



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 16

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The Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 49-12(4): Contributions Policy - Local Community Transportation Facilities

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, since becoming the Minister of Transportation, Members of the House have made it very clear to me that there is a large desire for local transportation facilities in the communities. These include wharves, breakwaters and landings for small boats and access roads or trails to local attractions. These facilities are needed to support resource harvesting, recreation, tourism and cultural pursuits.

It has also become clear to me that the needs are not being adequately met. In part, this shortfall can be addressed by speaking more on these programs, and I intend to do so. However, this is not the only answer.

In many cases, communities know what is needed and are quite capable of building it themselves. Often, they are prepared to make a substantial contribution to the work and are asking only for some assistance to pay wages or purchase materials or fuel.

I believe we should support this kind of community initiative and commitment. By doing so, we can respond to community priorities and increase the local control and stake in the projects. We can also stretch our limited dollars a little further.

Mr. Speaker, I am, therefore, pleased to announce that Cabinet has approved a contributions policy for community transportation infrastructure. This policy will increase our flexibility in making contributions to communities who wish to undertake improvements to local access roads and small craft facilities.

Communities will be encouraged to develop proposals outlining the work to be done, including the costs and schedule, the contribution requested and the anticipated benefits. I should caution that this policy is aimed at smaller local projects and our total funding is not unlimited. However, we will make every effort to respond positively to sound proposals.

Department of Transportation staff will also be available to assist in developing proposals and provide expertise where required. We will also continue, where appropriate, with more traditional implementation methods for community marine and access road projects.

This policy will therefore not exclude those communities who do not have the means to initiate such proposals. Nor will it exclude larger or more complex projects which do require more thorough planning, engineering or environmental assessments.

Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to make details of this new policy available to interested Members and community councils. I hope my colleagues will agree that this policy is a positive step forward towards community control in satisfying local needs and aspirations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 50-12(4): Building And Learning Strategy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later on this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I will table the building and learning strategy on behalf of the NWT Housing Corporation, the Departments of Public Works and Services and the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. This important initiative is a result of months of hard work and collaboration between the NWT Housing Corporation and the Departments of Public Works and Services, Education, Culture and Employment.

Every year, our government spends millions of dollars on capital projects. We build houses, schools, nursing stations, recreational facilities and other buildings that are needed in our communities. These capital projects have the potential to create much more benefit to the communities than just the buildings themselves. The jobs generated by construction work are needed by the people in the communities. Jobs are scarce in many communities, and employment is needed so people can be self-sufficient and provide a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Jobs, training and business opportunities for the communities are what the building and learning strategy is all about. Government, communities and NWT construction industry will work together to create new jobs for northerners on government funded local construction projects. Through these efforts, we will build a trained, skilled, northern construction workforce, and strengthen our northern construction industry.

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I would like to thank the Honourable Richard Nerysoo and all those who contributed to the development of this strategy. We will continue to work together to ensure that government-funded construction projects result not only in quality buildings, but also in stronger, more self-sufficient northern communities, citizens and businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 51-12(4): Dene Kede Curriculum Launched

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The importance of basing education in local culture has long been recognized in the Northwest Territories. Although language and cultural activities have been a part of school programs, communities, educators, school boards and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment have recognized the need to include aboriginal culture and language in the school system in a consistent way.

I am pleased to tell this Assembly that Dene Kede, the first curriculum to provide a Dene perspective on education, was officially launched at a ceremony in

Rae in mid-October, and has been officially introduced into schools across the western Arctic. The curriculum encompasses the language, culture and way in which five Dene nations view the world.

Approximately fifty themes, such as drumming, fire, and caribou, are used to teach the four concepts central to Dene perspective: the spiritual world, the land, the self and the people. The purpose of the curriculum is to enhance Dene culture and language, and to help students develop respectful relationships with themselves, other people, the spirit world and the land.

To ensure that Dene Kede is truly community-based, it was essential to involve as many communities as possible in its development. Elders, in particular, had a key role to play at every stage. As a result, the way in which Dene Kede was produced was unique. Over a period of three years, a group of elders from all five of the Dene regions developed the curriculum by identifying the major themes and how they reflect Dene perspective. The staff of the department and 24 other aboriginal teachers acted as support to these elders.

The curriculum was piloted in five schools in the western Arctic in 1992-93, including Fort McPherson, Fort Providence, Rae-Edzo and two schools in Yellowknife. The curriculum is now being implemented in all western Arctic schools and is expected to take up to three years, at which point it will be evaluated. I am proud of this accomplishment and will be providing every Member with a copy of this curriculum. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that my colleague, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, was Minister of Education when work began on this important initiative.

Dene Kede has currently been developed for students in kindergarten to grade six. Work on the curriculum for grades seven to nine is scheduled to begin in 1995-96. I am also pleased to announce that work is proceeding on Inuuqatigiit, the Inuktitut language and culture curriculum, which will be piloted in January of 1994. I will keep the Assembly informed of progress on this curriculum. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Re Proposal To Close Akaitcho Hall

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to speak about the proposed closure of Akaitcho Hall. Akaitcho Hall has served the needs of all students in the Northwest Territories for more than 25 years. It is an institution that has helped to graduate many of our leaders, by giving them a sound environment in which to learn and grow. The proposed closure, in the spring of 1994, of Akaitcho Hall limits the educational opportunities for our children. If we are to continue to want the best possible education for our children, we must provide them with choices. I do not believe that the divisional boards of education can supply the same recreational, cultural and educational opportunities that are available in a city the size of Yellowknife. The divisional boards can not provide large enough student numbers in each grade level to ensure a variety of classes and options. To replace Akaitcho Hall with a home boarding program is not an option. The majority of the people who would be involved in offering their homes through this program would be of European descent. Taking a native student and placing them in such an environment serves, again, to reduce the opportunity to maintain one's own cultural identity.

In the capital project address on November 19, the Honourable John Pollard stated that one of the biggest concerns this government had was the lack of educational facilities for the development of our children. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the need for Akaitcho Hall is far from over and that the department's failure to include this fact in this planning may show short-sightedness on their part. Akaitcho Hall has served, in the past, as a melting pot of all cultures in the Northwest Territories. Students who attend Akaitcho Hall are exposed to a different aspect of Dene and Inuit culture. The interchange of ideas and culture results in our children having a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the people of the Northwest Territories. This understanding can not be achieved in a home boarding program.

Children from the smaller communities with a native heritage must be exposed to larger communities such as Yellowknife to lessen the cultural shock that might occur, should they decide to further their education in the south. We need educated native-born

northerners with the necessary skills to guide and shape the destiny of the Northwest Territories into the 25th century. The closure of Akaitcho Hall...

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I seek unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. The closure of Akaitcho Hall robs northern students of the freedom to make their own choices. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement Re Resignation As Deputy Speaker

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, with regard to being the deputy speaker. I will be resigning from my position as Deputy Speaker, as I have served my two year term. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and the two other chairpersons. I am sure the Members are aware that there would be a person from amongst the Members to be elected as a Speaker and a deputy speaker. I would like to encourage every one of you to be the Speaker or the deputy speaker. Thank you very much, to all the Members for giving me support when I was chairperson and when I was a deputy speaker. I really appreciate your support. (Translation ends)

My resignation as the deputy speaker will be effective at the end of the Fourth Session of the 12th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. I think all Members join me in thanking you very much for your contributions, not only in the last two years as deputy speaker, but for your many, many years in the House. Thanks so much, Mr. Pudluk.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On The Importance Of Literacy

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to speak a little bit on literacy. I have a little clipping from the newspaper that says that the world illiteracy rate is falling and this is the first time for that. It's good news that more people are able to read and write. We're approaching the end of 1993 and I think the end of a year is a good time to reflect on things that are important. This is a very good time to remember the importance of being able to read and to write, the importance of being able to pick up the newspaper and to read the latest news, the importance of being able to read and understand safety signs around, the importance of being able to write a letter to your mother, your father, or write a note to your grandchildren.

During this session, we've had many reminders about literacy and education programs. I was dismayed to hear from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment that the drop-out rate in the NWT was as high as 75 per cent. Then, we turn around and we use capital program money to train workers in construction. I find this all pretty discouraging.

Not all of the news is bad, however. In October, during literacy week, I was one of the many people who took part in reading out loud to children in the Panda Mall. A lot of organizations across the NWT held reading and writing events that week. The Literacy Council asked people to read for 15 minutes on October 8 and 7,850 reported that they did. The Literacy Council also held a writing contest across the territories. Last year, they had 400 entries, this year, there were more than 800. These activities are good signs, but literacy is not a once a year thing. It is important not only to learn to read and to write in all of our languages, but it is important to use those skills throughout our lives. The holiday is just around the corner and I have a suggestion for all the Members of

this Assembly and all of the people of the territories; this season give a book to a friend, read a book to yourself and share a book with your family. Literacy is a gift for a lifetime. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Prospecting Course In Baker Lake

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of my highlights this past summer was to arrange for a prospecting course in Baker Lake. The process was tedious and time-consuming, as two NWT government departments were involved and the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs. However, the course did take place late in the summer. I spoke to some of the students during the course and afterwards. The students were ecstatic as they took in the information from the instructor. I have stated in this House previously, that I believe our corner of the country is one of the last frontiers, as it relates to minerals. I think the potential in mineral development is incredible. This is where the north will find its financial resources to build the much-needed infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, there has been a record number of mineral claim staking in the area of north Great Slave Lake and they are going to continue to move eastward. In 1992, 20 million acres of claims were recorded, with 3.1 million acres in the month of December alone. There were more claims staked in one month than had occurred in many years. At the end of 1992, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs gave out an additional 7.1 million acres in prospecting permits. This calendar year, between the months of January and October, 45 million acres were recorded.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northwest Territories have to be intimately involved in this development. One of the ways to start is by running similar courses in the communities. Our people have to start staking some of this land. They have to learn what it means to be a miner, otherwise, mining companies will be up here with no involvement by the people. Much the same as has happened in the development of our government over the past three or four decades.

As is the norm, our people will be given token positions to show the numbers are there. They will not be in a position to be able to influence the major decisions that will have to be made. I encourage the Government of the Northwest Territories to start campaigning across the north the potential for jobs in the mining industry. Where that starts, Mr. Speaker, is in education.

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

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We must make information about job opportunities, and the possibilities of mining, readily available to young people across the north, and train them in those positions. In fact, when approached properly, it offers a unique opportunity for northerners to create businesses, owned and operated, by northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re Subsidized Housing Program

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, we highlighted a number of success stories, stories where we found people had faced community problems and found ways to deal with them. I'd like to tell the House today about a success story that is just coming together.

Mr. Speaker, there is a subsidized housing development in Yellowknife known as Sissons Court. There are 48 units owned by the Housing Corporation and administered by the Yellowknife Housing Authority. A large number of the residents are single parents and there are 98 children, under the age of 16, living in this subsidized housing. Many of the

parents do not have cars to take their kids to organized sports and many of the organized sports, such as hockey, are just too expensive. So, the Yellowknife Housing Authority has put up a basketball court to encourage children not to play in the parking lot, which is the only other place for them to play, and this is well used.

Otherwise, there is just nothing for these children to do. Of course, the by-product of this was a lot of vandalism in the neighbourhood. Mr. Speaker, about six months ago, an energetic young woman by the name of Monica Fusick-Leonard is decided that forming a tenant association would be the first step in improving the life of the residents of Sissons Court. She canvassed her neighbours, drummed up support, and a non-profit tenant association has now been formed.

While working at getting this association going, Monica also worked on another idea, a community centre for the tenants. She wanted a place, and I quote from her letter, "...where all the tenants here in Sissons Court could come to get help with the problems we face, a major one being that our children have no organized shelter and place where they can receive help when they need it, whether it be to discuss stressful problems with a counsellor or just to do arts and crafts. It will keep them off the streets and reduce vandalism by giving them something constructive to do with their time and energy."

Mr. Speaker, Monica also consulted with Social Services and thought they would be willing to hold workshops in the Sissons Court community centre on topics such as budget planning, social assistance, time management and so on, as well as to counsel people on such issues as child welfare, family violence and sexual, mental or physical abuse. In her drive to get a community centre, Monica put together a comprehensive proposal and then lobbied the Housing Authority, the Housing Corporation, Social Services and anyone else she thought might help.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that Monica and the Sissons Court Tenant Association are going to have a community centre. The Yellowknife Housing Authority is going to make a three bedroom unit at Sissons Court available for the tenant's association's use. The arrangement has been made for a six month trial period only, but there is good reason to believe that this community centre can really work for Sissons Court.

The creation of the tenant association alone, last spring, has had positive results. According to the Housing Authority, there has already been a considerable decrease in vandalism in the neighbourhood in the past six months. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Yellowknife Housing Authority, the Honourable Don Morin and the NWT Housing Corporation for recognizing the importance and value of this project and allowing it to proceed.

I would like to thank the Social Services area office for their help and support. And most of all, I would like to congratulate Monica Fusick-Leonard is on her initiative and her can do spirit. Mr. Speaker, she has set an example for all of us.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Acknowledging Pages From Inuvik

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Today I'd like to acknowledge the performance and contributions of two pages who are from Inuvik. Bernadette Binder and Kevin St. Amand have been with us for the week and a half. They are both from Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik. They are grade ten students. They were chosen from among many applications from students in Samuel Hearne. The two applicants were chosen based on their scholastic abilities plus their ability to be on time and perform various tasks that have been assigned to them. So, I would like to acknowledge their being here, the work they've done and I would also like to thank the school staff who chose these two from all the other students. I would also like to thank my wife and children for hosting these two, during their stay in Yellowknife. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Member's Statement Welcoming Pages From Rankin Inlet

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like Mr. Koe, I'm very pleased to inform Members of this House that serving this week as pages are two young students from Rankin Inlet. On the immediate left is Pauline Sabourin and on the right is Shauna Tatty. These two young students were selected by the teachers of the Maani Ulujuk Secondary School, based on their academic performance and their attitude. I'm extremely proud of Shauna and Pauline, and I know their parents, Robert and Annie Tatty of Rankin Inlet and Marie Sabourin of Whale Cove are equally proud they've been selected to serve as pages through the sitting of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third occasion that I've been able to sponsor students from the Keewatin to travel to Yellowknife to serve as pages. The experience for all of these students has been tremendous and I intend to sponsor more students in the future. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that, through your office, we can see an expansion of this program so that more students from outside of Yellowknife can have the opportunity to see how the Legislative Assembly operates. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Miracle In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I'm waiting for the light, although the clock started ticking.

---Laughter

Am I on? Mr. Speaker, although I know this is not Friday, but it is getting very close to Christmas, I have seen the light...

---Laughter

...and I rise today to inform the House of a veritable miracle in the House. This relates to the ongoing saga of the town of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, I was informed in the grave, sombre tones of a letter hand-delivered from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that, even with the debenture interests forgiveness relief granted by the FMB, "The town will be still be saddled with a considerable financial burden which it cannot meet with its present funds."

"The long and short of it," the Minister went on to say in his very unsettling letter, "is that the town of Iqaluit is incapable of meeting its financial obligations, for which reason, I have been directed by Cabinet to declare the town under the control of a municipal administrator." Mr. Speaker, it got worse.

On November 18, in a further letter to me, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs stated, "Even with the debenture refinancing, the town was still facing a deficit of nearly \$1 million, much of which is due December 31, 1993." My anxiety rose. If that wasn't bad enough news, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard, speculated in this House, on November 24, in a return to a question about the financial obligations of the town of Iqaluit, "As late as yesterday, I was told by someone that amount may go as high as another \$2.4 million." The miracle is this Mr. Speaker -- and I will get to who the miracle worker was later in this statement -- after all these grave warnings, even with the debenture relief having been approved, a financial crisis and crippling debt looming and year end deficits, the new municipal administrator reported to the people of Iqaluit, at a public meeting which I attended last Monday night, "The financial situation has been stabilized."

---Applause

"The patient is out of danger," he said. "The town can meet the debenture payments." Hallelujah!

---Laughter

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, in less than four weeks...(Microphone turned off)

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER:

There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you very much, Members. You can see I have been rejuvenated by my visit to Iqaluit.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. PATTERSON:

We got to hallelujah. The miracle is this, Mr. Speaker. In less than four weeks, Mr. Beaumont has turned a threatened \$1 million to \$2 million deficit into financial stability. The financial crisis has been averted. Financial crisis has become financial stability. Mr. Speaker, Robin Beaumont is a miracle worker. He has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars each day he has been in office. I cannot understand why the citizens of Yellowknife didn't elect him mayor.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, we should clone Mr. Beaumont.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Boo.

MR. PATTERSON:

We should clone him and put him to work in departments of the government. We should make him a special assistant in charge of fighting deficits for Mr. Pollard.

---Applause

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, he should even been put in charge of managing the Ministers' home travel budgets.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Boo.

MR. PATTERSON:

Now, Mr. Speaker, not everyone believes in miracles. Some of my more cynical constituents are not

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convinced that miracles have been wrought by the new municipal administrator. If Mr. Beaumont is not a miracle worker, Mr. Speaker, if such powers are not given to mere mortals, even retired senior MACA officials with Mr. Beaumont's experience, then what other explanation can there be? The only other explanation I can think of is, after the debenture refinancing, perhaps the town of Iqaluit was not in a financial crisis after all. Mr. Speaker, if there was not a grave financial crisis after the debenture refinancing, then I ask Members of this House, what was the real reason for the dissolution of the mayor and council of the town of Iqaluit? Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Honourable M. Ballantyne

MR. LEWIS:

I know, Mr. Speaker, you have been just waiting for someone to get up and thank you for your service.

---Laughter

Having stood, Mr. Speaker, on an impulse, after hearing Mr. Patterson's passionate words about miracles, then I won't accuse you of ever having wrought any or performing any. But over the last two years I have appreciated your good humour and your attempt to keep everybody on the right track. I only became aware, yesterday what an incredible astute politician you really are, even though you are Speaker. It has taken me a long time, but yesterday I noticed that when you arrived in the Chamber you

were wearing red socks that were perfectly colour coordinated with the poinsettias to your right and to your left, and that you have arranged to have a photographer in the gallery to capture this moment in history...

---Laughter

...when you were going to tell us that you were going to now fully represent the people who elected you.

It does leave me with one thought, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Pedersen had a similar kind of problem. When you take on this responsibility then you do, in fact, give up your right to speak and it poses tremendous problems for everybody. So, I suppose what I'm doing is to thank you for those years of self-sacrifice when you have in fact given up these rights in order to serve the rest of us to the best of your ability. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The picture is for my mother.

---Laughter

The son she always wanted. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I have three returns. The first one is to Mr. Kelvin Ng. The question he asked on December 2 regarding method of identifying former dumping sites in the Arctic Ocean.

The recent discovery of electrical equipment in the marine waters off Cambridge Bay has confirmed what has been suspected for many years, that the Arctic Ocean has been used for the disposal of hazardous wastes by operators of Canada's DEW Line system.

The survey work completed near Cambridge Bay last spring was undertaken by the federal government to assist in developing an overall plan to identify sites which may have been used for this purpose in the past. The Department of Renewable Resources

assisted this survey work by providing logistical support to the divers and research scientists who were on site at the time.

The Government of the Northwest Territories strongly objects to the past and present disposal of hazardous wastes into the Arctic Ocean. We have stated this position publicly and to Environment Canada on many recent occasions, including a meeting of Environment Ministers which took place last month. I am presently writing to the newly appointed federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Sheila Copps, confirming my concerns with this matter.

The regulatory control of ocean dumping activities remains the mandate of the federal Department of the Environment. Until devolution of this regulatory responsibility can be successfully negotiated with the Government of Canada, this department will continue to encourage and provide assistance to federal regulators where we can identify former dumping sites.

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

I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on December 6. It is response to a question asked regarding handling and transportation of firearms.

Mr. Gargan's question is whether, as an aboriginal person, it is illegal for him to keep his gun displayed on a gun rack in his vehicle.

The firearms safety provisions are prescribed by the federal government under the criminal code. The supporting regulations apply to all persons with no differentiation as to whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal.

There is a specific regulation on "storage, display, handling and transportation of firearms." Sections 4, 9 and 10 of this regulation set out the requirements on how firearms may be stored, displayed and transported. Firearms left in unattended vehicles must be unloaded, lock in the vehicle or in the truck or similar compartment if there is one, and not visible from the outside.

A copy of these regulations can be provided to all Members if they wish.

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

Lastly, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Kelvin Ng on December 6, regarding change of name procedures.

On Monday, Mr. Ng brought up the matter of the difficulties involved in changing one's name. I'd like to thank him for raising this matter in the House. There was an excellent suggestion made that the procedure be simplified so people would no longer have to go to the expense of having to hire a lawyer to apply to court for an order to have their name changed.

The consumer and corporate affairs division of the Department of Safety and Public Services is just completing a study which documents the history of the collection of vital statistics in the Northwest Territories, and outlines many of the problems which Mr. Ng refers to in his statement. The proposal made by Mr. Ng is consistent with the study which would suggest that the Change of Name Act be amended to remove the process from the court system and permit applications for change of name to be directed to vital statistics as is done in many provinces.

I will be consulting with my Cabinet colleague responsible for the Department of Safety and Public Services. Our two departments will work closely together to conduct the necessary consultation on this matter, with a view of putting forward proposed changes in the new year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Oral Question 166-12(4): Financial Assistance For Family Of Missing Hunter From Arviat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question by Mr. Arngna'naaq on December 1 regarding financial assistance to the family of the missing hunter from Arviat.

I am advised, Mr. Speaker, that the official search for Mr. Napayok is over, although family and friends are continuing the private search.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has been working with hamlet officials, the RCMP and the military to ensure the effective use of the resources of

all agencies involved in the search. The regional direction and officials of MACA are monitoring search activities and providing what advice and assistance is necessary to the local search committee coordinators.

I have asked the regional direction in the Keewatin region to review all search-related expenditures to determine if some of the costs incurred by the family are eligible for reimbursement under government policy.

I understand that private donations raised may be sufficient to cover all these costs, but we will review this situation when the final costs are determined. We expect that this determination will be made within the next ten days.

I have two other returns, Mr. Speaker.

Further Return To Oral Question 218-12(4):
Negotiations For Arctic Airports

A return ask by Mr. Ng on December 7 with respect to negotiations for the Arctic A airports.

On Tuesday, December 7, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot asked me if, in the even of a successful transfer of the Arctic A airports from the federal to the territorial government, how the Department of Transportation intended to operate the airports themselves, contract their operation to a private firm or further devolve them to municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation has no special preference or commitment to any one way of managing and operating the airports it may require and remains open to all three options the Member suggested. Department, private or municipal operation each have their pros and cons. The department would look at each airport on a case by case basis and determine which method of operation seemed to make the most sense in the particular circumstances.

The department would probably operate the airports by itself for a while, at least until the inevitable wrinkles with the transfer were worked out and the department had become familiar with their operations. At that stage, it could begin to consider the best long-term operating arrangements for each of the airports.

Again, I want to emphasize that negotiations have only begun and, as I said to the Member, unless we get a good agreement, I cannot say, with certainty, that a transfer will take place at all. It is far too early

for me to start making commitments about the best way to operate them.

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

I also have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 30 regarding the availability of funding to communities visiting Greenland.

In October, 1993, the main delegation from Pangnirtung going to Greenland was the entire council, as well as two hamlet administrative staff. Council had been planning this trip for over a year so that they could review different management systems, the structure of council, committee systems and program management. They were not representing the Baffin region in any official capacity but rather were looking for possible solutions to some of the problems facing their own community.

The community requested financial assistance from my department as they were recovering from a substantial deficit. Since the council had been making a strong effort to retire their debt and put new systems in place to exercise better controls, the Baffin regional superintendent made a recommendation that the department provide some financial assistance in recognition of what the council had achieved. The Minister of the day agreed to make a contribution. The council was required to identify some of their own funds to help offset the total cost. These visits are planned as exchange visits and the hamlet council of Pangnirtung agreed to host a delegation from Greenland in return.

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Other such exchanges have taken place in conjunction with a memorandum of agreement signed in April, 1989 between the Greenland Home Rule Government and this government. Broughton Island, Lake Harbour, Pond Inlet and Grise Fiord are other communities that have participated. Some have received financial assistance and some have not. Each request is considered separately, on its own merit.

However, the department is not funded specifically to provide financial assistance to councils wishing to travel to Greenland or other locations. There is no application process prescribed and no money allocated to assist in travel costs. There is no

assurance that if any further requests are received, further funding could be provided. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as requested by Mr. Dent in an oral question asked on December 2, I will be circulating to Members today, the guidelines for negotiated contracts.

Further Return To Oral Question 161-12(4): Finance Officer Responsible For Official Languages

I also have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ng on December 1, 1993. Mr. Ng asked if there were one or two financial coordinators in the official languages unit of the Department of the Executive.

There is one financial coordinator in the unit. The position has been filled since April of 1993, and was created to ensure better financial reporting by departments.

Further Return To Oral Question 158-12(4): Funds For Communities Under Languages Agreement

I also have a return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on December 1, 1993, regarding funds for communities under language agreements.

Both the territorial and federal governments have committed funding for community-based initiatives relating to the aboriginal languages through the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages. Under the 1993-94 annual appendix for aboriginal languages, approximately \$2.5 million is directed to community-based contribution programs. This represents 45 per cent of the available agreement funding and does not include funding directed towards the communities through the delivery of other GNWT programs and services funded out of the agreement.

This funding can be categorized into two areas:

i) Funding which is accessible by community groups or individuals for projects they propose. These include the following contribution programs:

- community proposed geographic place name projects, \$55,000;

- community proposed language enhancement initiatives,

\$460,000;

- community proposed literacy projects, \$112,000; to a total of \$627,000.

ii) Funding driven by community needs and carried out at the community level. These include the following contribution programs:

- community based broadcasting organizations, \$240,000;

- community based teaching and learning centres, \$1.11

million;

- community based teacher education training program,

\$550,000; for a total of \$1.89 million.

It should be noted that when the 10 per cent cuts announced by the federal government were applied, the impact upon community-based contribution programs was minimal because a greater proportion of the cuts was applied against other programs. All of the above mentioned projects had their funding increased from the 1992-93 fiscal year, with the exception of the teaching and learning centres.

All of these contribution programs are administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. These contributions are allocated through normal GNWT procedures. All NWT communities can access these funds, and many communities are already experiencing the benefits of these programs. Specific details with respect to contribution recipients or rejections can be provided by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Return To Oral Question 162-12(4): Date Premier Became Aware Of Lapsed Funds Under Languages Agreement

Further Return To Oral Question 163-12(4): Lapsed Funds Under Languages Agreement

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked on December 1 by Mrs. Marie-Jewell regarding the date the Premier became aware of lapsed funds under the languages agreement and also a question on the languages agreement. Both questions are addressed in this one reply.

During the 1992-93 fiscal year, all departments were asked to identify projected lapses on four separate occasions, September, November, December of 1992, and February of 1993. Additional requests for information were made at the monthly languages coordinators meeting which includes representatives from all departments.

In response to the official languages unit request for projected expenditures in December of 1992, the departments projected a zero dollar lapse for aboriginal languages and \$397,000 lapse for French.

Final activity and financial reports required by the agreement were submitted to the official language unit one month after the end of the fiscal year. By the end of April, the GNWT was aware that the level of lapse was higher than they had been projecting a few months earlier.

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Various Members of this House rose to make statements to protest the ten per cent cuts to the agreement in March of 1993. At that time, the GNWT was only projecting a four per cent overall lapse. Even with the actual lapses, concern with the cuts remained. The government signed a multi-year agreement with the Government of Canada. To have cuts imposed unilaterally during the life of the agreement shows a disregard for the commitment to the GNWT and community groups by the federal government.

The official language unit has increased its efforts to better monitor the agreement funding through exploring variance reporting for vote 4 as well as advising departments of their continued obligation to monitor their programs effectively. Appropriate and effective management of all program resources is expected of individual departments.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the projections are accurate to reallocate available funding appropriately. Based on the information provided by the departments for the interim activity report, the GNWT is expecting no lapse for aboriginal languages and \$269,000 for French. Lapses for

French are due mostly to year end expenditures such as accommodation services and payout of benefits. This will be monitored closely.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Patterson on December 2, concerning the Government of the Northwest Territories' commitment to spreading conference business throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I will be circulating today, copies of two letters respecting the need for spreading conference business throughout the Northwest Territories. The first letter, which was issued on January 20, 1993, resulted in the development of a listing of proposed GNWT sponsored conferences for 1993 along with an estimation of the number of participants and the location of each conferences. This listing, which I will also circulate today, reflects that out of 107 conferences and meetings planned for 1993, only 27 were to take place in Yellowknife.

The second letter which I issued following Mr. Patterson's question on December 2 was intended to enforce the position that our conference business should be spread throughout the NWT whenever and wherever possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Allooos on December 2, regarding the cost of sending a student from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit.

A kindergarten to grade 12 education program is offered at Takijualuk School in Pond Inlet. As well, there is a student residence in Pond Inlet, the Samuel Angnetsiak residence, to accommodate senior secondary students from Grise Fiord, Resolute, Arctic Bay and Nanisivik. There is one other student residence in the Baffin, the Ukiivik student residence in Iqaluit, and a student home boarding program in Igloodik for senior secondary students from Hall

Beach. If a student were to be accommodated in Ukiivik residence from Pond Inlet, travel from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit, including one return trip home at Christmas, would cost approximately \$2,190. In addition, there would be the cost of providing accommodation and meals in the residence. The total cost per student in the Baffin for providing travel to and from home, accommodation and meals can be estimated by averaging the total costs of operating the two residences and one home boarding program for each student receiving these services. The average cost of these services per student is \$24,500.

Under the current policy and direction for senior secondary education, this does not mean, however, that \$24,500 or any portion of that amount, is available to be contributed to any student in the Baffin to support their attendance at schools outside the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Written Question 16-12(4): Student Loan Agreement

I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Koe on Monday, November 29 regarding student loan agreements.

Students receiving student financial assistance from this government are required to sign a number of documents both in advance of receiving assistance and upon completion of their studies. The same forms are used for students attending post secondary education inside and outside the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

I believe that's a return to a written question. We'll wait for the appropriate time on the order paper. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The current Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has a staff of 24. This department used to be very small, but grew significantly in the past four years. It is difficult to determine what work is being done by the department or why it is structured the way it is. My question to the

Minister is, is the department really an understudy, learning the role of the federal government in anticipation of being able to play the part after a transfer of responsibility to the GNWT?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for EM&PR, Madam Cournoyea.

Return To Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the department carries a number of ongoing duties. To best express the role of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, it is not staffed to understudy. They actually take on a role in representing the

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territorial government in the area of responsibility that we have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

MR. NG:

Supplementary, at one time the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources was staffed primarily by oil and gas experts. The department now seems to have a mineral policy division with four people and a mineral development agreement division with six people. Can the Minister advise this House whether the department is, in fact, focusing more on mineral development, which are the pressing issues of the moment?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, that is true. We do have an agreement with the federal government which is a mineral development agreement. The department does a lot of work and has refocused on the mineral

development area, although we still do some work with oil and gas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

MR. NG:

For those staff who are geared toward mining activities, what are they doing to ensure northerners are involved in and have a fair share of the action in the mining developments?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 222-12(4): Role Of EM&PR

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, what I would provide for the Member, if he wishes, is the total make up of the department, and the goals and objectives. I could extensively go through each activity but it would be a rather long response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that the Minister and her staff have spent considerable time, probably over the last six years, working on the northern energy accord which focuses solely on oil and gas issues. I'm also aware that the progress on the agreement really was stalled and not concluded by the previous federal government.

My question is this, Mr. Speaker, given that there is now a new government in Ottawa which has been talking, very supportively, about completing the job of devolving responsibilities to the Northwest Territories -- we heard the Prime Minister make those very positive comments in the House -- what has the

Minister and her government done to reopen discussions on the northern accord since the election of the new government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that from the very first meeting with the Prime Minister, the outstanding issues were outlined to him. Although the housing issue and the health issues are the priorities that we would like to get off the table, the northern accord was also placed on the agenda of unresolved issues. The MP from Nunatsiak has also been given the same list of priorities, including the northern accord. The MP from the Western Arctic, Ms. Blondin, was also given the whole list and the issue of the northern accord. As well, the deputy minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has had a couple of meetings with officials from the government and Indian Affairs on trying to push the issue forward and resolve the outstanding areas of concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to hear the matter is being treated as a priority and is being worked on. My question to the Premier and the Minister of Energy has to do with the content of the draft accord. Mr. Speaker, I believe that when the enabling agreement to negotiate the northern accord was signed in 1991, it very much focused on oil and gas. I think mining activities in those days were much lower than they are now, particularly exploration activities.

The draft accord, as I understand it, does not address mineral issues. So, my question to the Premier is, in working to resolve this issue of the northern energy accord, does our government plan to expand the accord to cover mineral responsibilities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, when we developed the northern accord, it was anticipated that the principles and the overall management could very well have the mineral activity attached to it. The principles and the organization was there. In a recent discussion with officials we talked about what could be in a mineral accord. There has been a draft of a potential mineral accord which has been floating around for a little while. It has been acknowledged as an area which we should pursue.

We've made it a point because of the concern of benefits accruing to northern residents, and the fact that we have done the work on what could be a mineral accord which is fashioned after an oil and gas accord. The normal process we envisage

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has to take into account deliberations with aboriginal groups, although a framework has been done already. The discussion, I believe, is taking place this week, or took place a few days ago, with the deputy Minister in Ottawa and officials, is how we can move forward with the devolution of minerals, as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find that answer very enlightening and I'm sure the House will want to be informed, as developments occur, in light of the importance of this issue to this Assembly. Related to that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier another question. She has told this Assembly that a comprehensive mineral strategy was coming soon. I believe reference was made by the Premier on December 3. My question is, when will the comprehensive mineral strategy be tabled with this Assembly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 223-12(4): Discussions With Federal Government Re Northern Energy Accord

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the paper is being translated. I thought I would have it today but, hopefully, it will be here tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, as well. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about mineral exploration in the north. In Mr. Arnngna'naaq's statement today, he talked about how that holds great potential for his region and I think we see that potential throughout the Northwest Territories. I would like the Minister to advise the House, given the emerging importance of mineral areas in the Northwest Territories, how has the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources switched its focus to the future? In particular, what sorts of activities have they undertaken to focus on mineral development and the future of that in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I can give a very long answer. We have been working with the mining industry for about two years. We have worked extensively with the Chamber of Mines. We have tried to make sure that, at every level, the Northwest Territories' interest is recognized and what is happening here should be supported. We have tried, at every level, to work with the aboriginal groups. For example, in the projection

of future requirements of energy for mining operations, we have had several meetings with the mining industry over the last two years to try to get some framework on their requirements, how far along they are with their projects and the anticipation of when they will come on stream.

There is a great deal of apprehension with the mining companies because they have their permits issued from the federal government, that we will be overlooked as a jurisdiction. As a result, we try to spend our time creating goodwill and the fact that we should be the people who are involved, along with the aboriginal groups, to have our foot in the door first, so we may take an active role, not only in businesses, but also employment and in ownership as well. The Dogrib Nation has been a group of people who have stepped forward in terms of trying to identify where they can be involved in supplying energy to mineral development projects in this area.

We have tried to focus on the area where we have a mineral development agreement with the federal government. This was difficult to negotiate in terms of the allocation under the EDA on how much is available for mineral development, as opposed to how much is available for economic development. We have put a very strenuous effort in trying to make sure the geological surveys and the areas where we could identify as being potential areas for aboriginal groups in terms of selection of land. One of the important parts of aboriginal claims is what lands you select, sub-surface and surface. There was a lot of work with aboriginal groups to try to get the work done so they would know where the highly potential areas are.

In terms of the TFN claim, they wanted to know where to select sites. We worked with that group over a number of years to develop the knowledge of their area so the site selections can be taken as part of their claims. All of the information we have been gathering, through the mineral development, geological surveys and information findings, has been presented as updated as possible to the aboriginal groups, so they can have a stakeholders' interest in those mineral developments. We have charted our course to try to make sure the stakeholders' interest gets developed in terms of selection of land.

In terms of working with the mining industry, I believe over the years, to have the mining industry acknowledge that the Northwest Territories residents should be the first they consult and deal with, has been a difficult task because they get their permits

from elsewhere. But a great deal of work has been put in that area.

We have done an overview of the NWT operating mines, an overview of the 1993 NWT exploration and an overview of the 1993 diamond exploration projects. Those have been provided. With Mr. Antoine's group of people we have done development in that area as well. They want to be involved with the development of the Praire Creek Mine.

In terms of the Yellowknife/Coppermine corridor, I have asked the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism to coordinate the transportation corridor and the people in the usage of that area. We have done extensive studies related to mineral development in that whole geographic province as well as the Izok Lake zinc/copper/silver deposit. There is also our continuation of work with the Government of Canada in terms of the Coronation Gulf study on where the money should go and what we should emphasize. The amount of work in terms of the Colomac Mine, we are again starting up our work with the Dogrib and

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Colomac to make sure they have a working agreement in that area.

The Mackenzie corridor has not been paid a lot of attention to in terms of the mineral projects there. We are trying to work on an interim arrangement so that until such time that devolution can take place, the aboriginal groups can have an involvement in rights issuance. We have a difficult time with that because the Government of Canada has always dealt with permits a certain way, which is a similar argument where we have northern benefits and open bidding processes.

So there is a tremendous amount of work, but it is exciting work. I think all of these issues can be planned around how people can be involved. We have done a number of assessments on hydroelectric potential for new mines. I presented this Legislative Assembly with a list -- or I can if you haven't got it -- of the hydro potential for new mines. This is work that has been carried out as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind Members that broad, general questions often lead to long, comprehensive responses. Written questions are a more appropriate

vehicle for some of the questions. I will also remind Ministers to try to keep their responses a bit more concise. Mr. Dent, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

MR. DENT:

I thank the Minister for her comprehensive answer. I had expected just the highlights. I would like to focus in on one of the areas about which she spoke. She mentioned that the department has been working with mining companies for the past couple of years and I am interested in incentives for mining companies. In many other jurisdictions, governments have offered incentives to those involved in mineral exploration to do business and take up residence in communities which could benefit from the economic stimulation this would provide. Specifically, I would like to know if any negotiations are currently under way or planned with those companies moving into the north, to encourage them to live, work and do business in the north, aside from the work being done in the area of transportation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, this is an ongoing representation we make on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. In supporting the mineral industry, there are certain areas we feel would be appropriate to support, in terms of feeding into the mining industry. We have taken the position, up to this point in time, that we are not supporting building of new towns, such as Pine Point or Nanisivik, where you have major infrastructure. But, what we do support is, if it is a fly in and fly out, that, at all opportune times, we would offer support to the mineral industry to come into existing communities, particularly Yellowknife, and use that as a base; particularly in supply and services, or Hay River, or some of the areas which are established already. Recently, we have two of the mining companies who have established their offices in Yellowknife and other companies are also looking at how they can, once they have decided whether they are going into the development stage, utilize communities such as Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I think it was last week, in response to a question from the Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Speaker, the Premier indicated that discussion will start, in the near future, on the training package for the Colomac Mine. I am interested in finding out whether the government will be considering incentives to the company, in exchange for providing opportunities to northerners. Has the government agreed to provide any assistance, such as a winter road, to the owners of Colomac Mine, in return for hiring northern workers?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, we have not provided any commitment for any support, such as a winter road, or anything else, neither were we asked. We were mainly asked to deal with the community in terms of support, training programs, business opportunities, as we have been in the past. There was no request and we made no commitment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it the situation, that the government has no commitment from the owners of the mine to make use of people who have taken advantage of this training package?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 224-12(4): Changes In EM&PR To Focus On Mineral Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the mining industry's position is that, if people are trained and available, their first preference, indeed, would be to hire from the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Once again, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Mr. Speaker. Unlike 20 years ago, the exploration companies are aware of the impact of land claims on the work that they want

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to do in the Northwest Territories. As a result, they are dealing directly with aboriginal organizations across the North. We have all heard, I am sure, about the trip which BHP has provided to about 30 people from the Dogrib area, with regard to looking at a mine in the south. In the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, they are expected to find expertise to deal knowledgeably with the exploration and mining companies. I would like to ask the Minister, what type of expertise assistance is the department sharing with northern aboriginal organizations, to ensure that they are getting a fair deal as opposed to being offering trips which, at times, is perceived as a way of buy-off by these types of companies? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, the BHP trip was offered to the aboriginal group directly. What we did, before the trip, was to provide background information on the mineral industry and any informed knowledge that the

group wanted. Our role is more to work with the groups in the Northwest Territories, but this was a specific offer by BHP, which they took up. However, as Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, responsible for trying to make sure we have as much involvement as possible, we do try to support the groups, upon request. Sometimes, we have requests for just general information. Sometimes, we have requests to arrange meetings in support of them, when they are asking for meetings with various companies. When companies are coming into the Northwest Territories, we try to make sure that they not only meet with the Government of the Northwest Territories, but meet with the aboriginal groups, particularly in communities that are close to the area of exploration and development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Just to follow up, Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 3, 1993, in reply to an oral question from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, there was reference to transportation subsidies, to offset the cost of travel for workers living in the more remote areas and communities. How will this program be applied to either the employer or the employee in the territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, that particular response was in relationship to some of the difficulties we have had in the past where, whether it is the Department of National Defence and the DEW line or the oil and gas industry, the industry and the southern operators often find it very convenient to recruit in the south and either stage from Winnipeg into the communities, or from Edmonton or Montreal. They provide those transportation costs. But, in the past and up to this time, they have been very reluctant to supply that same kind of transportation support from Iqaluit to

Izok Lake, for example, or from Tuk to the DEW line site in Cambridge Bay. We have had a difficulty in the past. I think this is one of the discussions we are having, on how we can provide support to our working residents to get to those locations where there is work and how we promote that. We haven't come to any conclusion on that, but it is a question that has to be answered and it is an issue that has to be resolved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Would the program, which is being developed, be applied to not only the workers, but specific communities, particularly the communities that are greatly affected by the mining industry development that is happening in the territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the position of the department and the government is that the first point of contact, benefit and opportunity, should be the immediate community around that development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 225-12(4): Type Of Expertise Shared With Other Groups

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that the Minister's department has apparently commissioned a study on the financial benefits to the GNWT as a result of the new mining jobs. I would like to ask the Minister when she anticipates the study will be completed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that date. I thought I had it here. We're almost completed now, and I'll get back to the Minister and take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 226-12(4): Training Programs For Heavier Involvement In The Mining Industry

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. In the past, when there have been major developments in the energy field, for example, the government has responded with programs to ensure that benefits and jobs would stay with northern people. Preparation for the construction of the MacKenzie Valley pipeline, for example, saw the Hire North

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project. I'm sure Mr. Antoine can remember that. Hundreds of people were hired as a result of that. When the Beaufort was booming we saw Tuk U, which helped a lot of young people become involved in the industry, from CIC and various oil companies.

We are now in the middle of the biggest mineral staking rush in Canadian history, with the diamond and mining activity such as the Izok Lake project. I would like to ask the Minister, is the government involved in setting up training programs in preparation for people to become more heavily involved in the mining industry?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 226-12(4): Training Programs For Heavier Involvement In The Mining Industry

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to indicate to the honourable Member that officials from the

department have been meeting with representatives of Arctic College, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the communities, and also industry, to discuss the nature of the jobs that would be available in terms of total numbers that were required for construction and the total number of jobs required for total production. As a result of that, they are considering developing a strategy on how we deal with developing the appropriate training programs to meet the needs of those two specific areas.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 226-12(4): Training Programs For Heavier Involvement In The Mining Industry

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've talked to many people in the industry and they believe one of the mining-related activities, which really fits in very well with northern culture and lifestyle, is prospecting, because of people's familiarity with the land and so on. The government has done a few token things. But, I would like to ask the Minister, what has this government done to really promote prospecting as one of the things that many northern people could get into, so that it becomes one of our major industrial potentials?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take the question as notice. It is a question that requires detail and I'll be prepared to answer the Member appropriately.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. There has been considerable discussion regarding a road north of Yellowknife into the Arctic coast area. We all know that a road of this magnitude would be very expensive to build and maintain. However, from the other side, we always hear of the great benefits that such a road would bring. So, I would like to get some clarification as to what the real purpose of this road would be? Some Members have been told by people in the mining community that they think the road would be nice, but they don't intend to use it. Other groups say they want the road, but just access to the Arctic coast so they can put all the freight and minerals on ships and ship them out.

My question to the Minister is, what is the real purpose of the road to the arctic coast that people have been talking about?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, there is considerable discussion about the need for public infrastructure to support mineral exploration not just to the Arctic Coast, but also to the Lac de Gras diamonds. Right now, given the current fiscal condition of the federal government, in the discussions I've had with them, there certainly isn't half a billion dollars out there of public money to build this road. So, what we are doing at the present time in discussions with the federal government and industry, is trying to determine an appropriate approach to building this public infrastructure. That might be through some, what I like to call, corporate leverage.

In other words, maybe there is some seed money governments can provide and, in fact, this road could be self-sufficient. In other words, there could be a toll type of approach to it, where the mining industry, whether it is diamonds or lead and zinc, would pay a fee, based on tonnage and financial return. The road, itself, is an instrument of development. It is a means in which to encourage other developments in the area. I am of the belief that we have to be able to

demonstrate, if these kinds of dollars are going to be spent, that it has a return on its investment.

We are currently working with the Conference Board of Canada in punching the numbers, if you want, trying to determine what the impact is of infrastructure of this kind, and how it could be self-financed with minimum government input. This is a new approach that we've taken in the last 90 days. As well, we have to determine what the economic impact is going to be on Canada, change in the GDP, the jobs that are going to be accrued in Alberta and BC, the impact on GNWT as it relates to royalties, our less dependence on transfer payments, et cetera.

I could go on for an hour about the benefits and difficulties with respect to this enormous infrastructure. But, at this time, in simple language, we are taking a corporate leverage approach to the road. We are trying to see if it is self-financing. And, in discussions with industry, see if they are prepared to support that approach. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Taking this corporate leverage approach, what has been the extent of consultation that you, or your officials, have had with the people in the mining industry?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

HON. JOHN TODD:

We have a small steering committee that I'm working with, made up of representation from the NWT Chamber of Mines, the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Dogrib people who are directly affected by the Lac de Gras developments, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the federal government and ourselves. I think that is it. It is a small working group that is trying to develop an approach. We've tried to involve all the

stakeholders directly involved in these developments. The industry is represented through Mr. Hoefer, the Executive Director of the NWT Chamber of Mines.

We've had two meetings. I am going to be extending an invitation to all the presidents of the mining groups in early January to come to a meeting in Yellowknife. We're trying to define, as a department, and I'm trying to define, as a politician, what approach we should be taking in terms of convincing the corporate world, the banking world and the bureaucratic world how we're going to finance this exciting and phenomenal development in mineral exploration, particularly as it relates to the diamonds. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On December 3, the Government Leader told this House that, led by herself, Mr. Minister, the government had devoted considerable effort to raising awareness of, and support for, construction of a road through the area north of Yellowknife and Rae. Can the Minister indicate as to what specific activities have taken place in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

That was the development of a road? Was that the question? Sorry, I'm deaf.

MR. SPEAKER:

If you would like to, perhaps, clarify your question, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

There was there some effort to raising awareness and raising support for the construction of a road. I want to know what specific activities have taken place in doing that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

HON. JOHN TODD:

Significant discussion has been going on about the development of a road and the development of mineral exploration. I've been meeting with the stakeholder groups, as I indicated, discussing the possibilities of it. As I said earlier, we have to look at creative ways in which to fund this, if it's going to become a reality. A lot of our energy, at this early stage, has been trying to look at different ways of funding it, rather than going to the public trough and asking for \$300 million or \$85 million dollars or whatever. What I've done, as the Minister of Transportation, is worked closely with the stakeholder groups directly affected by this development, with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Dogrib people, Mr. Ted Blondin, who represents their interests.

This is an enormous project and it has far-reaching implications for the Northwest Territories. It's going to take considerable discussion and we're going to have to expand the involvement of others. At this stage of the game, I've been dealing with the steering committee in trying to develop a position as to how we're going to approach it with the federal government and the industry because we want to be successful. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary. As the Minister indicated, there is going to be far reaching implications and impacts on the provinces, on the territories and on Canada. My supplementary question is, has this government approached any of the provinces who will reap, probably, a majority of the benefits? Have you worked with any of the provinces in looking at the development of the Slave corridor?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 227-12(4): Purpose Of Road To Arctic Coast

HON. JOHN TODD:

There are two things we're doing. We're working closely with the Conference Board of Canada to give our analysis some credibility. They've done some good work for us. We're trying to tighten that up a little more as to what we think the costs are going to be, what the net benefits are going to be for Canada, how it changes the GDP, what kind of jobs are available, and where the economic impact is going to be. We're doing that right now with the Conference Board of Canada. The Member is absolutely correct in that the provincial jurisdictions, if you taken an initial look at this project, it's going to have a significant impact in Alberta, BC, and possibly in Ontario, where we have the manufacturing. I have initiated, through the Premier's office, discussions with my counterparts in Alberta, in BC, and I had an interesting discussion with our Ontario people, as Mr. Pollard I'm sure will tell you, when I was in Halifax last week. Needless to say, they certainly know where the NWT is now, if they didn't before.

We are initiating discussions and seeking provincial support for this project because it is going to require -- whether it's

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corporate leverage or public funds -- some political muscle, if you want, to convince the federal government they should be a partner in this particular venture. As part of our strategy, we felt it was important to liaise with the provinces that will reap some benefit and try to get them onside with our initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 228-12(4): Transfer Of EM&PR Positions To The East

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. With much of the government stressed over the past two years, being in decentralization and with the activities that are foreseen in the eastern Arctic over the next decade, I would like to know if the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has plans, or has already transferred positions, such as the community liaison advisor, to the east? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe so, but to be absolutely correct, I'll take that as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Road To Rae Lakes

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I would like to direct to the Minister of Transportation. Earlier this year, during the summer and fall, I had spoken to the Minister a number of times about the annual contract to build the winter road to Lac La Martre, Rae Lakes. I was under the impression, after I left the conversations with the Minister on this, that any attempts to negotiate a contract had fallen through and that the department was going to go to tender on this due primarily to the cost of building this road. This happens to be an annual event, by the way.

I heard recently, through the grapevine, through the rumour mill, that a new deal has been arrived at between PCL and Nishi-Khon. I would like to ask the Minister if this is, in fact, true and what changed the position from earlier on?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Road To Rae Lakes

HON. JOHN TODD:

The honourable Member is correct. There is a new deal that has been achieved. Our position changed because we were able to reach an appropriate level of funding. There was an increase in the training positions and an increase in job opportunities for the Dogrib people.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand, again from the rumour mill, and maybe the Minister can confirm this, in this new deal there is going to be extensive use of territorial government equipment and staff to build this road. I would like to know if the Minister would confirm this?

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to remind Members that Ministers can't be asked to confirm or deny rumours, but if Mr. Todd would like to respond to any aspect of government policy...Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

HON. JOHN TODD:

No problem, Mr. Speaker. There is going to be a utilization of some government equipment and some private sector equipment. What we're trying to do here is develop a full training program to ensure that the Dogrib people in the area get the training that's necessary, that didn't come about last year. I've indicated to the Nishi-Khon group and to the chiefs in that area that I support the need for increased training and increased job opportunities. That's the objective that we're trying to achieve here. The difficulty we were in before -- and Mr. Whitford is correct -- the costs associated with that were too high and I wasn't prepared to negotiate a contract on that basis. We reassessed it and we are now believe that we've got a contract that's in the best fiscal interests of the territories, in my opinion, and provides significant economic benefits to the people in the area of which the road is being built. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite excited to hear a training component is going to be in this. I think that's something that we will all applaud. I would like to know who is going to be doing the training?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

HON. JOHN TODD:

The training will be done by the private sector and the department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little confused about the private sector. I'm not aware of any company or any firm that's in the business of training highway people or people in the operation of heavy equipment. I would like to know if you could be a little bit more specific as to who's

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going to do this. Is the territorial government staff of Transportation going to be doing the training?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 229-12(4): Construction Of Winter Road To Rae Lakes

HON. JOHN TODD:

I indicated to the honourable Member that both the private sector and the department will be doing the training. The private sector does the training right now. It's trained in Whale Cove when they did a crushing project. It's training in Rankin Inlet. It's training all over the place. Transportation in this region is no different than the carpentry business, plumbing business, cooking business, or whatever. What we're doing is providing training. I believe this is the right approach.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. On November 29, 1993, the Minister of Social Services, in the House, said that there has been an increase of \$2 million in the past 18 months in social assistance food allowances. Also, she indicated additional expenditures of about \$400,000 a year as a result of the increase in the food allowances. She also stated that recent expenditures resulted in additional expenditures of \$1.6 million. She also stated that, for a family of four, the changes will mean an increase of up to \$280 a month. Everything seems to be directed towards an increase for everyone in the Northwest Territories who receives social assistance. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, my communities of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak have received a reduction in food allowances. I wonder if the Minister will assure that, as a result of her Minister's statement, there will be, in fact, increases in Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak in social assistance food allowances. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the beginning of October, or the second week of October, I sent out, to the all MLAs, the detailed increases and decreases of social assistance. Examples that I use in some communities of up to a \$280 increase is probably in level scale I. I have explained, Mr. Speaker, why there have been decreases in three of his communities in Natilikmiot. We took the surveys that were conducted by vital statistics in each community, and that increase or decrease was based on the findings of the survey that was conducted in 1991. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Minister's Statement 31-12(4), I wonder if it was an oversight that the reduction or decreases were not mentioned in that particular statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could ask the department whether that was an oversight, because we did use the 1991 food cost survey done by vital statistics. There are, actually, four communities that are receiving less money than previous years, which are Gjoa Haven, Holman Island, Pelly Bay and Taloyoak. I already made a commitment that I will have the survey results provided to the Member, the other day when he was asking me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the Minister, I am under a bit of pressure trying to get some results to make sure there is no reduction, especially in the small communities of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay. In fact, I think Pelly Bay has one of the highest costs of living in the territories, and so is Taloyoak. I wonder if the Minister would direct her regional staff who are available to go to my communities of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak

and consult with the local appeal committee and get their concerned input into this matter so they would get first hand information from the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 230-12(4): Increases In Social Assistance Rates

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot argue with the food cost surveys that were done by Mr. Todd's department. According to the surveys that were done, the communities that have the highest food costs are Colville Lake, Grise Fiord and Paulatuk, but I will provide the Member what he requests. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. As all Members are aware, division of the Northwest Territories will be coming upon us in less than six years. At two strategic planning workshops that

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were held in Fort Providence and Cambridge Bay, Members were discussing strategies to address the division issue, issues that would affect the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I know that, at the legislature, we have been endeavouring to find a mechanism to deal with division issues. As this mechanism has not yet been determined, I am somewhat concerned that I hear Cabinet has gone ahead and established a group of bureaucrats to be called the Division Secretariat. I would like to ask the Government Leader, has Cabinet appointed a group of deputy ministers, chaired by the secretary of the Cabinet, to deal with division issues? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Member is aware, in trying to address all the issues relating to the ongoing responsibilities of program delivery and the organization of the government, we have it organized so that we can have a support group to take on the role and support of division issues as they relate to continued government planning. I can provide the organizational chart to the Member, if she so desires. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate the organizational chart. In reviewing the detailed O & M budget for 1993-94, I have noticed there was no appropriation for the expenditure of funds in regards to this particular group. If it is a secretariat of some type, how are funds being identified to pay for staff to work in this divisional secretariat? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is a reorganization of functions and that is why I suggest I will provide the organizational chart to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader if she would commit to providing us, not only with an organizational chart, but the basic mandate of this committee, to this House by the end of the Fifth Session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 231-12(4): Division Secretariat Established By Cabinet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, in organizing the government, we know the government has to deal with those division issues. When the decision was made to split the territories, this government has ongoing responsibilities to deal with these very major issues and I would be pleased to provide that information to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 232-12(4): Hiring Of Outside Electricians When Local People Available

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. This is not a new concern I have, however I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of the Housing Corporation, again. When the government builds HAP housing, public housing or social housing, they bring in electricians to do wiring when there is a certified electrician in town. I'm using Chesterfield Inlet as an example. I want to know from the Minister why this kind of practice takes place with the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister Morin.

Return To Question 232-12(4): Hiring Of Outside Electricians When Local People Available

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all cases, if there are people available, there shouldn't be people coming in

from out of town. If they are available and qualified to work, they should be the ones working. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 232-12(4): Hiring Of Outside Electricians When Local People Available

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I understand what the Minister is saying, but why is it the practice to hire from outside rather than from the community when there are certified and licensed electricians in town?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 232-12(4): Hiring Of Outside Electricians When Local People Available

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not the practice of the NWT Housing Corporation to hire from out of town if there are local people who are qualified and able to work. It is the practice to hire those local people. It is also the practice of the Housing Corporation to get the best value for money. If the local people are willing to work and bid on contracts, and they win it, they will get it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for

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the Government Leader with regard to the Division Secretariat that we just found out about here. I would like to know when the decision was made to set up this body called the Division Secretariat? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure exactly what the Member's question is, but if the question is in terms of the organization of the Executive to respond to ongoing responsibility, as well under the Executive is the aboriginal rights secretariat. These are areas where we reorganized to meet the commitments and the pressures of decision-making we have to do in terms of the delivery of programs. It is of assistance to myself, as Government Leader, so we can carry out those responsibilities. I can provide the organizational chart. I thought I had it here. It is just an ongoing part of reorganization on how we do business. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, to the same Minister. Was the decision made before or after the strategic workshop we had in Cambridge Bay? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I don't know the exact date that decision was made.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

MR. ANTOINE:

The strategic planning workshop we had in Cambridge Bay was to talk about division. I think it is proper and important for Members on this side of the

House to know everything the government is doing in this regard. We are supposed to be working together in this area. When I find out that initiatives are taken on behalf of the government and the bureaucratic system, it makes me wonder about the purpose of having strategic workshops. I would like to ask the Government Leader to see when she can find out exactly when the decision was made to strike up a secretariat. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Member realizes, there are certain people who assist us, whether we're the government, in strategy sessions or reshaping. Those individuals are part of the support system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. Can the Premier confirm that the surplus funds that were appropriated from the Executive's Priorities and Planning Secretariat are being used to pay for the staff to work in the Division Secretariat? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 233-12(4): Date Of Decision To Set Up Division Secretariat

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I've already committed to do an organizational chart and answer that question. I've taken that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Do you have another supplementary, Mr. Antoine? If not, we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Pudluk):

I call this House back to order. Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 234-12(4): Reinstatement Of Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. During the early part of our session, we indicated many questions to the Minister in respect to the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. The Minister has since stated to this House that this board has been disbanded. I know my constituents feel strongly that this board should be intact. I believe many other people in the North have the same feeling, the need for a group or a body to advise the government on what is needed to address alcohol and drug board issues. Since the disbanding of this board was done before she was appointed Minister, would the Minister reinstate the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Return To Question 234-12(4): Reinstatement Of Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dissolution of the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management was officially done last spring, when this House passed the O and M budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary To Question 234-12(4): Reinstatement Of Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister knows, whenever a budget is presented to this House,

Members have the ability to take and delete or defer from the budget, but we don't have the ability to place items back in the budget. Therefore, it was the Minister's decision to take away the funding required for the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. Once again, would the Minister reinstate the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management, so that they would be able to advise on alcohol and drug issues?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The board's role was very important in recommending the rules for funding worthwhile projects. Once the rules were in place and approved, it was decided, before I took this portfolio, that it was not necessary to have the board of management to review individual submissions. The rules make it fairly simple to decide whether funding could be approved. The last meeting of the board was held on August 12 and 13, 1993. That was for the new projects, but they did set the principles and criteria for the department, in approving the funding requested for projects by the communities that were already previously approved. I will take her question as notice, in approving or reinstating the board. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 235-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MR. KOE:

I have an oral question for the Premier. We just heard from the Minister of Social Services that the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management was dissolved when the O & M budget was approved last year, which is around March or early April of 1993. Then, the same Minister mentioned that a meeting of that same Board was held in August, 1993. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, I thought it was part of our mandate to look and review these boards before they are dissolved, and yet that was never brought to our attention. I was wondering if the rules of the game had changed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the funding was not in the budget for the board and the board members had not been reinstated. That is my understanding, however, to better clarify those issues, I think the Minister has taken that as notice to see what has to be done. I will take the question as notice and provide an answer tomorrow. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, during question period, we directed a great deal of our questions to different departments. There were some regarding transportation, education and training opportunities, and some directed to the Minister Responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. I also, in looking at the departments overall, recognize that Economic Development and Tourism is also involved, I guess, because of some of the business opportunities from mining developments. I would like to ask the Premier, which department has the ultimate responsibility to coordinate all of the mining initiatives of the government to make sure that one department knows what the other department is doing, in relation to ensuring that our benefits are met for northerners?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has that responsibility. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Supplementary To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

MR. NG:

How does the department coordinate these activities? Do they have regular meetings with all the other departments? Is there a committee representative of all the departments? What is the process for coordinating the activities?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes, the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has frequent meetings with the affected departments, in terms of the issues relating to mining. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Supplementary To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

MR. NG:

I just wanted clarification from Madam Premier. Would that be individually with the departments or is it a combination of all the departments, representatives from every department sitting down to discuss these initiatives?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it depends on the issue. Sometimes it is individual, but otherwise it would depend on the issue that is being addressed at that particular time. There is a committee on the development of mineral resources and the departments affected are part of that committee. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

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Supplementary To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

MR. NG:

Who is the contact person in the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 236-12(4): Department Responsible For Mining

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, at the ministerial level, it is myself as Minister Responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. At the deputy minister's level, it is Graham Nicholls. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 237-12(4): Transportation Strategy Report

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd. Mr. Speaker, during the summer months, I have had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Gordon Wray about a whole new transportation strategy report that was going to be done. Is this report done and how soon do we expect to see the results of that report?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 237-12(4): Transportation Strategy Report

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can start by saying, it is not a whole new transportation strategy. It is more an update of the strategy and perhaps a more realistic

approach to what we think we can accomplish. The strategy is, in fact, completed. It is into translation right now. I was hoping to, as I indicated earlier in this session, table it in the House. However, I am reluctant to table it at this time until I have full translation for the benefit of, in particular, our Inuit colleagues. Hopefully, I can table it sometime next week in the new session. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Supplementary To Question 237-12(4):
Transportation Strategy Report

MR. GARGAN:

I have one other question with regard to the process. Can the Minister tell the House if this contract for the review was a sole-source contract, or was it put out to tender?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 237-12(4):
Transportation Strategy Report

HON. JOHN TODD:

It was a sole-source contract, and it was clear in its terms of reference that I wanted to get clear, political direction from the MLAs as to what direction and what priorities they placed on transportation. It was a short, 90-day process. In my understanding, it cost \$12,000. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Alloofoo.

Question 238-12(4): Full-Time ED&T Staff
Requested For Hall Beach

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my neglected communities in the Northwest Territories, Hall Beach, has no government representative from the Executive. It doesn't have a full time representative from Renewable Resources, it doesn't have an ED&T representative, it doesn't have a full time Social

Services representative, either. Mr. Speaker, my community has over 500 people.

Since the community of Hall Beach is economically depressed, I would like to ask the Minister of ED&T if he's prepared to put a person in Hall Beach to assist possible business persons to create jobs?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 238-12(4): Full-Time ED&T Staff
Requested For Hall Beach

HON. JOHN TODD:

I'm not in a position today to indicate whether we would have the resources or the PYs available to put a person in Hall Beach, but I certainly concur with the honourable Member that we should take a hard look at it. We will commit to doing that and get back to the Member when we've done an assessment. But, at this time, I'm not aware of our total resources and our flexibility in being able to transfer resources to put someone in there. But, we'll commit to it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Alloofoo.

Supplementary To Question 238-12(4): Full-Time
ED&T Staff Requested For Hall Beach

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you. I understand the PYs are hard to come by, when you are a Minister in this government at this time, because of restraint. If the Minister is not able to come up with new PYs, is he prepared to move a PY from less useful positions to Hall Beach? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

---Laughter

Further Return To Question 238-12(4): Full-Time
ED&T Staff Requested For Hall Beach

HON. JOHN TODD:

All our positions are useful. Again, I would have to take a look at it. We'll do an overall assessment of

our PYs and needs in the Baffin and I'll get back to the honourable Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

Question 239-12(4): Funds For Meeting Of Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Finance regarding the

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Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. Since the Minister of Social Services has said it was disbanded, but met in August, even though funds were deleted from the budget, and since these two issues have been taken as notice, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, how are the funds found to be able to convene a meeting in August, when there was no money in the budget?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I don't know about this particular case. I'll take the question as notice. I will go and find where that money came from and report to the House tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 240-12(4): Projected Deficit For 1993-94

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he knows the answer to this question. Just for the record, would he indicate what the projected deficit is likely to be for the fiscal year ending in 1993-94?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 240-12(4): Projected Deficit For 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, as Members will see when the supp comes into the House this afternoon, and as they'll hear me say at that time, we're projecting a \$25 million deficit for the year we're in, at the present time. I don't have to remind Members that there is still some time remaining in this fiscal year. So, I would anticipate there will be more financial pressure put upon us. I don't think \$25 million is as low as it will go. I think it will go lower, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 240-12(4): Projected Deficit For 1993-94

MR. LEWIS:

There is always a degree of uncertainty as to exactly where you're going to end up at the end of the fiscal year. But, I would like to ask the Minister, since we are going to be in a deficit position, has he considered any deficit reduction schemes that he can share with Members, so at least we have some idea about the kind of options he has in front of him?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 240-12(4): Projected Deficit For 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of problems we're facing at the present time, with regard to our fiscal position. And, as I advised the Standing Committee on Finance on Thursday morning, Cabinet will see an options paper on how we can collectively look at the financial situation we find ourselves in. Once that options paper has been discussed by Cabinet, it will then go to the Standing Committee on Finance, and it would be my intention, Mr. Speaker, to introduce that options paper into this House early in the Sixth Session, so it could be moved into committee of the whole and debated.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that will give people the opportunity to see the kind of situation we're facing, look at some of the things we could be doing and, perhaps give us some advice on areas that ordinary Members feel are areas in which we can move. I

hope that we can see that next week, Mr. Speaker.
Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 240-12(4): Projected
Deficit For 1993-94

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks, Mr. Speaker. The budgetary process though, is a cycle and it takes quite a long time to get a budget together. So, I would like to ask the Minister, since we won't be having a discussion on how to handle deficits until next week, will that give us enough time to reflect whatever new planning has to take place for the creation of a new budget?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 240-12(4): Projected
Deficit For 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, it would be tight timing. But, we feel it is necessary to have that debate and if there are ideas, suggestions and conclusions drawn from that debate, then the necessary changes will be made in the next budget, which will come into the House in the February session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 241-12(4): Drivers' Licences - Changes For
Visually Impaired

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for motor vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind informs me that there is about seven individuals in the Northwest Territories who are classified as legally blind due to the scarring of the cornea, that's the front part of the eye that lets the light in. It is easily corrected by a transplant.

Sometime ago, Mr. Speaker, I had asked this government if it would be able to have an organ donor's card attached to a drivers license, so this vital

part of the human anatomy could be salvaged in case of an accident and transplanted. My information is that the technology is rather simple, it is just that they need permission to get the particular organs. One of the best places to carry permission for organ transplants in on the drivers license because a lot of the accidents that occur and that provide useable parts, are motor vehicle accidents.

I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation whether or not

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Motor Vehicles, under his department, would consider changing the back of the drivers license from what is presently there now to an organ donor card that can be signed by an individual who chooses to participate in that program. At the time they issue this license, they can carry it with them at all times.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Good question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 241-12(4): Drivers' Licences -
Changes For Visually Impaired

HON. JOHN TODD:

Excellent question, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure the legalities of what's required on licenses but certainly I'd be only too happy to undertake a review and see if this is at all possible. It makes sound sense to me. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 241-12(4): Drivers'
Licences - Changes For Visually Impaired

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, subsequent to my making a statement in the House last week, I have received some more information about it. The suggestion has come from the public. It is a desire among quite a number of people. When you look at the back of the driver's license there's some information there that's very irrelevant to the average

individual, you can't even see it, for one thing, because it's printed so small. I had to photocopy it. I wonder if the Minister would undertake, before March, to set a deadline because... they don't issue licenses by the year anymore... but within a relatively short period of time, investigate that so we can follow it up sooner.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 241-12(4): Drivers' Licences - Changes For Visually Impaired

HON. JOHN TODD:

As with all good suggestions, we'll move quickly to do a review of it and see if it's at all possible. I want to assure the honourable Member that I will do that as quickly as I can.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. When the airstrip extension was made in Chesterfield Inlet. Transportation used the gravel site stockpile that was intended for municipal roads. Knowing the severity of the poor roads in Chesterfield Inlet... there is also a stockpile, made by the federal government a while ago, that's at the airstrip now, which the Department of Transportation did not want to use because it's a poorer grade. Will the Minister approach the federal government to see if that federal government stockpile can be transferred to the municipality for use on the roads?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

HON. JOHN TODD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, since he's so close to one of my communities -- Chesterfield Inlet is only a 15 minute trip from his own home town, where he goes home quite frequently, especially over the weekend -- would he visit the community some time and, while there, see for himself the outlay of those stockpiles and see how they can be organized?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I've already had discussions on this matter with the mayor, Titi Kadluk. I assure the honourable Member that I will visit Chesterfield Inlet and will move quickly to try and get the federal government to agree to transfer that gravel pile over to the municipality so they can use it for road improvements in Chesterfield. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ARVALUK:

My last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Transportation, after seeing for himself how poor the roads systems are, report to the Minister of MACA and talk to him and see if they could make arrangements to improve the roads in Chesterfield?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 242-12(4): Stockpiles Transferred For Roads In Chesterfield Inlet

HON. JOHN TODD:

I will be only too happy to talk to myself, Mr. Chairman. I will advise myself to see what we can do, with respect to myself, as the Minister of MACA, talking to myself, as the Minister of Transportation, to make available, if there's money in the budget with MACA to Transportation and back to MACA. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

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Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a further question to the Minister of Social Services about the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said earlier in the House today, in response to a question about why the board operating budget was cut, that once the program criteria were approved it was not a big task for the board to approve projects. My question to the Minister is, does she consider the approval of contributions to projects to be the main responsibility of the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the board of management met in August under the direction of, I believe, Mr. Patterson, or one of the... it wasn't me, it was a previous Minister, to approve the new applications. Just about all the communities are now funded through the contributions from alcohol and drug programs. One of the reasons why this board met, was the direction they got back in April 1992, when their funding was being cut, to meet once more to approve the applications and that they would also meet with the department officials to give the directives on the criteria, how the communities could be funded from the contributions and grants from alcohol and drug programs.

It was felt then, according to the information that I have, Mr. Speaker, if you can give me a few minutes to... the Financial Management Board, April 1992, directed the department to consult with the ABC committee on deletion of the board of management. A letter was prepared for the Minister's signature in the spring of 1992, but was never sent as Mr. Whitford wanted to talk personally with the chairperson of the board before this was resolved. Mr. Whitford resigned as Minister. Mr. Patterson, as the next Minister, apparently had discussions with the chairperson of the ABC committee about the future of the board. No correspondence exists on this, although meeting notes from the acting deputy minister indicate that Mr. Patterson was considering reinstating the board to fulfil the policy function. Mr. Patterson resigned before the matter was resolved but he apparently had an informal agreement with Mr. Koe that the board should be eliminated.

Although the money for the board was eliminated from the department's budget in April 1992, the grants and contributions directive still required the board of management to review applications for new funding. In 1992, all continuing contribution arrangements were continued on the basis of 1991 approvals. The board of management were notified to that effect, during a teleconference meeting of April 29, 1992. A board meeting was held on August 12, 1992 to review new requests for funding, as the department had no authority under the existing directive to approve new funding without board review.

In February of 1993, the Member for Thebacha asked the Minister of Social Services -- which is me, the third Minister -- to bring appointments up to date and to bring the board together to review 1993-94 funding requests. I agreed then. Finally, on March 30, 1993, a new grant and contribution directive was approved by the Financial Management Board, allowing the department to approve all alcohol and drug contributions. Up to November 1, the Member for Thebacha asked again about the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Minister Mike. You already answered the question. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for a very illuminating, full answer, although it might be easier if she just gave us a copy of her briefing book. I appreciate her acknowledging that I had made efforts to continue the operation of the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. I understand that the Minister and her Cabinet colleagues have decided that this board should be finally dissolved. In making that decision to dissolve the board, was it the Minister's view that the board of management's only, or main, function was approving projects? Is that the board that was dissolved, which was one that was simply a board to approve projects? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Speaker, they also made a number of recommendations besides just approving projects. If I am correct, I believe it is the rule, because the O & M budget, as you are aware, was not mine. Being new, there was no funding for the Board to continue. When this House approved the budget, they were officially dissolved by approving the budget. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with her that, once the criteria are in place, approving projects and contributions is a relatively easy task that probably can be handled by a capable bureaucracy. Would the Minister agree that one of the values of an Alcohol and Drug Board of Management representative, of the regions of the territories, would be to provide the government with advice on the policies that should be in place and the priorities in distributing alcohol and drug money and supporting programs throughout the Northwest Territories? Would that be a useful contribution that such a citizens' board might make? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

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Further Return To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am still trying to tackle some of the mess that I was left with. This is part of it. I already said that I would take it as notice, when I was asked if I would consider reinstating the board to the functional level again. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has referred to the mess that she inherited when she took over as the Minister of Social Services, the mess that she was left with. Which previous Minister was she referring to when she said that things in Social Services were left in a mess? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 243-12(4): Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management Contributions

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't say that the department was in a mess. I said that this is one of the messes I was left with. When I had the Department of Health, there were many issues that I had to deal with, as well as this department. I could table the entire chronology, if the Member wants to know. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 244-12(4): Dene Cultural Institute Proposal, FMB Review

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It is with regard to the Dene Cultural Institute. I believe meetings were held with the Dene Cultural Institute, over the summer months in which a commitment was made to draft a proposal for submission for the Financial Management Board to review. I believe that Mr. Conrad Pilon is working with the Dene Cultural Institute to complete this proposal. I understand, in phoning Ms. Barnaby, that the proposal has been completed and has been completed for over two weeks now. How soon does the Minister anticipate that he would be bringing it up at the FMS meeting?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Nerysoo.

Return To Question 244-12(4): Dene Cultural Institute Proposal, FMB Review

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Probably, as soon as we have a Financial Management Board meeting. I have not had an opportunity to sign the documentation, but I do know that it is complete and, at the first opportunity, we will be addressing the matter with the Financial Management Board.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Question 245-12(4): Problems With Birth Certificates

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. I made a statement on Monday, December 6, as well as a statement from Mr. Ng on the same date, with regard to concerns in the area of vital statistics. I am sure that the Minister has had the opportunity to get a briefing from his capable staff. I would like to ask whether the Minister will take direction from either of these statements and try to resolve some of the difficulties that the Inuit are having with their birth certificates. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 245-12(4): Problems With Birth Certificates

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the problems that Mr. Arngna'naaq has alluded to, particularly as they pertain to elders. We are prepared to work closely with the Department of Justice to correct them. However, I think it is incumbent upon me to say out loud that this could be a very costly exercise. We must be aware of that. When we sit down with the Department of Justice to look at possible methods of trying to correct the situation, we will have to bear in mind the fiscal cost that went into doing exactly that. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Supplementary To Question 245-12(4): Problems With Birth Certificates

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware how costly it will be to the government. I had taken that into consideration. However, in considering the benefit for them being lost by the elders, the federal benefits that they are due. The young people are also having difficulty getting their birth certificates, which they have to have in order to get a social insurance number. Again, these young people are not able to find jobs that they should be able to apply for. I would like to find out how soon it will be before the Minister can look at this? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 245-12(4): Problems With Birth Certificates

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has been working on this problem. It is not a new one. They will be communicating with the Minister of Justice and looking at possible amendments to the Change Of Name Act, which would speed up the issues you've raised, particularly as it relates to young people and the need for social insurance numbers.

I wouldn't want to be misunderstood, that we don't see this as an important issue. I certainly do. We need to move quickly to try and resolve it. I just wanted to point out that there are costs attached to it. Thank you.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 246-12(4): ED&T Office To Handle Industrial Benefits From Major Projects

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On Friday, Madam Premier, in a lengthy return to an oral question on mineral development, outlined some of the government's initiatives towards mining. She said, "The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is also planning to establish an office to handle industrial benefits from major projects." My question to the Minister is how many individuals is the Minister planning to have staff this office?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 246-12(4): ED&T Office To Handle Industrial Benefits From Major Projects

HON. JOHN TODD:

I don't know.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I just took note of the Minister's comment with regard to an area being in a mess when she took over as Minister. I believe she specifically referred to the alcohol and drug division, which the board of management works with. I would like to ask the Minister, who created the mess? Has it been her bureaucrats, the former

Minister or was it created by the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Return To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not come to analyze. But, when I took the portfolio, it was one of the issues I had to deal with, along with others.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Supplementary to the same Minister. You know, Mr. Speaker, when you make comments in this House as a Minister, you should be able to stand by those comments. I don't feel my question has been answered. So, I would like to ask the Minister again, she referred to picking up a mess when she became Minister, and I'm trying to find out who created the mess. Was it the bureaucracy of Social Services, the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management or former Ministers? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said I will table a chronology of events that took place. Members who wish to look at the chronology will be able to analyze it. I, myself, could analyze it a little further and get back to the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, the chronology of events would state whatever has happened. That's the purpose of a chronology of events. But the Minister made some specific statements in the House that she did come into a mess as a new Minister. I am trying to find out from the Minister about her comments. She has not made any attempt to look at apologizing to anyone with regard to this. I would like to ask her who created it? Was it her bureaucracy? Was it done by a former Minister or was it created by the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I made that reference to being left with a mess, it was also referring to the fact that I had to deal with a budget that was already in place, that I had absolutely nothing to do with. That's what I meant. I hope the Members don't take what I meant out of context. What I meant was when I took the portfolio, I was dealing with a budget that I had absolutely no participation in making.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Final supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

Supplementary To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I still haven't got an answer to my initial question, even though this is my fourth attempt. I'd like to ask the Minister when she brought forth her budget to this House, did she feel that her budget, which was developed by her bureaucrats, was in a mess? Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 247-12(4): Minister's Reference To Mess In Social Services

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll apologize to this House for using the word mess. I hope the Members will accept that.

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---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan. He is not here at the moment. Item 5, oral questions, Mr. Dent.

Question 248-12(4): Tabling Of Terms Of Reference For Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services, also on the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management, but it will be very short and straightforward. We've heard a lot about this board that continued to operate after it had apparently been disbanded. I have a concern about what the terms of reference might be for a board that could continue after it didn't exist any longer. But, more specifically, what I would like to know is how it was operating when it was, officially, in existence. Will the Minister agree to table, tomorrow, the terms of reference for the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management, when it was funded and operating?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Minister Mike.

Return To Question 248-12(4): Tabling Of Terms Of Reference For Alcohol And Drug Board Of Management

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll do that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 249-12(44): Eviction Of Tenants For Rental Arrears In Baffin Public Housing

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Housing Corporation Minister. I understand that some of the people who rent Housing Corporation housing have been asked to move out of their houses. My question is how many people have been asked to move out of their houses? I am concerned about this because the NWT communities where we live are very cold in the winter-time. We have very harsh winters. I am wondering if the Minister of the Housing Corporation can answer the question as to how many people have had to move out of their homes, to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 249-12(4): Eviction Of Tenants For Rental Arrears In Baffin Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no intention on the part of the Housing Corporation to evict people out of public housing because they have missed one or two month's rent. Eviction is a final act of the housing authorities at the community level. They make every attempt to have the tenants pay their rent on time, and their final action is eviction. I have no idea, at this time. I think it would take a lot of work to find out how many have been given eviction notices in the whole of the Northwest Territories. It's done at the community level. Consultation is done with the clients and it's usually as a very, very last resort that they're asked to move out of their units.

There is a long waiting list for housing in every community. There are a lot of people that are ready, willing and able to pay their rent on time. The rent is usually a very minimal amount. Those people have to be dealt with as fairly as those that do not follow the rules and do not pay their rent.

If the Member could be more precise as to the community or an individual case, then I would be happy to look into it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

Supplementary To Question 249-12(4): Eviction Of Tenants For Rental Arrears In Baffin Public Housing

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the communities of the Baffin region. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the clarification. I would like make a supplementary.

He had just stated that the rent they pay is very minimal for public housing. I wonder if there is going to be an increase in the rent for 1994-95? We were told we would have to face an increase in public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 249-12(4): Eviction Of Tenants For Rental Arrears In Baffin Public Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's been no increase in public housing rents since 1983. The only time a person will get a increase in his rent, is if he gets an increase in wages to justify paying more rent. The rent is based on 25 per cent of his gross income. We're reviewing the rent scale at the present time. I'm working on doing that with the Advisory Committee on Housing and the community consultation process as well. We have to review them. In some cases, the rents will go up and, in other cases, the rents will go down. I can't really speculate on which communities will have the rent go up and which ones will have it go down. There will be full community consultation. As well, if the rents do go up in any communities, it will be phased in. It's not going to happen overnight. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 250-12(4): ED&T Minister's Ignorance Of Initiative Announced By Premier

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Earlier, she stated that her department was responsible for the overall coordination of mining yet the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism just stated that he wasn't aware of the establishment of this office to handle industrial benefits from major projects. I guess this confirms my concern that the mining initiatives of this government aren't being coordinated.

My question to the Minister is, how has the coordinated government approached the mining initiatives when the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism isn't even

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aware of this initiative that she announced on Friday, regarding the establishment of an office for handling industrial benefits?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 250-12(4): ED&T Minister's Ignorance Of Initiative Announced By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, when a statement is written up, all departments participates in making the statement. If that is not the case, I don't know how it got in to the statement. When the statement is drafted, obviously, everyone concerned should have been involved with that statement or passed through that statement. If there has been a misunderstanding, or if someone has fed in some information, we'll have to check that out. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 250-12(4): ED&T Minister's Ignorance Of Initiative Announced By Premier

MR. NG:

I'd like to ask the Minister, then, which department's initiative is it for the establishment of this office? Is it your department or is it the Department of Economic Development and Tourism?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 250-12(4): ED&T Minister's Ignorance Of Initiative Announced By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, like I said to the honourable Member, I will check and see just exactly how that was referred

to in the statement and get back to the Member. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there is Return to Written Question 15-12(4), asked by Mr. Patterson to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment concerning disabled persons vocational rehabilitation cost-sharing.

Return To Written Question 15-12(4): Disabled Persons Vocational Rehabilitation Cost-Sharing

A three year cost-sharing agreement with the federal government to provide the vocational rehabilitation for disabled persons program (VRDP) was signed in July, 1993. The program totals \$742,000. The majority of this funding supports the operation of alcohol and drug treatment centres in the NWT and the Abe Miller Centre in Yellowknife.

Fort-five thousand dollars of this cost-shared agreement has been allocated to respond to individual requests for vocational rehabilitation. Twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars is provided by the territorial government, and the remaining fifty per cent of the total is provided by the federal government on a cost-recovery basis. People are eligible to apply for assistance through this program if, because of a physical or mental impairment, they cannot be steadily employed without receiving vocational rehabilitation services.

The responsibility for administering the \$45,000 for individual applications under the VRDP program was transferred from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in April, 1993. In the past, the territorial portion of the funding, \$22,500, was divided amongst the regional offices of Social Services. Over the last two fiscal years, this funding was not spent. The program is difficult to administer, the funds available in each region were small, and regional offices found other ways to address the needs identified by the community.

This year, because the total amount of funding available was relatively small, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment decided to bring this funding together in headquarters and to use the funding for assessments and follow-ups. Diagnostic assessments for learning disabilities were recently provided for fifteen individuals. Based on the assessments, recommendations have been made to meet the education and employment needs of these individuals. The balance of the funding available through this program this year will be used to implement these recommendations, and address additional requests for services wherever possible.

This year so far thirty people have applied for funding through this program. It is difficult to determine how many people in the NWT would be eligible for individual assistance through the vocational rehabilitation for disabled persons program, but it is reasonable to conclude that the demand is greater than can be met through current funding.

I have Return to Written Question 16-12(4), asked by Mr. Koe to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment concerning student loan agreements.

Return To Written Question 16-12(4): Student Loan Agreement

Student receiving student financial assistance from this government are required to sign a number of documents both in advance of receiving assistance and upon completion of their studies. The same forms are used for students attending post-secondary education inside and outside the Northwest Territories.

I am separately provide the MLA for Inuvik with copies of all of the documents required at all stages of the student financial assistance process.

With respect to the consolidated loan agreement, this agreement obligates a student to repay the loans, both the principal and interest, made to him in accordance with the Student Financial Assistance Act and regulations, at the rate stated in the agreement.

The student must inform the government if he becomes a full-time student again after ceasing to be a full-time student. In such a case, the government will suspend the student's

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obligation to pay the principal and interest of the loan until six months after he again ceases to be a full-time

student. Also, the student may repay the full amount of the loan at any time without penalty.

I would be pleased to arrange a meeting for the MLA for Inuvik with departmental officials to answer any more specific questions he may have on the student loan agreement or other documents used in the program.

I have Return to Written Question 18-12(4), asked by Mr. Patterson to the Government Leader concerning Ministers' home travel.

Return To Written Question 18-12(4): Ministers' Home Travel

Today, I will be tabling a report showing home travel undertaken by Ministers during the period November 1991 to October 15, 1993.

I have Return to Written Question 24-12(4), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Premier concerning Languages Commissioner's travel list.

Return To Written Question 24-12(4): Languages Commissioner's Travel List

It would be inappropriate for a Member of the Executive Council to request travel information from the Languages Commissioner, since the Languages Commissioner reports to this Assembly. I have forwarded a copy of Written Question 24-12(4) to the Speaker with a request that the information be compiled and provided to Mr. Gargan.

I have Return to Written Question 25-12(4), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Social Services concerning the Bosco Homes contracts and/or contributions.

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

The following costs were incurred as a result of treatment provided by Bosco Homes for the period April 1, 1991 to the present.

April 1, 1991 To March 31, 1992

- Payment of per diem fees and associated costs for one client;

- Total costs, \$20,549.76;

- Method of payment - general commitments.

April 1, 1992 To March 31, 1993

- Payment of per diem fees and associated costs for two clients;

- Total costs, \$46,220.00;

- Method of payment - combination of contract expenditures and expenditures out of general commitments.

April 1, 1993 To Present

- Payment of per diem fees and associated costs for four clients;

- Total costs, \$224,510.00;

- Method of payment - contract.

These are the only expenditures that have been incurred with Bosco Homes for the period in question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, Tabled Document 53-12(4), building and learning strategy, increased northern involvement in the building construction occupations. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, Tabled Document 54-12(4), Economic Development and Tourism Business Development Fund, Annual Report, April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1993.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, tabling of documents.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Okay. Item 12, tabling of documents. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you. I wish to table, Tabled Document 55-12(4), Mr. Speaker, home travel undertaken by Ministers, November 1991 to October 15, 1993 and a document entitled towards an NWT mineral strategy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 9-12(4): Referral Of The Comprehensive Audit Of The Department Of Economic Development And Tourism To The Standing Committee On Public Accounts

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, December 10, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that tabled document 53-12(4), titled, Report of the Auditor General on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for review.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Motion 4-12(4). Member for Thebacha.

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We'll do that tomorrow. Motion 5-12(4), Adopting Members' Conduct Guidelines. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

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

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion, concerning adopting Members' conduct guidelines.

WHEREAS, the caucus of the 12th Legislative Assembly requested the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges to review the topic of the conduct of Members;

AND WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges reported in its review to the Legislative Assembly on various occasions;

AND WHEREAS, Members of the Legislative Assembly are already subject to several detailed sets of enforceable rules, such as conflict of interest provision of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Elections Act and the Federal Criminal Code;

AND WHEREAS, these acts set out clear standards of behaviour, which may be enforced by specific sanctions, thus reflecting the minimum levels of behaviour which is expected from Members;

AND WHEREAS, conduct guidelines are used to express statements of guiding principles shared by a group which more often reflect a level of moral commitment of shared values, principles and aspirations;

AND WHEREAS, the Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly are committed to providing principles that would guide Members' conduct;

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 this resolution.

Members' Conduct Guidelines

As a Member elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, I acknowledge that I have accepted a responsibility to serve the people of the Northwest Territories. I seek wisdom, strength, courage, honesty and caring from the people of the north, both from those who have built our past, and from those who are shaping our future.

As a legislator, elected to govern the Northwest Territories, I will serve to do my utmost:

- to hear the voices of all our people,
- to preserve our traditions and bridge them with new ways to build our future, to provide legislation, policies and services for the good of the people, as individuals, families and communities,
- to promote the equality of all our people,
- to distribute resources fairly and justly, and
- to respect and honour our land and all its inhabitants.

As a legislator, I will do my best to fulfil my duties to the Legislature, the public, my constituents and my colleagues with integrity and honour.

- To my constituents, I owe my best efforts at effective representation, as well as accountability, honesty, fairness and courtesy.
- To the Legislature, I owe respect, as well as dedication to my role in ensuring the integrity of our government and in earning, through my actions, the confidence of the people.
- To the public, I owe a responsibility to work for the well-being of all residents of the Northwest Territories.
- To my colleagues, I owe fairness and respect for our differences, and the duty to work together with goodwill for the common good.

I acknowledge human vulnerabilities, and will strive to bring honour to my role as a representative of our people.

I will not act, nor condone others in acting, in ways which exploit, slander, or discriminate against others. I will not act, nor condone others in acting, in ways which are dishonest, or which exploit positions of privilege for personal gain.

As a legislator, I acknowledge a vision and a responsibility to improve the life of our people, and I will strive to act in creative ways to overcome the hardships which destroy life and hope, and the human frailties which fall upon us.

So long as I am a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I will be true to these obligations, and will work to preserve the greatness of our land and our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

MR. LEWIS:

Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, the Members of this House felt committed to this process. We spent a considerable amount of time in Fort Providence at our caucus meeting where these guidelines were written and subsequently confirmed. For that reason, we felt it time to bring them into this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Secunder for the motion. Mr. Whitford.
Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

---Carried

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Motion 6-12(4), Legislatures Recommendation to the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. Mr. Nerysoo.

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, section 5(2) of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act provides that the Electoral District Boundaries Commission shall, from time to time, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, review the areas, boundaries, name and representation of one or more existing electoral districts;

AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly is committed to ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to prepare for division of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS, it would be desirable to have the existing Electoral Boundaries conform to the boundary that will divide the Northwest Territories into two territories in time for the general election to elect the 13th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS, section 12 requires the Electoral District Boundaries Commission to prepare a report to the Legislative Assembly within a time fixed by resolution of the Assembly after a review commences under section 5 of the act;

AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly wishes to make a recommendation to the Electoral District Boundaries Commission;

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 High Arctic, Kitikmeot, Kivallivik, Nunakput, Sahtu, and 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.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Motion 7-12(4), Appearance of Witnesses Before Committee of the Whole when Dealing with Family Violence in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Kakwi.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion.

WHEREAS, the Minister of Justice has tabled, during the Fourth Session, documents titled, "Building a Strategy for Dealing with Violence in the Northwest Territories" and a "Declaration of Family Violence";

AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly would like to hear from representatives of women's groups, the aged and disabled during the discussion on the important issue of family violence;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the Legislative Assembly approves the appearance of witnesses from women's groups, the aged and disabled before committee of the whole during discussion on family violence.

AND FURTHER, that the appearance of such witnesses be held during the Fifth Session of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

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

---Carried

Item 15, motions. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, can I get unanimous consent to go back to item 12, tabling of documents?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Does this House agree to go back to item 12?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 57-12(4), the terms of reference on the Advisory Committee on Social Housing.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ludy Pudluk):

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Now, item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act; Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93; Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates; and, Committee

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Report 10-12(4). By the authority given to my 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, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mike. The committee will come to order. We have a number of items under item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. What is the wish of the committee? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can attempt to conclude the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's departmental budget. If it is possible, we would like to address Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93 and Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, in committee of the whole. Then, Bill 1 will be concluded. We would like to finish bills 2, 3 and 4. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the agreement of the committee that we deal with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93, Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 and bills 1, 2, 3 and 4?

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. Ningark):

Before we proceed with the NWT Housing Corporation, we'll take a 15 minute break. Thank you.

---SHORT BREAK

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come to order. We are reviewing the capital estimates of the NWT Housing Corporation. The Minister made his opening remarks about a week ago. We also had a presentation by the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance. Now, we are on page 03-11 and we are on general comments, Housing Corporation capital estimates. General comments? Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in my witnesses.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Okay, Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses, please. Thank you. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce the witnesses?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, is Mr. Tony Chong, Vice-President of Construction for the Housing Corporation, and to my left, is Dave Murray, Vice-President of Programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Minister has brought his witnesses in. To the budget of the NWT Housing Corporation. General comments. Would you like to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, very much. We're on page 03-11 of the capital estimates for 1994-95. NWT Housing Corporation, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$4.170 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Fort Smith, total region, \$4.514 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on the amount allocated for Fort Smith. Fort Smith has a large area to cover, which includes quite a lot of communities. I'm just wondering if the allocation is based on per capita or is this pretty well just based on need?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have done a comprehensive needs survey in all the communities in the Northwest Territories. All the dollar allocations are done according to need. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I understand because we don't get any federal money under CMHC for public houses. Does this also include public houses, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The need in every community varies. In this year, approximately 30 per cent of our budget is for the rent supp program, which was public housing before, and 70 per cent of our budget will address home ownership.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So, the 30 per cent then, is also for building new public units?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Fort Smith, total

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region, \$4.514 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Inuvik, total region, \$5.144 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Baffin, total region, \$7.183 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$6.390 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Kitikmeot, total region, \$4.599 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, total activity, \$32 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to address my own constituency. I don't know how the needs survey was done. On the reserve, there are something like 43 houses that need to be replaced because of the unsafe conditions of the units. There is no running water, sewage, even the lighting was not up to

standard. The houses were fire hazards. But, because they had no allocation for housing, most of the people are still living in those kinds of conditions. I know lives were lost last year and the year before because of the lack of good heating system, and things like that.

I thought maybe I'd mention that last year, after the needs survey was redone, the community did identify the need for more houses, but the allocation was already determined so the reserve ended up with no units at all. I believe, however, that after the need was identified, I'm not too sure, but I think two units were allocated. I want to express that the need is far greater than what it seems.

The other problem we have, Mr. Speaker, is we have a lot of old units, northern rental units, in Fort Providence that need to be upgraded substantially. I would think it would save the government, in the long run, if those old rental units, if they aren't replaced, are improved to the point where at least they're heat efficient so it would be less costly to maintain those units. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Total activity, \$32 million. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a constituency matter, with regard to the needs survey. I would like to know how it was done in my constituency, particularly in Fort Liard. There are some people living in tents and even polyethylene. I showed the Minister some pictures of one of the elder ladies who was living under plastic this summer. It is not a very pleasant situation. Unfortunately, the Minister couldn't come to my constituency this fall, on account of fog. He would have been able to see the conditions that some of the people are living in.

I would like to question the needs survey. How could the needs survey overlook a situation like this? Another young woman with two children has been living in a tent all year round, for the last two or three years. Situations like that still exist in my constituency. That is the reason I question the needs survey.

It is a technical method for deciding need. They go into a community and count numbers and people and decide who needs what, based on numbers. But, you are dealing with human lives, and that is what you are

providing housing for, not numbers and surveys. I would like to know, from the Minister, since he is not able to come to the communities, I would like him to see if he could provide the information on how the survey was done? Perhaps it wasn't done as well as it should have been to allow situations like that to exist. That's a concern that I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I apologize to the Minister. The Minister may want to have wanted to respond to Mr. Gargan's question earlier. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Gargan, we approximately meet the need of ten per cent of those people that are in need. We don't have sufficient funding to meet all the needs in every community. In your communities, for example, on the reserve it was set at three for the need. Then the survey was redone and it went to 12. We allocated two units to that reserve this past summer to try to address that need. That's normal. Without adequate funding from the federal government we could not address all the needs of the communities in the north. We are approximately 3,600 units behind. In Mr. Antoine's case, in Fort Liard, he has shown me the pictures of people living in tents, or plastic covers. I know the need is great in Liard. The need for Liard is approximately 33 units. Last year two units were allocated, I believe.

For Members' information, the needs survey was done by community members. It was actually done by the people in the community with the assistance of the Housing Corporation. I wanted to make sure it was done that way so the surveys have credibility. People were paid so much a household to go and do the surveys. I would be happy to give the Members a copy of that survey, a blank copy, for example, to show them how it's done. I know they even came to my house where I'm temporarily living in Yellowknife and did a survey of us. It was the most comprehensive survey ever done by the Housing Corporation. It was done by the people in the communities in their own languages, as well. We have to find out what the need is so the allocations are done fairly and according to need. That's what we did. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity, \$32 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I have one question with regard to a particular development of houses that I don't think I've ever asked the Minister about, although I've dealt with him on the issue for clarification for my constituents. Many of the houses in our area that are proposed to be built automatically include crawl spaces and not basements, unless the client decides they want one. I believe this issue, if I recall, was addressed by the Minister when he was a Member that it should be a given that when houses are built, basements should also be considered because of the soil in our area. Currently the budget doesn't allow for that but I know we tried to address it by ensuring that clients who want basements can be given basements and they pay the difference of the screwjacks, from the crawlspace. Therefore, they can build basements and the difference has to be absorbed by the client. I was going to suggest to the Minister that since a certain amount of units are allotted to the community, could they not, within those units, calculate the cost of basements so clients would not have to take out another loan or mortgage to be able to absorb that cost for the difference of the basement that they need? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we first started getting cut by CMHC on our construction budgets last fall, I came forward to Members. We used to have approximately 18 different designs, I believe it was, for HAP. When we changed it to the access program we gave the basic designs, a two-bedroom, a three-bedroom, a four-bedroom or whatever. They're all designed basically the same except that the roof lines are a little bit different for the High Arctic, compared to

the treeline. It was all due to cost, to try to save money.

If clients want basements, I don't know what the cost difference is, but like the Member says, they can subtract. If a basement costs \$10,000, for example, and the screwjacks and the gravel pads and the crawlspace costs \$9,000, then the client has to pick up the other \$1,000. We usually assist them with that in that area. They have to pay it because no other client would get it in any other area. I don't know how else to give out the housing fairly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I understand what the Minister is saying but the problem is that when you look at the gravel pads and the costs of screwjacks and the costs of the crawlspace you're looking at approximately, I believe it's, \$4,500. Then you're looking at the cost to build a basement of \$8,500. Basically, what I'm saying is that the housing design is not compatible to the community development. No houses in Fort Smith are built on what you would call those blocks and have crawlspaces because we have the soil where we can build basements very easily. Therefore, if, for example, 12 units are allocated to Fort Smith and a certain amount of funds are to be allocated, then why aren't those funds included? If it's deemed that those funds can only afford 11 units, as opposed to 12, then 11 units should be considered to ensure that they're building proper houses. The problem you are having now is that you have clients that have to come up with an extra \$3,000 in a very short time and they just don't have the funds. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister for housing.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standards for houses, everything is based on a standard. If you have two kids you're going to get so many bedrooms, and so on. If you have three, you'll get more bedrooms. We allocate units under the condition that we meet so many needs in that community. We're stacked up on needs in every community, we have 3,600 units less than we need right now. Then it wouldn't be fair to those people that are waiting; one person would still

be waiting until the next year or the next year. If you have an allocation to build ten units, then we should be build ten units with that money.

Also, we give the clients in the Fort Smith, South Slave area preference, or options. That client, if they're going to get a three-bedroom unit they can switch that to a two-bedroom unit with a full basement and put one-bedroom into the basement. Then they don't have to pay anything. If they continue to keep the three-bedroom that would meet their need and the basement is extra, above their need, they would then pay the extra. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to find a way to address these concerns so that I don't have these clients that have these units allocated to them coming to me to indicate that it's difficult to build their houses because of inadequate funding. That's not the intention of the housing corporation, the intention is to try to provide housing so they can build these houses and are able to address their housing needs.

If the Minister is not willing to look at changing the funding for the number of units to allow these basements, then I have to stress the point that the standards of your corporation are not compatible with how the community builds houses. I would like to know if there is some way we can deal with those standards. When the Minister was a Member, I recall him vividly bringing the same concern I am bringing up. With the new houses that you are now building, you are going back to the standards that were developed way back in the 1960s with these types of gravel pads and crawl spaces. In the South Slave, they don't need those types of houses. Would the Minister be willing to review the standards, keeping in mind the ability of the Housing Corporation to allow for basements to be built? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will review all construction standards with the Advisory Committee on

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Housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total activity, \$32 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On pages 03-13 to 03-16 of this particular section are the information items. If Members of the committee have any questions they would like to direct the Minister, now is the time to do it. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I have one comment with regard to the funding for housing. We have all recognized that we have had significant cuts to our housing budget from the federal government. I believe all Members appreciate the Minister's effort in trying to get the federal government to reconsider the funds that they have cut from the budget. As a result, we have not been able to build as many houses as we probably could have if we got funding from the federal government. I believe that it is critical the Minister vigilantly continue to make every effort to obtain these types of funds because I strongly believe, and I am sure many other Members do, that their fiduciary responsibility is to provide housing to aboriginal people. With that, I believe that this point has to be stressed to the federal government that we cannot afford, as a government, to build as many houses as the needs survey showed. That we will be crippled in being able to deliver these houses, which are very important for the people of the north. There is no way we can be compared to other jurisdictions when it comes to cost and the amount of houses that are being built. I want to make that comment because I feel it is critical and I think the federal government is making every attempt to get away from their financial responsibilities. They have to be reminded that they have a fiduciary responsibility to aboriginal people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Members for their support. I will assure them that we will continue to lobby as hard as we can on this issue and make sure that the federal government understands their responsibilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The first information item is the department summary. The second information item is district operations. The third information item, on page 03-15, is notes to detail of capital. On page 03-16, the fourth information item, is notes to detail of capital. If there are no questions, we will go back to page 03-9, department summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures is \$32 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my witnesses for their help. I would like to thank Larry Elkin for helping me prepare this budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

I would like to thank the Minister and witnesses for appearing before this committee. All right. Does the committee agree that details for Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, is concluded with the conclusion of this particular department?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will move to Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, to read. Do we agree that we move to Bill 1, because the details are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We are in the green binder, legislation. It is the first tab, Bill 1. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I was going to suggest, since we don't have the amended changes for the amounts under Bill 1, that we could possibly have a short break. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All right. Does the committee agree that we have a short break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All right. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come to order. We are on Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95. Do you want to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 3. Mr. Pollard.

Committee Motion 78-12(4): To Amend Subclause 3(2) of Bill 1, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that subclause 3(2) to Bill 1 be amended by striking out \$180.710 million and by substituting \$180.645 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 3 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The schedule is on page two. Vote 2, capital. Mr. Pollard.

Committee Motion 79-12(4): To Amend Schedule To Bill 1, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 1 be amended by reducing the amount set out opposite Vote 2, item 9, by \$50,000 to \$37.358 million; by reducing the amount set out opposite Vote 2, item 10, by \$15,000 to \$3.260 million; and, by reducing the amount set out as total appropriation by \$65,000 from \$180.710 million to \$180.645 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Schedule, vote 2, capital, total appropriation, as amended, \$180.645 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The bill as a whole, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 3-12(4) is also concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. According to the agreement we had at the beginning of the proceedings of the committee of the whole, we agreed to do Bill 5 next. Is that agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 5. Mr. Pollard.

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1992-93 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 5 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$1.080 million. Mr. Chairman, the supplementary appropriation consists of additional appropriations in the amount of \$906,000 in operations and maintenance and \$174,000 in capital.

The supplementary appropriation is required under the provision of Section 36 of the Financial Administration Act, where an appropriation is exceeded because of the recordings of liabilities at the end of the fiscal year, the amount by which the liability exceeds the appropriation, is an interim appropriation for that fiscal year. The interim appropriation is to be submitted in the form of a supplementary appropriation bill to the Legislative Assembly.

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The Supplementary Appropriation, No. 5, 1992-93 is presented as required by the Financial Administration Act. Mr. Chairman, four departments are represented in this supplementary appropriation, the departments of Personnel, Justice, Health and Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to review the details of the supplementary funding requests and either answer Members' questions, or refer them to the Minister responsible. Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully request the committee's indulgence in having a witness appear with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Before the Minister brings in the witness, if that's the committee's wish, does the Standing Committee on Finance have any presentations to make? Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93 at its meeting in Yellowknife on November 22, 1993. The standing committee was pleased that the chairman of the Financial

Management Board and the staff were available to answer questions at that time.

Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a further appropriation of \$906,000 in operations and maintenance and \$175,000 in capital for a total of \$1.080 million for the fiscal year 1992-93. The committee has been informed that this is the final appropriation for the year 1992-93. During a Standing Committee on Finance meeting on December 6, 1993, the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. The amount of this appropriation is relatively small and the committee has one major concern. As has been the practice, I will speak to this major issue. Members of the committee may have comments on details of this bill when we go through it in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman, the committee's major concern with this supplementary appropriation has to do with an out of court settlement, following a contract dispute in the community of Gjoa Haven. A part of the total cost of settlement, \$174,000, is reflected in this supplementary appropriation under capital expenditures with the Economic Development and Tourism department. The committee understands that the total amount of the settlement is divided between the departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Public Works and Services.

This settlement points to the fact that there are practices in the government right now that may not stand up to legal scrutiny down the road. The committee is very concerned that the government take immediate action to ensure that this type of situation can be avoided in the future. That concludes my comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Now, does the committee agree that the Minister can bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses, please. Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you introduce the witness please, for the record.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Mr. Lew Voytilla, who is the Secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are ready for general comments from the floor. Are there any general comments? We will move on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We have Supplementary Appropriation No. 5, 1992-93. We will go on to details. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Department Of Personnel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 6, Supplementary Appropriation No. 5, 1992-93, Personnel, operations and maintenance, employee benefits, not previously authorized, \$684,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All right. Total department, \$684,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Justice

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 7, Justice, operations and maintenance, police services, not previously authorized, \$146,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total department, \$146,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 8, Health, operations and

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maintenance, territorial hospital insurance services, not previously authorized, \$76,000. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister advised us that these are the supps to the end of March, 1993. What is the current estimate of the debt, the amount of the health billings dispute at this date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the balance outstanding at March 31, 1993, was \$86.682 million and it relates to the fiscal years 1986-87 to 1992-93. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 8. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I am curious as to what the estimate debt is, as of today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I am estimating the debt as of today at a little over \$100 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Supplementary appropriation, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the status of negotiations with the federal Department of Health, at this stage, on recovery of that debt?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, at the present time, our lawyers are proceeding with our court case. Within the next 48 hours, I will have before me the total picture on not only the dollar amounts, because we have known that all along, but where those dollars relate to, the different agreements that are covered by the dollars that we feel are owing to us and the respective amounts of each of those agreements in dollar form. This is the information that I require to enable me to authorize the next step of the negotiations, whereby there will be some discussion with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and, after that, we will be passing the information on to our lawyers to discuss with lawyers representing DIAND. I anticipate knowing a little more about where we are at with negotiations, probably by January 15, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

This government is still pursuing the litigation, through court, on trying to settle this debt. Is that the case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have not taken the case out of court. Yes, we are still pursuing the issue through the courts with the full knowledge of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Irwin, and it has always been our position that we wouldn't take the case out of court to negotiate. As I have said earlier in the House, in this session, that Mr. Irwin has said that his lawyers will negotiate with us, even though the case is in court. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Territorial hospital insurance services, total department, \$76,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 9 of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask questions on the Health one?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. It was my fault that I didn't see you. Go ahead.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the issue on dentures, I understand that this person in Yellowknife is doing it, without us having any laws. I think that a person like this would save the government a substantial amount of money, just by virtue of him being here. I would like to ask if the government is addressing this whole issue of this individual who does dentures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Minister of Health.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, last Wednesday, the assistant deputy minister met with this gentleman and had a discussion with him. We know now more about what he wants to do. Last evening, I met with the Dental Association of

the Northwest Territories. I know now where they are coming from. Next week, I will meet with the denturist and have a discussion with him. If he is in agreement, there will be a meeting between the dental association, himself and myself chairing. The dental association has already agreed to see if we can work out the problems that seem to exist at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, capital, business development, not previously authorized, \$174,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

On page 9, I don't understand the bottom part of page 9, capital appropriation was charged the \$545,000 for the settlement. Does that indicate that the settlement was equal to \$545,000? Can I get some clarification on what is going on here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we are talking about some fairly intricate accounting procedures here, so, if the committee wouldn't mind, I would like Mr. Voytilla to explain the accounting procedures to the committee. Thank you, Mr.

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Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Voytilla.

MR. VOYTILLA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total settlement was \$1.945 million. The amount of \$545,000 was deemed to be capital and was charged to the appropriation of Economic Development and Tourism. \$1.4 million was deemed to be O and M and was charged to the appropriation of Public Works and Services for 1992-93.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Business development. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask what this out of court settlement is related to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there were legal proceedings commenced against the Government of the Northwest Territories and its employees by Profile Construction, Lyle Vogel Okuk (1986) Ltd., Okuk Construction, Peter Angignak and Ben Porter. It was deemed by the Department of Justice that it would be better to attempt to settle this action commenced against the Government of the Northwest Territories, than it would be to try and fight the issue in court. Therefore, on the advice of our lawyers we decided to settle out of court in this particular instance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Business development, total department, \$174,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Is the committee agreed that we have concluded the detail of Supplementary Appropriation, No. 5, 1992-93?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Shall we go on to Bill 5?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

It's in your green binder. Shall we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93. Clause one. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause two.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause three.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause four.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause five.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause six of Bill 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause seven.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause eight.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page three, schedule, part one, vote two, capital, total capital, \$174,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Part two, vote one, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$906,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Total supplementary appropriations in part one and part two, \$1.08 million.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Next on the order paper Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 requests additional appropriation authority of \$55,590,650. This amount exceeds our supplementary reserves for 1993-94, primarily due to two large costs that could not be forecast. These are \$9 million for forest fire suppression and \$10 million for capital social housing programs. These large, unbudgeted costs, coupled with the declines in our revenues, have resulted in a forecast deficit for 1993-94 of close to \$25 million.

Mr. Chairman, I don't have to remind you that the government's objective for 1993-94 was a balanced budget. I must also caution that the forecast deficit could worsen between now and the end of the fiscal year, if further forced expenditure growth materializes.

The new deficit forecast for 1993-94 also has implications for future years. The expenditure pressures the government has had to deal with could carry forward to 1994-95 and beyond. Mr. Chairman, the fundamental problem is that the rate of forced growth in our expenditure programs is exceeding the rate of growth of our revenues. This must be turned around, if long-term financial stability is to be maintained.

Mr. Chairman, due to improved financial restraint in the past fiscal year, 1992-93, the government started this year with a larger accumulated surplus than planned. Even with a deficit forecast for 1993-94, the government will still be in a surplus position at the end of the year. However, the level of accumulated surplus will have been drawn down, from over \$55 million to under \$30 million. Mr. Chairman, it is important that corrective action be taken for 1994-95, to deal with this potential deficit problem. Although much of the development of next year's budget has already been completed, the government must reconsider some of its plans. Mr. Chairman, changes of the magnitude required must be based on direction from this Legislative Assembly. We must define our main objectives and our priorities. The Cabinet can not make these major decisions without that direction.

Next week, Mr. Chairman, I will be tabling a paper that I hope will stimulate the discussion that we must have, if the government is to manage the potential deficit situation in a manner that will be acceptable to this House. Based on the direction that results, the government can then prepare detailed action for introduction through the 1994-95 O and M budget in February.

Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 is large. It contains many necessary and worthwhile funding requirements. However, since advancing the supplementary appropriation, we have had the opportunity to review its content with the Standing Committee on Finance and Members at large. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the government announced early in this session that it had established a northern workforce commission. Since that time, we have been listening to concerns expressed by Members of this House and it has become quite obvious that the commission does not have the political support it requires to begin its two year mandate. Because of this, Mr. Chairman, I will be introducing a motion requesting that the money required to operate the commission be deleted from the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Chairman, this will remove \$640,000 and 1.5 person years from the Ministers' offices activity of the Department of the Executive, of which \$325,000 was in the form of a special warrant which is being rescinded. I would point out to the committee, in all honesty, Mr. Chairman, that the special warrant has not yet been rescinded. It will be rescinded tomorrow morning at FMB and then passed on to the Commissioner for ratification. In addition, Mr. Chairman, \$5,000 will be removed from the human resource management activity of the Financial Management Board Secretariat, in the Department of the Executive, related to employee benefit costs associated with the commission. Also, Mr. Chairman, \$1,000 will be removed from the staffing activity of the Department of Personnel. A further \$3,000 will be removed from the systems and computer services activity of the Department of Public Works and Services, related to telecommunications costs that would have been associated with the commission.

Mr. Chairman, the government has also reconsidered another supplementary funding request that is contained in the 1993-94 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2, 1993-94. This amount is \$49,000 for home travel for the Department of the Executive. At the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman, a motion will be made to delete this amount from the bill.

Mr. Chairman, with these proposed amendments, I now welcome discussion and questions on Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. As has been the practice in the past, I will try to answer Members' questions, but will refer specific or detailed questions to the appropriate Minister, if that's

acceptable to the committee, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Does the Standing Committee on Finance have a presentation? Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

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MR. ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 at its meetings in Yellowknife on November 22, November 29 and December 6, 1993. The standing committee was pleased that the chairman of the Financial Management Board and his staff were available to answer questions at that time.

Mr. Chairman, this bill represents a further appropriation request of over \$36.5 million in operations and maintenance, almost \$20 million in capital, for a total of \$55,590,650 for the current fiscal year. If this bill is passed, the total supplementary appropriation to date, for the fiscal year 1993-94, will be close to \$65.5 million. During the December 6, 1993 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, the committee agreed to recommend this bill to the House for consideration. As has been the practice, I will speak to the major issues. Members of the committee may have additional comments on details of this bill when we go through it in committee of the whole.

Committee Members were very concerned to see that a special warrant in the amount of \$325,000 was approved to conduct a comprehensive review of labour related matters in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Chairman, this is a matter that we feel is under federal jurisdiction. Members are not aware of any pressing need for the GNWT to spend this money. Mr. Chairman, since the Minister has stated in his opening remarks that he's going to delete it, we'll go with that.

Many of the items contained in the supplementary appropriations are transfers of funding and person years that occurred as a result of the reorganization of the Financial Management Board secretariat and the departments of Personnel, Finance, and the Executive. The committee is concerned about this massive centralization of important government

functions. In order to better understand the objectives and rationale behind these changes, committee Members are looking forward to receiving a full briefing.

Higher than anticipated costs for social assistance continue to appear as supplementary appropriation requests. The committee would like to see the Department of Social Services develop and implement more accurate forecasting techniques, as soon as possible. The committee noted substantial requirements for additional funding by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, which appeared to be due to poor planning and forecasting. Members would like to see the department develop and implement new standards and criteria for planning very quickly.

The standing committee would like to encourage the government to continue in its attempt to restrict the number of items and the total amount of funding requested through supplementary appropriations. That concludes my remarks on Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. General comments on Bill 6. Does the committee agree that we go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Line By Line

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 6 of Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, special warrant, \$1.035 million. Agreed? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Item 4, on page 6, word processing equipment, where is that to be used and what is that equipment for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is for 12 workstations. It includes a microcomputer, printer, line driver and software, at a cost of \$7,530 a piece, for a total cost of \$91,000. A total of 11 of these work stations are for the Executive staff and one is for the Legislative Assembly receptionist. That was purchased by the Legislative Assembly and moved into their building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Didn't the Executive staff have equipment before we moved? I am just wondering why the sudden need for 12 completely new sets of equipment, complete new work places?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, yes, there was existing equipment. This equipment still exists. I think the rationale was some of the equipment was getting old and so on. The decision was made to equip the building with new equipment, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Legislative Assembly, total department, \$1.035 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 7, Executive, operations and maintenance, Ministers' offices, special warrants, \$325,000. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman. I would point to the 1.5 person years and \$315,000 on this particular page. That is one of

the amounts I made reference to that will be deleted by way of rescinding the special warrant at FMB tomorrow, and hence, the Commissioner's signature put on it. I want to point that out to the committee, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$364,000. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, item number two on there, the \$49,000 was also mentioned in my opening statement. That is for ministerial home travel and that will be deleted when we get to the bill, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last few days questions have been asked for information on Ministers' home travel. Today, we are not aware whether we have been provided that information yet. We would still like to see Ministers' home travel. So, I just want to know where that is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

If my memory serves me correctly, Mr. Chairman, I think Madam Premier tabled that information today in the House, if that is acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

How then, will this \$49,000 be paid for, if it is being removed through a formal motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member could repeat the question please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Arvaluk, would you repeat your question for the Minister?

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$49,000 that is for ministerial home travel, how is it going to be paid for now, if it will no longer be in Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess we'll go as far as we can with what we have in our budget and then Ministers won't go home any more. I guess it will be handled from within the Executive, and that's it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Ministers always find a way.

---Laughter

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I know that has been deleted, but it begs the question, were the initial budgets too low, or was it too much travel? I am not sure about this overexpenditure. Has the cost run up significantly or people taking long routes home? Why are we, all of a sudden, \$49,000 over budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we miscalculated. There is an entitlement of Ministers to travel home 32 round trips to their constituency in a fiscal year. There was a reduction made in this particular area the year before. The mix of the Ministers changed. We made a miscalculation and we were that much money short,

Mr. Chairman. We will endeavour to eat that from within. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Ministers' offices, \$264,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I realize that the Minister did say that they will try to eat that from within. Are there some Ministers who are doing more travel, than others? That sort of balances out. The Ministers who don't travel as much to their home community, would have a larger budget towards the end of the year. Has that been absorbed by balancing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct that Ministers sometimes don't know when they are going to be able to get back and forth. That may well be the case. If there is not as much travelling towards the end of the year, it may balance out, in fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The Executive Council Secretariat, special warrants, \$188,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

All right. Executive Council Secretariat, not previously authorized, negative \$1.905 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Page 8, Executive, operations and maintenance, directorate, special warrants, \$1.7378 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Human resource management, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I realize that I haven't made any general comments, but just going through this whole supplementary, there is a great deal of special warrants that have been utilized. Under directorate, they did some adjustments to establish six person years related to government organizational changes. The next special warrant was again, on the same day, for Finance and the Department of Personnel for a further 12.5 person years. Is there a reason why two special warrants were warranted for person years in one day?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you go down the page, on June 8, there was 50.3 person years and so on and so forth. Mr. Chairman, this is the day that the changes came into place effect. People were moving from Personnel, the

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Executive and the Department of Finance. Where you see it going into one particular place, later on in the supp you will see it coming out of another place, so that the amounts will offset. They were not new positions that were created, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Directorate, \$1.7378 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that Personnel, who had formerly worked for the Department of Finance, are now being transferred to the Department of Executive, where they will report to a new Financial Management Board Secretariat. How does this affect the reporting relationships of people who had formerly worked in the Department of Finance in regions? Do those regional staff now report to headquarters, whereas they formerly reported to a superintendent in the regions? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, in the regions, there is a superintendent of FMBS. They have a financial arm, which was formerly the Department of Finance. They have a human resources arm, which was formerly the Department of Personnel. The reporting structure is that they report to FMBS now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair recognizes the Member for Iqaluit.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Finance is saying then that the employees reported to a regional superintendent before the reorganization and they continue to report to a first line authority, to a regional superintendent after the reorganization, so this does not represent a centralizing reporting relationship. It is basically a status quo, but it is simply in the

Department of Executive, rather than Finance. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That is correct, Mr. Chairman, except that the Financial Management Board is a stand-alone outfit and merely receives administrative and financial services from the Department of the Executive. The Member is correct. It remains the same in the regions, it is just a different reporting structure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Directorate, special warrants, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

All of these new financial people are now in the FMBS, which is within the Department of Executive. The Premier is responsible for the Department of Executive, but the Minister of Finance shares the Financial Management Board. Who is the boss? Who's the political boss? Is it the chairman of the Financial Management Board who oversees the secretariat or is it the Premier within whose activity this secretariat resides? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I've always considered, since the day I started this job, that Madam Premier was the boss. In actual fact, within this particular operation, the FMBS is housed within the Executive merely for budgetary purposes and, to effect some efficiency, we also use the same administration and finance people as the Executive. We didn't feel it was necessary to go out and start up a new finance and administration for FMBS. I would risk the wrath of the Premier by saying that when it comes to matters of Finance and FMBS that I am, in fact, the boss, always recognizing that she is the supreme boss, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Pollard, it's on the record. Thank you. The chair recognizes the Member from Iqaluit.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I certainly hope I haven't got my friend, Mr. Pollard, into any trouble with these questions. Since I'm considering a motion to change the designation of the Government Leader, maybe I should be recommending that the title should be, "El Supremo."

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, my final question on this is, when we come to the O and M budget in the new year, who will defend the budget of the FMBS within the Department of the Executive? Will it be the Minister of Finance or will this budget be presented and defended by the Premier herself? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I will defend the FMBS budget as Mr. Kakfwi, who is also housed in the Executive, will defend his budget. If I recall correctly, when I was chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, that's the same procedure that the former Government Leader allowed to happen when he came before the Standing Committee on Finance in this House. All the Ministers who had housed the departments within his Executive umbrella, defended their individual budgets before the House. That will continue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Directorate, special warrant. Any further comments? \$1.7378 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Human resource management, special warrant, \$25.6017 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

At the top of page nine, vacation travel assistance

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benefits, requesting an increase of \$2.8 million. My question is with the amounts of staff we have, weren't these budgeted for? How come were so far out of whack in our budgeting? It's an employee benefit. I wonder why it wasn't budgeted for initially?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, this supp is a result of a base review of the vacation travel assistance because there was a base deficiency since the 1991-92 fiscal year. That amount, by the time we got to 1993-94, had grown to some \$1.592 million.

There was also a four per cent, actually a 4.6 per cent increase in airfares, which attributed to \$239,000. The amount of \$127,000 of this was incurred in 1992-93 and was reflected in the base deficiency that I discussed earlier, the \$1.592 million.

There was also an increase of some \$396,000 because of a tenure increase. The average length of tenure of employees with the GNWT has been increasing and is resulting in more regional employees who are entitled to two trips per year. That resulted in an increase in VTA costs of \$600,000 during 1992-93. That was also reflected in the base deficiency that I mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Pollard, I believe you wanted to speak on the item, Department of the Executive, \$5,000, page nine.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to mention the amount of \$5,000, Department of the Executive, labour review process and the 1.5 person years. I believe I mentioned it in my opening statement and I will deal with that as we go through the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question again on the special warrant for VTA. I'd asked the Minister this question in the Standing Committee on Finance and I don't think I've received a response yet. Why does it cost \$6,000 for VTA for 2.7 PYs when they're basically for half-year positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think we provided the information to the Standing Committee on Finance on Thursday. This is done on a formula, based on the number of people in a particular region and actual costs. When you're apportioning how much a new employee is going to cost you or how much anything is going to cost you, you just go to this formula and you say well, this department is going to need this and these are the benefits, et cetera. I know that it sounds like a lot but that's based on a formula, as I said, on actual costs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Next on the list was Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

(Microphone turned off)...repatriation of delivery of community mental health program in the Baffin. What's that program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the community mental health program mandate rests with the Department of Social Services. However, in the Baffin region, the Baffin Regional Health Board has delivered the program since 1987. That was done, Mr. Chairman, under a contribution agreement with the Department of Social Services. It is staffed by three health board employees. Funding is provided by the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$162,000. That provides resources, salaries and benefits for two people plus O and M costs. The other person is covered by the Department of Health.

The Baffin Regional Health Board wanted to repatriate this particular program and send the delivery of these services back to Social Services. It was felt that Social Services, through the Baffin Regional Health Board, would be able to offer a more comprehensive service with the participation of other social workers and specialists available in the department. That is what is happening. The three positions are coming back in and going back into Social Services, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would like to go back to the bottom of page 8, a special warrant for \$228,000 for pay equity dispute. There is 0.6 PYs and research staff. Are these contract or employee staff, permanent or part-time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, these people are casuals. They were for support staff to perform specialized legal research for our lawyer, Mr. Juriansz. The \$228,000 comprises the following items: 520 hours at \$300 an hour for Mr. Juriansz, \$156,000; casual legal researchers, there was 7 months of pay at \$21 an hour and benefits for \$28,000; the expenses and travel for Mr. Juriansz and those who have sworn affidavits was \$44,000, for a total of \$228,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

What is the status of this whole pay equity dispute issue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we filed and PSAC has asked if they can have until December 13 to file their documents.

We are already there and waiting for the union to file on December 13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Human resource management, special warrant, \$25.6017 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Not previously authorized, \$190,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

On page 9, financial management, special warrant, \$10.2295 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Not previously authorized, negative \$32,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

You are only transferring .5 PYs here, but what is the purpose of the transfer? What is the individual doing here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it was an interdepartmental transfer of \$32,000 and .5 person years from the Financial Management Board to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. It was transferred to ED&T on behalf of the NWT Business Credit Corporation. The purpose of the transfer is to provide a dedicated collections officer assigned to the BCC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Financial management, negative \$32,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 10, audit and evaluation, special warrant, \$2.082 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Intergovernmental and aboriginal affairs, special warrant, \$851,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total department, special warrant, \$41.015 million. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a comment with regard to the total department's funding. The total funding the department is requesting \$41.015 million is more than the initial O & M budget presented to us last

March. It reflects a lack of planning with regard to the department expenditures. We come back six months after a budget has been approved, and this department is asking for an additional \$41 million. That seems somewhat ironic. What caused this request? I realize a number of factors have caused this, but why was there such a lack of planning on the overall departmental O & M request last year? When you look at last year's budget, the total department was \$18.256 million. We are coming with a supp for \$41 million, which is more than double what they initially asked for. I don't believe that should go through unnoticed. It does reflect bad planning. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the budget was passed and further into the fiscal year, on June 8, the decision was made to move the departments around. Of the \$41 million, \$36 million is being transferred in as a result of the movements in departments. It would have been transferred in from Personnel, Finance and the Executive, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

When was that decision to move the departments internally into the Executive? When was that decision made? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

May 17 was the Cabinet decision, Mr. Chairman. The budgetary or money decisions were made on June 8, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

I have no further comments, Mr. Chairman. It is just that this amount doubles the initial budget presented to this House. It reflects lack of planning. That is basically the comment that I wanted to make. If the decision to amalgamate departments was being planned, then it should have been reflected in the initial budget. That is the only comment that I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Member for Inuvik.

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MR. KOE:

My colleagues have already raised that. I was going to mention it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Total department, special warrant, \$41.015 million. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I just had one question with regard to placing FMBS in the Executive and, as a result, changing PYs and reallocating the money. Does it have any effect on the Financial Administration Act of the department? I've asked for a legal opinion on it. I want to ask if it has any legal implications with regard to their responsibilities under the FAA? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are going to be things in there that we want to clean up, but I don't think we have breached, violated or gone against the FAA. But, as I say, there are some things in there that we will, ultimately, want to clean up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, could I just get a legal opinion on that, since the law clerk is readily available?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. I shall check with Ms. McPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Financial Administration Act, the FMB doesn't have to be placed in a particular department. The only stipulation is that the Minister of Finance presides over the board. So, having the FMB placed within the FMBS doesn't violate the letter of the law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Ms. McPherson. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Will there be changes in legislation that may have been affected as a result of this change? I guess what I'm trying to find out, Mr. Chairman, is how do you ensure that you keep the financial and audit sections independent, since they've now all been amalgamated under the Executive? Finance has always been known to be sort of the watchdog over all departments. Maybe this is the cause of some of our financial systems breaking down. I'm trying to find out, will there be necessary changes to legislation to accommodate this change here? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons for this whole move around, was so we could get the Department of Finance dealing with the way we raise revenue, negotiations with provinces, other territories and the federal government, how we generate money and where our money comes from. The idea was that FMBS would be concerned only with how we spend the money. Consequently, we feel that, in future, we'll have a better idea of how we're spending money. With the audit and evaluation capabilities that we're gaining right now, we will be able to say whether we're spending that money according to policy and whether we're spending it in accordance with the Financial Administration Act.

We will also be able to say how effective programs are. I think the move was made to get a better handle

on what is happening in the government, where the money is going, and how it is being spent. I think it will become more effective in the future, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair recognizes Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I just have one further question. Under FMBS, you have a deputy minister. FMBS is going into the Department of the Executive. The Department of the Executive also has one deputy minister. How do you have two deputy ministers for one department? How is that justified?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are actually three deputy ministers in the Department of the Executive. Mr. Overvold is a deputy minister as well. As I said previously, Mr. Voytilla, and Mr. Overvold's departments are housed within the Department of the Executive, admittedly. But, they are full departments, and consequently have deputy minister. They are housed in the Department of Executive for expediency and efficiency. Mr. Alvarez is the senior deputy minister in the Government of the Northwest Territories. He is the deputy minister of the Executive. But, that does not mean that Mr. Voytilla and Mr. Overvold work for him, per se.

They still work directly for the Ministers that are responsible for those particular departments, recognizing of course, that in his capacity as the senior deputy minister, Mr. Alvarez really does have rank over all the other deputy ministers in the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have noted that all the "agrees" come from that side of the House. Mr. Chairman, is it possible to get the latest update with

regard to the organizational chart of the Executive, with all the recent changes so we know who is who and who is where now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we provided that to the Standing Committee on Finance in October, but we'll be glad to provide it again to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Koe.

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MR. KOE:

Do we get new telephone directories with that, so we know who is who and who is where?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We should get transparencies, so we can change them easily. Mr. Minister, I don't know whether that was a question or a little tongue-in-cheek. He requested new telephone directories with the listing. Actually, a list probably wouldn't be such a bad idea, Mr. Minister, of where the changes are. The total department, special warrant, \$41.015 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

I heard agreement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Everybody has a chance to voice their opinion here. Not previously authorized, negative \$1.383 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

NWT Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance, special warrant, \$1 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

This direct lending mortgage loan fund was approved on May 11. My question is, how many people applied for loans and how many were successful in getting mortgages through this fund?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Inuvik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, at this time, there are 13 applications for consideration under the direct lending mortgage loan fund. Mr. Chairman, there are nine clients in the Hay River district, three in Yellowknife and one in the Inuvik district. If all applications are approved, then the total appropriation would be utilized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. KOE:

Are they in the regions or in those communities? There are three regional centres that you have mentioned. Which communities are they from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that was reported out of the districts. I don't have the communities available, but I will make those communities available to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Obviously, the fund was set up for people in communities without banking or without ability to get direct financing, so I would assume that the loans/mortgages were lent to people who live in communities outside of centres with banks. That is my concern there. My other question is, is this \$1 million going to be an ongoing, revolving fund, or is it a one-shot deal? It doesn't say. It is a mortgage/loan fund, but does the money that is recovered go back into the fund with interest, or how is it managed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that is the expectation. I would point out that, primarily, this was set up for units situated on band land, where mortgages cannot be registered. We had pretty good uptake from the banks on the regular mortgages where there were leases or freehold land, but on issues where there was band lands and there may have been some other people who were falling through the cracks, this is what the fund was set up for. Of course, that situation, until there is a resolution of that with the federal government, is not going to go away so I anticipate that we are probably going to be doing this for some time in the future, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I wasn't aware that it was only for band lands. I guess that is causing a problem in some of the communities because people are trying to get mortgages or funds through the Housing Corporation offices and they are not being successful. So, there has to be some PR done here or some more information. I got a call today from an individual who cannot access money and cannot get a new house because their income is too high. She also cannot access this fund. There is a problem here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Morin and myself would be pleased to hear of these kinds of cases, where there are people having problems accessing the regular banking system because we do have letters from the banks that they will entertain mortgages throughout the Northwest Territories. I am sure Mr. Morin or myself will gladly take up that case and investigate those situations to see why, in fact, these people are not able to access the regular mortgages that are available to people in the Northwest Territories. If anyone gets a case like that, I would suggest that you pass it on to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Housing corporation, the Chair recognizes the next person, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, we would like to move to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. We have a motion to report progress. It is not debatable. All

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

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Speaker.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

This House will come to order. Chairman of the 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, Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93; and, Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, and would like to report progress with two motions adopted and that Committee Report 3-12(4), Review of the 1994-95 Capital Estimates is concluded, that

Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93 is ready for third reading, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95 is ready for third reading as amended, and I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 am will be the Advisory Committee on Social Housing and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Thursday, December 9, 1993.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions

- Motion 4-12(4), Independent Review of
Triple Designation of River Ridge Facility

- Motion 8-12(4), Road Construction Through
Wood Buffalo National Park

16. First Reading of Bills

17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of
Bills and Other Matters

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

- Bill 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

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

- Committee Report 10-12(4), Final Report of
the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

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

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

21. Orders of the Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER:

This House stands adjourned until December 9, 1993
at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT