask the Minister if he can possibly obtain information from Mr. Todd's officials, with the Department of Transportation, to deem whether such comments are correct. It is quite important that my constituents know whether these are accurate statements that are being relayed to them by the press. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Mr. Todd is not back by this evening, I will certainly do that and have an answer available for the Member tomorrow. I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the new federal legislation on FACs, I would like to ask the Minister whether there is a requirement for hunters and trappers to pay \$50 for their FACs, or is this free?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the federal legislation was to take effect in January. We have sent a letter to the Solicitor General indicating that because the training program and the funding for the requirements that result from the new legislation are not agreed to and worked out between our officials, we have asked for an extension and a delay on the date on which the legislation will take effect. Part of the negotiation is looking at who pays for the training and there is discussion about the issuance of the firearms acquisition certificate, to see whether it merits the insistence that those people who used to get it for free, the general hunting licence holders, should still be exempt from paying this fee. That is part of the discussions we are having with the federal government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**MR. GARGAN:**

So, it is safe to say, Mr. Speaker, that all persons who hold a general hunting licence, can get the FACs for free now.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there used to be an agreement that all general hunting licence holders would be exempt from paying the fee for acquiring the

firearms acquisition certificate. Recently, the federal government has passed legislation which requires that, before a firearms acquisition certificate is issued, you have to complete a firearms safety training program. It will certify that you know how to handle firearms safely. The negotiations are about what type of training program is appropriate in the Northwest Territories, who is going to pay for that training program and the implementation of that training program across the territories. Part of the discussions we have had, as well, is alerting the federal government to the fact that, unlike the south, it is difficult to run such a training program here. It is costly and we are of the view that we should recognize the special place that subsistence harvesters, hunters and trappers, have in the north and to try to convince the federal government to waive the fees required to obtain that certificate. It is our intent to continue that argument. Whether or not we would be successful remains to be seen. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Was that a yes, then?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 202-12(4): Requirement For Payment By Hunters And Trappers For FACs

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the federal government is the one imposing the legislation. As a government, we are negotiating an agreement as to how we are going to implement it on their behalf. First of all, we need to design a training program. Secondly, they want us to collect fees. We are negotiating how those things should happen. If we can't come to an agreement on a training program and the fees, I suppose the federal government may have to go about it themselves. I can't say that I am going to be able to get the federal government to agree to the way I want to go about this business, but we are trying. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 203-12(4): Availability Of TEP Students' Incentive Loans To Others

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. About two weeks ago, I received a lengthy letter from the students at Thebacha campus -- who are enrolled in social services programs -- indicating their displeasure with the initial or added incentive loan that is given to the TEP students who are at the same campus, only a different program. With regard to this particular added incentive program, why is it not applied also to the students who are taking the social services program?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Nerysoo.

Return To Question 203-12(4): Availability Of TEP Students' Incentive Loans To Others

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole purpose of the additional incentive was to address the matter of our priority, at this particular juncture, to increase the total number of teachers in the Northwest Territories and, as such, the post-secondary loan was basically a strategic decision of Cabinet.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 203-12(4): Availability Of Incentive Loans For TEP Students To Others

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the intention is to encourage people to go into TEP, as I understand it from the Minister. However, the social services program is just as important to the students of Thebacha campus. I would like to ask the Minister whether it's possible to review the number of students enrolled at Thebacha campus in the TEP program, in addition to students enrolled with the social services program to deem whether there is a significant cost-difference for this particular incentive loans program. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 203-12(4): Availability Of Incentive Loans For TEP Students To Others

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will certainly do the assessment, but just to make Members aware that much of the additional costs are associated with students who are actually in communities. In particular, Lac La Martre and in the Beaufort/Delta -- McPherson, Aklavik, Tuk -- those kinds of situations where the costs of living are higher. That is not to suggest, though, that the concern that has been raised is not a legitimate one; it's an important one for us to consider and I will certainly take the suggestion that has been made by my honourable colleague, on assessing the importance. It is a strategic issue, made in 1991, that that would be the direction. We are just following up on that particular direction.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I would like to direct to the Minister of Finance. It's concerning the payroll tax again. I want to clarify something that I thought I heard the Minister say, and it dealt with those who are holding out and not paying. The federal government was one group, but he also mentioned that...what I thought he said was the Union of Northern Workers, or the Federation of Northern Workers, Union of Northern Employees, or something. Is this union representing territorial employees who are holding out on paying the tax? Is this just one individual or is this a

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whole union-wide response?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Dene Nation indicated they would not be complying with the tax and have not registered. The NWT Federation of Labour indicated that it might not comply with the tax. It has registered, Mr. Speaker, but because of its size would not be required to remit until January of 1994, so I really don't know if they will, in fact, remit and I won't know that until January, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary. Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to the Union of Northern Workers, it was the Federation of Labour. It seems that there's a bit of a loophole there and I can't understand why that is not being pursued, Mr. Speaker. Everyone else is compelled to pay this, you and I, and all of my constituents are paying this. I wonder why one group is being allowed to hold out so long, without being pursued?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I must apologize, in that I may have mislead the House or might have confused the issue. Mr. Speaker, when you're assessed with payroll tax you have to register. Once you register, then, depending on the size of your company, you are given a remittance schedule. It may be monthly for large companies, it may be every three months for smaller companies, every six months for smaller companies, it may be every year. The NWT Federation of Labour has said it might not comply with the tax, but it did register and the first time that it would have to remit the deductions it theoretically made from its employees would be in January of next year. There is no loophole; there are a number of companies out there right now that registered, they haven't remitted to us yet because it's not their time to remit. I did say that there are companies who are supposed to remit yearly, who would be taking the

payroll tax off monthly, storing it up and sending it to us once a year. Some of those smaller companies have chosen to send it to us on a monthly basis because they say well, we've taken it off, we have it in our bank account, we might as well get rid of it right now. They are doing it because they are volunteering to do it. There is nothing that compels them to comply monthly. To clarify, the NWT Federation of Labour has registered. It is not required to remit until January because of its size, and at that time we will know if they are, in fact, complying with the payroll tax legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to keep dragging on the point but it begs the question, if the Federation of Labour is deducting this from their employees and keeping it in their bank account, is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 204-12(4): Non-Payment Of Payroll Tax By Union

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Federation of Labour has registered. I have no reason to believe they are not deducting the payroll tax from their employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of years it has been noted that an increased amount of fraud has been occurring within the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Recognizing that the government has been reorganizing, it has been noted that it's possible that the systems may be breaking down. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance what his department is doing to prevent these types of occurrences from happening. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Return To Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, there are an increasing number of frauds in government and in the private sector within large and small organizations across the country. It is becoming a problem for us and we have established an audit and evaluation group. The old Audit Bureau moved into that particular group. We do audits where we are requested. I have to admit to the House, Mr. Speaker, that when we stumble upon fraud it's usually by accident. I haven't seen too many frauds turned up in audits. The most recent cases we have had in the last year have been somebody reporting it to us or somebody reporting that something is wrong or appears to be wrong in a particular department. We are going to continue what we started last summer and that is drawing departments together and saying, here are the things you should be looking out for, here are the checks and balances that you should have in place. If you don't have those checks and balances in place we'll be glad to come along and assist you so that you're matching money to paper, et cetera. We will continue to stress to departments that we're available to come in and assist them.

I must admit that if I don't get a lot of uptake from departments on a voluntary basis, then I am prepared to go to the Financial Management Board and suggest that we issue a directive to departments to get involved in trying to stop fraud in the Northwest Territories and get your systems in place so that they cannot occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing the steps that the Minister is taking, that's good to know. I wonder whether he has considered the option of either bringing independent accountants into the system to do audits, or to look at other methods with regard to audits being done by respective departments. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Further Return To Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems that we've experienced, in the last six or eight months, is that we've had so much work to do. It has been a lot of work to send people out and get the job done in-house, as the audit and evaluation directorate is supposed to do. I have considered bringing in people from outside and I have considered other methods of doing this kind of work.

I've thought about having people, I believe they're called forensic auditors, come in from time to time, to have a look at a situation where we move a lot of cash. There has been no decision made on that, Mr. Speaker. But I will tell the Member, through you, sir, if it gets much busier, we are going to have to bring in outside help to help us to get things in order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, will he consider providing to this House, a report about the issue of audits and the increased amount of frauds within the government, taking into account that whatever is before the courts should be omitted?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 205-12(4): Actions To Alleviate Fraud In GNWT

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I'll commit to bring a report to the House in the winter session in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The allotted time for question period has elapsed. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 24-12(4): Language Commissioner's Travel List

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Communications. Will the Minister please provide to this House a list of the Languages Commissioner's duty travel during this fiscal year, a list of all speaking engagements undertaken by the Languages Commissioner and a list of initiations for the speaking engagements undertaken?

Further, would the Minister provide a list of all engagements cancelled or missed by the Languages Commissioner's office? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Written Question 25-12(4): Bosco Homes Contracts And/Or Contributions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Social Services. Would the Minister of Social Services provide to this House a list of all contracts or contributions of funds granted to Bosco Homes Limited for the periods April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992, from April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1993 and from April 1, 1993 to present, and the purpose of these funds expended? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, written questions. Mr. Ng.

Written Question 26-12(4): Government Buildings Written Off After Fires

**MR. NG:**

My written question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Can the Minister please provide the following information:

1. How many staff housing units were written off as a result of fire in the 1992-93 year and to date, in the current year?

2. How many other buildings and facilities were written off as a result of fire in the 1992-93 year and to date, in the current year?

3. What are the plans, if any, to replace these written off units?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Petition 4-12(4), signed by 526 constituents from Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Fort Norman and Deline. It reads as follows: We, the undersigned, wish to petition the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Honourable John Pollard, the Minister of Health, to provide medical, hospital and referral services to the residents of the Sahtu communities directly from Yellowknife.

In addition, we request the Minister of Health to change the policy to allow the people of the Sahtu communities, Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Deline and Colville Lake, to receive medevac services to Yellowknife and to have

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a medevac aircraft situated in the Sahtu. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 49-12(4), a letter to myself from the Metis Nation of the NWT with regard to the questioning on the young offenders' secure facility, indicating support and the concerns of the Metis Nation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, Tabled Document 50-12(4), which is a letter dated November 19, 1993, addressed to myself from Mr. George Cleary, the speaker of the Shihta Regional Council concerning the request for the Sahtu to obtain health care services from Yellowknife and to have medevac services based in the Sahtu. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 4-12(4): Independent Review Of Triple Designation Of River Ridge Facility

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, December 8 I will move the following motion. Now, therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that this Legislative Assembly request the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice to obtain an independent review of the decision to triple designate the River Ridge facility. And further, that any independent review be requested to be undertaken by one of the Minister of Justices' provincial counterparts staff with experience in this field. And Furthermore, that the report from any independent review undertaken be tabled during the February 1994 session. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Lewis.

Motion 5-12(4): Adopting Members' Conduct Guidelines

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, December 8, 1993, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South that this Legislative Assembly formally adopts the "Members' Conduct Guidelines," as appended and which forms part of the resolution.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

Motion 6-12(4): Legislatures Recommendation To The Electoral District Boundaries Commission

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, December 8, 1993 I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that the Legislative Assembly recommends, pursuant to section 5(2) of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act, that a review be undertaken of the area and boundaries of the existing electoral boundaries of the High Arctic, Kitikmeot, Kivallivik, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, so that they may conform to the boundary to divide the Northwest Territories. And further, pursuant to section 12(1) that the Electoral District Boundaries Commission prepare a report to the Legislative Assembly on its review by March 15, 1994.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

Motion 7-12(4): Appearances Of Witnesses Before Committee Of The Whole When Dealing With Family Violence In The NWT

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, December 8, 1993, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the Legislative Assembly approves the appearance of witnesses from the women's groups, the aged, and the disabled before committee of the whole during discussions on family violence. And further, that the appearance of such witnesses be held during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions: Motion 3-12(4), Amendments to the Hours of Service Regulations and Large Vehicle Control Regulations. The motion is being stood down for today. Item 16, first reading of bills: Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93; and, Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. 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 Transport Board; and, Committee Report 9-12(4), Final Report on Arctic College. By 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 progress. Mr. Whitford will be in the chair. You are all alone today, Mr. Whitford.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish

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of the committee is to continue on with Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95. I believe the Department of Health is next on the list to address. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Does the committee 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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have agreement. Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95. Prior to moving into business of the House, we will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee will now come back to order after a short break. The first item of business will be the opening remarks from the Minister of Health. Minister Pollard.

Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health capital budget for 1994-95 fiscal year provides for the upgrade of health facilities and medical technology and addresses the planning requirements for replacement and new regional health facilities. The total budget identified for 1994-95 is \$8.374 million.

The Department of Health continues to work with hospitals and health boards to develop community and regional health service plans. The health centre replacement projects in both Fort Good Hope and in Clyde River have had full participation by the community in the planning and design of the facilities. The department proposes to continue with this cooperative approach during the construction phase of the projects scheduled for 1994-95.

Mr. Chairman, additional opportunities for the renovation of health facilities to extend their useful life-span have been identified in Fort Providence and in Fort Resolution, both now in the design phase.

Proposed allocations for minor renovations and code upgrades will complement the improved facility maintenance programs. Future capital projects will be



identified and prioritized on the basis of periodic evaluation of the condition and functionality of a facility.

This 1994-95 budget provides funding for dental equipment for elementary schools. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Health and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Replacement and upgrading of medical equipment which have cost containment potential will be a priority consideration. The installation of an oxygen concentrator at the Baffin Regional Hospital, for example, will reduce the reliance on sea-lift delivery of medical gas in cylinders, and provide long-term savings. The introduction of the controllable assets tracking system by all hospital and health boards will greatly enhance the capability to manage medical technology applications.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the key elements of the 1994-95 budget are:

1. continued support of planning for the health system;
2. renovation and upgrading of health facilities;
3. further development of information management and medical telecommunication links;
4. improved health technology assessment and the rational replacement or upgrading of medical equipment; and,
5. expanded facilities for school-based dental services.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the appropriate time, I would request the committee's indulgence to bring in witnesses. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. I will call upon the Member from SCOF to present SCOF's report. I will call on the Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister and the committee discussed at some length, the problems associated with finalizing the role study, programming and design for the new regional health facilities in the

Baffin and Inuvik regions. Members noted a number of specific problems, including the following: plans continue to be delayed; funding included in previous budgets is lapsed or carried forward; amounts shown for the current and forecast years are inconsistent with those reported in the previous year's document; the amount of federal cost-sharing and the accrual of federal funds paid, are uncertain; maintenance costs continue to rise particularly in the Baffin region; and, full community consultation is not always evident.

In spite of these difficulties, committee Members are optimistic that most of the concerns will be addressed this year. Further, the committee expects that realistic estimates for both the Baffin and the Inuvik Regional Health Centre projects will come before the committee to review next year.

Members also supported the need for thorough planning in the development of a Keewatin Regional Health Facility. The committee concurred with the Minister that a full and comprehensive needs assessment, involving all Keewatin communities, should now proceed. An economic analysis, comparing the cost of existing arrangements with the province

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of Manitoba to the expected cost of delivering health care services through a new regional facility, must also be completed.

In its previous report on the review of the capital estimates, the committee recommended that, in order to achieve economies of scale, the Departments of Social Services and Health assess the feasibility of integrating drug and alcohol treatment programs with health and hospital facilities. Therefore, the committee expects to see plans for all new drug and alcohol treatment programs linked with health facilities and included in the capital budget of the Department of Health.

Finally, negotiations for federal cost-sharing of the Keewatin facility should begin now. The goal of such negotiations should be to see if arrangements, similar to those made with respect to planned regional health facilities in the Baffin and Inuvik regions, could be concluded.

Committee Members noted with interest, the pilot project that involves providing a birthing unit for low-risk mothers in Rankin Inlet. The results of the pilot

project will be reviewed to assess future expenditures for similar initiatives.

In at least one instance, community representation on regional health boards was called into question. It was determined that one community was without representation on a regional health board for a period of almost two years -- a period of time during which significant decisions were made. The committee appreciates the action taken by the Minister when informed of this particular situation. The department must monitor community participation on regional health boards to ensure the active participation of each community.

The committee was critical of the administration of health care in the North Slave, South Slave and Deh Cho regions. Decisions governing the delivery of health care services in these areas are made at the Department level, or by Mackenzie Regional Health Services, without the opportunity for community participation.

Members noted that, in two communities now falling within the jurisdiction of the Mackenzie Regional Health Service, conditions in the health centres were very poor. Further, it was noted that the design of some health facilities compromised patient confidentiality.

The committee is requesting that the Department re-examine the existing centralized decision-making structure in the Mackenzie area and look to replacing it with a structure that is more responsive to community needs.

Committee Motion 53-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

With that, I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Health undertake the necessary capital planning and budgeting initiatives to deliver, as a priority, the new Baffin and Inuvik regional health care facilities, which were promised in the transfer of Health from the federal government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Member for Kivallivik.

Committee Motion 54-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

I have a second motion. I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Health complete a comprehensive, community-based needs assessment and economic analysis for the proposed Keewatin regional health facility. The committee further recommends that the results of this analysis be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to the expenditure of additional capital funds.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Member for Kivallivik.

Committee Motion 55-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a third recommendation. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Health implement a process which ensures that community needs are identified and addressed by regional health boards. The committee further recommends that the details of this process be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance during its review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Member for Kivallivik.

Committee Motion 56-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 8, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, I have a fourth and final recommendation. I move that the committee recommend that the Department of Health immediately replace Mackenzie

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Regional Health Services with decentralized board structures that better reflect the interests of the residents of the North Slave, South Slave and Deh Cho regions.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Does that conclude your remarks for the Standing Committee on Finance? Thank you, Member for Kivallivik. Would the Minister care to take this opportunity to call his witnesses to the table? Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Welcome gentlemen. Would the Minister kindly introduce the witnesses for the committee, please?

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Dr. David Kinloch, who is the Deputy Minister for the Department of Health. On my right is Mr. Ed Norwich, who is the Director of Capital Planning for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome Dr. Kinloch and Mr. Norwich. Are there any general comments? The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho.

General Comments

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the last few years that I have served, I have always looked at the Fort Providence nursing station as in pretty good shape. I couldn't justify whether or not the expenditure necessary for that building was really necessary. I want to tell the Members, it wasn't until we did a tour of the facility with some of the Executive Members, that I have come to realize that there are a great deal of deficiencies with regard to the nursing station itself. I am going to highlight some of them. One of them, is with regard to temperature control for medications and such. Some medications require the right kind of temperature to have the medicine stored.

The other situation is with regard to emergencies. If a person has an accident, most of the time there isn't the required emergency entrance and exit for people who get into an accident.

The other issue is with regard to the X-ray room. It should be downstairs. They have relocated it upstairs for emergency purposes, since anyone who breaks a leg or is unconscious has to be dragged downstairs into the basement in order for them to have their X-ray taken. The building isn't even designed for stretchers. We have a situation where you have to go down one stairway and turn the patient 180 degrees to go down the other way. The X-ray room, Mr. Chairman, is one of the rooms that was used for patients. It is not made to shield the radiation from the X-ray machine from the staff. So, every time an X-ray is required, the room is right next to the administration room and so the staff are required to

get out of those rooms while the X-ray is being taken, in order to limit their exposure.

And, of course, the other thing, is with regard to the practicality for patients. Right now, we still have situations where most of the dental work and that sort of thing is done downstairs too. It is okay the way it is right now, but the building is not designed for wheelchairs. People that are in wheelchairs have to use the stairs and I don't know how they manage that. That's another situation. I think all the services should be provided on one level.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the nurses in Fort Providence have their own residence in the community and there are a lot of empty spaces in that building. I want to say that the money allocated for the renovation and replacement of the nursing station in Fort Providence is justifiable but I didn't see it at that time. I appreciate the department having allocated that money.

It would have been built and maybe the capital allocation would have been made earlier, had I convinced the department to do so. But, I neglected to go to the nursing station to justify it. I wanted to apologize to the nurses in Fort Providence for my ignorance. I do support the allocation now, and I also want to say the problems are serious and the situation requires some pretty fast action to address the problems. Those are just my general comments. I don't require a response from the department. It is just to justify my own actions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to touch a little bit on Mr. Arngna'naaq's recommendation on the reinstatement in the capital plans for Iqaluit and Inuvik. I will make a general comment on the committee's recommendation that the departments of Health and Finance consult with the Auditor General on the agreement of \$1 million, contributed annually by the federal government for the replacement of the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospitals, and specifically, whether it should be a deferred liability.

The department provided a pretty lengthy response and ended by saying that they recommended that the

current approach of recording the revenue at the time it is received be maintained and that this is in accordance with current accounting practices. I am a little bit leery about this. I think the department may have missed the point of this recommendation, it is more than just accounting practices, I take it.

I think we would like to believe that this is a matter of the federal government living up to its fiduciary responsibility to aboriginal people, which we have been demanding. For example, we have demanded this in the health billings dispute. We have demanded this with the Heritage Canada. It is the federal government's responsibility to supply funds for language programs. If this is the fiduciary responsibility of the

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federal government, I don't feel that the GNWT should be interfering in the process.

I guess my question to the Minister would be, where is this money going that is coming in from the federal government? Is it put into general revenue? Are the funds being accumulated over the years for use in these regions? We are not clear on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is an agreement with the federal government, whereby they bring forward \$1 million to us, through our funding from them, each year. The agreement was that the money would accrue towards replacement of the Inuvik and Baffin facilities. So, it comes into general revenue, although the agreement with the federal government does specify that \$1 million is being provided for that particular issue in capital.

Perhaps, it hasn't been showing up over the last few years and accruing into the proper area, and that was because of the accounting treatment. I think that issue has been resolved. Mr. Chairman, what it actually means is that the federal government will pay a certain portion of the replacement of the Inuvik facility and the Baffin facility, and the Government of the Northwest Territories will have to supply the remainder. Whether it comes from the \$1 million accruing, or whether we come up with all of our portion from somewhere else, it makes no difference.

Other than the fact that, ultimately, the federal government will pay a portion from which they will deduct the payments of \$1 million a year from the time of signing. I guess if we don't build the facilities and use the money for something else, then ultimately, we'll end up having to pay 100 per cent of those particular facilities.

I think you'll find in the documents that are before you, Mr. Chairman, that we have made allowances now for the federal department's contributions and I think the issue has been dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question. The issue may come up sometime in the Keewatin, the way the plans are going. I would like to ask this question for the record. There was a recommendation from the Standing Committee on Finance that the departments of Health and Social Services conduct a feasibility study on the merits of integrating alcohol and drug facilities with health and hospital facilities. The response was that the departments of Health and Social Services have not yet conducted this feasibility study.

Now, it is now being proposed to undertake this study, as part of the strategic planning initiative, which Social Services is currently undertaking? Has the Department of Health given any consideration to this yet? What will the role of the Department of Health be, with regard to this issue in the strategic planning exercise?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Ms. Mike and myself have come to an arrangement, an agreement whereby in the Keewatin, there would be a pooling of resources to enable us to take care of the facility that is required for the Department of Health and at the same time, under the same roof, take care of a drug and alcohol treatment centre. We will incorporate that in the evaluations that are done both by Social Services and by Health. They will work closely together in the particular regard. A lead department has not yet been established, although I

would perhaps be suggesting to the Minister of Social Services that Health take the lead in this area because square footage-wise, our requirements will be larger than that of Social Services.

The same thing, Mr. Chairman, applies in Inuvik, with the new facility that we're looking at there. I would say that both boards, the Inuvik board and the Keewatin board, have agreed that utilizing a multi-use facility, incorporating assets of the Department of Social Services and assets of the Department of Health, is by far the best way to go. I think there's agreement all the way around, Mr. Chairman, to move in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up the point of one of Mr. Gargan's comments about the design of health centres. We, Members of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, had opportunities as we travelled across the north to tour facilities. There are various types, as you can imagine, different ages and different designs. The one in Fort Providence is probably most unique in terms of stairs -- winding stairs -- and ability to get in and out with patients on stretchers or wheelchairs. It's not only there, but in different places in the north. My question to the department officials and the Minister is with regard to designing new facilities -- and I see there are several that are coming up -- and of all the issues that Mr. Gargan raised and what we've heard from across the north, have they all been taken into consideration when designing these modern health centres?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Gargan mentioned medication and temperature. There are some other considerations with medication, not only the temperature that it's stored at, but what kind of lighting conditions it might be kept in and, of course, the security. Some of those drugs could be very popular with people. That issue is being addressed across the Northwest Territories.

As far as the entrance and egress from those facilities, that is being taken care of. Another issue that Mr. Gargan mentioned was handicapped access. All of the facilities that we're either renovating or building new, will meet the code for handicapped access. Mr. Gargan mentioned having X-ray equipment on the same floor as the street level or having services available all on one floor. Certainly, there won't be anything built where there's X-ray equipment in the basement, Mr. Chairman. I would point out that in Providence, that equipment will be moved upstairs.

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Mr. Gargan mentioned people having to leave the room when X-rays were taken. That's correct, because there's not enough X-ray security, shall we call it. In future, and particularly in Providence, the facilities will have lead-lined walls so that they meet the standards. My answer, in a rather long-winded fashion, Mr. Chairman, is that, yes, all of those issues will be taken care of as we renovate or build new across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the department and all the various Ministers who have been involved in this term, or since I've been here, in getting the funds recognized for the replacement of the Inuvik Hospital. I especially thank Mr. Pollard for identifying money that may not be all we need or it may be too much, I'm not sure, but a lot will depend on the needs analysis. I fully support the initiatives that are going on there.

A point I would like to make though is that there are still a lot of issues not totally clarified and hopefully the needs assessment will clarify some of these programs and types of services that will be provided. I fully support, not only in Health, but all departments, the multi-use of buildings. I supported the various motions made by the Standing Committee on Finance on these initiatives.

Again, for the record, I would like to make the department aware that a lot of the design and construction planning will have to tie in very closely

with the work done by the Inuvik utilities planning commission because there may be a need to fast-track some money, depending on the date that they decide to cut off the high temperature hot water systems. Whether it's three or five years, we're not sure, but motions have been passed and comments made in the Standing Committee on Finance and, in this House, and I have made mention of that more than once. I want to make sure you are aware and that that takes place in the planning of the facility. Those were all the comments I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It makes planning very difficult when you're not quite sure what clientele you're planning for. For example, we called Sir John Franklin school a territorial high school and it kept on expanding its mandate, so that eventually it was taking people from all over the Northwest Territories, from the Baffin, Keewatin, from every part of the Northwest Territories. For one reason or another, young people were going there to get their education. If, in the planning of a facility, you have various people who say that's the closest one but I don't want to go there, I want to go somewhere else, how do you resolve that issue? Is it on the basis of the kind of treatment that the people need? It could be that there are some places where a treatment is offered which is not offered somewhere else. Or, is the range of services going to be such that there is no real reason why people, for example, in the vicinity of the hospital in Inuvik shouldn't be required to go there? It was on that basis that the money was appropriated. It was on that basis that everybody agreed that was a good use of funds and that the range of services there was, in fact, the range of services that people had asked for. How do you resolve that issue of what clientele you plan for when you build a capital facility?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, that is a dilemma I know you faced when you were in this particular portfolio. The only way I see to resolve it, and perhaps the petition that came to the House today is somewhat timely, is

establishing, before we go into the construction, exactly the catchment area and the kinds of things that we will be doing at that particular facility. Resolving this issue of Sahtu, whether they go north to Inuvik or come south to Yellowknife is uppermost in my mind at the present time, in order that we can then, having made that decision, clearly and concisely explain to the people who are residual, the people who are left in the catchment area, that this is the kind of facility that is there at the present time, and here are the services that it is providing.

Hopefully, by looking at some of the medical records around there, we can tell the kinds of treatment that are required fairly regularly and how often those kinds of things occur. That does change slightly across the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chairman. And then, allow the needs assessment to eventually dictate to us what the requirements will be. From that, we will turn it into an asset.

If it is several hundred people here or there, plus or minus, then I don't think it will make a great deal of difference. With the Sahtu, we have to resolve that issue before getting involved. I think we are very close to doing that, at the present time. I talked to the deputy mayor of Inuvik last week and there seems to be a recognition that this particular area of the Northwest Territories feels that they are sort of half-way between Yellowknife and Inuvik, that some of them are sent to Inuvik and eventually have to come to Yellowknife anyway. They are saying, we would like to come to Yellowknife. There is an acceptance, I think, in the Inuvik area, of that particular desire of the Sahtu. If we can resolve that in the next six or eight weeks, Mr. Chairman, then we will be well on our way to being able to do what Mr. Lewis described, which is to say, here are the number of people. This is the kind of treatment we want to deliver. This is the kind of facility that will last us for the next 30 or 40 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Just one more thing, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has indicated that if it is just 200 or 300 people, that is not a big problem, but what does that answer really mean? Does that mean that those 300 people who don't want to go to Inuvik, will end up being allowed to go somewhere else? Or, does it mean that they are

such a significant minority, that they are going to have to go to Inuvik anyway, because that is the general will within that region, that that is the hospital that should be used both for the Beaufort and also for people from the Sahtu?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Minister Pollard.

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**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, when I said 100 or 200 people here or there, I didn't mean that I would allow a group of individuals in the catchment area to say, we want to get treatment elsewhere. What I meant is that, when we are determining the whole size of the catchment area, if we are within 100 or 200 people, then that won't make much difference on the size of the facility that we have to build. I didn't mean that they wouldn't have to go to that particular facility. I am just saying that, when we are assessing the situation, it doesn't have to be down to the last person.

I would point out that we would take into consideration what the growth rate is going to be in a particular area, what we are forecasting, simply because we have noticed over the years -- and Mr. Lewis would be familiar with this in schools -- that if we don't forecast accurately within a short space of time, we are making an addition or making some major renovations. I think that we would want to have a minimum level of space upon which we could grow, in an orderly fashion, if the population increases the way that it is forecasted to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:**

This really is the last question this time, Mr. Chairman. If you do your survey and all of your consulting and so on, in the case of the Inuvik facility, if you find out that there are only 100 people who are really concerned in the Sahtu, will the decision you make be either all in or all out? Either you all go to this or you don't. We will make other arrangements. Or, will it be that you say, there are some cases where you could go here and some cases where you can go somewhere else. What is the Minister's thinking on that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like the decision based on whether they are all in or all out. The way that it is leading at the present time, it would appear that the Sahtu will come to Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, so they would all be out of the Inuvik area and they would be in to the Yellowknife facility. If that decision is made, then I would appoint someone from the Sahtu region to the board of the Stanton Hospital, so they feel they have representation that can, perhaps, bring the Sahtu slant to decisions made at the board level. Whether I could say absolutely cut and dried that everybody from the Sahtu will always come to Stanton, Mr. Chairman...I have been in politics long enough to know that there is always some wrinkle that comes at you from some direction. There is going to have to be a little bit of flexibility. It may be a family issue, it may be any number of things that you just can't plan for when you are making those blanket statements. I would say that, occasionally, there may be a person who goes from the Sahtu to the Inuvik hospital, but I would see them rarely and only for special reasons, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the issues that have been raised in my community of Arviat, has been the issue of representation on the regional health boards. It was reflected in the report of the Standing Committee on Finance. The concern was that a representative of the community health board had not been represented in the Keewatin Regional Health Board for a period of 17 months. In that period of time, there have been some major decisions made. Other studies, which have been completed by the Keewatin Regional Health Board, has left the community of Arviat without a representative and without any say as to what takes place in the decisions in the Keewatin region. I appreciate that the new Minister was very quick to respond to this concern, and also the fact that there were a number of Ministers who took on the portfolio, but it was a concern which the community was unable to do very much about. I also have learned, in that period of

time, that the process for appointing a representative from a particular community to a regional health board can be tedious. I would like to ask the Minister if there has been any thought given by the department to changing the process for appointing members from communities to the regional health boards?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member from Kivallivik. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I haven't given any thought to changing the procedure, but I'm all ears if the Member has some suggestions on how we can make the process better, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for Kivallivik.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, I don't really have any suggestions. I also understand that the appointment of representatives from communities is right in the act, so it would seem to be difficult to change that process, unless we change our act.

One of the suggestions I have heard is that the community should be able to appoint or elect a person from their community to represent them on the regional health boards. But, again, if it is in our act, I would think it would be very difficult to change that. Is it, in fact, in the act?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, yes, it is in the THIS Act. But, as I say, if there are suggestions out there, I'll listen to them. I think, at times, people get frustrated with, as the Member said, the tediousness of the appointments. All I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that we will endeavour to be as quick as possible in that process in the future, to make sure there are no communities that don't have representation. We will try to speed up the process a little bit, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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



**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the difficulties I was coming up with. Because there wasn't a representative of the Arviat health committee, it left much of what was going on with the regional health board on my shoulders, trying to pass it on to the community health committee. The way I understand the process right now, the Minister of Health requests three names from the regional health boards, which come from the community health boards. Again, that process, as I have stated, is tedious. I was wondering how much influence the MLAs have in this whole process?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member from Kivallivik. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I can only speak from my experience as Minister. Generally, what happens is that I allow the appointment process to go through its tedious course, the consultation, et cetera, and I usually end up with a name on my desk of who should be appointed. At that time, the MLA is contacted and asked if he or she has anything to say with regard to the appointment. I haven't had an MLA yet, that has said, I want you to change this or I don't want this. So, I haven't had to face that situation yet, Mr. Chairman. How much weight would the MLA's counsel carry with me? Considerable, Mr. Chairman, considerable.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

That's reassuring. Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I raised this question before when Ms. Mike was the Minister of Health. It is not to say that we don't like the idea of the Keewatin having a regional hospital. My constituents from Sanikiluaq often go to the Keewatin or go to Churchill when they have to go to the hospital. If there was a regional hospital built in the Keewatin, they have often told me to relay to the Minister what inconveniences might arise because they probably wouldn't have to go to Churchill, Manitoba if they built a regional hospital.

The residents of Sanikiluaq have wondered if they would have to go to the Keewatin. They have wondered if there was to be a medevac, if they would have to go to the Keewatin. A lot of times, especially for unilingual Inuit, if they have had to travel a long distance, they have asked if they could continue to go to Kuujuaq. I don't know if the Minister is ready to answer this question, but during the planning process, can this also be looked at? They would prefer to go to a different community.

We are all aware that money is involved. The GNWT has to pay for the hospital in Kuujuaq, but the residents want to understand if there will be more problems arising or if there are going to be any changes made if they build a hospital in the Keewatin? I wonder if this is part of his plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, to tell you the truth, I haven't considered Sanikiluaq in the Keewatin formula at the present time. Certainly, I'll take into consideration their concerns. I would point out that, although there is a facility being talked about for the Keewatin, all the necessary studies haven't been done yet. Today, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion put forward by the Standing Committee on Finance, with regard to some of the studies that have to be done and certainly we will factor Sanikiluaq into that particular area.

I would point out that Churchill, and I think the Member did mention Churchill, there has been some talk by the Department of Health in Manitoba that maybe the people from Keewatin would have to start going to Thompson. I am saying that this has been talk. I know their Minister is anxious to meet with us to discuss some of these issues of Churchill and Thompson. It is not only for reasons of our own that we are looking at some options because the situation in northern Manitoba may eventually dictate that we have to do something different with our people. I will undertake, Mr. Chairman, to examine the Sanikiluaq situation. I will undertake to have someone go in there in the next little while to discuss the community's feelings, and we will also raise this issue with the Keewatin Regional Health Board, to let them know that there is a concern in Sanikiluaq. Hopefully, by talking to Sanikiluaq and making the regional health

board in Keewatin aware of the problem, we can resolve any of the issues that might occur and also put aside some of the fears that people in Sanikiluaq may have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Pudlat, does that answer your question? Thank you. Are there any general comments. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back to one more point that I had forgotten to mention, regarding the entrance in the stairway of the health facility in Arviat. During the summer, I met with the health committee and they raised with me, the concern of the entrance and how difficult it is for people to carry patients on stretchers and how steep it is to have to climb the stairs to get into the health centre. When I raised this with the Minister in the summer, the way I understand it, the Minister relayed this to the Department of Public Works, who then went to the regional health board. The regional health board indicated that there were no problems with the entrance of the health facility. This is one example where the communication becomes difficult, where a community would like some form of result, and it has ended at the regional health board because there is no representative. That is a concern that was raised with me, which came back to me eventually, with the comment that the regional health board felt that it was not necessary for anything to take place to the entrance of the health facility. I have more recently asked the Minister about the entrance, and I would like to get some clarification on what it is the department intends to do with the entrance of the health facility in Arviat. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Kivallivik. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I think the price to change that arrangement physically started at \$65,000 and went up from there. What the Keewatin health board has decided to do is contract someone from the community of Arviat for this winter, to keep the snow clear of that particular access. Then, when the building is eventually renovated -- which is going to happen the year after next -- then the access

will be taken care of physically and, presumably, the problem will no longer be there, Mr. Chairman. The board has decided that it is a problem and they are going to supply labour to keep the ramp free of snow for this winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Are we ready to proceed line by line?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have agreement. We are on page 12-9, detail of capital, territorial hospital insurance services, buildings and works, total region, \$696,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$160,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Inuvik, total region, \$2.086 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Baffin, total region, \$4 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Keewatin, total region, \$625,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$3,000. That was an error.  
Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I had my hand up, Mr. Chairman, on the Keewatin. I just wanted some clarification. There was reference made to the Keewatin regional health facility. Is the program, health facility, in Rankin Inlet, the same facility as the one I mentioned, the Keewatin regional health facility?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Keewatin, total region, \$625,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$3,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total buildings and works, \$7.57 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$804,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total activity, \$8.374 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 12-7, department summary, total capital expenditures, \$8.374 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

That concludes the Department of Health. Does the committee agree that this matter for the Department of Health is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I would like to thank the witnesses and the Minister for their presentation to the committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Committee Report 8-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board, Mr. Chairman, followed with Committee Report 9-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on Arctic College. Thank you.

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Committee Report 8-12(4): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions Final Report On The Elimination Of The Highway Transport Board

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

All right. Committee Report 8-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies Boards and Commissions Final Report on the Elimination of the Highway Transport Board. Copies are being handed out. The representative is going to be Mr. Lewis, Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Introductory Remarks

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, on the elimination of the Highway Transportation Board. The Minister of Transportation appeared before the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on September 7, 1993. At that time, he described the history of territorial regulation of commercial vehicles, and discussed the federal deregulation of the Canadian transportation industry, from 1987 to 1992.

Since this deregulation, the workload of the NWT Highway Transport Board has been greatly reduced. The few functions remaining could be handled by the motor vehicles division of the Department of Transportation. As a result, the Minister has proposed eliminating the NWT Highway Transport Board. This would be accomplished by repealing the Public Service Vehicles Act, and incorporating some of its provisions into the Motor Vehicles Act.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions would like to thank the honourable John Todd, Minister of Transportation, Bruce Rattray, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation, and their officials, for their presentation and their response to committee Members' questions and concerns.

Observations And Recommendations

As well, in keeping with the spirit of deregulation, this initiative should help foster healthy competition in the NWT transport industry. We also recognize that the NWT Motor Transport Association supports the Minister's initiative. We support the Minister's proposal to eliminate the Highway Transport Board. We do have some recommendations, and we assume the enabling legislation to be tabled by the Minister will deal with them adequately.

**Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that fees charged by the Highway Transport board should be transferred into the Motor Vehicles Act fee schedule, unchanged.

With the elimination of the board and the transfer of the licensing function to the motor vehicles division, an adjudicator position would be created to hear appeals from decisions by the registrar of motor vehicles. However, the committee has no information regarding the nature of this position: to whom the adjudicator will report and whether the position will be a permanent position within the government, a contract position, or an addition of responsibilities to an existing position.

**Recommendation 2**

Therefore, the standing committee recommends that, prior to the establishment of a position of adjudicator, the Minister must clarify and justify the nature of such a position.

Finally, the committee feels the Minister's figures concerning the amount of money to be saved by eliminating the board may be incomplete, especially concerning hidden costs.

**Recommendation 3**

Therefore, the standing committee recommends that, prior to any legislative changes, the Minister must provide the Legislative Assembly with more detail regarding the financial effect of eliminating the board.

**Recommendation 4**

To enable the Minister to respond to these recommendations, the committee recommends that, in accordance with rule 93(5), the Minister shall table a comprehensive response to this report.

That's the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on the

elimination of the Highway Transport Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Does this conclude your report? We have some motions, I believe. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I believe there is some question whether all of these should have been motions, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, the request for the final recommendations is that the Minister table a response to this report. My suggestion was that we try to get a vote on whether to accept this report or not.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps you could clarify something for me. I believe, in order for recommendation four to have any effect, we have to actually vote on it as a motion in this House. Could you clarify that for me, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Yes, the chair has taken that under advisement. You're quite right, it should be put forward in the form of a motion. The chair recognizes Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Yes, if it is the wish of the committee, Mr. Chairman, I can go through each one of the recommendations as motions.

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**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Lewis, proceed.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Okay, motion number one, is that fees charged by the Highway Transport board should be transferred into the Motor Vehicles Act fee schedule, unchanged.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We have a motion on the floor. Mr. Lewis, I have been advised that you should have put in the form, "Therefore, I move that the committee recommends." It should be in the form of a formal motion that way. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I had done that, but I will do as you direct.

I move that the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that fees charged by the Highway Transport board should be transferred into the Motor Vehicles Act fee schedule unchanged.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Question has been called, but we don't have a quorum. Sound the bells. The chair recognizes a quorum. We have a motion on the floor. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

There was no quorum, Mr. Chairman, so I'll repeat the motion.

Committee Motion 57-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:**

I move that the committee recommends that fees charged for the highway transport board should be transferred into the Motor Vehicles Act fee schedule, unchanged.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Lewis.

Committee Motion 58-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:**

I move that the committee recommends that prior to the establishment of a position of adjudicator, the Minister must clarify and justify the nature of such a position.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The Chair recognizes Mr. Lewis.

Committee Motion 59-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:**

I move that the committee recommends that, prior to any legislative changes, the Minister must provide the Legislative Assembly with more detail regarding the financial effect of eliminating the board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The chair recognizes Mr. Lewis.

Committee Motion 60-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

**MR. LEWIS:**

I move that the committee recommends that, in accordance with rule 93(5), the Minister shall table a comprehensive response to this report.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I think this concludes the matter of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Committee Report 8-12(4).

The next item of business, as was laid out by Ms. Marie-Jewell, was Committee Report 9-12(4), the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions - Final Report on Arctic College. It's just being handed out now. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier last week, I made some opening remarks in tabling this report. I would like to follow up with some more comments on the report and follow that up with some recommendations.

#### Interim Report

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Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions tabled its interim report on Arctic College -- Committee Report 8-12(2) on March 25, 1992.

In its interim report, the standing committee observed that the Arctic College board of governors had, for some time, been operating within a policy vacuum. While the Arctic College Act gave the Minister of Education the responsibility for determining policy respecting the operations, programs, and priorities of the college, little direction had been provided to the board from Cabinet. As a result, the Arctic College board has operated with a degree of autonomy that was not entirely supported by statutory authority. This included activities such as the establishment of campuses without the appropriate statutory instruments, the determination of operational and program policies and the preparation of a mission statement. This concerned the Member of this committee, as it appears that Arctic College policies and priorities had evolved as responses to largely unrelated events, rather than having been tied to long-range educational planning.

The standing committee placed a priority on the need for the Minister to provide direction to the Arctic College board of governors, particularly with respect to the board's proposed strategic plan and funding allocation system. While the board had responded to the policy vacuum by attempting, on its own, to set a future direction for the development of Arctic College, it had never received a formal response from the Minister on its policy documents.

The standing committee also identified that a structure for ongoing communication between the Minister and board was urgently required, and that the Minister should indicate whether the funding allocation system proposed by the board would provide the appropriate accountability mechanism. As well, the standing committee noted that a framework for cooperative work between the Minister and the Board on independent fund raising was clearly necessary.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions reported to the House that, given the importance of the issues before the Government of the Northwest Territories in the delivery of education services through Arctic College, its review of the college would be extended and expanded.

#### Recent Developments

The standing committee continued its hearings and consultations on matters related to Arctic College. It became increasingly clear that the college was entering into a period of significant change. It was recognized by many of the parties that the college would be required to meet new challenges, with the impending divisions of the Northwest Territories, and with new regional priorities being identified. From all regions, the standing committee received the clear message that Arctic College would be expected to take a lead role, with the communities, in planning and training for the future.

On March 9, 1993, the Minister Responsible for Education, Culture and Employment Programs, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, delivered a Minister's statement in the Legislative Assembly to announce a significant new direction for Arctic College. The Minister stated that the college would be decentralized into two separate college systems, with head offices in Iqaluit and in Fort Smith. Decentralization was scheduled to be completed by June, 1994. Further, a new model was to be developed to provide a framework for the structure of the two college systems, their boards, and their relationship to government, for legislative changes, and for agreements to be made between the two institutions.

The Minister also announced in the House on that the newly-consolidated Department of Education, Culture and Employment Programs had started work on the development of a new strategic plan which would shape the direction of the department over the next ten to 15 years. Consultation with the various groups involved in the delivery of education in the Northwest Territories was to begin over the summer months, with a draft plan to be prepared for review by the Legislative Assembly during the fall 1993 session.

Early March 1993, the Minister publicly announced his intention to explore options for the integration of the Northwest Territories Science Institute with Arctic College.

Recent developments point to the evolving nature of planning for the post-secondary and adult education needs of the Northwest Territories. There have been significant changes to the college during the review period. However, the standing committee feels there are still areas of concern. Certain observations and recommendations should be made concerning the proposed plans for Arctic College in its role in the future of the Northwest Territories.

I would now like to turn it over to Brian Lewis to continue, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Observations and Recommendations.

Plans For Arctic College Development

Creation Of Two Colleges

The Standing Committee fully supports the proposal to establish two separate college systems, with head offices in the east and in the west. During their travel, Members of the committee consistently received expressions of support for division, even prior to the official announcement by the Minister. Individuals in the eastern Northwest Territories clearly identified a focus on training for the implementation of Nunavut as the highest post-secondary educational priority of the region. In the west, concerns have been expressed that the training needs associated with the implementation of land claim agreements have not been fully met within the current Arctic College framework. With division and a more clearly identified focus within each region, the specific needs of each region may be met.

In the view of the standing committee, the division of Arctic College must be a priority of the Minister. Members were assured that the new structure would be fully implemented by July, 1994.

Clearly, legislation to establish the new system must be introduced in the Legislative Assembly quickly, to allow full

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analysis and public debate on the proposal. Now, this committee recommends...

I need guidance from you, Mr. Chairman, before I proceed with the recommendation. Do you wish me to carry through the report including recommendations as put in the report and go back to motions afterwards, or do I do the motions now?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The choice will be primarily yours, but you could make each motion and then continue on after the motion has been dealt with, then it would keep it in order. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Mr. Chairman, the issue is that these are the recommendations of the standing committee. It is the printed version of those recommendations we have in front of us. In the previous report, I went through that as a report of the standing committee. Now, we are in committee of the whole. It would be my preference to go back to motions to deal with those in committee of the whole.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Yes, you have explained it from your perspective. The chair agrees if the committee agrees. Continue, please.

Recommendation 1

**MR. LEWIS:**

The committee recommends, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment proceed on a priority basis with the introduction of legislation to implement the establishment of two colleges for the Northwest Territories.

Organizational Structure

The standing committee also gave consideration to the current organizational framework for Arctic College, and the proposals for the structure of the proposed two-college system. Although operational problems exist, it is the standing committee's opinion that the current structure, consisting of a head office, regional campuses and community learning centres, is appropriate. The committee was informed that the Minister proposes to retain the current structure following the college split, and the committee supports this plan.

Strategic Planning



The Minister indicated, in his March 9, 1993, Minister's statement in the House that work had begun toward the development of a departmental strategic plan for Education, Culture and Employment Programs. Following consultation with interested groups over the summer, a draft plan was to be prepared for review in the Assembly in the fall of 1993. The Minister tabled a discussion paper, Towards a Strategy to 2010 -- Tabled Document 33-12(4) -- on November 30, 1993.

The standing committee questioned the Minister in September, 1993, as to his progress in this area. Members were concerned that very little concrete planning appeared to have been completed, notwithstanding that the tabling of the plan was anticipated in approximately two months. Although the Minister had announced the project in March 1993, the issue had been raised much earlier. In September 1992, the Standing Committee on Finance recommended in its Report on the Review of the Main Estimates, that a departmental education strategy be completed by October, 1993. This committee feels that, after a full year, much more tangible progress should have been apparent.

#### Long-Range Planning For Colleges

Throughout the standing committee's review, it became clear that Arctic College was functioning within constraints resulting from the lack of long-range planning by the Department of Education. As noted in the committee's interim report, the Arctic College board attempted to fill this policy "vacuum" through the development of a college strategic plan. However, by September 1993, the board had not received a formal response by the Minister, setting out which aspects of the plan, if any, were acceptable. The standing committee emphasized the importance of this response and was informed by the Minister and his officials in September, 1993, that the plan had been reviewed by the department. The department advised that the plan is considered to be conceptually sound, but that it needs further work in developing a framework so that it more directly relates to planning for physical infrastructure and operational funding.

The standing committee wishes to support the work that has begun on this issue. The standing committee continues to hold the view that strategic planning must be geared towards the needs of each of the colleges. This is important if each college is to fulfil the role that is clearly expected of them.

#### Recommendation 2

Therefore, this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment table in the Legislative Assembly, a draft strategic plan for each of the proposed colleges prior to the introduction of the legislation to establish the new college systems.

Mr. Dent, I believe, is going to continue with the report, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Dent.

#### **MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The section that I will be handling for the committee has to do with statutory mandate and what we see as the need to clarify the mandate.

#### Clarifying The Mandate

The standing committee considered the current mandate of the Arctic College board of governors within the Arctic College Act, and the division of authorities between the board and the Minister. As the standing committee noted in its interim report, the board has responded to the lack of departmental direction by carrying out activities that were outside of its statutory authority. While the Minister is able to delegate some responsibilities to the board, no formal process had been instituted to do so.

As legislative amendments will be required to establish the two-college system, the standing committee questioned the Minister as to whether any changes to the statutory mandate of the board were planned. The standing committee was informed that specific amendments are proposed to give the board the authority to hold property, as do other colleges, and to address

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staffing issues.

Again, this was identified as being a part of the department's strategic plan, so that further areas for amendment might yet be identified.

The standing committee is of the opinion that, where statutory authorities of the Minister are to be exercised by the board, a formal delegation of the specific function must be made.

### Recommendation 3

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, this committee recommends that a formal process for the delegation of responsibilities from the Minister to the new boards be prepared and tabled in the Legislative Assembly for discussion.

#### Fulfilling The Mandate

The standing committee found that it has been difficult to determine the extent to which the board of Arctic College is fulfilling its statutory mandate.

The Arctic College Act provides that the purpose of Arctic College is to deliver adult and post-secondary education. The board is given specific powers which are to be exercised in accordance with the direction of the Minister. The board has the authority to determine administrative policies; recommend program and course priorities to the Minister; prepare an estimate of the revenues and expenses of the college for each fiscal year that does not produce a deficit; present budgets to the Minister; maintain bank accounts; and ensure monies received by Arctic College are deposited.

The board may also carry out other activities, such as recommending the establishment or closure of a campus, and, with the approval of the Minister, setting student admission requirements, and tuition and other fees.

The president of Arctic College is responsible for administering the operation of the college, monitoring and evaluating programs and courses, and ensuring the effective management of the programs and courses of the college, among other duties, in accordance with the direction of the board.

While the requirements of the act may be relatively clear, functions and responsibilities have been blurred in practice. The assessment of college programs in relation to labour market needs was not taking place. As the standing committee pointed out in its interim report, clear mechanisms for the evaluation of college performance by the department and for the communication of priorities, were not in place.

The standing committee was advised by the Minister, during the September, 1993 meeting, that a new unit, colleges and continuing education, had recently been created within the department. This unit is responsible for planning and monitoring activities in cooperation with the college.

The standing committee also urged the Minister to provide a formal response to the funding allocation system proposed by the board, which provides for an increased level of accountability. The department reported that work was under way to formalize their response.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next section will be read by Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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

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

#### **MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### Roles Of The Players

The standing committee was informed by the Minister, in September, that the department will be playing a more active role in relation to the two colleges than has been the case in the past. However, a framework for instituting this role has yet to be developed.

The standing committee heard concern during its community visits that community education councils were feeling that they presently have very little opportunity for input into Arctic College program design and delivery. With the adult educators reporting directly to Arctic College, and third party funding driving many of the program development decisions, some community education councils believe that they are at risk of being left out of the college's consultative process.

The standing committee recognizes that historically, adult educators were accountable at the community level. The current structure, whereby they report to the regional Arctic College campus, does provide professional support to the educators, but some communities feel that opportunities for local input have been diminished. The committee also recognizes that members of the Arctic College board provide a means of including regional views, and heard from Arctic College representatives that real efforts are made to involve community education councils in decision-making. However, these mechanisms do not appear to be working in all communities. The standing committee holds the view that a formal process should be instituted, through which the community education councils would provide direction to Arctic College regarding priorities at the community level.

#### Recommendation 4

Mr. Chairman, this committee recommends that the Arctic College develop a formal process for obtaining the input of community education councils on local programming and planning.

#### The Science Institute

In early March, 1993, the Minister announced at a public meeting of the Arctic College board of governors that he was considering the integration of the Science Institute and Arctic College. During subsequent questioning in the House, the Minister indicated his desire to give credibility to Arctic College in the area of scientific and technological research. He advised that a committee had been formed with representatives from Arctic College, the Science Institute and his department, to plan how to proceed. Later in March, the Minister advised the House during questioning that the Science Institute had withdrawn from the committee.

During the March, 1993 meeting with the standing committee, the Minister advised that planning was still in the very early

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stages. He recommended continuing with both an Arctic College and Science Institute board linked to each college, but with a number of common members. The Arctic College president would be the chief executive officer for each body.

The standing committee explored this issue again in September, 1993. The standing committee was disconcerted to find that little progress had been made during the past months, in terms of a concrete plan. In fact, the fundamental purpose and direction of an amalgamated Science Institute, from the perspective of the Minister and the department, was not clear. Primary questions, such as whether there would be two institutes or one, following the decentralization of the college, whether the institute would fulfil a function similar to a faculty, or that of an advisory/research council, and lines of accountability following amalgamation had not been worked through.

Mr. Chairman, I will ask my colleague from Aivilik to continue.

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

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

#### **MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### Future Challenges

It became apparent during the meetings between this committee and the Minister and president of Arctic College in September, 1993, that there is not a long-term vision or plan of Arctic College in the future. The standing committee feels that the college should be focusing on the future; the impact on resource requirements for the two colleges; the identification of new needs, in terms of regional aspirations; and, the educational priorities with the division of the territories.

The standing committee believes that the major focus for future programming should remain in adult education. The development of successful programs such as the teacher education program, must be a top priority. The college must set some goals and strive for them. The standing committee suggests that the Minister and the board look to the past for direction in the future. The challenge will be to recognize the shortcomings in the past and determine how the north can best be served in the future.

#### Recommendation 5

Finally, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions requests that, in accordance with rule 93(5), the executive council table a comprehensive response to all the recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly, within 120 calendar days of the presentation of this report to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That concludes the reading of the report. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

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

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. As soon as we get a quorum, we can proceed with the motions.

Committee Motion 61-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment proceed on a priority basis with the introduction of legislation to implement the establishment of two colleges for the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 62-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment table, in the Legislative Assembly, a draft strategic plan for each of the proposed colleges prior to the introduction of the legislation to establish the new college systems.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 63-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

I move that this committee recommends that a formal process for the delegation of responsibilities from the Minister to the new boards be prepared and tabled in the Legislative Assembly for discussion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

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Committee Motion 64-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Arctic College develop a formal process for obtaining the input of community education councils on local programming and planning.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 65-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

I move that this committee recommend that, in accordance with rule 93(5), the Executive Council

table a comprehensive response to all the recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly, within 120 calendar days of the presentation of this report to the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

That concludes the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions' report, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to acknowledge, again, the participation and input from the Arctic College board of governors, the Arctic College departmental officials, staff, and student representatives throughout the review. As well, the committee appreciates all the comments and input from members of the public who appeared as witnesses or provided written submissions. I would also like to thank the Minister for meeting with us over the last two years. I would like to thank committee Members for working together on this report. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. This concludes the Committee Report 9-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions - Final Report on Arctic College. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, we cannot do bills two, three and four because the Minister is not in for these particular bills. I would like to ask for the indulgence of the committee to consider Committee Report 5-12(4), the Standing Committee on Legislation report on Table Document

145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. What is the wish of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 5-12(4): Report On Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper On The Workers' Compensation Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee agrees that we proceed with Committee Report 5-12(4), Standing Committee on Legislation Report on Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act. Who will be leading off with the report? Does the presenter have a copy? Would you like some time to fetch one? The committee will take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. The committee will now come back to order after a short break. When we left, the decision was to deal with Committee Report 5-12(4), Report on Tabled Document 145-12(3): Legislative Action Paper on the Workers' Compensation Act. The presenter will be Mr. Arngna'naaq, Member for Kivallivik. Please proceed.

Introductory Remarks

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation held public hearings on the Legislative Action Paper on Workers' Compensation Act, from September 29 through October 1, 1993. Based on the submissions received during the public hearings and extensive discussions, the Standing Committee on Legislation was of the opinion that amendments to the current Workers' Compensation Act should be made an immediate priority of this government. Amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act should be introduced to the Legislative Assembly as

soon as possible and, if this Bill receives second reading, it would again be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for a detailed review.

#### Summary Of Major Concerns

The meetings held in Yellowknife on the legislative action paper brought forth many strong concerns and considerations for the development of amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. The major concerns brought forth during the public hearings were:

#### Office of the Workers' Advisor

The final report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that the office of the workers' advisor be formally established in legislation. The Chief Commissioner, in his report, further recommended that the office be classified as an, out-of-scope position.

During the public hearings on the legislative action paper, the

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Standing Committee on Legislation heard strong concerns about this position. It was felt that this position should be established in legislation. However, the position should be funded independently from the Workers' Compensation Board and, therefore, would remain independent from the Workers' Compensation Board. It was suggested that the Public Service Act be amended to establish the position in legislation.

Committee Motion 66-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

Therefore, I move that this committee recommends that the office of the Workers' Advisor remain independent from the Workers' Compensation Board. And further, that the position be funded directly by an alternate government department.

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

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. The motion is in order. We just need to have a quorum before we can vote on it. I shall sound the bell. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

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

Question.

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

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

---Carried

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

#### **MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having called the Members back in. However, what I will likely do from here on is probably go through the report and then complete all the recommendations at once. It would make it easier. Mr. Chairman, a second major concern:

#### Workers' Compensation Board's Annual Report

Some presentations spoke about a shroud of secrecy that surrounds the Workers' Compensation Board. It was felt that information about the Workers' Compensation Board, and access to its services, was difficult to obtain. Many would like to see a more detailed annual report developed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Suggestions as to what information should be included in the annual report were:

- a) Chair's report: Brief overview of Workers' Compensation Board operations over the last year.
- b) The board: Who is on the board. Who nominated them. Length of their terms. Contact numbers.
- c) Staff: Names, duties and contact numbers.
- d) Workers' Advisor: Summary of position description including a contact number. Statistics on travel and cases dealt with.
- e) Review and appeal process: Description of the appeal process. Names of review committee and appeal tribunal. Statistics on number of review and appeals.
- f) Accident claims: Number of claims for the year and a breakdown by industry.
- g) Details on claims on a part-of-body basis.
- h) Assessment revenue collected by Workers' Compensation.
- i) Accident fund: dollar amount.

j) Rehabilitation services activity: percentage of clients by province, plus costs to administer.

k) Late reporting: Statistics.

l) Failure to report: Statistics.

m) Administration expenses.

#### Merit Rebates/Super-Assessments

This program would entail matching the assessments charged to employers to fund the workers' compensation system with their safety record, within each industry.

The legislative action paper states that the authority for this program already exists within the act, so no amendment would be necessary to design this program.

The Chief Commissioner, in his report, stated that, although there will remain a number of policy issues that need to be addressed, this program could be implemented without amendment to the act.

#### **MR. LEWIS:**

Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

Point of order, Mr. Lewis.

#### **MR. LEWIS:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering, since we are presenting the report of the standing committee, and since we do make recommendations in our report, for the record, they should appear as being in the report. When we get to motions in the committee of the whole, we just simply go through each motion at the back of the book. We have six of them. We could go through those six as motions of the committee of the whole. The recommendations that are in the report should be read in anyway. It is just a suggestion, Mr. Chairman.

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

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. That is not a point of order, but your suggestion is at the discretion of the committee. I think it was confusing earlier on, when we came with our last report, as to how it was going to go. My understanding is exactly what is happening. You read the report from cover to cover, and at the end of the

report, then we go back to make the motions. It would solve the problem of quorum and, as you put it, it is a report. Carry on, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

#### Recommendation 2

#### **MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recommendation, then, after the second major concern was that the Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the annual report of the Workers' Compensation Board include

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more operational details and statistics as listed in this report.

Mr. Chairman, going back to the merit rebates/super-assessments, there was great concern about a merit rebate/super assessment system expressed during the public hearings. Most labour organizations felt this system would bring forth the issue of failure on the part of an employer to report accidents. It was suggested that there are fines already in place in the act for failure to report accidents. It was felt that more severe penalties should be applied to those employers who deliberately avoid reporting accidents to make their record look good and keep their assessment rate low. It was suggested the Workers' Compensation Board consider a penalty assessment system, such as the British Columbia system.

#### Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the merit rebate/super assessment program be implemented, however, the act should be amended to increase the fines used as penalties for failure to report accidents.

#### Board Composition

During the public hearings, it was expressed that the board should be representative of the Northwest Territories. That would mean a requirement to include at least one member of aboriginal descent. A larger board would ensure that at least one person from every part of the territories and the diversity of the occupations was represented. It was also felt that nominations to the board should be scrutinized to ensure appointments were based on qualifications and not patronage. Although the presenters were not suggesting this is the case currently, they felt public

scrutiny would prevent nominations from seeming to be based on patronage.

#### Recommendation 4

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the board membership be increased to include at least one member of aboriginal descent and to ensure that the diversity of occupations is represented.

#### Traditional Harvester/Aboriginal Artists and Carvers

The legislative action paper makes no specific proposal for dealing with the issue of traditional harvesters. However, in July 1993, the Workers' Compensation Board released a proposal paper drafted jointly by the board and the Department of Renewable Resources. The following changes to the existing program were proposed:

- a change to the policy criteria used to define "principally engaged." Rather than using a minimum income level of \$10,000, the policy would require that the injured harvester earn at least 25 per cent of his or her yearly income from harvesting. The use of country food by an applicant could be valued to a maximum of \$7,000. However, it is not proposed that this definition be added to the act; and,

- an amendment to the act to reduce the amount of compensation provided to traditional harvesters from the YMIR of \$47,500 to \$24,000. The Workers' Compensation Board stated that this figure was compiled by the Department of Renewable Resources, based on sales records of harvesters for the past several years. Harvesters who earn greater than this amount could apply for optional coverage.

The legislative action paper, similarly, does not address the issue of aboriginal artists and carvers in detail. It notes that the Workers' Compensation Board has the authority under the act to determine an industry or an independent operator to be within the scope of the act; however, it makes no specific proposal regarding the structure of such a program, or compensation levels or eligibility.

There were many varied opinions on these particular issues. Many felt that the board and the department should be commended for their efforts to address the "principally engaged" dilemma. However, a majority of those who made presentations felt that the workers' compensation system was designed to meet the requirements of a wage economy and, more

specifically, workers of employers. It was felt that perhaps workers' compensation was not suited to cover independent operators and piece workers.

#### Recommendation 5

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation further investigate other programs of guaranteed income that may provide coverage for traditional harvesters, artists, carvers and other occupations which may not clearly fit into the workers' compensation scheme.

#### Management of Pension Fund

It was brought up a number of times during the public hearings that the responsibility of the board of directors, with respect to the management of the fund, is not clearly stated in the legislation. Many were concerned that the legislation did state that the board shall manage the fund, but that it doesn't say that the board of directors is accountable, has a fiduciary obligation to manage these funds in a responsible and knowledgeable manner. Some people feel that this accountability should be in legislation.

#### Recommendation 6

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the Workers' Compensation Act be amended to clearly state the fiduciary obligation of board members for the management of the fund.

#### Commutation/Lump Sum Payments

Currently, the Workers' Compensation Act allows the board to commute certain permanent disability pensions to lump sum payments. This is possible in cases where impairment of the worker's earning capacity is not greater than 10 per cent, at the discretion of the board. However, the board has adopted a policy that uses the percentage of disability rating, rather than percentage of earning capacity as the 10 per cent guide. This discrepancy between earning impairment and disability impairment has created much confusion.

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The legislative action paper proposes that the 10 per cent limit on eligibility remain, and that the act be clarified. It also proposes that, within the 10 per cent limit, commutation be available to workers as a right upon application, and where no application is made, the board should have the discretion to commute.



Opinions on commutations varied from strongly opposed to strongly supportive. Most employer groups and organized labour groups did not support a change to the current legislation. Most felt that lump sum payment provisions do not belong in a workers' compensation scheme and that commutations are contrary to the established purpose of workers' compensation legislation. Individuals or employees supported the lump sum provision being available upon application. They felt the current legislation was too paternalistic. They believe that the current legislation takes away the right of the individual to decide.

#### Recommendation 7

Therefore, the Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the ten percent disability on eligibility for commutation of pension payments remain in the legislation as currently is, and that the commutation be provided as a right upon application of the worker and that the discretion of the board to commute in the absence of an application from the worker, be eliminated.

I'll ask Mr. Lewis to continue with the report.

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

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. The chair recognizes that Mr. Lewis will continue.

#### Summary Of Other Concerns

##### **MR. LEWIS:**

During the review of the legislative action paper on the Workers' Compensation Act, the Standing Committee on Legislation did hear other concerns expressed by one or more presenters. We felt these concerns were worth noting, at this time.

#### Full Funding

Most groups and individuals who made presentations during the public hearings on the legislative action paper felt a full funding requirement in the legislation was a good idea. However, there was some concern that a legislated full funding requirement may have a negative effect on the economy. There was concern that full funding opened the possibility to an increase in assessment rates if the fund should begin to dip out of full funding stats. This increase in assessment rates would raise the cost to do business which in turn would be passed on to the consumer. The presenters felt costs were high enough. For example:

For an employer in building construction sub class that current rate is \$10.25 per \$100 wages. The class and sub class in the Yukon and Alberta respectively, the rates are \$5.50 per \$100 wages and \$3.00 per \$100 wages. The impact to the consumer can be seen when a comparison of an average new house in Fort Smith will cost an additional \$7,000, compared to an equal house built just across the border in Alberta.

#### Safety Education

The Standing Committee on Legislation heard from every group the desire to keep safety and safety education with the Department of Safety and Public Services. Most felt it would be poor public policy to have insurance and policing functions within the same agency.

#### Review Of The Workers' Compensation Board

During the review of the legislative action paper on Workers' Compensation, the standing committee became aware that the legislative action paper was not clear whether the section regarding review pertained to the scrutiny of the act, the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board, or the entire system.

All presenters during the public hearings did express support for a review of the operations. Most agreed that a legislated review every four or five years was adequate providing the review is conducted by a committee comprised of equal representation of employers and workers with a neutral chair.

#### Length of Appeal Process

There is a concern about the delay between the time a decision is made that an applicant is eligible for assistance and the time they can appeal the decision. The review process is too long. Many felt that the length of time posed undue financial hardship on behalf of the injured party. It was felt that the process should be streamlined so the amount of hardship is minimal.

#### WCB Medical Practitioner

As with the position of the workers' advisor, it was felt this position, too, should be independent of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to hand the report back to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation to move motions in committee of the whole.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Arnngna'naaq. If you would proceed with your motions.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Committee Motion 67-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

That the annual report of the Workers' Compensation Board include more operational details and statistics as listed in this report.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. We have a motion. We need a quorum before we can deal with this motion. I should have sounded the bell. We need two, I think.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. The committee will come back to order. We have a motion on the floor and we also have a quorum. The motion is in order. To the motion.

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**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, our third motion.

Committee Motion 68-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

That the merit rebate/super assessments program be implemented, however, the act should be amended to increase the fines used as penalties for failure to report accidents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arnngna'naaq. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

Committee Motion 69-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, that the board membership be increased to include at least one member of aboriginal descent and to ensure that the diversity of occupations is represented.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arnngna'naaq. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

Committee Motion 70-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, that the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board further investigate other programs of guaranteed income that may provide coverage for traditional harvesters, artists,

carvers and other occupations which may not clearly fit into the Workers' Compensation scheme.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Yes, Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, my question is on the definition of artists, carvers and other occupations. Are you talking about homemakers who make traditional clothing for the purpose of helping the family with income, those who make parkas for tourists and stuff like this? Are you including those in the area of carvers' incomes?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee did not have a clear definition of others. I believe the committee meant the statement "other occupations" to be at the discretion of the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the traditional harvesters, artists, carvers and other occupations as trying to indicate those who do not fit under the WCB scheme. Would those include the seamstress, the housewife who makes parkas and souvenirs for the tourists and are participating in the home income, the home wage? I'm not talking about the homemakers who are cooking and everything they are doing for their own families, I'm talking about those who are selling their products for the purpose of helping with family income. I hope I understand it that way.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, when the committee met and discussed the area of traditional harvesters, artists,

carvers and other occupations, there were a number of thoughts about what a traditional harvester, artist or carver is. The definition of each varied according to the presentation we received. In fact, the committee itself was divided in the description of what a traditional harvester was, where the definition of a traditional harvester begins, or for an artist or carver, where that definition would come in. We did not want to limit or restrict the Minister in defining what other occupations would be. It becomes difficult to say that this is where we begin to say these people will be covered by the act. If we leave people out, it makes it difficult to administer. Therefore, this recommendation leaves it open at the Minister's discretion.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like this recommendation. However, I just want to caution that the recommendation leaves too much to the Minister. I don't want to have a Minister, when he is further investigating the other programs for guaranteed income, have a narrow approach to the type of recommendation because I believe the recommendation has good spirit and means well. I don't want the government to start narrowing it down and starting saying, you didn't specifically mention that. I think, hopefully, this will be recognized on its own merit and spirit. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

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**MR. LEWIS:**

I have no difficulty in supporting the motion. I understand why it is worded the way it is. If you decide to describe in great detail what should be covered, then there is a danger that you will leave somebody out that you haven't thought about. Therefore, the word "other" may cover somebody who is not a sewer or who doesn't carve, but does something else. The danger with making a list of all the things you think should be done, is you can always leave somebody out, then that person wouldn't be covered. Instead of narrowing it, you are, in fact, broadening it to give that possibility the chance of

being covered by not making an exhaustive list of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Committee Motion 71-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the sixth motion that I would like to make. I move that this committee recommend that the Workers' Compensation Act be amended to clearly state the fiduciary obligation of board members for the management of the fund.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Committee Motion 72-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our final recommendation is, I move that this committee recommends that the ten per cent disability on eligibility for commutation of pension payments remain in the legislation as

currently is and that the commutation be provided as a right upon application of the worker and that the discretion of the board to commute in the absence of an application by the worker, be eliminated.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes our report of the legislative action paper on the Workers' Compensation Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Does the committee agree that this matter is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

All right. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, the wouldn't say the conclusion is proper, because I had my hand up for a little while and I was not recognized. If I may, I have a couple of points here that I would like to bring up before the conclusion is declared.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Continue, Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Arvaluk, the chair looked around very carefully when calling. However, if you wish to say something on this I don't think it would change the vote. The vote has already been taken but if you wish to add something before we conclude this item you certainly can. I think the committee is flexible enough. Go ahead, Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, I was not intending to speak to the motion. Rather, I waited patiently for the report to be completed on the part of the chairman, and I was hoping that after the chairman has concluded his comments, we would be given an opportunity to see if there was anybody else who wanted to make some comments on the report, which I wanted to do, if you would allow me, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Yes, I gave him permission. Thank you, yes, the chair recognized the conclusion of the recommendations and had asked if there was anything else on this matter prior to concluding. The chair recognized your intentions to speak to the conclusions, so continue Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mine is a very quick one. I went through this report with interest. However, about a year ago, I made a presentation on the fact that there was no consideration for small-time construction contractors in the small communities who cannot readily afford to get compensation under the summary of other concerns, in the middle of where Mr. Lewis was reading. He stated that for employers in the building construction sub-class the current rate is ten to 25 per \$100 wages. If you are a very small contractor, the construction of one unit costing \$120,000, that is already over \$1,200 they would have to put up-front to the Workers' Compensation Board.

With our business incentive program, which is the government's program, we have been trying to encourage the

small-time construction operators or contractors to, for example, if you have six houses to build in Coral Harbour, then you would encourage small businesses to take on one or two if he cannot afford to take on all six of them. However, even at that, that is only \$248,000 and the Workers' Compensation Board expects that person to up-front \$2,480 before the contract has been awarded. Whereas, a bigger company can afford that because they have already made arrangements with the banks to get interim loans to pay their wages before they can be paid from the government who is giving them a contract. I was quite surprised to see that there was no sense of recommendation in helping out, or at least encouraging, the government's incentive program that it would become a reality rather than just saying the government has a 15 per cent incentive program, but help them in the other way around.

In the eastern Arctic, especially, the construction season is very short. Some small-time contractors make a little mistake in sending their application to the Workers' Compensation Board in Yellowknife. By the time it comes back, it is a couple of weeks and they are simply told they forgot to put the contract number down from the government. If you called the government, they would say, I'm sorry, we cannot give you a contract number or give you issuance of the contract until you receive your deposit from the Workers' Compensation Board. They are getting into a catch-22 situation right off the bat.

There are more things I could say about this one because, coming from a small community, I know all of these small contractors who are encouraged to become bigger by taking on the government incentive. But, under this program, they cannot really afford it. I was hoping that the Standing Committee on Legislation would have made a recommendation instructing, or at least requesting, the government that this kind of a hassle be eliminated by using a different approach to giving out contracts. We're causing a hindrance to small contractors, but not to the big contractors. Qujannamiik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I'm sure the chairman of the committee will note those remarks for future reference. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the government also notes the comments and we'll undertake to look at that situation

to see if there is anything that can be done to resolve it. I thank the Member for bringing it forth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard, for your assurance. On the matter of the SCOL report, is there anything else? The matter is then concluded. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

To deal with the report of the committee review of DeLury and Associates Limited contracts, Committee Report 7-12(4).

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee agrees. It will be presented by Mr. Koe.

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

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts was here a few weeks ago he read the report into the record. So, at this stage, we would like to deal with the committee recommendations. So, if I may continue, Mr. Chairman?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Yes, continue.

Committee Motion 73-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Copies of the report are just being handed out in case anybody wants to read them. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 74-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Continue, Mr. Koe.

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Committee Motion 75-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 3, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the government review the payment of consulting fees for Mr. DeLury for services provided to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, assess the feasibility of recovering these fees and take appropriate action, as required.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, I just want clarification. Who would be responsible for this? Would it be the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Who would care to respond to that? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

That's a good question. I believe it would be the Minister of Finance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. The chair recognizes the Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Are we talking about recommendation number two, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation three.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Three, I'm sorry. Normally, what we would do is have the audit evaluation people look at that situation and if it was judged there are some grounds for recovery, Justice would be brought into the situation and Justice would give us advice on what could be done or what

couldn't be done. That's normally how it would go, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I have one other question. I didn't fully hear the Minister of Finance's comments. Sometimes, it is hard to hear on this side. Mr. Chairman, if the government is going to review the payment of consulting fees to Mr. DeLury and assess the feasibility of recovering these fees, what is going to determine what is feasible in recovering the fees?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, what would happen is one of our auditors would look at the terms of reference, the contract, the fees paid, the services provided, et cetera, and then once they have ascertained what exactly happened in a financial contractual nature and if it was felt that some of the fees could be recovered, they would advise Justice. Justice would give the advice on whether in law the fees could be recovered and how those fees could be recovered, if they were recoverable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

So, is it clear that these would be recovered from IRC as opposed to DeLury and Associates.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want to comment on that without knowing exactly what went on. I don't know who they might be recovered from. I think that goes back to the kind of arrangements that were made with the Government of the Northwest Territories. I guess

we'd have to look to an expert to tell us if there were any recoveries who they'd be recoverable from.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I wonder if the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs could answer this, since he was the Minister throughout the whole fiasco with this particular contract, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, on May 11, 1990, I received a request from Roger Gruben, the chairman of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, requesting the services of Mr. DeLury, for two days during the week of May 28, to assist the Inuvialuit in the further development of its enrolment policies and procedures. In the discussion with Mr. Gruben, he laid out that he thought it was in line with the way government sometimes moves to assist other organizations in their work. Since Mr. DeLury was an employee, per se, of the government and it was just for a short time he thought it would be all right to make such a request knowing the type of assistance we give to other organizations like the Dene Nation, the Metis Nation and other aboriginal organizations across the North. I indicated that I thought because it dealt with the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and because it was for a short time period, I thought there was no difficulty in providing this service. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

To the motion, as indicated on page 11 of the report, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to get clarification on a motion before I vote on it. It states, on page 11, recovery of costs, "In May 1990, the contractor requested approval from the Minister to provide services on a short-term basis, to the IRC. Commencing the week of May 28, 1990, for a total of

69 hours (or \$8,740 in costs) were reported as work done for the IRC, and these hours were included in the amounts invoiced and subsequently paid by the GNWT. The invoices indicated the hours that were applicable to the IRC, and contained a note, suggesting that these amounts could be charged back to the IRC. Based on the available documentation, it appears that these costs were not recovered from the IRC by the GNWT."

Mr. Chairman, I read that into the record because it certainly contradicts what the Minister has just indicated in this House. I guess what I am trying to determine is, when they do assess the feasibility of recovering these costs and who do they recover

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them from? Do they recover them from IRC or do they recover them from Mr. DeLury? That is what I am trying to determine. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I recognize question is being called, Mr. Chairman, but I am asking a question on the motion. I would appreciate some answer from either the government or somebody in the committee. If we don't know who we are going to get the money from, Mr. Chairman, I am wondering what is the purpose of this motion. I would like clarification on the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The chair can't request that the Minister answer this question in this forum. However, the chair will ask the representative of the committee to see if we can ascertain an answer for you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. The committee, in deliberating and reviewing this issue, was also left with the same questions. The intent of the motion is to review this payment, assess the feasibility of recovering and, from whom. That is why we are asking for the review. The question is left unanswered. We know that Mr. DeLury, at the time, was on contract to the Executive Council through the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and that he did get approval to work for two days, but then the resulting bill was for 69 hours and some \$8,000.



The assessment that we are looking for is to determine what components were approved, what was not approved, and the resulting legal implications as to who the recovery should come from.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Does that explain to your satisfaction, Madame Marie-Jewell? Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that this matter is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes Madam Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, it appears we have concluded all items on the order paper for business of committee of the whole until Mr. Todd arrives back to do the Departments of MACA, Economic Development and Tourism, Safety and Public Services and the Workers' Compensation Board. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act; and, Bill 4, An Act to

Amend the Hamlets Act are under the Department of MACA, therefore it would be very difficult to proceed without Mr. Todd being available, unless another Minister wants to take on the responsibility of his portfolios tomorrow. Until now, I believe we have concluded as much as we can. I move to report progress. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. We have a motion to report progress. This is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; 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 Transport Board; and, Committee Report 9-12(4), Final Report on Arctic College, and would like to report progress with 23 motions being adopted and that committee reports five, seven and nine are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Secunder of the motion, Mr. Dent. 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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at 6:55 pm this evening. Meetings tomorrow morning, at 9:00 am of caucus, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and again at 12:00 pm of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, December 7, 1993.

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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 Services Regulations and Large Vehicle Control Regulations

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

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, December 7, 1993 at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT