



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Good afternoon. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 52-12(4): Comic Book - Arctic PLEI

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be distributing to Members copies of a comic book called, "A Case of the Stolen Video Game." The comic book was produced by the Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society, with the financial support of the Department of Justice. The purpose of the 20-page comic book is to contribute to the education of young people on the various aspects of the criminal justice system, including the Young Offenders Act. It features two young characters named Jake and Leroy, who learn about the law through a series of mishaps and their encounters with the police and courts, as they borrow a vehicle without permission of the owner and later enter a friend's home without permission and leave with a video game, before being caught by the police and taken before the courts.

Publications such as these are important tools in the attempt of the Department of Justice and organizations such as the Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society to make the justice system less alien and more meaningful in the lives of northerners. In this case a portion of the public has been targeted who are hard to reach by traditional means because of the high drop-out rate and low literacy skills. Youths under the age of 19 represent more than 40 per cent of the population of the north.

Copies being distributed today are one volume in both French and Inuktitut and a second volume in English and North Slavey. A total of 2,000 copies of the French and Inuktitut version will be printed along with 3,000 in North Slavey and English. Copies will be distributed to high schools throughout the Northwest Territories, including high schools with French classes, as well as youth centres and youth justice committees.

The Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society is to be congratulated on their innovation. The Department of Justice is proud to have supported this project. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Country Food

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope you've all had the opportunity this week to sample the jerky, pepperoni, sausages and the roasts all made from muskox. These products were processed in the Kitikmeot foods facility located in Cambridge Bay. I hope you all enjoyed them as I was happy to have been able to provide them. As we all know, we have also had the pleasure of sampling the local white fish and pickerel provided by Mr. Lewis, and buffalo from Mr. Gargan's road kill program. I believe the qualities of these products have clearly shown that our northern country foods can, and should, displace some of the southern imports.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, in discussions with my honourable colleague from Yellowknife Centre, that he entered into a negotiated contract for the cooking of his white fish and pickerel which he so graciously supplied last week. As we all know, Mr. Lewis has raised concerns regarding negotiated contracts. I'm sure he agonized over the decision of whether or not to negotiate this particular contract. Mr. Speaker, I, as well, carefully contemplated the possibility of entering into a negotiated contract. However, in the end, my political intuition advised me against it. I wasn't quite satisfied that I could identify significant economic benefits to local individuals, with the exception of one cook. The other critical factor in

my decision against a negotiated contract was the fact that a large majority of the muskox products, specifically the roast, were precooked in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, although I support the concept of negotiating a contract where significant local economic benefits will be derived as a result of the contract, I'm sorry to say that in this particular circumstance it couldn't be done. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Canadian Council Of Catholic Bishops

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1993, the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, appearing before the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, made 11 commitments to the aboriginal people of Canada. The Catholic Church of Canada, through this proclamation, has apologized for previous excesses suffered at the hands of organized religion, such as the abuse of aboriginals in residential schools operated by the Catholic Church.

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They have also expressed their regret that aboriginal people lost their right of free expression and celebration of their spiritual life, as a result of aboriginal contact with European culture. They have also said that the church will continue to support aboriginal desire for self-government in concrete and public ways. Also, Mr. Speaker, the church has committed itself to organizing local forums where healing and reconciliation can occur, to benefit those members of the aboriginal communities who have been abused in residential schools or other church-sponsored institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the commitments made by the Catholic Church to the aboriginal people of Canada. The Catholic Church now appears to be completely behind the aspirations of aboriginals everywhere in Canada. Mr. Speaker, there are several programs that must be offered to aboriginals, in order for us to realize our goals. We must be afforded adequate housing, in order to break the vicious cycle of overcrowding and poverty. We must, as a government, implement the recommendations of the

Special Committee on Health and Social Services to make the programs offered by these agencies more accessible to all residents of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, programs such as a First Nations policing program must be looked at seriously by this government. We must give the Dene, Inuit and Metis people of the Northwest Territories the mechanism to pursue our rights to self-determination. Mr. Speaker, the Catholic Church has committed itself in this process of self-determination. We, as a government, must not just state our support for the principles of self-determination. We must act on this belief in a timely and equitable manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Social Assistance Food Rates

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, it was noted that on November 29, in this House, the Minister of Social Services reported the increased expenditures her department has made in social assistance food rates. Most important was her reference to increases that were made this past October.

These increases resulted from changes in the food scales, based on the 1991 food price survey. In her words, and I quote, "For a family of four, the changes will mean increases of up to \$280 per month." However, Mr. Speaker, what the Minister failed to mention was that the changes in the food scales did not result in increases for everyone. While total expenditures will go up, and while there are increases in many communities, many other communities saw their food rates stay, essentially, unchanged.

Some of these are the larger communities of Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik. A few communities, namely Holman, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay, and Taloyoak, actually saw food rates decreased. Mr. Speaker, the fact is, even after these adjustments to the food rates, the amount provided by Social Services to families on social assistance is not enough. The food rates in most communities only provide for 50 to 70 per cent of the cost of a nutritious food basket, as defined by the federal government.

Although this concern was expressed by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, the government has not acted. The October adjustment in the food rate scales still means, that on average, a family on social assistance only receives enough to buy about two-thirds of a nutritious food basket, or less. The Minister told the House on March 18, 1993, that, and I quote, "The matter of food allowances remains a priority concern of our government. Members can be assured that they will receive serious review and consideration over the next few months."

Mr. Speaker, Members don't feel that the recent changes reflect a serious review. The issue is that the food rates are not enough to adequately feed families in the north. Members believe that a serious review would address that issue, and not just tinker with the system in place. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Government Contractual Practices

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 1993, CBC Mackenzie reported on government contractual practices in Fort Simpson. Mr. Miller of the radio station interviewed a Mr. Schober and Mr. Rowe, regarding the awarding of contracts by direct negotiation, in Fort Simpson. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Schober, in this interview, stated that his company in Simpson is barely holding out, for the lack of business due to direct negotiations that the NWT corporation has executed with the band in Fort Simpson.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Schober has received substantial contracts with the band for mechanical and plumbing work in the 1992-93 building year, as well as this current, 1993-94, building year. The Fort Simpson band says that it is making sure that the best interests of the whole community are being looked after, by ensuring the community businesses are receiving benefits from their own contracts. We have awarded contracts to community businesses even though they are not the lowest bidders, to make sure local businesses have a fair share.

They have done a labour and community breakdown with regard to this year's access projects. For the

materials, supplies and sub contracts, just about half of the funds have been spent in the community. Just over half have been spent in the north, and only \$216.29 was spent in the south. All of the labour dollars have been spent in the community. The Fort Simpson band membership represents approximately 70 per cent of population of the community.

Historically, opportunities for economic development and equal access to employment for the Dene has been sadly lacking. Not once have outside companies, such as those interviewed, sub-contracted the band for work, when they have been awarded contracts, themselves. The negotiated contracts with the Government of the Northwest Territories have allowed the band to make commitments to training its membership. This year we have 11 trainees registered under the construction worker training program. They have four registered carpenters' apprentices, as well as three tradesmen who are presently in the process of documenting experience and skill upgrading so they may challenge the trades certification exam.

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If this contract had gone to a competitive bid, they would not have been able to afford to do all this training. At the completion of their training program, these individuals would be able to access employment...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Antoine...

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I seek unanimous consent to continue my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ANTOINE:**

At the completion of their training program, these individuals will be able to access employment that is equal in pay and benefits with the majority of people in the north. The Fort Simpson council states that it wishes to express their appreciation to this government for the existence of the negotiated contracts. Without these awards, the band membership, the majority of the people in this

community, would continue to be denied the rights and opportunities taken for granted by other residents of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Closure Of Akaitcho Hall

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to make a statement on the closure of Akaitcho Hall, to follow-up where my friend, Mr. Gargan, left off, and to lend support to his concerns for the closure. I realize it may already be too late. The door has been closed, but, what I wanted to say about it yesterday, Mr. Gargan said in equal or better terms than I could have.

I've had a long association and a very close attachment to Akaitcho Hall, like many other Members in this House. Some have even attended there and my friend, Mr. Ningark, has children who are attending that school. I went there in 1958. That was the year that school opened. The philosophies of the residence and the attached Sir John Franklin School were good philosophies for the time and, I believe, they still are to this day. It offered persons like myself who were perhaps was not as good a student as I could have been in the environment I was in, an opportunity for me as a young adult to go to a school and learn a certain amount of discipline and a certain amount of self-awareness that would help me get through school.

Many of the people who are in this legislature today are products of, in part, Akaitcho Hall and Sir John Franklin. While I was there, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet and blend with many people from around the territories, from east to west.

Relationships and friendships that were developed in those early days still hold us together to this day. No matter where we go we will meet and be greeted by people who had originally gone to Akaitcho Hall.

I just wanted to say those few words in support of the concerns that parents have that this opportunity will be taken away from their children if this place is closed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 3, Members' statements. That concludes this item. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 3, 1993 and it concerns, Mr. Speaker, the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management, funds for August meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the funding for the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management was eliminated from the budget of the Department of Social Services at the beginning of the 1992-93 fiscal year. The board was not dissolved at that time. The appointments of the board members remained in effect for the duration of that particular year.

The contribution policy of the department required the board of management to review all applications for new funding in the alcohol and drug field and to make recommendations to the Minister. A number of new applications were received in the summer of 1992 and, because the contribution policy had not yet been amended to eliminate the role of the board, it was necessary to convene a meeting in August of that year.

The board meeting cost, Mr. Speaker, a total of \$3,176 including travel, honoraria, per diems and accommodation. The meeting was funded from the headquarters' administration budget of the alcohol and drug and community mental health division. The alcohol and drug contribution policy was amended at the beginning of the 1993-94 fiscal year to delete reference to the role of the board of management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arvaluk on December 8 with respect to stockpiles transferred for roads in Chesterfield Inlet.

In response to the question raised by the Member for Aivilik on December 3, I wish to advise that there are two gravel stockpiles in Chesterfield Inlet. The one at the airport is no longer a federal stockpile, as it was part of the B and C airports transfer. The other in the community was produced by Public Works and Services for community purposes.

On analysis, the Department of Transportation found that the airport stockpile had a low fine content, which made it unsuitable for direct application to the runway surface. As a result, material was purchased this past summer from the community stockpile for the runway resurfacing.

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At the present time, each of these two stockpiles contain approximately 8000 cubic metres of gravel. It has been determined that mixing gravel from both piles will produce a gravel that is suitable for the runway's resurfacing.

Therefore, with respect to the Member's question, the airport stockpile is not surplus to the Department of Transportation's need. It appears there is sufficient material in the two stockpiles to adequately meet all the community needs for some time, including both the road repair and runway resurfacing programs. And, in fact, cooperation and coordination of the granular material programs between the various departments is already occurring to provide the least cost solution to meet the community needs.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Madam Premier.

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Koe on December 8 regarding the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that informal consultation did take place on the status of the board of management for alcohol and drugs. I know how important it is for consultation on this kind of issue

and if full consultation was not undertaken, then this is not satisfactory.

I will talk to Ministers to emphasize the continued importance of consultation and communication to avoid confusion in the future.

Return To Oral Question 211-12(4): Canada/NWT Languages Agreement

Mr. Speaker, I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Alloo, on December 7, regarding languages.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to clarify any confusion surrounding the language agreements this government has with the Government of Canada.

The GNWT has two language agreements. One of these is the Canada/Northwest Territories agreement for French minority language and French second language. This agreement provides funds for French language education and is administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The other agreement is the Canada/Northwest Territories cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories, which provides funding for the maintenance, revitalization and enhancement of aboriginal languages as well as 100 per cent funding for the provision of French language services. This is the agreement which I am responsible for and to which questions have been raised in this House.

Under this agreement, funds can be transferred within a specific fiscal year between approved projects, if the transfer does not increase or decrease the affected project budgets by more than 25 per cent. Federal ministerial approval is required for transfers of over 25 per cent. All these changes must still meet the goals and objectives agreed to by Canada the Northwest Territories.

I would like to inform this House that funding under the Canada/Northwest Territories cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages was reduced by ten per cent for both French and aboriginal languages.

At no time did this government negotiate a reduction in this ten per cent cut.

The four per cent cut referred to by my honourable colleague, Mr. Nerysoo, applies to the

Canada/Northwest Territories agreement for French minority language and French second language.

Further Return To Oral Question 213-12(4):  
Canada/NWT Language Agreements

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis on December 7 regarding the Canada/Northwest Territories language agreements.

Mr. Lewis asked if there was a requirement for written authorization to be provided by the federal government in order to transfer money between projects under the Canada/Northwest Territories cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages. He also asked if authorization had ever been made for transfers beyond 25 per cent.

Under this agreement, funds can be transferred within a specific fiscal year between approved projects if the transfer does not increase or decrease the affected projects budget by more than 25 per cent. Federal ministerial approval is required for transfers of over 25 per cent. All these changes must still meet the goals and objectives agreed to by Canada and the Northwest Territories.

When sufficient notice has been given, this government has, in the past, submitted amendments to the federal government for transfer of funds greater than 25 per cent between projects. These amendments have been approved by the federal government.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the transfer of funds between aboriginal languages (Appendix A) and French (Appendix B) or the transfer of funds between fiscal years are not allowed under the agreement.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell, on December 8, regarding the type of expertise shared with other groups.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has commissioned a series of studies on the mineral industry. The Northwest Territories mining statistics survey, 1990-92, NWT business opportunities and non-resident worker study.

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Drafts of these studies have been received by the department. These drafts will be finalized within the month.

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arngna'naaq on December 8 concerning transfer of EM&PR positions to the east.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is very small and has few program responsibilities.

No transfers have been made to the east to date. With the devolution of minerals from the federal government, the department would acquire significantly greater responsibilities and person-years. Although the number and location of staff to handle such functions as mining records and district geologists cannot be determined at this time, they do lend themselves to being decentralized. Minerals staff would be located in the east, following devolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a final return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell, on December 8, regarding division secretariat established by Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, the Division Review Committee has been formed to deal with administrative and organizational matters pertaining to division.

The committee is chaired by the secretary to Cabinet, membership includes: the principal secretary; the deputy ministers of Education, Culture and Employment; Justice, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs; Public Works and Services; Financial Management Board; Municipal and Community Affairs; Finance; Personnel, assistant deputy minister; Renewable Resources; NWT Housing Corporation; regional director, Kitikmeot; and, regional director, Inuvik.

Three subcommittees have been formed to deal with the work-load. One, infrastructure, chairman, deputy minister of Public Works and Services. Two, subcommittee, education/training/human resource planning, chairman, deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Three, finance/fiscal/agreements, chairman, deputy minister of Finance. All deputy ministers can attend meetings.

The division review committee's mandate is to develop and make recommendations to Cabinet on

operational and administrative matters relating to division, provide technical analysis and gather information on the operations of two new territorial governments, and serve as the primary contact point between Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik and the GNWT at the bureaucratic level.

The secretariat consists of two staff who are being funded from internal resources. Costs have been kept to a minimum with departments providing expertise in specific areas. No decisions have been made on the size, shape or organization of the secretariat until caucus and the Legislative Assembly have determined how they will address division issues.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis, on December 8, regarding promoting prospecting as a career.

Through funding available from various sources, including the economic development agreement with the federal government, Arctic College provides a 30-day prospector training course which addresses claim staking, soil sampling and operating geotechnical equipment. This course has been offered four times in the Keewatin, since 1989. A total of 12 students took the most recent course, offered in Baker Lake. Also, six students took the program in Deline and, currently, six students are taking the program in Rae Edzo.

In addition, the college offers an evening prospecting course for amateurs. A total of 21 students have taken the program in Yellowknife.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources also provides support to prospecting. Through EDA funding the department provides a grub stake program. Individuals who have experience in prospecting or mining, or who have taken the prospecting course can apply for assistance through this program. In 1992-93, there was \$48,000 available and eight prospectors received financial assistance. In 1993-94, the fund was increased to \$88,500 and 16 prospectors received assistance.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Oral Question 94-12(4): Policy For Non-Medical Escorts

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on November 25, 1993 with regard to the policy for non-medical escorts.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories provides medical travel benefits to eligible residents who must travel in order to access necessary and appropriate health services. Under Schedule B of the medical travel policy 91.02 (June 9, 1992) a non-medical escort is authorized when the patient requires an escort for interpretation during medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, the incident referred to by the Member from Deh Cho appears to have occurred several years ago. Depending on the date of the occurrence, the obligations under the Official Languages Act and the medical travel policy may have been different at the time.

If the honourable Member wishes to provide me with additional information on the matter, I will look into it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Minister Mike.

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Return To Oral Question 210-12(4): Consultation Prior To Non-Native Adoptions

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on December 7, 1993.

During 1992, there were eight departmental and 31 private adoptions, for a total of 39. Of these, only 15 aboriginal children were placed in non-aboriginal homes.

The department adoption program gives preference to aboriginal children being placed with extended family or other aboriginal families. Aboriginal children are



placed in non-aboriginal families as a second choice. Mothers who choose to place their children for departmental adoption are offered a variety of services, including counselling by local workers.

In private adoption matters, placement of the child is the sole decision of the birth parent(s) and notice is given to the superintendent of child welfare. The department has no authority to prevent placement by aboriginal people of their children with non-native families. Mothers who choose to place their child through private adoption can receive counselling through the department, if they so desire. Private adoptions are essentially a legal matter and social services' involvement occurs usually only after the child has been in the adoptive placement for six months.

The department's response to the family law review on private adoption will be to provide culturally sensitive counselling in the communities to birth parents. Birth mothers will be provided with information pertaining to their rights and the advantages in keeping their child in the same culture and community. The department will propose legislative changes to protect the rights

of birth parents.

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

I have another return, Mr. Speaker. Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Lewis on December 8, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 1993, Mr. Lewis asked me if I was aware that the Department of Social Services had hired a Professor Gordon, from Simon Fraser University, to assist in the drafting of the Guardianship Act. He asked if I had met with the professor to discuss the new act. I told Mr. Lewis that I was not aware that Professor Gordon was in town and that I had not met with him.

Mr. Lewis asked that, since Professor Gordon had been involved in the development of a controversial guardianship act in BC, I should review the act, in detail, to ensure that I agree with the underlying principles and philosophy of this new act.

I want to correct the record since the exchange of questions and answers on this issue left the impression that a consultant had been hired for this work which I as Minister, did not know about. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the department has not hired Professor

Gordon to do any work on its behalf and the drafting of the new Guardianship Act was done entirely in-house. I hope this clarifies the issue.

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

I have another return, Mr. Speaker. Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Dent on December 6, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, the report prepared by Muskox Program Development Ltd. is in the final stages of completion and will be delivered to the Department of Social Services this week. The report will outline strategic planning options and recommendations for addressing alcohol and other drug abuse and addictions. These will be integrated into an overall departmental strategy to be completed in the fall of 1994.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked on December 6, 1993 concerning fire and liability insurance carried on government units.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT insures all of the staff housing units that it owns under an all property blanket insurance policy against all risks of physical loss or damage. This includes fire up to a limit of \$50 million for any one loss. The coverage is subject to a deductible of \$100,000 per claim.

Mr. Speaker, contents of staff housing that are owned by the GNWT are also insured by this policy. Contents owned by the staff occupying these units are not insured by the GNWT and are the responsibility of individual owners.

The blanket insurance policy covers all GNWT-owned property, but does not include single-family and duplex units owned by the Housing Corporation. These are self-insured by the corporation because it has been determined to be more cost-effective.

Both the GNWT and the Housing Corporation carry third party liability insurance against claims arising

from its operations and from claims related to staff housing. This insurance is up to a limit of \$25 million against any one claim and is subject to a \$5,000 deductible for any one loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Item 4, returns to oral questions.

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

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on December 8, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, MLA for Thebacha, asked me to consider reinstating the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. There have been a long series of questions on this matter and I know that it is a serious issue for the Member.

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However, it is also a serious issue for me, as the Minister responsible for the program. I think it is time to clarify my position on the board's existence in an honest and straightforward manner, so all Members will understand my position.

I think the board did good work since its establishment, however, in answering the Member's questions on this issue, I have to consider the overall financial and policy framework of the department. Social Services is entering an intensive planning period from now until the fall of 1994. We will require a great deal of advice from Members, interest groups and Members of the public. At this point, reinstating a board to provide specific advice on matters related to alcohol and drug abuse, would detract from the overall planning and consultation effort. That is one reason why I am reluctant to consider reinstating the board.

However, Mr. Speaker, the most compelling reason is financial. This board costs \$50,000 per year to operate. In our current financial situation, that is a lot of money. The Special Committee on Health and Social Services has identified a wide variety of initiatives, which will require a substantial budget increase from my department. As an example, Members have been questioning me throughout this

session about why I have not increased the wages of alcohol and drug workers. The capital review of the department's budget identified serious concerns about the lack of money for elders' facilities. The department does not have sufficient salary dollars to provide relief and support to the community workers.

These and other pressing financial demands mean that I have to be diligent to make sure every dollar we spend is well-used for the benefit of all northerners. With these concerns in mind, Mr. Speaker, it would not be responsible for any Minister to take money away from a program delivery to fund an advisory body. Therefore, I am not prepared to reinstate the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management. On the other hand, I am prepared to listen to the views of Members on this issue, if it is the will of this House, that this board should be reinstated, despite these considerations, I will make every effort to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 4, returns to oral questions. That concludes this item. Item 5, oral questions.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 251-12(4): Consultation With Other Jurisdictions Re Guardianship Trustee Act

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the full response from the Minister of Social Services on the questions that I raised about the writing of a new Guardianship Trustee Act.

Mr. Speaker, we've been working on an act now for many, many years. The last one, as I said, was in 1988. So, I would like to ask the Minister, since there have been major revisions to acts in both Manitoba and British Columbia, and since she has indicated that the work that we're doing is entirely in-house, has she, in fact, consulted with these other jurisdictions that have revised their Guardianship Acts?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take the Member's question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 252-12(4): Reductions In Food Allowances In Natilikmiot Communities

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Social Services. The Minister indicated that the Department of Social Services has incurred additional expenditures with the result of the increase in food allowances in the area of social assistance. I have been wondering -- and I would like to get an answer from the Minister -- are the communities of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Holman Island paying this additional expenditure to fund the other communities across the territories, so that the recipient would get some extra funding under the program? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 252-12(4): Reductions In Food Allowances In Natilikmiot Communities

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The additional dollars I mentioned in my Minister's statement are the new dollars, in addition to the previous money. The decreases have been set, based on the food cost surveys that were carried out in 1991, by the bureau of statistics.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 252-12(4): Reductions In Food Allowances In Natilikmiot Communities

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a hard time understanding the rationale behind the reduction in food allowances for those communities. Perhaps the cost of living has gone down in those communities in the last 18 months. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 252-12(4): Reductions In Food Allowances In Natilikmiot Communities

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have provided the Member with the results of the surveys he requested. For food rates for a family of four in Mr. Ningark's riding, specifically Pelly Bay, before October 1, 1992 it was \$173 and after October 1, 1993, it was \$170. So there is a difference of \$3. That is all for now.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister

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has indicated the food cost survey was conducted by the Bureau of Statistics. As a result, it appears, particularly in the Kitikmeot region, this has resulted in a decrease of funding for social assistance food allowance. Since this has been a concern, I'd like to say to the Minister, at the very least, we believe the food allowances should have stayed the same and not decreased. Will she look at these new food rates that have been approved by her department as of October 1, and increase the food allowances, particularly in the communities that have been decreased? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there were two questions in one. I definitely will have the department look them over again and provide the Member with the results. According to the results, the costs will be applied. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Minister said she would have the department look at it, but if she would take a moment and decide to look at the issue at hand. We have three communities, particularly in the Kitikmeot region, that have absorbed the decrease in the food allowance. We have other communities that have had substantial increases in the food allowance, particularly in the communities of Colville Lake, Paulatuk and other areas that have increased in the scales. I think they have increased by five scales, according to social assistance food scales. I'd like to ask the Minister once more, whether she would review this to, at the very least, maintain the food allowances for the Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That's really two questions, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.  
Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few days ago I said yes, I will review the rates. I thought when I gave the direction to the department to look into the cost of the food in the communities, that I was being fair. I think I would be supported in the majority of the communities out there. Out in the communities I really feel I have the support from them. When I decided and gave the instruction to the department to increase the rates based on the food costs in the communities, I thought I did the right thing. It would not be fair of the communities, who may have lower food cost rates, to have the same increases as the other communities, who may need it more. I will look into this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Speaker, whether the Minister has support in the communities is one issue, but we're bringing up a totally different issue. I want to ask the Minister how she can justify, in her social assistance food rates, increasing the community of Colville Lake from scale five, prior to October, 1993, to scale ten, effective October, 1993; the community of Paulatuk from scale eight, prior to October, 1993, to scale ten, effective October, 1993; and, at the same time, decrease Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and Taloyoak to lower scales when we know that the cost of food certainly doesn't decrease. Can the Minister justify, in this House, changes of the food scales that her department implemented effective in October? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 253-12(4): Review New Food Rates And Increase In Communities That Were Decreased

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will instruct the department to reinstate the \$3.00 difference for the community of Pelly Bay, and how much ever else there is difference in the other communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further on the issue of food allowances, will the Minister of Social Services acknowledge that the present food allowance rates, even with the cost of living increase that's been discussed in this House, still only cover between 50 and 70 per cent of the cost of a nutritious food basket? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Mr. Speaker, is he asking me my personal opinion, or as the Minister? He is asking me if I will acknowledge this. As the Minister responsible, I know the food basket is never up to par up here. You know that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I will remind Ministers that they are aware of the facts that are available to them from their officials, either the Speaker or Members aren't always aware of that. So, it's up to the Minister to know whether those facts remain available to the Ministers. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, thank you. The Minister, I believe, has acknowledged the fact that the food allowance rates presently in place in the Northwest Territories, even with the recently announced increases, only cover, in some cases, half and up to 70 per cent of the amount needed to provide nutritious food for families in the Northwest Territories. So I would like to ask the Minister, is it her priority, as Minister of

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Social Services, to address this serious nutritional disparity in preparing the budget for the Department of Social Services for the coming fiscal year? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the responsibility of Social Services is to look after families and the children who are in need.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, with respect, I didn't ask the Minister, is it the responsibility of the Minister of Social Services to look after families and children in need. That was the question she answered. What I asked was -- and I'll use up another supplementary asking it again and I'll try to put it in different words -- does the Minister intend to make it a priority in preparing the budget for the coming fiscal year, to address the shortfall in nutritious food baskets in the present social assistance rates? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 254-12(4): Food Allowance Rates

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Mr. Speaker, I already said, yes, in my prior reply.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 255-12(4): Responsibility For Snow Removal For Social Housing

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for social housing programs. In the more northerly communities, snowfall can be very sudden and winds can blow furiously overnight. When you wake up, sometimes there are drifts of more than six feet covering the ground to people's doorsteps. The housing authorities or the government in these communities expect residents to provide snow removal services from the access road to their homes. My question to the honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker, is the policy of removing snow on the access road applicable to the senior citizens or to the tenants who are living in public units? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 255-12(4): Responsibility For Snow Removal For Social Housing

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that it is the Housing Corporation's responsibility to service the unit. It is the Housing Corporation's responsibility to deliver fuel and water to their units, or have it delivered by contract. So, it should be the Housing Corporation's responsibility to remove the snow. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 255-12(4):  
Responsibility For Snow Removal For Social Housing

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the honourable Minister review this and perhaps communicate with the housing authorities that it is, in fact, the responsibility of the housing associations, under the system of the NWT Housing Corporation, to provide snow removal to service access roads to public units? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 255-12(4): Responsibility For Snow Removal For Social Housing

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this issue and inform all the housing associations in the Northwest Territories what the policy is. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 256-12(4): Agency Responsible For Food Cost Surveys

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Safety and Public Services. Yesterday, during question period, the Minister of Social Services stated that food survey costs were done by vital statistics in 1991. I'm a bit confused, Mr. Speaker,

because I thought that the vital statistics division looked after registering births and deaths, and other such statistics. I didn't know they were in the consumer services business. Can the Minister clarify as to which division within the Department of Safety and Public Services did do the food survey costs?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 257-12(4): Eligibility For Senior Citizens' Fuel Subsidy

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. It is with regard to the senior citizens' fuel subsidy. Mr. Speaker, I ran into a situation, where a senior was going to turn 60 during the fiscal year. But, because he wasn't 60 yet, he wasn't given fuel. I would like to ask the Minister, what are the guidelines, with regard to how a person is eligible for that subsidy? Is it when you turn 60, is it a birthday present or something? Or, is it when you turn 60 during that year?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have

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to take his question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 258-12(4): Transfer Of Gravel To Hamlet Of Chesterfield Inlet

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of MACA. Yesterday, I asked the Minister of Transportation a question and he told me, "I assure the honourable Member that I will visit Chesterfield Inlet and will move quickly to try to get the federal government to agree to transfer that gravel pile over to the municipality so they can use it for road improvement in Chesterfield Inlet." Will the Minister of MACA, then, tell the House, or at least assure my constituency, that he will ensure that road improvement funding will be made available for work to be done this summer?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 258-12(4): Transfer Of Gravel To Hamlet Of Chesterfield Inlet

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We did move quickly in identifying the gravel, Mr. Speaker, and there are discussions under way on how we will blend the federal gravel and the GNWT gravel. I have had some discussions with the mayor and the honourable Member, and it is our intention to do a road upgrade this summer in Chesterfield Inlet, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 259-12(4): Cut-Off Of Family Allowances For School Age Children

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Social Services. Last week, I asked this question with regard to child assistance. The family allowance has been cut to some of the families, even though they are going to school. The families do not receive any more cheques for family allowance, even if there isn't anyone employed in the family.

I remember, since I was born, we were told to move to the communities and the children started going to school. Then families would start receiving family allowances if the children went to school. That is why I'm asking this question, Mr. Speaker. Even though

the children are going to school, why is family allowance being cut off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 259-12(4): Cut-Off Of Family Allowances For School Age Children

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, the child tax credit has replaced family allowance. The family allowance that was paid out by the Government of Canada has been deleted. Now, they work on the basis of a child tax credit. In order to receive a tax credit, one must have filed an income tax form with the Government of Canada for the previous year.

I realize that the message has probably not gotten out to all the Northwest Territories, and, as I said earlier this session, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gargan made us aware of it, and we had the federal government do a considerable amount of advertising in this regard. Last week, at the Finance Ministers' meeting, I had the opportunity to have this discussion, with regard to Nunavut and the people there. I talked to the deputy minister of Revenue Canada about redoubling our efforts to do some work, to ensure that people know how they go about applying for and receiving the child tax credit.

He said he recognizes the problem and we will do more work to make sure that people understand that there is no more family allowance, but there is a child tax credit they can avail themselves of, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. I understand that a tender call for the operation of a petroleum storage and pipeline distribution facility at Iqaluit airport -- which was originally to close August, and has been delayed each month until now -- has recently been cancelled by the federal government. And, the reason for this cancellation, I understand, is

that the Government of the Northwest Territories has entered into negotiations with the Government of Canada to transfer ownership of the capital facilities, the tank farm and pipeline distribution facility. Is it correct that the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to take over this federal facility? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Return To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are going to start negotiating.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that case, I would like to ask the Minister whether the object of the Government of the Northwest Territories is in acquiring this facility? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Further Return To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason to negotiate the takeover of this tank farm with Transport Canada, is so we have ownership of the tank farms in the Baffin. The main advantage of the GNWT to assume ownership of that tank facility is that the resupply of the Iqaluit tank farm can be blended in with the resupply of Baffin. That way, we will increase the volume of fuel. Hopefully, with the larger volume,

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we will be able to get a better price on fuel. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly supportive of the goals outlined by the Minister, especially for the need to lower fuel prices in Baffin, but is it proposed that there be a process of consultation with MLAs in the region, the Baffin Chamber of Commerce and other interested persons as this process moves forward? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Further Return To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we do anything of this sort, community consultation is going to happen for sure. We have just initiated discussions with the federal government and there are plans to consult with the community as well as the MLA for Iqaluit. That is all part of the negotiation process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 260-12(4): GNWT Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Minister is interested in acquiring a storage facility, which will allow for a larger volume of product in resupplying the Baffin and consequent economies of scale, is the department aware of the existence of large empty storage facilities, which are now owned by Falcon Bridge Mines, which I think would be available at a very low price, to perhaps achieve the same ends at Deception Bay?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.



Further Return To Question 260-12(4): GNWT  
Takeover Of Federal Tank Farm

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if the department is aware of that tank farm at Deception Bay, but they will be now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two pages from Nahendeh from Mr. Antoine's riding, Terrance Nahanni and Justin Hazenburg. They have been here all week and they are going home tomorrow.

--Applause

You did a great job. Thank you very much. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 261-12(4): Monitoring Of Contracts To Ensure Local Labour Hired

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. It is my understanding that when this government goes into the communities to build HAP houses, public houses or social housing, this government will use local people qualified from the community to provide labour services. The Minister, yesterday, stated that "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." How does the Minister's department monitor contracts in the communities to ensure that this practice is, in fact, adhered to?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Return To Question 261-12(4): Monitoring Of Contracts To Ensure Local Labour Hired

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When contractors bid on tenders, they are required to fill out the business incentive policy preference forms to see who they are hiring and what sub-trades they are hiring. It is watched by project officers that they do hire those people. If they do not, then they will suffer the consequences. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 261-12(4): Monitoring Of Contracts To Ensure Local Labour Hired

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, then would the Minister investigate the housing projects in Chesterfield Inlet and other government construction projects to ensure that local people who are qualified as electricians, plumbers and other trades in the community are being utilized wherever possible?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Further Return To Question 261-12(4): Monitoring Of Contracts To Ensure Local Labour Hired

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for bringing this issue to my attention. I will investigate it immediately, because the only way we do find out about some of these things, is when Members or other community members bring them to our attention. I recognize his concern and I will address it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services with regard to the social assistance food rates. When I received the information earlier this year, I couldn't figure out how anybody could do some of the things they did with regard to increasing. I agree that this food allowance should be increased. It is good for the people who really need it, but I find that some of the communities have been advanced in my constituency. The community of

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Nahanni Butte is in scale number four, which remains the same. I feel it is power with some of the other

communities, like Jean Marie River and Trout Lake, which have been advanced to scale eight and scale nine. Who came to the conclusion to do these advancements of these communities into higher scales?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department officials increase or decrease the food rates according to the surveys that were carried out in 1991 by the Bureau of Statistics. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**MR. ANTOINE:**

There we go again. The departments make decisions based on numbers similar to the needs assessment on housing. Here we go again, with numbers from vital statistics. We represent the people in the communities. This government is responsible for providing the programs and services to these people. We are not providing programs and services to numbers and figures. I would like to know if any consideration was given to the people who are living in these communities, when this decision was made? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said before, when the increase occurred, I instructed the department to try and reflect the food cost in the communities. Having received that instruction, the department officials used food cost surveys that were done by the Bureau of

Statistics; our department didn't do the survey on their own. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Looking at the new increases, I find it difficult to...I thought Nahanni Butte was in the same category as communities like Jean Marie River or Trout Lake, but yet in the scale, they're separated by four different scales. They're all in the same category and I cannot understand how this could be done. I was wondering if the Minister has any intentions of revisiting this food scale to see if communities that are similar could be all in the same category? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 262-12(4): Reasons For Increases In Food Allowances

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, from other questions from the Members, I had already agreed that this will be reviewed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 263-12(4): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. I wonder if the Minister could advise this House if there is still a staff housing buy-back policy for GNWT staff who are leaving or transferring from a community?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you. For a transferring community? Can he repeat his question? I didn't quite hear it.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Transferring or leaving a community. A government employee who owns their own house?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 263-12(4): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a buy-back program within the government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 263-12(4): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy

**MR. NG:**

I would like to ask the Minister how the value is determined for the purchase of that staff housing unit?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 263-12(4): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Personnel does not do the evaluation for the value of the house. I believe that is done by DPW. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 263-12(4): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy

**MR. NG:**

Is this policy applicable for employees who are terminated with cause?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to have to take that under notice. Thank you.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 264-12(4): Revisions To Conflict Of Interest Guidelines Since 1988

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, in 1988, a directive highlighting the provisions of conflict of interest guidelines for public service employees, including deputy ministers, was tabled in this House. Could the Premier advise if changes have been made to conflict of interest guidelines for deputy ministers, since that policy was tabled on February 18, 1988?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier

Return To Question 264-12(4): Revisions To Conflict Of Interest Guidelines Since 1988

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, no.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 265-12(4): NWT Birthrate For 1992

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Last year, the Minister indicated that there were 39 adoptions. I would like to ask the Minister, what was the birth rate for last year? How many births were there?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take his question as notice. I don't keep track of births and deaths in the NWT. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 266-12(4): Tabling Of Strategic Planning Report

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Social Services conducted a strategic plan for alcohol and drug planning. I know a report has been completed. I would like to ask the Minister if she would be able to table that report in this House?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 266-12(4): Tabling Of Strategic Planning Report

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the report will be ready next week. It is under completion right now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 266-12(4): Tabling Of Strategic Planning Report

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

For clarification, Mr. Speaker, if the report will be ready next week, will the Minister commit to tabling the report in the House next week? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 266-12(4): Tabling Of Strategic Planning Report

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. I think I've asked this question every session so far, with regard to the barging operation down the Mackenzie and the exclusive contract to NTCL. There was a Cabinet decision to give this contract, the transportation of material goods, and have the communities supplied by this one company. Last year, the Minister, upon questioning from me, had said to the House that he was going to ask his department to look at this policy and re-examine it. He said he would make a decision and advise the Cabinet. I would like to ask the Minister if he's done that at this point in time? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently my department is still working on a position paper on resupply. I've written the mayor of Fort Simpson a letter on that issue, on Coopers Barging. I informed them, as well, when I was in Simpson this fall, that I will have a decision prior to the next barging season. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I'm glad that the Minister is going to make a decision. This is what he told me last session, as well. He had all summer to work on it. Anytime you do barging operations you need your winter operation to plan

ahead and get the contracts in place. Can the Minister indicate to me, to the House, if he could have this decision sooner than the next bargaining season? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have a decision in February.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**MR. ANTOINE:**

I would like to ask the Minister, February of which year?

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Morin.

Further Return To Question 267-12(4): Review Of Policy For Mackenzie River Barging Contract

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. February 28, 1994.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that last year there were 39 adoptions that took place, of which 15 of them were private adoptions. I would like to ask the Minister, of the other 24, then, were they custom adoptions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my return to his oral question that was asked, in 1992, there were eight departmental and 31 private adoptions for a total of 39. Of these, only 15 aboriginal children were placed in non-aboriginal homes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**MR. GARGAN:**

So, the 15 children who were placed in non-aboriginal homes were done by private adoptions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

No, these would have had to have gone, I guess, through the department.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to repeat her response. I wasn't too sure what she said.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

If I understood Mr. Gargan, the MLA for Deh Cho's question, he asked if 15 were custom adoptions. A total of 15 were placed in non-aboriginal homes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**MR. GARGAN:**

Yes, I recognize that the Minister is saying that. What I'm asking is if that was done through private adoptions?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions In 1992

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, Mr. Gargan, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary to Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions in 1992

**MR. GARGAN:**

I also understood the Minister to say that it is only six months after these adoptions take place, that the department gets involved. Am I to understand, then, that while the private adoption is taking place, the department doesn't intervene with the natural mother, with regard to counselling or advice?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 268-12(4): Number Of Custom Adoptions in 1992

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the natural mother requests counselling from the department, they do receive counselling. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 269-12(4): Application Of Language Bonus

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if the language bonus is applied to all GNWT employees, include those in the housing association? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Return To Question 269-12(4): Application Of Language Bonus

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it applies to all GNWT employees. The housing association employees may not be Government of the Northwest Territories employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

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Supplementary To Question 269-12(4): Application Of Language Bonus

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to think that I talk to the people of the west and eastern Arctic. Mr. Speaker, in most communities in the NWT where the housing association staff work, they are, in fact, operating in two languages; in English, obviously, and most importantly, in their own community dialect. Since the NWT Housing Corporation is a corporation of this government, I wonder if the honourable Minister would seriously review the matter and get back to the House on whether or not the community housing associations will be included under the language bonuses of this government? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Pollard.

Further Return To Question 269-12(4): Application Of Language Bonus

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of issues to consider, as community transfer marches along. As

Mr. Kakfwi is more and more successful with communities taking on further responsibilities, we are having to look at the kinds of pay that we provide to people versus the kinds of pay that perhaps hamlets or municipalities are paying their employees at the present time.

In other words, there may be some differences there, and I think that's probably what the Member is getting at, that there are differences at the present time. So, yes, that is one of the things that will be considered as we move forward through community transfer, Mr. Speaker. And, I'll endeavour to have that issue looked at immediately. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 270-12(4): Counselling For Pregnant Teenagers

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like, again, to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I think I made a statement this week on teen pregnancy, in which I stated that these young girls are usually left alone and really don't have any support. The Minister said that a young girl who goes into the hospital to have her child, is not given counselling unless she asks for it. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not those young girls are consulted about whether they require counselling or assistance with what they should do with their child?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Return To Question 270-12(4): Counselling For Pregnant Teenagers

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I made a reference to hospitals. Earlier I said, and we can check it in the Hansard, that with custom adoptions, the natural mother -- if she wishes to receive counselling -- can do so through the department, with social workers. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 270-12(4): Counselling For Pregnant Teenagers

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't mention custom adoptions, either. I asked whether or not young girls that are going through private adoptions are advised that counselling is available? Or, is it only if the young girls request it? The Minister said only if the young girls request it. Are they advised of that service being available?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Mike.

Further Return To Question 270-12(4): Counselling For Pregnant Teenagers

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 271-12(4): Commitment To Respond To Outstanding Questions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of questions posed today and yesterday that have been taken as notice. Recognizing that we may be completing this session today, if we get all our work done on the order paper, once these questions are taken as notice and we prorogue, these outstanding questions die on the order paper. I would like to ask the Government Leader if she would commit to this House that the Ministers are able to answer outstanding questions that would be on the order paper? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 271-12(4): Commitment To Respond To Outstanding Questions

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I think that has been a custom in the past, and we will continue to do it. We'll try to get

those questioned answered, even though it can't be in the House. We'll make sure that they are circulated. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 272-12(4): Status On Baffin Fishing Industry Quotas

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister for Renewable Resources a question. Since the fishing industry is very, very important in the Baffin region, and our government was able to get a seat on the Atlantic Council of Fisheries -- which gives out quotas for shrimp, turbot, haddock and a few others -- would the Minister be willing to inform us as to the status of the Unaaq Fishery and the other company, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation of their quotas and also the areas they would like to explore? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Kakfwi.

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Return To Question 272-12(4): Status On Baffin Fishing Industry Quotas

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will provide the information to the Members, particularly from the Baffin. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Safety and Public Services, concerning the Mine Safety Act update. I was informed some time ago that the Mine Safety Act is going to be updated and that there is a team of people looking at it. There seemed to be a bit of a problem with participation. Subsequently, another group was going to participate. I would like to know if this liaison, that was established to assist on the Mine Safety Act update, is still there.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I am not quite clear of the question. I wonder if the Member would repeat it. The liaison committee is currently in place. Is that what the honourable Member is saying, or is it a new process in place as it relates to the changing the Mine Safety Act. I just want to get clarification on that.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, do you want to clarify your question?

Question 273-12(4): Update Of Mine Safety Act

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that, perhaps the word is inappropriate. I understand that there was a group that had formed, which was not part of the regional team that was looking at upgrading the Mine Safety Act. My understanding is that there was an agreement that this group would participate unofficially, perhaps, to submit their concerns dealing with the Mine Safety Bill to the committee and they would assist our government in working on this Bill. That was what I meant by liaison, it was an unofficial group. I wonder if it is still in operation. Are they still working towards getting that bill completed?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

Return To Question 273-12(4): Update Of Mine Safety Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

As the honourable Member knows, and everybody in the House knows, there was a great deal of controversy as it related to the development and the changes that were required. It was with respect to the Legislation and Mine Safety Act. There was a committee in place. When I took over the ministry, it lacked what I believe was a broader base of workers' representation. We added the workers' representation to the committee, in consultation with the Federation of Labour. At that point, if you like, the process broke down. I tried, on a number of occasions, to get both sides of the equation back to the table. They chose, for whatever reason, not to. Therefore, I shut down the committee. At that point, most of the Mining Safety Act was written. They were



working on what they call the regulations and 70 per cent of the regulations were done at that point. The current status of the Mining Safety Act is, though close to completion of the regulations, the door is open. We have asked everybody who was involved, all the stakeholders involved, that they have ongoing input, through the chairman of the Mine Safety Act changes committee. We have provided every opportunity we can to those who want to be involved, whether they are from the federated labour, the mine ownership, organized or unorganized labour. I am confident that we should be able to conclude the Mine Safety Act very soon. I hope it is reflective of the concerns of the groups because it is a serious piece of legislation. The door is open. Those who want to be involved in the process are. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. WHITFORD:**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 273-12(4): Update Of Mine Safety Act

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was just that I wanted to get a bit of time just to conclude that question. I appreciate the direction that the Minister has taken and the direction that he has given this House, as far as the Mine Safety Act and the direction that is given to the stakeholders on this issue. I realize that there comes a time when you have to say, "This is it. Time is gone." I wondered if there was a cut off point, at which that is the end of any further input to participate in this review of the agreement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 273-12(4): Update Of Mine Safety Act

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

No, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we are proceeding to complete the regulations. The Chairman of the Mine Safety Committee that was in place, is proceeding to do that. He is doing that, in full consultation with those stakeholders who want to consult with us. If some have chosen not to, that is within their individual right. We are providing all stakeholders with as much of the information as we have and is provided on a regular basis, seeking their ongoing input into the process. However, if individuals or organizations choose not to provide their input, that is their individual right. At this time, the process...While it is not a committee, the door is open.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 274-12(4): Transfer And Consolidation Of Responsibilities

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Premier. In the consolidation plans of the government, it was thought that the responsibility of determining and establishing quotas for fish, the management

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of fisheries, would go to Renewable Resources and assisting the business people fishermen would stay with ED&T. Also, the parks division of ED&T would go to Renewable Resources. How far is that plan to move that portion of ED&T to Renewable Resources? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 274-12(4): Transfer And Consolidation Of Responsibilities

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure about the Member's question about fisheries. Fisheries is still the responsibility of the federal government. In terms of the broader, general question on consolidation, we have to have some discussion on that. I haven't had time because we have been in session, and that work still has to be concluded. We are very close to coming to a decision on when we make those

changeovers, but at this moment, we haven't concluded that work that has to be done.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 274-12(4): Transfer And Consolidation Of Responsibilities

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know establishing quotas for char rests with Economic Development and Tourism. They have resources to establish quotas. Normally, the communities which are trying to find lakes to establish quotas, are served by ED&T. I believe it was the plan of the government to move that management portion of establishing and managing the quotas to Renewable Resources. Would the Premier direct the two ministries to work that out so that the management portion would go to Renewable Resources and the business portion will stay with ED&T? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 274-12(4): Transfer And Consolidation Of Responsibilities

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I can make a commitment that we want to move ahead as quickly as possible, however, the Member was Minister of Renewable Resources, so he has more detail than I. We will try to address that issue of final consolidation on those issues but I'm not prepared, in detail, to direct or question the statement by the honourable Member. We will, however, move ahead as quickly as possible.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. That concludes this item. We'll take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I'll call the House back to order. Before we start with the next item I would like to recognize Celina Kalluk, a page from Resolute Bay. You've done a good job.

---Applause

Thank you, very much. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 1-12(4), asked by Mr. Ng to the Minister of Justice, concerning legal claims against the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Return To Written Question 1-12(4): Government Of The Northwest Territories In Court As Defendant

There are two types of cases listed in the document: lawsuits being defended by the Department of Justice and lawsuits that have been referred to the GNWT's insurer. The second category involves areas of liability potentially covered by the GNWT's insurers, which are routinely referred immediately to the insurer, upon either the GNWT's becoming aware of a potential claim, or when a statement of claim is served on the GNWT. When a statement of claim has been served, the insurer appoints its own legal counsel to defend the claim.

Our insurers are currently dealing with 13 actions which involve the GNWT as defendant. The allegations range from failure to maintain infrastructure, to failure to regulate activities and enforce GNWT statutes. The total dollar amount of the various plaintiffs' claims is not specifically stated, as these would normally be quantified and proven at a trial, or quantified and substantiated for the purposes of any settlement. In each claim, if there is any liability found, the maximum exposure of the GNWT would be \$5,000, representing the deductible amount payable under the GNWT's liability insurance policies.

Since October 1991, the GNWT's insurers have negotiated only one out-of-court settlement, in regard to a single motor vehicle accident on a GNWT highway. The amount of the settlement is not disclosed, in order not to prejudice the GNWT's insurers with respect to any future claims.

Return To Written Question 4-12(4): Iqaluit Hot Water System Shutdown Costs

Return to Written Question 4-12(4), asked by Mr. Patterson to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, concerning the Iqaluit hot water system shutdown costs.

system. At this time, the central heating system was operated by the NWT Power Corporation (NWTPC). The GNWT purchased HTHW wholesale from NWTPC and resold it to individual users. There were no formal agreements between NWTPC, the GNWT or the individual users.

In December, 1991, FDL ceased purchasing HTHW from the system. That same month, a proposal was put forward to Cabinet to allow NWTPC to increase its rates for HTHW effective March 15, 1992. This rate increase was approved and came into force on March 15, 1992. In April, 1993, the central heating system was decommissioned.

During the one year period between the rate increase and the decommissioning of the system, the town of Iqaluit's costs relating to the purchase of HTHW increased by \$250,714, an increase of 104 per cent. This occurred for the other remaining users of the system as well. On October 29, 1993, the town formally requested that the GNWT reimburse them for the amount of the increase, relying on section 3(w) of the turnover/acquisition agreement and on representations made by the NWT at the meetings of the Iqaluit Turnover Implementation Committee.

There were two issues:

1. whether the GNWT was liable for the increased utility costs paid by the town of Iqaluit under section 3(w) of the turnover/acquisition agreement, and,
2. whether the GNWT was liable for these costs outside of this agreement.

The conclusion of the GNWT legal division was that the GNWT was not liable under section 3(w), however, there were other factors which implied liability for this amount, outside of the terms of the agreement, including the failure of the GNWT to take several actions required by other sections of the turnover/acquisition agreement, the lack of a written agreement between the GNWT and the purchasers of the HTHW, the relationship between the GNWT and NWTPC, and representations made by the GNWT officials in discussions with the town.

As can be seen from the preceding explanation, this is a very complex issue which largely accounts for the events that have occurred to date. However, given the current situation, the GNWT is prepared to insulate the town from the \$250,000 cost increase that occurred in 1992-93. My officials are working on this and action will be taken before the end of the

calendar year. In the circumstances, I believe the GNWT is acting in good faith and is going beyond its legal obligations. As a result, I would not be prepared to consider paying interest on the amount paid by the town in October.

Return To Written Question 6-12(4): Details And Costs Of Government Repaired Houses

Return to Written Question 6-12(4), asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Public Works and Services, concerning details and costs of government prepared houses.

I will provide to the Member, today, a list of government-owned houses for which repairs and renovations have been performed. The list is by house address, including costs, for all level I communities for the 1992-93 fiscal year, and for the current fiscal year, to date.

Return To Written Question 13-12(4): Hay Plan Status

Return to Written Question 13-12(4), asked by Mr. Gargan to the chairman of the Financial Management Board, concerning the Hay Plan status.

The names of senior staff who sit on the Management Evaluation Committee are Lew Voytilla, Secretary of the Financial Management Board; Pierre Alvarez, secretary to Cabinet; Ken Lovely, Deputy Minister, Social Services; John Quirke, Deputy Minister, Safety and Public Services; Al Menard, Deputy Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs; Eric Nielsen, Deputy Minister, Finance; Hal Gerein, Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment; and, Joe Handley, Deputy Minister, Renewable Resources.

The positions that are currently in the Management Category (Hay Plan) are the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Director of Finance and Administration and the Director of Research and Information.

The following positions have been referred to the Management Evaluation Committee (Hay Plan Committee) in the past two years: Clerk, Legislative Assembly; Director, Finance and Administration; Director, Facilities Management; Director, Research and Information; Clerk Assistant.

The results of the evaluations for positions reviewed by the Management Evaluation Committee are as follows:

-Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Re-evaluated from pay band 14 to pay band 17 in the management category.

-Director, Finance and Administration. Re-evaluated from pay band 4 to pay band 5 in the management category.

-Director, Research and Information. New position evaluated at pay band 5 in the management category.

-Director, Facilities Management. New position reviewed and determined not to meet the criteria for inclusion in the management category. It was referred to the job evaluation division for classification which assigned pay range 34 in the excluded salary grid.

-Clerk Assistant. Reviewed and determined not to meet the criteria for inclusion in the management category.

Employees within the Legislative Assembly are public service employees pursuant to the Public Service Act. The responsibility for management and direction of the Public

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Service rests with the chairman of the FMB. This responsibility includes job evaluation. The chairman has delegated the authority to evaluate management positions to the Management Evaluation Committee. The human resource manual spells out clearly the process for evaluating all jobs, including management positions. The process is that each department submits the proposed management positions for evaluation by the Management Evaluation Committee. That committee has the responsibility to determine if the position submitted meets the criteria for inclusion as a management position and if so, to evaluate the position using the Hay Plan job evaluation system. This information is then communicated to the deputy minister of the employing department.

Return To Written Question 17-12(4): Fort Smith Garage Purchases

Return to Written Question 17-12(4), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Minister of Public Works and Services, concerning Fort Smith garage purchases.

The list of purchases made by Public Works and Services for the Fort Smith garage, from April 1, 1992

to the present, including suppliers and costs, will be given to the Member today.

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

Return to Written Question 20-12(4), asked by Mr. Lewis to the Minister of Public Works and Services, concerning capital contracts list.

The following is a list of capital projects for which contracts have been negotiated by the Department of Public Works and Services for the 1993-94 fiscal year, as of November 15, 1993:

#### Construction

- location - Rankin Inlet/Whale Cove; project - granular crushing project; companies - RTL Construction, Y & C Enterprises, Issatik Ltd.; amount - \$2.386 million.

- location - Wrigley; project - heliport/fire suppression; companies - Cap Mountain Ventures; amount - \$97,440.

- location - Rankin Inlet; project - office, tenant improvements; companies - Ilagiikutut; amount - \$290,000.

- location - Fort Simpson; project - office, tenant improvements; companies - Nahendeh Development Ltd.; amount - \$387,000.

- location - Inuvik; project - western Arctic visitors' centre; companies - Uummarmuit Development Corporation and Edhiitat Tetlit; amount - under negotiation.

- location - Dempster Highway; project - Peel River interpretive shop; companies - Edhiitat Tetlit; amount - under negotiation.

Total, \$3,160,440.

The following is a list of capital projects of which contracts have been negotiated by the NWT Housing Corporation for the 1993-94 fiscal year as of November 15, 1993:

#### Negotiated Contracts

-community - Tuktoyaktuk; company - Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation; units/type - four public housing; amount - \$600,858.

- community - Fort Simpson; company - Liidti Koe Construction Association; units/type - 10 access; amount - \$1,152,449.

- community - Fort McPherson; company - Tetlit Zheh Construction; units/type - five access; amount - \$198,560.

- community - Snare Lake; company - Snare Lake Band Development Corporation; units/type - five access; amount - \$142,225.

- community - Rae Lakes; company - Gameti Development Corporation; Units/type - six access; amount - \$253,713.

- community - Lac La Martre; company - Wha Ti Development Corporation; units/type - seven access; amount - \$288,264.

Total, \$2,636,069.

The total for Public Works and Services and the NWT Housing Corporation is ten contracts already negotiated this fiscal year, for a total value of \$5,796,509. Public Works and Services has two other additional contracts still under negotiation.

Return To Written Question 22-12(4): Public Works Contracts

Return to Written Question 22-12(4), asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Public Works and Services, concerning public works contracts.

1. The information requested for 1992-93 will be provided at a later date. The following is a list of capital projects for which contracts have been negotiated by the Department of Public Works and Services for the 1993-94 fiscal year as of November 15, 1993:

#### Construction

- location - Rankin Inlet/Whale Cove; project - granular crushing project; companies - RTL Construction, Y & C Enterprises, Issatik Ltd.; amount - \$2.386 million.

- location - Wrigley; project - heliport/fire suppression; companies - Cap Mountain Ventures; amount - \$97,440.

- location - Rankin Inlet; project - office, tenant improvements; companies - Ilagiikutut; amount - \$290,000.

- location - Fort Simpson; project - office, tenant improvements; companies - Nahendeh Development Ltd.;

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amount - \$387,000.

- location - Inuvik; project - western Arctic visitors' centre; companies - Uummarmuit Development Corporation and Edhiitat Tetlit; amount - under negotiation.

- location - Dempster Highway; project - Peel River interpretive shop; companies - Edhiitat Tetlit; amount - under negotiation.

#### Leases

- location - Rankin Inlet; project - two residential complexes, one office complex; companies - Ilagiikutut; amount - \$712,000 and \$246,000 respectively.

- location - Fort Simpson - project - one office complex; companies - Nahendeh Development Ltd.; amount - \$247,000.

- location - Deline; project - one office complex; companies - Fort Franklin Dene Development Corporation; amount - \$144,000.

Total, \$4,509,440.

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

Return to Written Question 26-12(4), asked by Mr. Ng to the Minister of Finance, concerning government building write-offs after fires.

1. Three GNWT staff houses in 1992-93 and one GNWT staff house to date in 1993-94 were totally destroyed or badly damaged by fire. This does not include units owned by the Housing Corporation that may have housed GNWT staff.

2. There were a total of three other GNWT buildings destroyed during the 1992-93 fiscal year. These buildings were the Apex School in Iqaluit, the St. Paul School in Hay River and a warehouse in Fort Simpson. To date, in the 1993-94 fiscal year, no buildings have been destroyed by fire.

3. All staff housing units destroyed, except the one in Cambridge Bay, have been or are being repaired or replaced, partially with contributions from

insurance recoveries. It is planned to replace the Apex School and the warehouse. Insurance proceeds of approximately \$1.2 million will contribute to funding construction of the Apex School. Insurance proceeds of \$300,000 will provide support for construction of the Fort Simpson warehouse. The St. Paul School in Hay River had already been replaced with a new school and was in the process of being demolished at the time of the fire.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, replies to opening address.

**ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS**

Mrs. Marie-Jewell's Reply

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of my constituents, to address many of their concerns, with regard to issues that have been affecting them. I also want to address many of the initiatives that this government has been addressing within my constituency, that my constituents have been very grateful for.

Mr. Speaker, since last April when we met, I took it upon myself this past summer -- with all the problems we've had in our health centre -- to conduct a survey among my constituents. I had a very detailed survey developed and delivered to the homes this past summer. I had up to 420 or so replies to this household survey and there was one survey given per household. I recognize that I had many different opinions from many different constituents in my diverse constituency.

Mr. Speaker, this survey asked many different questions pertaining to the health board that was disbanded, but recently reinstated. And, I thank the Minister of Health for that decision. In addition, towards the end of my survey, I didn't only speak about health issues, I also asked my constituents what they thought about some of the other issues facing Fort Smith and the territories, overall. I asked one particular question, which was, "In your opinion, what do you think are the main concerns facing the residents of Fort Smith?" I also asked them, "What priorities would you like to see our MLA work on when the next session of the Legislative Assembly begins on November 17?"

I got many varied replies, Mr. Speaker, but I was happy to note that, in as much as people were concerned about the health centre and the operation of the health centre -- and particularly about the need for a health board, which has since been addressed -- many of my constituents felt that, as an MLA, I had the ability to prioritize the concerns of my constituency and to be able to address them effectively on their behalf. I did have a couple of comments -- I believe there were two, in particular -- that were somewhat critical of the way that I, at times, express concerns. That, I believe, is constructive criticism, and I welcome that.

I do want to let this government know that many of the concerns that I had in my constituency were about the lack of housing and the lack of employment. There were basically no employment opportunities in our community this past summer. However, I can see that, within the next year, there will be a lot more opportunity for employment. I know my constituents will be quite busy doing such things as building the Arctic College academic headquarters. I certainly hope they will also be building a tanker base in Fort Smith.

I certainly believe, as I have said, that many of the people are grateful for some of the things that I have been doing. But, at the same time, they feel that there are many things still outstanding and issues that still have to be addressed. I will attempt to indicate them to this House. Initially, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to read all of my survey reports, but I feel it is somewhat unfair to have Members listen to the responses to my survey, so I generalized the responses.

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One of the questions was, do you feel that we need a hospital board? There were very, very few people, out of 400 households that said, no. Everyone said, yes, a hospital board is critical. The next area they want me to work towards is attempting to get these boards elected, so they can be accountable to the community. Currently, the system of appointing board members allows for the accountability process to be somewhat flawed. I use the word "flawed" with all due respect. But, when you try to bring issues to the hospital board, at times, it is difficult. I find I get better results just bringing the issues to the Minister; I find many of these medical and health issues are then addressed.

At the same time, I don't feel that, as Members, we should be doing that all the time. I think the process

of a board would allow for these health issues to be addressed. And, I believe that the board, if they are elected as opposed to being appointed, would give them the responsibility and ability -- because they have a mandate -- to make decisions accordingly for the betterment of the community. So, I do want to indicate to the Minister of Health that I certainly would encourage him to look at considering a process that allows the health boards that we have in the communities to be elected, as opposed to being appointed. I believe that, in the Department of Health, if this was the case, you probably would have less problems than you have today.

That was one of the main things I wanted to find out in my constituency, whether or not the board should be elected or appointed. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the other question I asked was, once we have this board in place, there are different models. One of the main concerns is how you choose the chairman. The chairman, as you are, Mr. Speaker, is an very important position that ensures the proceedings are conducted in a fair and consistent manner.

I asked three questions. Should the Minister appoint a chairperson? Should the members of the hospital board select a chairperson from their own membership? Or, should the community residents vote for the hospital board chairperson? The majority of the surveys indicated that the members of the hospital board should elect the chairperson. Then, you are certainly allowing for a cohesive team to work for the betterment of community health.

I certainly agree that the hospital board chairperson should be appointed by the Minister of Health until the rules are changed to allow them to get elected on the recommendation of their colleagues that are within the hospital board. The other general question that I've asked within my survey, and I'll name some of these questions, Mr. Speaker, as we go through them, is are there any general comments that they'd like to make about the Fort Smith Health Centre. There were many general comments. Many consistent, repetitive general comments that basically said, and I'll summarize it, that we have too many locum physicians in our community and we have to have some type of consistency, with regard to doctors. It's very frustrating for many of the people in the community, every time you want to see a doctor you have to go to a different doctor. I believe that particular concern was also reflected in the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. That was one of the more pressing concerns that was expressed at the public meeting.

There's no doubt that there are many of my constituents that still miss the services of Dr. Viswalingam and are still looking forward to the day that he may be able to conduct his assessment and be able to practice in the community. I know that there are still many patients that just on principle, refuse to go to the hospital for any type of medical services. I believe that is very unfortunate, but when people are convinced of a particular issue, it's very difficult to convince them to change their minds.

My other question was, were there any special health promotion projects or additional services, with regard to health projects that would benefit the residents of Fort Smith? With that, Mr. Speaker, again it's reflected in the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. Some of the comments were mental health has to be addressed, they need more regular visits from specialists, they need more resources, with respect to looking at specialists on hearing aid, speech themologists, deficit disorder -- for children who are designated for special needs. In addition, they felt that there should be, particularly when there is inadequate equipment in the health centre, the ability to address preventative types of health concerns, as opposed to being reactive with regard to health concerns.

There were many, many other concerns, with regard to keeping in contact with patients from the health centre. There were some comments on inadequate deliveries of babies within the community, that many of the deliveries are going out of the community. It doesn't seem that they feel comfortable with the type of health services we're getting.

They have also indicated the hiring procedures of the health centre are, at times, questionable. There are many, particularly of the long-term residents, that remember our health centre as having the ability to do operations, whether it's a tonsillectomy, or any type of appendicitis operation. In fact, I recall, when I was younger, there was a doctor that did brain surgery in Fort Smith. Today, there's a resistance to even deliver babies. It's telling you that since the government has taken over the health centre in Fort Smith it appears, if we sit down and think about it, our services have somewhat deteriorated. I believe that we certainly have to attempt to make use of these facilities because the facility that we now have is certainly a great facility compared to what we used to have, which used to do a lot more. They used to have the old Saint Anne's health centre that was, I believe, built in something like 1911. It's still standing today but it moved into the Fort Smith Health Centre

back in the early 1980's. The new facility, which cost millions of more dollars, is not doing a lot of the work that it could be doing. I would like to encourage the Minister of Health to look at this and see how we can address this health care system, particularly with the health centre, so that you're not only going to reduce health care costs in the long term, but you're going to enhance proper services to the community.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear, hear.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

With that, Mr. Speaker, that's basically a quick -- very, very quick -- recap of my survey. However, there are other issues, as I stated, that are of concern to my constituency. I do want this government to be aware of it. First of all, I believe one of the more pressing concerns in my constituency is with regard to the lack of safety for my constituents because of the River Ridge Facility. Mr. Speaker,

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I know I have a motion on the floor to address that and I will address it at the appropriate time. However, I do want to state that when I went home last weekend, I had many people come up to me and commend me for the questions that I asked and stated that they have been concerned for their safety. They are concerned that since this decision to triple designate this facility there has been an increasing number of break-outs. Particularly the type of life-threatening situations that my constituents have been in, that have somewhat scared them. I have to say that I know that it's a concern. That's why I felt it was critical to put forth my motion. Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope that Members, at the appropriate time, will support the initiative that I'm taking on behalf of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, one of the more pressing issues -- and I believe this is an exciting initiative -- is with regard to having to see that the goal for a road south just may be a reality. I wanted to advise this House, when the Prime Minister was up to visit us and open this House, and when we were allowed to spend a few moments with him, I approached him and asked for support for a road from Fort Smith to Fort Vermilion. I have to stress to this House, back in 1958, there was a road and there is a cut line there. It would be nothing to go in and bring

back that road to a proper base and develop it into a winter road.

---Applause

I think that any winter road that we look at will then develop into an all-weather road. I believe that, when we're going to look at these, we should look at them in the most practical sense. I certainly would be encouraging the Members to support my road south, particularly since I have now seen the ability of Thebacha Campus, the heavy equipment operating program, opening the road for us to Fort Chip. I thank the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, for such an initiative to be taken by the heavy equipment program. I do want to tell him that my constituents have been extremely pleased and are very grateful for such an initiative.

---Applause

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, our town boundary issue has been one that has been outstanding. I know I did have a commitment from the Honourable John Todd, with regard to this issue being addressed. I certainly look forward to attempting to complete this concern and this outstanding issue early in the new year. Currently, the town boundary is out towards Salt River which is, I would say, at least 12 miles out of the community. It makes it very difficult for the local person, if they don't have any means of transportation, to be able to go hunt, whether it's chickens, or to snare rabbits, or any type of hunting activity, because then they are within the town boundaries. So, they have to leave the community and walk a considerable distance if they want to consider hunting. It is somewhat discouraging for the local people and the aboriginal people who would like to go out and decide if they want to hunt a few chickens or snare a few rabbits in the fall. I would suggest that this town boundary, the way it is expanded, places an impediment on that. I certainly encourage the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to address this issue.

I know the dispute is determining where the town boundary should be. I believe a compromise can be met on this issue and that the town boundary can probably be brought in, where MACA's position is. If it has to be renegotiated with the community, then I think if the Minister came with his officials to Fort Smith and the town council, I know the people of Fort Smith are reasonable people and they will be able to negotiate and determine where the town boundary should be. I would encourage the Minister to address



this issue as quickly as possible so we can get that item dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, one other item I want to speak on, is with respect to family violence that the Minister of Justice has brought forth and we will be listening to witnesses next week. I want to indicate my full support for the Tawow Society, which has been in operation for many years in our community. It has done a good job to address spousal assault and provide a home, security and safety for the people who require it. However, I have noted their concerns on the inability of allowing these people from the Tawow Society home -- which is called the Sutherland House -- out to live in the community, without having to go back to their own home.

The Tawow Society has certainly recognized the need for second stage housing. I think if this government is going to make every effort to address family violence, they have to address the whole issue of the violence circle. They have to make every effort to break that circle of violence. That means finding a method for women who go and use these spousal assault homes not to go back into their homes, but to make every effort to get them another house in the community where they can feel assured and comfortable that they are living a safe life.

I would encourage the Minister of Social Services to request that her department seriously look at second stage housing, with regard to spousal assault and addressing family violence. We have to recognize that, when the Minister brings forth papers to address family violence, it is one thing to bring forth a paper and talk about zero tolerance on family violence, but the main issue is to make every effort to address it and not only provide lip service.

I do want to encourage this government to make every effort in all communities to find a method to create those assault homes for battered women or for battered men, if that is the case, but to be able to find a method to build these types of homes in the communities because they are needed.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I certainly would encourage, as I have said, the Minister of Social Services to continually address and support the concept of the Tawow Society in Fort Smith, on trying to acquire second stage housing for battered women.

Mr. Speaker, in respect to one other critical issue from my constituents is the education aspect. As we all know, education is a very important part of our daily

lives. I want to express my grateful thanks to the Minister of Finance and, particularly to the Minister of Education, in addressing the renovation needed to our 37 year old school in Fort Smith.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear, hear.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

I know those will be addressed, not this year, but I think the planning will start this year, but they

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will be addressed in 1995. Let me tell you, not only my constituents are grateful. When I told my children who go to that school, they were also excited and are looking forward to those renovations. They say their old school will be fixed up to be a better school. I am certainly grateful for that. I would continue to encourage the Department of Education to look at our high school that also needs renovations.

The problem that we seem to have in Fort Smith is we certainly have the infrastructure and I know that many of my constituents are grateful for that, but Fort Smith is a very old community. It took years to build up that infrastructure. I recognize that some of our infrastructure is now getting old and has to be addressed. I would like to thank the Minister of Education for addressing those renovations that are direly needed to deliver the education to our children.

I want to advise the Minister of Education, though. I do have some serious concerns in respect to the South Slave Divisional Board. I have spoken to him about it and I certainly have confidence that he will address these concerns in the immediate future. I have concerns to the way funding is being spent. I am feeling that some of these funds may be not properly used for the delivery of education to the schools. I feel that it is my responsibility to alert the Minister of Education. I am grateful that he has done a review on the divisional board, however, I recognize his review won't be done for some time. I certainly am going to request that certain items be addressed in the immediate future. I have also spoken to the Minister of Finance on this and I would like to thank him, as well, for indicating his support to address these concerns in respect to the South Slave Divisional Board.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I just have a few more items to address. One is in respect to the housing strategy.

I certainly support it. I have always been on record for supporting the implementation of the housing strategy. However, the way the housing strategy has been delivered and implemented in my community, has not been acceptable. I said it last spring when I did my reply and I will say it again, all the government did was take their houses and shift them over to another department, whether it was the Department of Education, through Arctic College, or they had taken these houses and given them to housing. They are still paying the same type of costs that they were initially attempting to get away from. The way these houses were sold caused a disruption in our market. It also practically closed down a real estate agent.

We had a commitment in this House that any surplus housing would be sold on the private market, through a private real estate agent, and not one house, to date, has gone through the real estate agent. But, here in Yellowknife, many houses went through the real estate agents. What is being done in one area is not being done in another area. I've stressed many times in this house, no matter what you do, it is the method, how you do it. As long as you do things in a fair manner, I don't believe Members will be concerned. But, when they are done inconsistently and not fairly, there is no doubt they feel responsible to express these concerns.

With that, in closing, there is one critical issue that is of concern to my constituency. I left this issue for the last. It is the tanker base. I have noted, in discussing the capital plan, that there seems to be some reluctance of Cabinet, in making a decision of the type and size of tanker base that they need for the community. Whether it be CL-215s, hercules aircrafts or whatever type of aircraft that they need for their fleet to fight forest fires. I would urge this government to attempt to make every effort to make a decision on what type of facility you need and be able to allow the community to build the facility. The Dene and the Metis are very grateful that they are going to be allowed to build this with the condition and the commitment that the government will lease it over a long period of time. I believe that the Minister of Finance should encourage more of this type of capital construction because it allows our dollar to go a long way. It also allows a sense of ownership that instills pride within the community and it for people to see what they own and not only the government owning everything. It also saves our government a tremendous amount of dollars that we identify as capital needs. I would certainly like to encourage the government to go more into a lease purchase concept

in constructing capital items in the future. Wherever it can be done, I would encourage them to do so.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Members for patiently listening to my comments that have been very important to my constituency. I would also like to take the time to thank Members for their support, whether it's the ordinary Members, or the Cabinet, and I certainly would like to, on behalf of my family, wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy new year. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. 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. Patterson.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table, Tabled Document 58-12(4), a newspaper article from the December 3, 1993 issue of Nunatsiaq News titled, young offenders learn news ways from elders, about the on the land young offenders' facility at Tungait outside of Iqaluit. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table, Tabled Document 59-12(4), which are the many letters of support Cabinet has received. A total of 98 concerned individuals and 17 organizations signed these letters of support. The letters indicate whole-hearted support for the Cabinet position, as tabled in this House on November 23, 1993, on zero tolerance towards violence. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, as required by section 32.2, subsection 4(b) of the Financial Administration Act, I am

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tabling, Tabled Document 60-12(4), a list of each case where a 1992-93 expenditure exceeded the 1992-93 activity budget by an amount exceeding \$250,000.

Mr. Speaker, as required by section 32, subsection 3 of the Financial Administration Act, I am tabling, Tabled Document 61-12(4), a list of all interactivity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within departments for the period March 15, 1993 to December 6, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 62-12(4), a letter that I received from the Fort Simpson Dene Band Council with regard to negotiated contracts. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 12, tabling of documents. I have two documents. I wish to table, Tabled Document 63-12(4), an interim report by the conflict of interest commission with the recommendations and part three of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

I also wish to table, Tabled Document 64-12(4), a letter that I have sent out to every Member dealing with the response to Written Question 24-12(4), which was a question by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan, concerning the Languages Commissioner's travel list. I confirm to the House that the tabled document contains the information requested by the honourable Member.

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Motion 4-12(4), Independent Review of Triple Designation of River Ridge Facility. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 4-12(4): Independent Review of Triple Designation of River Ridge Facility, Carried

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS, the Minister for the Department of Justice triple designated the River Ridge Facility as of April, 1993, in Fort Smith;

AND WHEREAS, this facility was originally intended as a secure facility;

AND WHEREAS, there have been two serious incidents since the decision to triple designate this facility;

AND WHEREAS, one incident caused a hostage taking at gunpoint;

AND WHEREAS, the public safety from inmates is a fundamental responsibility of the Department of Justice which the Minister of Justice must affirm;

AND WHEREAS, the recent report of River Ridge tabled in the House on November 29, 1993 was not an impartial and objective report which did not adequately address the concerns of public and this House;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice to obtain an independent review of the decision to triple designate the River Ridge Facility;

AND FURTHER, that any independent review be requested to be undertaken by one of the Minister of Justices' provincial counterparts' staff with experience in this field;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the report from any independent review undertaken be tabled during the February 1994 session.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my motion today calls for an independent review of the Minister's decision to designate the young offenders' facility in Fort Smith as a triple designated facility. The sole motivation, Mr. Speaker, that I have in bringing on this motion is my concern for the safety of my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address, however, one issue up front. Mr. Speaker, there have been some comments which I believe to be unfair comments that my motivation on this issue is affected by the fact that my sister is the manager of the River Ridge Facility. Mr. Speaker, my sister does work at the facility, in fact, she worked for the department for many years before I became an MLA, and she'll undoubtedly work there for many years after I'm finished my political life. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear to all the Members of the Assembly that the fact that my sister works at the River Ridge Facility has no bearing whatsoever on my concerns about this situation. If anything, I feel I've been tougher on this issue and my sister, than I might otherwise have been because of my relationship.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I've also sought legal advice as to whether I am in a conflict of interest and have been advised that I am not. Nonetheless, I wish to state clearly for the record, the relationship to the manager of the facility and the fact that this relationship has no impact on the position that I'm taking here today.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated on numerous occasions in this House, I am concerned that the decision of the River Ridge facility as a triple designated facility, poses a safety risk to my constituents. The facility is now designated to hold three types of young offenders. Those sentenced to a term of open custody, those sentenced to a term of secure custody and those young offenders who are held on remand, pending a trial.

These young offenders have committed very different offences. Mr. Speaker, those offenders, who are sentenced to secure custody, have committed the most serious of offences under the federal Criminal Code. The federal Young Offenders' Act provides, in section 24(1)(3), "A young offender shall only be sentenced to secure custody, if the offence is one for which an adult could be imprisoned for five years or more, or the young offender has already breached a probation order, or the young offender has been convicted of escaping from prison, or the

young offender has a previous criminal record." The category of secure custody is the most serious custodial decision that can be made by a sentencing court.

By contrast, those offenders who are first-time offenders, or commit relatively minor crimes under the Criminal Code or our territorial laws, may be sentenced to open custody. The federal Young Offenders' Act defines open custody as custody in community residential centres, group homes or child care institutions, or a forest or wilderness camp -- such as my honourable colleague for Iqaluit has mentioned -- or any other place or facility.

The definition of open custody suggests that a facility is quite different from the type of facility where you would keep young offenders convicted of the most serious crimes. This is my concern, Mr. Speaker. The fact that a relatively innocent young offender, convicted of a minor criminal or territorial offence and sentenced to open custody, might be influenced in a negative way by a young offender with a much more criminal record, who has been sentenced to a term of secure custody.

Since the facility was designated as a triple designated facility, there have been serious incidents, which cast doubt on the Minister's decision. There has been a hostage taking, where one of my constituents was held hostage at gunpoint by two young offenders. There have been staff members at the facility beaten up and held captive by young offenders, who then escaped from the facility.

The Minister's response to this was tabling a report where he called the triple designation of the facility, "A remarkable success." Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that a hostage taking and assault on staff constitutes a success.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to also make it very clear that I am not alone in my concerns. My constituents are concerned. I have talked with many of my constituents, who have expressed their concerns over their safety and the safety of all residents of Fort Smith. I have tabled letters in this House expressing the concerns of the Fort Smith Metis Local and the NWT Metis Nation. Everyone I have talked to on this issue is concerned and I want the Minister to know, and I don't appreciate his remarks, that it is only the concern of the Member for Thebacha. It is the concern of my constituents in Thebacha.

I believe that the recent incident at the River Ridge facility calls for an independent review conducted by an official from outside the Northwest Territories. With all due respect to the Minister of Justice and his staff, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the report tabled by the Minister is objective or is impartial.

Mr. Speaker, on April 1, the Minister of Justice stated, and I quote from Hansard on page 1366, "I will be very pleased to provide a written report in October, to show the Members that things are going very well and will continue to go very well, as planned." How can any report provided to this House, be viewed as an objective, impartial report on a situation where the Minister has previously stated that the report will continue to go very well?

Mr. Speaker, this motion is not calling for a change in the Minister's decision to designate the facility as a triple designated facility. All I, and my constituents, are asking for is to call for an independent review of his decision, so we may all be assured that the issues pertaining to public safety have been fairly, objectively and thoroughly addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members for their support on this motion that will attempt to address, particularly, the area of safety. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The seconder to the motion, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Minister Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the motion, I had followed what I thought was the wish of the good Member for Thebacha following the winter session, regarding her request for a review of the decision. I thought the views of the staff, including management of the triple designated facility, would be more than adequate to say whether the triple designation can work.

The report I tabled, shows the correctional staff, the management of the River Ridge facility, in conjunction with other senior managers in corrections, feel triple designation is manageable. It keeps public security as a very high priority. We also take into account the welfare and interests of the young offenders, who need special care and guidance. We take into account that some of them are in remand, some in closed custody and open custody. It is the view of the staff and management that it is a manageable arrangement. It is demonstrated by other jurisdictions

and facilities in Canada. So that report was done with that in mind.

I must say there cannot be a sole concern in this issue. I don't want my concerns to be trivialized either. The public concern for safety is a major concern for everyone and we have to do what we can to assure the public that their interests are taken into account. But, their interest alone, is not the only concern to be dealt with. By legislation, we also have to take into account the interest of the young offenders. As employers, we also have to take into account the welfare, well-being and treatment of the staff and management of this facility. There are a number of sides to this issue and this is what I have tried to consider.

I should point out to Members that the hostage taking, that happened this summer, was done by open custody young offenders, not secure custody young offenders. It was while young offenders were out doing some gardening, under supervision in the community of Fort Smith, that they decided to bolt and escape. This is always present whenever you have people who are confined.

There are three triple designated facilities in the Northwest Territories. There is one in Iqaluit, one in Hay River and one in Fort Smith. I think Members should take into account that we should not be spending public money to look at one facility. The motion should be supported, but it should be clear that, if we're going to spend public money to look at these facilities then I would want to look at more than just the concerns for public safety in triple designated facilities.

First of all, we can agree that someone from the south, some southern expert -- as much as we might abhor it -- would

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probably provide some objectivity in this regard. If the Member for Thebacha has some suggestions of objective southern people with the professional expertise and management experience to conduct such a review, I would be very happy to take the suggestions. I would want to look at the physical design of the facilities that we have triple designated to see if they are compatible and, if changes need to be made, what is the substance of change that would be required.

We would want to look at the present staffing levels, not only the numbers of staff assigned, for instance, to night shift, but also to look at the type of physical and mental qualifications that guards in these types of facilities should have. I think that has been an issue that has been raised by management and by other people in asking whether or not something can be done to review this. We would look at the qualifications of the staff as well.

We would look at the procedures that are used in these facilities. How they are developed and drafted by the department, how they are passed on to management, how the management passes them on to the staff, how regularly they are reviewed, and how they are monitored, and whether or not changes or additions should be made in this regard. We would look at the response that is given on how incidents should be handled in these facilities, not because they are triple designated, but because they are facilities that hold young offenders, who are confined, against their will, by courts, and there is a high probability that they will try to escape at some time or another.

We need to know and be clear about the procedures that are used when escapes and major incidents happen, and what additional recommendations can be made there. The financial implications of all changes and recommendations that are made should be attached to such a review. I must say that I have no hesitation in submitting the facilities to this type of scrutiny. As I have said, I have great confidence in the managers of these facilities, and I believe they will successfully use the results of such a review, to further improve the quality of programs for young offenders.

I hope that this process, if it is agreed to by Members, and the direction that is given by this motion, will provide assurances to the public that we are taking an extra measure, besides the regular reviews and audits that we have with these facilities. We will try to keep the costs down. I know public inquiries and reviews can become very costly. I will be looking forward to this process to get under way so that an outside view of our facilities will come up with suggestions and recommendations that will not only enhance the credibility of these facilities and the staff that run them, but also restore shaken public confidence, at least in one community.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. To the motion. You would like to have your final statement, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. I thank the Minister for his comments and his viewpoint. I did want to indicate to this House that the purpose of my motion was to read "an independent review," not an inquiry or something intended to be a costly review. Basically, the intention is to ask the Minister to ask to borrow one of his provincial counterpart's staff, with expertise in this field, to do the review. Therefore, it would not mean extraordinary cost to the government. As I initially said, we are asking to have a decision to triple designate impartially looked at. With that, I would like to ask for a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. That concludes the debate. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please rise.

Recorded Vote

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

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Koe, Mr. Ng., Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

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

Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The official count is nine votes voting for, zero votes voting against and six votes abstaining. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Motion 8-12(4), Road Construction through Wood Buffalo National Park, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Motion 8-12(4): Road Construction Through Wood Buffalo National Park, Carried As Amended

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, a road through Wood Buffalo National Park would promote a stronger economic base for Fort Smith and the surrounding Northwest Territories communities;

AND WHEREAS, a road connecting with the Alberta Highway 56 network would shorten the driving distance to the park, as well as promote tourism;

AND WHEREAS, the development of a transportation system through the north will enhance the north's long-term economic strategy;

AND WHEREAS, currently, the heavy equipment operators' program at Thebacha campus is developing the opening of a winter road to Fort Chipewyan;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly express its support for the construction and successful negotiations of a road through Wood Buffalo National Park, from Fort Smith to Fort Vermilion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to be able to address an initiative -- and I believe it is an exciting initiative -- that can be accomplished by this government, with their assistance. Mr. Speaker, since I have been a Member for six years, I have many times indicated that an all-weather road to the south from Fort Smith is required.

I did want to indicate that this road system, as all Members know, Fort Smith is right on the Alberta border, right in the Northwest Territories. However, was a road through Wood Buffalo Park, as I have said, back in 1958. This road has not been, for some reason or another, maintained. As a result, there has been a substantial amount of overgrowth in the past twenty years. Therefore, the resources to be able to keep this road open have not been available.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly believe that, not only will it increase and promote tourism, but it will allow for another economic base for the benefit of all territorial residents. Any type of road to resources or to the north, any type of transportation infrastructure we get in allows for the north to benefit in many different ways, whether it be through cheaper rates with respect to any type of items that come up north. It certainly will benefit many of the communities. I don't want to speak too long on the motion, Mr. Speaker. It is just that I basically want to indicate to the Members that this particular road is in the management plan of Wood Buffalo National Park. This road is identified. However, we basically need a mechanism to put in place the completion of the road that really requires 72 miles of a cut line to be cleared. Since it will, no doubt, shorten the distance where people from Fort Smith go south, it will also encourage people from the south to come up north.

We all know that Fort Smith is one of the pretty communities in the territories. There is no doubt that it will encourage and increase our tourism for the north. We all know that tourism dollars add to our economy. I believe that it encourages an economic base, it allows for a transportation infrastructure to be built. I believe that it is a good initiative to look at.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, since Arctic College has been working with the road to Fort Chipewyan, this type of initiative to build a road to Fort Vermilion is a reality. I do want Members to know that, in speaking to the Prime Minister, he has made a commitment to many of his close liberal friends from Fort Smith, in giving whatever assistance he can provide to look at a winter road. I certainly know that Thebacha campus, the heavy equipment program, is more than capable of building this type of road. I certainly would like to ask for the support of Members, the support of the government, in encouraging and negotiating for a road through Wood Buffalo National Park to go to Fort Vermilion. I believe that this dream will become a reality. I ask for the support of Members on this particular initiative. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The seconder of the motion, Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow Members of the Assembly, I have spoken on this subject before. Members, those who were here with us a little while

ago know my position well on it. I have been dealing with this issue since the early 1960s. I was in town council in Fort Smith in the 1960s. At the time, we were quite in favour of a southern link through Fort Vermilion. As a matter of fact, there was, at that time, even a very good winter road that went to Fort Vermilion. There was a bit of a problem with some of the hills, a couple of places where they needed some work done on the bridge, but short of that, that road wasn't in too bad of shape and would have taken, at the time, very little to have made that connection. There was already a right of way cleared to the park, past Pine Lake. There were a couple of places that needed more permanent structure for a bridge.

I agree that, economically, this would be good for the territories. Tourists that I have spoken to, numerous times, including those who do come all the way from the south to our city here in Yellowknife, are reluctant to drive that long drive back. Tourists prefer loop roads where they can go in one way and out another. By opening this road, this would certainly mean an increase in tourism potential to that area. In turn, more tourism dollars flowing into the north would benefit economically the Northwest Territories, the community of Fort Smith.

My Transportation friend knows my position on this, and I know he says he is going to have to take some money out of our budget to do this, but I think there has been some commitment made. Perhaps not so much commitment, but certainly suggestions from senior Ottawa people. I don't want to pigeonhole the Prime Minister, but he has shown an interest in looking at this project again. We must not forget that he was Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs at about that very time that that road was in use back in the 1960s. He had been to Fort Smith and the late Mayor Kaeser had bent his ear many times on this subject.

Without prolonging the debate, I would support it wholeheartedly. It is good for the Northwest Territories. It is something that has been long in coming. I think that, in turn, will put more dollars into the territories, where we can do more things with those extra dollars that we do get. Thank you very much.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Before making a decision, I have to get some clarification on some of the points raised by the honourable Member for Thebacha. I, for one, fully support all highway development in the Northwest Territories and have expressed my opinions as such, but I do have some concerns and I will raise these concerns. Hopefully, before the vote, I will get some clarification. Initial reaction was how much would this cost and what would be the impact in cost to this government. Another issue is, since most of this road is in Alberta, how much would the Alberta Government be contributing to the development of such a road? Before supporting this particular piece of highway, I obviously would put my priorities in supporting an extension of the highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells to Inuvik and eventually to Tuktoyaktuk. But, before that, I definitely would like to see an upgrade of the Dempster Highway.

The honourable Member for Thebacha mentioned that it is 72 miles of cut line. We all know what comes next. It is chip seal and paving. Again, those are costly. I would support this motion, Mr. Speaker, if the mover or someone would clarify that

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this would be done at very minimal costs and would be used as a training project for Arctic College heavy equipment program.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

That is not really a mechanism for clarification, but if the mover, in her concluding comments, make statements which allay your fears, then you will act accordingly, I am sure. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I will be brief, as well, Mr. Speaker. I lived in Fort Smith briefly for a couple of years, 1972 to 1974. That was the subject of conversation at that time and apparently had been the subject of conversation for twenty years before that. It was always felt that, if there was one thing that would change the structural economy, it would be if it had a road somehow south through the park into Alberta. That dream has persisted for many years and there has been a lack of political will at the level where these decisions are made, to achieve that result. I agree that the kind of conditions that the person who has proposed this motion to us has given, that it would be an attempt to get back to where we were in late 1960s, to follow up on the project that had been abandoned and to do it



at a cost that we can afford. For that reason, I will support the motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. Given that I am the Minister of Transportation, I will have to go out there to seek the funding. I think it is important to state that a review of the Transportation initiative to place, a few months ago. It was based upon the advice that we were given by the 24 MLAs. We will be tabling it next week. That is not in the transportation strategy. I see this motion as outside of what we were trying to accomplish with the existing budget that we have. There is \$37.5 million out there, not \$370 million. I want to make it clear that I have said to the honourable Member, I think it is creative initiative. The approach has been suggested that we use Arctic College. We will take a hard look at it. But, it is important to say that we have to take a hard look at it, if we can find new dollars. I can't do what has to be done now with the existing dollars I have. There is incredible pressure on the Ministry by everybody concerned. I support the motion. We will take a look at putting some clinical energy to help make that commitment now. We will try to be a little bit creative, but I have to caution you in saying that we must look for new resources to do this kind of initiative. Under the current budgetary constraints that we are working with, it would be difficult to realign dollars when there are greater priorities. On the one hand, yes, I will support the motion, but we have to look for new funds to do it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are getting into a very awkward position because we do support infrastructures to be built and we also support economic development in the north. However, when we have major issues to deal with, we usually discuss it either in the Ordinary Members' Caucus, the Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions or the full caucus, as part of the planning process. For example, social housing federal cutbacks and other major issues that need to be dealt with. We usually

try to work cooperatively as ordinary Members as to what are the priorities that government should look at as a long term plan. This motion came as a surprise. I feel that we should, for initiatives for that area, discuss it longer, through perhaps a three week period, as one of the major issues that we put together that we want to deal with. Education strategies, et cetera, are not cheap. They are expensive, either way you look at it. If it is a recommendation, then we would have made a recommendation. At this time, I will be abstaining from the motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the motion. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all generally would support initiatives that would bring the possibility of enhanced economic development to any of our communities. As Mr. Todd stated, this particular project may be outside of the realm of the new transportation strategy, as being proposed. I would like to suggest, creating more national recognition for this project, to move an amendment, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis. The amendment being:

AND FURTHER, that this House recommend that the Speaker communicate this support for the road to the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Prime Minister of Canada.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Can I have a copy of that amendment? All right. It has been moved by Mr. Ng, seconded by Mr. Lewis. Motion is in order. To the amendment. We will take a break and have it translated.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I'll reconvene the session. Mr. Ng, for the record, you can use the seconder here, or you can use another seconder. Mr. Ng.

Motion To Amend Motion 8-12(4), Road Construction Through Wood Buffalo National Park, Carried

**MR. NG:**

Mr. Speaker, amendment to the motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the motion be amended by adding the following: "that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Speaker communicate the support for the road to the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Prime Minister of Canada."

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the amendment. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Speaker, I stated earlier that the way the first motion read, that I would be abstaining, but Mr. Ng's amendment suits me fine. I will be supporting that, thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

To the amendment.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Question has been called. All those in

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favour? All those opposed? The amendment is carried.

---Carried

To the motion, as amended.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

We would like a recorded vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

A recorded vote has been requested. To the amended motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to support the motion. One of the things that has been happening during the last four years is there is a direction the government is going in with regard to a transportation strategy. That strategy identifies certain areas in which the roads are probably going to be looked at. I think that, under the transportation strategy, they didn't specifically refer to the road from Fort Smith to Fort Vermillion, although the initial one did.

There is also a plan to build a road to Rankin Inlet or Coppermine. So, we have other initiatives that are also being looked at. I think we should give it the fair scrutiny it deserves. I don't mind supporting the motion, but we also have to keep in mind the costs. I don't know how much is going to be the Alberta government's contribution and the federal government's contribution, but I think this government, by virtue of supporting it, should look at its own priorities before it looks at sponsoring projects outside their own jurisdiction. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion as amended. If there is no other people who want to talk, we'll go to the mover of the motion to conclude. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. Just very quickly, Mr. Speaker, the intention of my motion is to ask for an expression of support from this House for a road through Wood Buffalo National Park. With regard to the cost of building this road, as I have stated, currently the heavy equipment students are practising, through their program, on building a road to Fort Chipewyan. That is at no cost to this government, because they are doing that as part of their program.

However, I am suggesting the same type of concept be looked at with the road through Wood Buffalo National Park, but there is no doubt that this is a federal government responsibility. My constituents acknowledge that and they are asking the support of this House to be able to express that to the federal government. We don't expect the territorial government to pay the cost for such a road.

I also want to clarify for the Minister of Transportation, that before he became a Minister of this House, the initial transportation strategy identified such a road. It was tabled in this House, through the transportation

strategy in the 11th session. I also want to let Members know that this same motion was passed in the 10th Assembly, the 11th Assembly, and now, the 12th Assembly. But, I believe that the political climate and timing is right to achieve this particular goal. With that, I thank the Members, I would like to ask for their support, and I call for a recorded vote. Thank you.

Recorded Vote

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. That concludes debate. There is a request for a recorded vote. All those in favour of the amended motion, please stand.

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

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Ng, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

All those opposed to the motion as amended, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

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

Mr. Koe, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Nerysoo.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The vote is, those supporting the motion, ten; those opposed to the motion, zero; and, those abstaining, eight. The motion as amended is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 15, motions. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to bring my motion, regarding the comprehensive audit of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly had requested the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive review of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism;

AND WHEREAS, the Speaker has tabled the report of the Auditor General of Canada;

AND WHEREAS, the report should be reviewed by a committee of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that Tabled Document 52-12(4), Report of the Auditor General in the Audit of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for review.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 3-12(4), Sessional Statement; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act; and, Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act; Bill

6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94; and, Committee Report 10-12(4), Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions Final Report on the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. By the authority given to me by Motion 1-12(4), regarding sitting hours, I will put the Assembly into committee of the whole until the committee is prepared to report progress. Mr. Pudluk will be in the chair.

---Applause

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Now this committee will come to order. What does the committee wish to deal with this evening? Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're going to continue on with Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Once we complete that, we're going to address Committee Report 10-12(4), Final Report of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 4, and the conclusion of Minister's Statement 3-12(4). Mr. Chairman, we are committed to concluding all these items of business of the committee of the whole today. Thank you.

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

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Oh, my God. Okay, we're on page 11, detail, NWT Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance. If the Minister of Finance would like to bring in his witnesses at this time? Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Is this committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Sergeant-of-Arms, please escort in the witnesses. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce your witnesses?

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman that I have with me is Mr. Lew Voytilla, the Secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

NWT Housing Corporation, special warrant, \$1 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Not previously authorized, \$992,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, total department, special warrant, \$1 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$992,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Finance

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Finance, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$1.619 million negative.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Page 12. Revenue and asset management, special warrant, \$223,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

This special warrant to finance increased property insurance premiums, can you explain what premiums those are for? Is that for the coverage for all our assets, buildings and vehicles? What exactly is this amount for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is an increase in our property insurance premiums on our blanket insurance program, to insure real and personal property in the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

With what company, or companies, do we have this blanket insurance program with? What companies are involved?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, we use a broker and I don't have the names of the companies that we're actually insured with. I'll provide it to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

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**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. I assume that this broker does not reside in the Northwest Territories or do they?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, our insurance is not placed in the Northwest Territories. That is correct.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I ask then, how much of the \$5.288 million is for insurance premiums?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the premium has gone from \$663,136 to \$939,244.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Can I ask then, why aren't we using northern companies to purchase insurance?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, we haven't been able to do that in past year. Each year that goes by though, I do ask the Department of Finance if they can find somebody in the Northwest Territories to carry this insurance. We haven't been successful in the past, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

What efforts have been made to try to purchase this insurance from northern agents? Trying is one thing, but how much trying have you done? What efforts have you made? There could be some negotiations or you could spread the wealth around. There are agents in a lot of the major communities in the north and they represent some pretty big companies. I would like to know, what have you done to try to keep some of this money in the north?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware of the total efforts of the Department of Finance to place this policy in the Northwest Territories, but I will commit to the House that I will personally, the next time the policy comes up, meet with insurance agents in the Northwest Territories and see if I can arrange for them to carry our insurance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you and thank you for that commitment, because you just went to the banking community in a similar venture. I know there are many more dollars involved, but I think a similar approach can be made to the insurance companies and maybe someone will be able to provide the service. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I'm jumping too fast. I'll wait until my line comes. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Special warrant, \$223,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$311,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Government accounting, not previously authorized, negative \$59.517 million. I'm sorry, it's negative \$9.517 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Taxation administration, special warrant, \$322,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**MR. KOE:**

Is my understanding correct on this issue? This money is supposed to be recovered from the revenues earned from payroll tax somewhere down the line. Is this program supposed to be a cost recovery program?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, it is part of the administrative cost of the payroll tax, which raises money for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Can you identify the positions of the three PYs?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, there are two compliance officers and a payroll tax auditor for those three PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Taxation administration, special warrant, \$322,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What was your initial PYs for the payroll tax, that came in under the 1993-94 main estimates for \$566,000, before you added on three PYs?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Legislative Assembly took the original three PYs out of the budget and these are the same three PYs coming back in, so there are only three. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Taxation administration, special warrant, \$322,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

On page 13, Finance, O & M, management accounting services, not previously authorized, negative \$1.254 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, negative \$1.704 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Bureau of Statistics, special warrant, \$531,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total department, special warrant, \$1.076 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$14.405 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Page 14, Personnel, O & M, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$2.659 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Job evaluation, not previously authorized, negative \$586,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Staffing, not previously authorized, negative \$95,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Is there a change in this category?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, at the bottom of the page, there is \$1,000 to provide funding for staffing costs associated with the labour review process. As I said yesterday, that \$1,000 will be removed by way of motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

This is just a point. With a billion dollar budget, it just astounds me why we would even put an item of \$1,000 into a supplementary appropriation bill.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Staffing, not previously authorized, negative \$95,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Personnel, O & M, labour relations, not previously authorized, negative \$950,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

The Department of Personnel had been stripped down to bare bones. There is a Minister of Personnel, and I assume there is still a deputy minister -- I don't know if there is an assistant deputy minister and directors. What positions are left in senior management of this department?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, thank you. There is an acting deputy minister. There is a director of staffing and, of course, the regional superintendents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Labour relations, not previously authorized, negative \$950,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

How many staff are left in Personnel headquarters?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is around 40, but I am hoping that the piece of paper that Ms. Mike has just picked up contains the number. I will pass it over to her, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**



Thank you. Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't contain the number. I am looking at the organizational chart. It is about 40.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

So, there are approximately 40 people left in this department. Can you tell me what they are doing? If their only function is for staffing and looking after housing, but you are getting rid of all the houses, can somebody tell me what these 40 people are doing?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, of course there is still housing, otherwise, as the Member says, we are getting out of that. There is still staffing and workforce adjustment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Can I get a breakdown of how many are in staffing, how many are in housing and how many are looking after workforce adjustment?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could provide that information to the Member tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. All right. Labour relations, Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

With that response, I assume that the information is not readily available, but hopefully it will be available. I assume, though, you and your staff and all of the central agencies, are seriously looking at the merits of continuing this department as it exists as a department, and perhaps integrating them into existing departments. I am curious as to what sort of planning is going on to look at the role of the department that is now there.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original plan, when these moves were going to be made, was the Department of Personnel staffing would move into the Executive and be under the Premier. Because this was a monumental move, and we had so much pressure on the system, that was one of the things that wasn't completed at that time, although it is still under active consideration, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Labour relations, not previously authorized, negative \$950,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Employee benefits, not previously authorized, negative \$17.935 million. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Has the transfer of land titles from the federal government to the territorial government taken place? Has the responsibility of land titles registration been decentralized to the regions within our government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the legislation to repeal the federal Land Titles Act was passed by federal Parliament on

June 23, 1993. So, the transfers have legally taken place, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Employee benefits, negative \$17.935 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Total department, negative \$22.225 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

Department Of Justice

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Justice, registries and court services, not previously authorized, \$1.413 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the territorial court, how many judges are involved with the increases for \$97,000?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I don't know, but I know the Minister of Justice is rushing in here right now, so that he can tell us, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Do you want to wait for the Minister to come in and give you an answer? Does the committee wish to wait for the Minister?

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

He's here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Arvaluk, could you repeat your question, please?

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to know how many judges are involved with the salary increase of \$97,000.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**MR. KOE:**

Can we defer this item until the Minister is ready, and deal with the next one?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

You will have to get agreement from the person who asked the question. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

I agree. We can go back as soon as the Minister is ready. Mr. Chairman, perhaps to help the Minister, I will ask three questions and then we'll be able to go back after he find all of them out. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

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**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, my questions are as follows. How many justices are involved in the \$97,000 salary increase? What percentage of individuals are being increased? Is it comparable to the percentage that are on the union pay raise? And, the last question is, how is the raise evaluated? Surely, you don't expect the government to raise their pay on the basis of merit? They are judges. What method do you use to give them a raise? Mr. Chairman, we can come back to them when the Minister is ready. Qujannamiik.

Department Of Safety And Public Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

We will defer page 16 for further discussion and answers. We'll go on to Safety and Public Services, operations and maintenance, directorate, special warrants, \$75,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Public utility board, not previously authorized, \$62,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Just one question, how many consultants are there and what is the value of what the consultants do for the Public Utilities Board?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, during 1992-93, \$200,000 plus was expended on consultant fees. The firm was Steven Johnson Chartered Accountants Limited in Calgary. With the creation of a financial analyst position, we estimate that there will be some cost avoidance of between \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Again, consulting work is going to a consulting firm based in Calgary. Are there no firms that can do this type of work that are located in the north? Or, can they hire the expertise in the north? Has that been looked at?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, yes, that kind of expertise has been looked for in the north, in accounting and in the legal area, as well. Public Utilities Board work is such a specialized field that, to our knowledge, at the present time, we don't have anybody specializing in that field in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Public Utilities Board, not previously authorized, \$62,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$75,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$62,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Public Works And Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, Public Works and Services, operations and maintenance, building and works, not previously authorized, negative \$257,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Utilities, not previously authorized, negative \$243,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Systems and computer services, not previously authorized, \$4,000. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, at the bottom of the page there is an amount of \$3,000. That \$3,000 will be eliminated by way of motion at the end of the supp, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$4,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total department, negative \$496,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Transportation. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

(Microphone turned off)...for certainty if when we agree to the amounts, can we go back and change it or do you have to change it before?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

There is detailed information when we go through the bill and there might be some changes. Transportation, operations and maintenance, directorate, not previously authorized, \$110,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Highway operations, not previously authorized, \$41,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he can provide this answer to me. Do we have any ice roads in the eastern Arctic? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I would defer respectfully to the Minister of Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Chairman, we had an experimental ice road last year between Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. At the present time, there are no ice roads in the eastern Arctic.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Highway operations, not previously authorized, \$41,000. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there are several ice roads in the north and I whether the department has ever looked at, or considered looking at, privatizing the building of ice bridge crossings? Are you looking at that, maybe through your mystery strategy plan, there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at privatization with everything we do in the Department

of Transportation. Ice roads are on the agenda, the same as ferries are, road maintenance, et cetera. It's just a question of taking each contract, case by case. We're also looking at two or three year contracts, versus an annual contract for ice roads. It's an ongoing thing. If an initiative comes up, we're always looking at it, particularly as it relates to cost. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Highway operations, not previously authorized, \$41,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Arctic airports, special warrant, \$646,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$12,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total department, special warrant, \$646,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$163,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Renewable Resources, operations and maintenance, wildlife management, special warrant, \$1.175 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, none. Conservation education and resource development, special warrant, \$3,450,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I thought the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch was a joint venture project, or a project run by the Fort Smith Hunters and Trappers. Can the Minister advise as to who is managing this project? Who's looking after this project?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, there was a contract between the Department of Renewable Resources, Economic Development and Tourism and Hanging Ice Limited. That expired on the 30th of September 1992 and has not been renewed. The Hanging Ice Limited board of directors is comprised of the government and Fort Smith HTA board members. At the present time, the Department of Renewable Resources is operating the facility, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Conservation education and resource development. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

What size buffalo ranch is this? How big? How many buffalo? How successful is this project today?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, going from memory, there were over 100 bison there originally. There were some losses along the way. I know that we had a bull down there one time that went crazy and had to be put down. It destroyed some other animals. There's been some other animals harvested and I believe, at the present time, it's around 100 animals down there, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Conservation education and resource development, special warrant, \$3.450

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million. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

The \$3 million to the TFN for the Nunavut wildlife harvester income support program is part of the land claims agreement. I'm just wondering why this amount wasn't budgeted for previously, knowing that the land claims agreement was signed and sealed? I wonder why this wasn't in the budget before?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, there needs to be certain conditions met by TFN with regard to this support program and those conditions weren't met at the time we put the budget together. Mr. Chairman, when those conditions

were eventually met, we made the payment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Is the \$90,000 and one PY an ongoing position for the traditional knowledge policy? After we approve a PY, it tends to stay around forever. The traditional knowledge study was done a few years ago and a response was finally made by this government which,

I believe, did not have a totally favourable response from the people that worked on it. I'm just wondering what the status is of the PY and the money? Once we approve it here, would it be an ongoing PY and if it is, why?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the funding was to finalize, for Cabinet consideration and tabling in the Legislative Assembly, the GNWT response to the report of the traditional knowledge working group and items of that nature. I don't believe that this is a permanent PY, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

If it is not a permanent PY, I don't understand why it is in this supplementary and it is not qualified here. I am afraid if we have approved this PY, it tends to become permanent. The study is done and the review has been tabled. I am curious as to what the intent here is.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, approving this particular expenditure does not approve this PY forever. It would have to come back into the O & M budget again. So this is merely approving this PY and this particular amount of dollars on a one-time basis, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

If the study is done and the government's response to the study is done, what is the need for an ongoing PY? I believe there is only a need for perhaps a .5 or three quarters of a PY. Is the intent to have this individual on for the full year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are three aspects of this traditional knowledge area that have not yet been addressed.

The first one is the initiative to implement a comprehensive educational and promotional campaign to the general public. As part of the campaign, they want to implement a series of annual awards recognizing the contribution to northern society of holders of traditional knowledge and to reprofile the existing grants and contribution programs to make traditional knowledge initiatives a priority. I think that is due to be finished by March 31, 1994, I believe, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Conservation education and resource development. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were two things. I was going to ask a question about the special warrant for the cost of the outbreak of anthrax at \$1 million. We certainly hope that nothing like this comes again this year. I recognize the fact that these things happen unexpectedly and you can't really plan for them. Given the fact that this outbreak has occurred and we know that anthrax is in the Northwest Territories -- it is certainly in the Hope Lake area or the Hanging Ice area and we know that it is now in that buffalo sanctuary -- is there other monies put aside for combatting this or studying it, or something like that? I recognize that this \$1 million is to beat this, but are there other monies that are going to be put in now for anthrax control, something like forest fire suppression?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, if my memory serves me, there is an anthrax emergency response plan. That was updated on June 20 of this year. Unfortunately, on August 3, the anthrax emergency response plan had to be put into effect. When we checked with the experts in the field, Mr. Chairman, they advised us that conditions were right, humidity-wise, temperature-wise, and the

disease sprang up. When we asked them where the disease came from, they told us that the spores may have been in the ground for 100 years. When asked if there was any anticipation that it might happen again, there was a strong indication that there will be another anthrax outbreak in the Mackenzie sanctuary. In trying to get ahead of this and do what Mr. Whitford is talking about, Mr. Chairman, we propose to spend \$85,000 of this particular funding to vaccinate bulls in the sanctuary in February and March. It will be done by using self-dissolving darts and they will be fired from helicopters. They are telling us that they are using them on the bulls because they are the most vulnerable to this particular disease.

There has also been some work done with the people around Fort Providence. There are volunteers being trained to spot the anthrax in wood bison. For the record, Mr. Chairman, there were 170 bison killed. There were also three moose and three bears in the area, north and east of Fort Providence, that lost their lives to the anthrax outbreak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you. That was very informative.

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While the Minister has his notes in front of him, it seems that it would be an appropriate time to ask, in the area of combat, some of the reading that I have done on the subject indicates that burning is also one of the remedies for getting rid of it, since it is in the soil. I wondered if there any part of that strategic plan would include controlled burning of the prairies, in some areas, to rid of that spore from the habitat that it is in?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the carcasses of the deceased bison were destroyed in that particular manner. I think it was 45 gallons of aviation fuel and a cord of wood. I might point out, though, that out of this \$1 million, there was quite a bit of work generated in that area because there were crews out there taking care of the

carcasses and burning them. Mr. Chairman, yes, the experts tell us that burning does kill the spore. In fact, one of the places that they were burning one bison, the bush caught on fire and caused a forest fire, which we had to go in and fight after it started. We are advised that burning does take care of the spore. Whether or not the Department of Renewable Resources has plans to do burning in that area next year, I don't know, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that we could find out for you. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you. Enough on that particular subject. The special warrant of \$250,000 to enable trappers to prepare for the 1993-94 trapping season says that it is a one-time grant. I gather by that, that it hasn't been done before and it won't be done again. I wondered what was so special about 1993-94 that required a start up grant of \$250,000?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, in 1992-93, it was an extremely poor harvest year. It was caused by an unusual combination of factors, delayed freeze-up, subsequent unsafe ice conditions, low fur prices and low density of fur bearers. The low harvest and subsequent income had reduced the ability of trappers to prepare for the 1993-94 fur trapping season. Because of the low harvest in 1992-93, the trappers' incentive subsidy is based on the trappers' incentive subsidy policy criteria. Obviously, if you didn't do well the year before, you won't get much the year following, Mr. Chairman. So, there were a number of factors, mostly revolving around very poor harvesting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Ministers have the numbers of trappers that this money was able to assist? I assume the money has already been spent, because the season already began some time ago.

There should be some figures now. How many trappers used this program?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, under the trappers' incentive subsidy, there were approximately 1,000 trappers and they received an average grant of some \$350. This particular amount of money will assist 1,200 trappers and they will receive an average one-time grant of some \$400, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Conservation education and resource development, special warrant, \$3.45 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$90,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Policy and planning, special warrant, \$47,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Forest fire management, special warrant, \$9 million. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Can you provide some explanation on what the mutual aid resource sharing agreement is?



**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, it is an agreement that can be between territories and provinces, where resources are moved back and forth between jurisdictions to fight forest fires in other areas of Canada. I'm informed that, upon occasion, this has happened down into the United States, as well, Mr. Chairman. It is a legal agreement. I have a copy of it right here. I would be pleased to send it over to the Member, if he wishes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Forest fire management, special warrant, \$9 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Not previously authorized, \$533,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Forest management, not previously authorized, \$40,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Total department,

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special warrant, \$13.672 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$663,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs, O and M, directorate, not previously authorized, \$165,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Community works and capital planning, special warrant, \$200,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

What's the status of the court appeal related to the sewage lagoon spill in Iqaluit?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, we may need the advice of our law clerk on this. We filed an appeal and now the federal government has cross-appealed. I don't know what a cross-appeal is, Mr. Chairman, but that is the status. We filed an appeal and the federal government has cross-appealed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. I wonder if the legal advisor would like to comment on that?

**LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A cross-appeal, would be the same thing as an appeal. It would mean the Crown would be appealing one of the decisions made by the territorial court judge, probably the sentencing decision made by the judge.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you, legal advisor. Community works and capital planning, special warrant, \$200,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Sport and recreation, special warrant, \$95,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

A special warrant was approved to subsidize the cost of Team NWT's clothing for the Arctic Winter Games. Can I ask the Minister to what company this money went to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

What was the money used for, or to whom was it given?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with regard to team jacket design and manufacture, there was Outcrop in conjunction with Arctic Canada Wholesale, and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation on behalf of Rankin Inlet Fabric Arts and Crafts. The cost was \$135 per jacket. There were 452 jackets for a total cost of approximately \$61,000. Lined wind pants design and manufacture, Polar Parkas. The cost was \$56 per pair. There were 465 pairs, Mr. Chairman, for a total cost of approximately \$26,000.

Sweatshirts, design and manufacture, Outcrop in conjunction with Arctic Canada Wholesale, and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation on behalf of the Jesse Oonark Arts and Crafts Centre. The cost was \$45 each. There were 467 sweatshirts for a total cost of approximately \$21,000. Fanny packs, design and manufacture, Polar Parkas. The cost was \$60 each. There were 450 for a total cost of approximately \$27,000. There was also a promotional program, Outcrop in conjunction with Arctic Canada Wholesale, and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, and that cost was approximately \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Who is Arctic Canada Wholesale?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is a company wholly-owned by the NWT Development Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

When was this company formed?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, at this stage of detail, I would prefer to turn it over to the Minister of ED and T.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I don't have the exact date of when it was formed, Mr. Chairman. However, it is a wholesale company that

has a little store in Toronto, and is working aggressively to promote arts and crafts, and to identify what the public wants and doesn't want. And, they're doing a bang-up job, I may add. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Does the Minister have any numbers as to what kind of bang-up job it is doing? Is there millions, hundreds or thousands?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

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**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I don't have them here, but I'd be only too happy to provide the honourable Member with a complete breakdown, by community, by region and by product, as to what it's selling and what it isn't selling, and I think he'd be amazed to see just how well it's doing. Particularly in Mr. Antoine's area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Sport and recreation, special warrant. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

In terms of the \$95,000, the Minister of Finance mentioned a whole bunch of companies and I didn't get them all. Was Ivalu Arts in that list?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, could the Member repeat the name again, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Koe, could you repeat?

**MR. KOE:**

The company is called Ivalu Arts. They're doing the Arctic Winter Games jackets in Rankin Inlet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, it's an NWT development subsidiary. Ivalu Fabric Arts has the contract to do the jackets, as the Minister of Finance said. Jesse Oonark has the contract to do the sweatshirts. The gentleman from Polar Parkas has the contract to do the rest of it, the pants and the fanny packs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I would like some clarification then. When we did the budget of Economic Development and Tourism and we talked about the \$6 million for the Development Corporation, I asked the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism a question as to whether any other money was going to be given to Ivalu Arts to complete the Arctic Winter Games jackets. I think his response was, not to his knowledge. Now, we're approving a supp where money seems to be going to this company. I would like some clarification, please.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

From the beginning. Historically, Arctic Winter Games uniforms have been supplied from outside, in sweatshops in Toronto and in Montreal. This initiative we recognized from the front end, because I remember writing about this initiative, as an ordinary Member, to the former Minister, Mr. Alloo, that there would be an additional cost. That's what's been done here. When I spoke about any additional cost, it was in relationship to the Department of Economic Development. This is a MACA initiative.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Are there any other departments, then, in this contribution initiatives to this company to do the contract?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

This is not a contribution to this company. This is an additional request for dollars, by MACA, to pay what we knew the additional costs would be, because we're having these uniforms produced across the north and creating jobs in doing it. To my knowledge, there is no other request for funding, as far as I'm aware. It's not specifically to this particular company or that particular company. It's in relationship to the total cost, versus what the original budget was. That's my understanding of it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Sports and recreation. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the Minister could tell us, is the \$95,000 considered to be the whole premium for the cost of getting uniforms made in the Northwest Territories, or were there other costs already built into the budget?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Was that to Mr. Pollard or to Mr. Todd? Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

It's the only premium that I'm aware of, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, in the past, there's been assistance from the Government of the Northwest Territories, but this is the only premium that I know of that's being paid out to enable us to get the...Well, I can give you how it works out, Mr. Chairman.

The total clothing was \$135,000. The athletes' share is 450 multiplied by \$200 for \$90,000. The GNWT subsidy is \$45,000. The promotional program was \$50,000. The total cost to the GNWT was \$95,000. That's the only premium that I'm aware of that we're paying, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm looking for is how many extra dollars we spent on having produced in the Northwest Territories, so then I can then ask what were the number of jobs that we got for those dollars? I'm trying to assess the net economic benefit.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the direct income to arts and crafts producers is estimated at \$90,000. If we use the yardstick of \$10,000 per annum per year as a constant, we will find that we generate nine person years of employment in the Northwest Territories. With regard to the multiplier effect, which is valued at \$1.50 for every contract dollar spent, the further benefits to local economies are approximately \$202,500. Of course, we must not forget the advertising that we hope those northern companies are going to get as our athletes proudly wear their garments that were made in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Minister mentioned that there was \$50,000 for promotion. Perhaps he could outline what sort of activities will

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be undertaken for this \$50,000?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I am stumped and I hope Mr. Todd is not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. I'll direct the question, then, to Minister Todd. I think he seems braced and ready for it.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I don't have the details of what the promotional program is, but it's my understanding that this is a unique opportunity for us to show the Canadian population that we can produce a quality product designed, made and produced in the Northwest Territories. There is a basic, overall campaign before, during and after the games. I can get the details of it, if that's what the honourable Member wants, but I don't have those details at this time. The intent is to take advantage of a national event and to try to get some publicity for the products that we're currently displaying on our athletes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Especially with my background, I appreciate efforts at promotion for products, especially those manufactured in the north. The reason that I was asking that question is, as the Ministers are aware, there's an unsuccessful bidder, who could have also made the jackets in the Northwest Territories, who is quite concerned that they also be given an opportunity for promotion of their full range of products. I wanted to find out if they were being offered an opportunity? That was the purpose of that question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The gentleman, I believe, is Polar Parkas and I understand, as part of the promotion and marketing, that his products are going to be included as part of the strategy. I remember that this was brought to my attention by Mr. Dent several weeks and months ago, in an avalanche of correspondence, as well as from Mr. Koe. It is our intent not to eliminate anybody and we will go about doing our thing on the national stage.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Any other questions to this particular subject? Sports and recreation, \$95,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Municipal operations and assessment, not previously authorized, \$456,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions on this item. I have been to Fort Providence, and compared to other communities, it is not all that big in size. I'm a little bit stunned, knowing other hamlet leases, that we are leasing this for \$84,000. I assume this is per year. That is \$7,000 a month. I want to know the square footage of that office space and how many hamlet employees are working in that office?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, Fort Providence is eligible for 265 square metres of office space, although it only occupies 210.7 square metres.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Then, what is the term of the lease of this office space?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, before we go on, I would respectfully request that I be allowed to change witnesses, if you wouldn't mind, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Voytilla has a Christmas concert to attend this evening and I'd prefer not to keep him from it. I would like to bring in Mr. Alex Dobbins, the Director of Budgeting for FMBS, if that would be acceptable.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Yes, thank you, Mr. Pollard. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Mr. Voytilla for his participation thus far, and I hope he enjoys that concert. Those are the good things in life. Sergeant-at-Arms, assist Mr. Voytilla out when he is ready, and bring Mr. Dobbins in, thank you. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Public Works holds the main lease with Digaa Enterprises Limited for the duration of 20 years, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

My final question, Mr. Chairman, is, knowing that other hamlets in other municipalities pay their leases for buildings and other expenses out of their own O and M formula funding, why is this a special case, under not previously authorized funding? I guess my question, Mr. Chairman, is will this become part of the formula funding in the following year, rather than special funding?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I will take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Dobbins. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. This will be an ongoing payment to the hamlet. The \$84,000 is to provide additional contribution funding to the hamlet of Fort Providence for the lease of hamlet office space. So, the Member is correct, this will be ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

I just need clarification, Mr. Chairman. Why aren't other communities given ongoing funding for their office space, rather they are given formula financing under the new hamlet tenancy criteria that was introduced a year ago, under then Minister Patterson. Will this fit in there, so the government will not have to provide ongoing \$84,000 funding for that community, while other communities don't get that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the community office was built on a lease-back basis. The lease is held jointly by the Fort Providence Metis local and Digaa Enterprises, on behalf of the Fort Providence band council. Then the lease comes into effect which, as I said before, is for 20 years between Public Works and Services and Digaa Enterprises. The hamlet of Fort Providence and the Dene Band Council of Fort Providence are also sub-tenants and they make rental payments to Public Works and Services.

So, I think what I'd have to do, Mr. Chairman, is go back and try to apply the formula that the Member is putting before us, see how it works in this kind of instance and then report back to the Member, Mr. Chairman. I agree, it doesn't seem to be done in ways that other hamlets are treated across the territories, because of different ownership. So, I would ask his indulgence while we crunch some numbers, and bring it back for comparison, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Municipal operations and assessment. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Over the years municipalities have had problems collecting taxes, or money in lieu of taxes from the federal government, what is that status now with municipalities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, is this the federal government grant in lieu of taxes? Okay. Well, we are still pursuing the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. We had a little bit of good news, about six weeks ago, which was that John Rayner, who is with Indian Affairs, had taken up our cause and written a letter to the federal department of Public Works. So, at least DIAND is advocating for us, Mr. Chairman. We're still proceeding to say to the federal government that we believe they owe these monies and they should pay them. I think with DIAND on our side, we'll take this some distance yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

It is too bad the Minister of MACA isn't here. But, to my understanding, there is a team of assessors. The Government of the Northwest Territories has a large assessment office in Yellowknife, two assessors in Hay River and I think there is one in the Baffin. But, there is no one north of Yellowknife. I'm just wondering if the department is looking at reallocating or decentralizing a position to the Inuvik region?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I'll be glad to pass that on to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and advise him of the request. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

It is my understanding that there are about 14 people in the property assessment office in Yellowknife. I'm sure if they were to relocate one it wouldn't have a huge impact on the operations here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

As I said, I'll pass that on to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs who has just returned to the House and may wish to comment on this subject himself.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I do apologize. We're we talking about the position for property assessment? I've already written to the honourable Member on that and we are taking that under consideration with our move toward, dare I say it, Mr. Dent, "decentralization."

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Koe, does that answer your question?

**MR. KOE:**

I haven't received the letter yet. I'm looking forward to it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the \$84,000, if you would bear with me for a second. Is this \$84,000 contribution in the supplementary, over and above what you've already given Fort Providence under the funding formula that everybody gets for office space?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that's what I wanted to check and see. I have to say that I don't believe it is, but I don't know for sure. I would like to check it out, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister then be able to tell us the total cost of the office space/lease rental? Is it \$84,000 plus what they are already eligible for under the funding formula?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

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**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, we'll get that information, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Municipal operations and assessment, not previously authorized, \$456,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, special warrant, \$295,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister please tell me if he will be withholding that expenditure of \$84,000 until he finds out exactly what was eligible under the regular funding formula, and make sure that the government is not spending more than they are supposed to for office space, taking into consideration other communities don't get that kind of special funding under that system.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

I'm sure that Mr. Todd heard the concern, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

I don't know what the \$84,000 is for either, but all the municipalities get the same amount of money to operate their municipalities. The money that I see here is money that the government pays out to the hamlet, or to Digaa Enterprises, to lease office space in that building. They've saved the government at least \$600,000, by virtue of them borrowing the money from the banks to build this building and lease it back to the government. It's not extra money that is used for to operate the hamlets, but it certainly is there for the hamlet to use since it goes back to them, anyway.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister, you look like you want to answer that.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what Mr. Gargan is saying, but I think I understand the question from Mr. Arvaluk, too. I think the Minister of MACA understands as well and we'll get that information to the Members, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. There's assurance that the information will be given to the Members dealing with this item. Municipal operations and assessment, we've done that. Total department, special warrant, \$295,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, \$621,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Department of Health, operations and maintenance, directorate, special warrant, \$54,000.



**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Territorial hospital insurance services, not previously authorized, negative \$56,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, special warrant, \$54,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$56,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Social Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Social Services, operations and maintenance, directorate, special warrant, \$22,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Family and children's services, not previously authorized, \$311,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, special warrant, \$576,650. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. Who manages this contribution agreement program with Health and Welfare Canada and how are decisions made on allocating these funds? I assume these are funds that go to community projects. I'm just curious as to how it's managed and how funds are allocated?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I have the agreement here and it would take me a while to go through and find out who manages or what the agreement calls for, for management. I'll ask the Minister of Social Services while I'm going through it here.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister. Minister responsible for Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the treatment of non-insured services along with the Department of Health. The contribution agreement covers treatment costs incurred by the GNWT to provide alcohol and other drug abuse treatment for Inuit and registered Indians. This is a recoverable program from the federal government. We have to incur the errors and re-invoice the federal government that way.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Mike. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Does this money go to hospitals or does it go to the alcohol and drug treatment centres that are in the Northwest Territories, for alcohol and drug community projects?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister responsible for Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This contribution agreement is to pay for per diem costs and treatment of clients at Poundmaker Lodge in Alberta and White Spruce in Saskatchewan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Again, we have another pot of money, \$576,000, that we're using for services outside of the territories. That's three or four times where we've had huge amounts of money being expended south of our border. I know there's a hell of a lot more, heck of a lot more, excuse my language. I'm sorry, I apologize. My point is, we've been promoting people to buy north, use north, use northern services, and to enhance and develop our own services and programs, and yet, continually, we're signing agreements and letting the money go south. It just doesn't make sense. Especially with the development of two or three new alcohol and drug units in the north. We should be trying to fill the spaces here rather than sending them out, and provide proper services and proper treatment facilities in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, for the GNWT to get the money back, there are three criteria that must be met. The first one is, that the treatment centre not be recognized as an insured treatment centre by the provincial or territorial health ministry. The second one is, the eligible recipient is referred to a treatment centre within a community where she or he does not permanently reside. The third one is, that treatment not be provided by a treatment centre which operates with money through or under the Northwest Territories Agreement, dated March 31, 1988.

So, the eligible treatment centres, as the Minister said, include pound makers, and lodges in Bonnyville, Alberta and White Spruce, Saskatchewan. There may be federal criteria that exclude some of the places in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Chairman, and we'll have to check into that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Before I return to Mr. Koe. The Minister for Social Services indicated that she wanted to respond to part of that question. Minister of Social Services.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do agree with Mr. Koe's suggestion. The Hay River alcohol and drug treatment centre recently opened for clients this fall, and from what I understand, for the first month that treatment centre was fully booked.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

If possible, could I get a copy of that agreement?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

It's on its way, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, \$576,650.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have agreed with Mr. Koe all afternoon, because our

people in the NWT need jobs. And, we need to spend money, as a government, in the territories. I agree 100 per cent. I think this is a very good lesson for this public government, that people in the territories have been asking where the public money is spent. When we look through this particular supplementary appropriation, a substantial amount of money is being spent outside of the NWT. I hope that we, as elected politicians of the NWT, will abide by what the people want, to listen to what people want, and learn from them, and the next supplementary we go through will prove we have learned something. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Not previously authorized, \$37,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

I'm sorry, page 24. We are going to page 25 now. Social Services, community and family support services, not previously authorized, \$3.383 million. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I don't think we want to get into the food scale issue, but I would like to talk about inflationary increase for home care support and contract homes, but not specifically those. There is no item here. There are increases for family and children services, for institutional care and contract homes. There are increases for home care support and contract homes for community and family support services. But there are no inflationary increases for senior citizens' facilities. My question is why?

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I'll have to defer to the Minister of Social Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Minister for Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, these are under grants and contributions contracts. I would have to check why there is no increase for elders' facilities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Yes, there are contract homes that are provided contributions to operate. I'm just wondering why hasn't the department hasn't provided for additional funds? They've done so for all the other contract homes. I don't know if it is an oversight, I'm not sure why they were missed. But, they have ongoing costs and I'm sure inflation has touched them, as it has touched everybody else in the north. Their costs have to be increasing also.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, you know supplementary increases come forward because departments don't have enough money in their budget to do a particular thing, or to cover a particular expense. It may be that the department didn't come forward with increases for senior citizens' facilities because they either had enough money in their budget, or they didn't have any increases, I don't know. But, I'll let the Minister of Social Services answer it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Minister responsible for Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For these particular group homes, the contracts are usually multi-year, over three years, with inflationary increases in the second and third contractual years. That is why there is a supp for them. The increases are required to meet specific terms of existing contracts, for home support programs and group homes for the disabled. They

are delivered through contracts with private contractors who are non profit associations. So, these are usually multi-year contracts. This supp is for the contractors who have had contracts for over three years.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister responsible for Social Services, Ms. Mike. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. I'm aware that they're multi-year contracts. That is what it says here. My concern is what is not here, and those are senior citizen facilities. Can I get an undertaking from the department that they will look into the funds provided for senior citizens' facilities and ensure that they're provided for, enough to carry them throughout the year. I appreciate the Minister of Finance's reasons for why we have supps and I can almost guarantee that we could go to any home and they will tell you they don't have enough money. Can I get an undertaking that you will look into the amount of funding provided to senior citizen's facilities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Community and family support. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the honourable Minister of Finance, how is it the funds are appropriated through this system? Is there a formal request made by the operators of special care homes, what is the process? Looking at this page here, is the money being appropriated through the department? Is it the department that decides that these special home care facilities need some extra funding or is it a formal request coming from the operators of those special homes? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we hear about people not having enough money through different sources but primarily the department responsible for a particular area of government will acknowledge a shortfall in somebody's funding. Then they try to address that, if they think it's warranted and feasible. They usually try and cover the increase in costs from within. If it falls into forced growth or inflation rate, then the department may prepare a supplementary appropriation and submit that to the Financial Management Board. If it fits within the guidelines and as I said, if it's forced growth or inflationary increases then generally the Financial Management Board approves the extra funding, it goes back to the department and then the department deals with the agency, the home, the person, or the people that requested the expenditure in the first place. That's normally how it works, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the ways to find out when the operator is in fact experiencing a shortfall in financing is for the government to monitor these homes. Now, if in fact the government monitors these special care homes, I'm wondering how it is that the department may not have realized the senior citizens' homes were in need of extra funding. Perhaps this is an oversight of the system. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I think what happened here is that, as the Minister said, there was an inflationary clause in the contract that drove the contract up and they came forward for a supplementary appropriation. With regard to other homes that may be housing different kinds of people, they may be on a different contract schedule, they may be on a different kind of funding arrangement. Certainly, if there's a

concern in the House that there are seniors' facilities across the territories, or seniors that are in care across the Northwest Territories who are in need then, as we've said, the Minister of Social Services will look into that aspect and report back to the House at her earliest convenience. Mr. Chairman, I don't think it was an oversight on the part of the department. They reacted to a contract that they had in place and it may be that there may be other contracts with different time frames and different clauses in them that they may have to react to later in the year or early next year. Rest assured, however, that I don't believe it was an oversight that senior citizens were left out. I would imagine it was because of some other reason, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. The chair now recognizes the Member for Iqaluit.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the Minister of Finance has noted that this issue and related issues have been a subject of concern expressed by Members during this session of the Assembly. I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I am pleased to hear his undertaking to review the wages and benefits of workers in elders' facilities. I have to note that there are other non-profit agency employees who are in the same situation as well. I'm sure Mr. Koe didn't intend to exclude them. We have talked, at length, about alcohol and drug workers. I'd now like to raise the questions of the wages and benefits for shelter workers. I don't know that that category of people has been specifically addressed in the House.

Mr. Chairman, compared to having the Government of Northwest Territories offer these vital services in-house with public service employees, delivery by non-profit agencies represents a much more modest cost. I also believe it's often a very much more effective program because it's usually community-controlled and therefore, very appropriate to the area served. I do submit, and I hate to sound like somebody who's always whining that more money be spent because I'm aware of the restraint pressures on our government, but if we keep squeezing these non-profit agencies and expecting them to deliver vital services instead of the government, without offering even inflationary increases, then I fear that the government itself will end up being forced to run these facilities at much greater cost and I would submit, without the same kind of local sensitivity that you find

with the dedicated people who are running these facilities in the non-profit agencies.

I want to note, for the record, that there are other categories of workers, and I will specify the shelter workers, who are in need and should be included in this review that the Finance Minister has committed to. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, would he commit to broadening the review to include other non-profit agency employees delivering services in the social area? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I distinctly heard Mr. Patterson mention wages and benefits, as if I had said that in the House. I'm pretty sure I didn't. I think that what I said is that I would look, along with the Minister of Social Services, to see if there are seniors in need across the Northwest Territories and if there were then we would have a look at that situation. I don't believe I said I would review wages and benefits. I'll check Hansard tomorrow, Mr. Chairman, and I stand to be corrected. Mr. Chairman, I hear what Mr. Patterson is saying, I understand his concerns and we'll look at the situation and see what we can do, but I can't mislead the House and say I'm making a commitment to go and review all wages and benefits of this staff across the Northwest Territories. We'll look at the situation and report back to the House, but I'm not making any commitment to increase those wages and benefits, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. KOE:**

Just clarification on the Minister of Finance's last statements. The undertaking I requested was to look at the operations of senior citizens' facilities, not seniors in need, but the facilities and, included in that, are the wages and benefits and capital needs. All the financing required to manage and run these facilities. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Moving on, community and family support services, not previously authorized, \$3.383 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, special warrant, \$598,650.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, \$3.731 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Page 26, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, operations and maintenance. Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, special warrant, \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance, business development, not previously authorized. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. A total of 2.5 PYs have been approved for the management and collection of loan accounts for the

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Business Credit Corporation. What is the size of the loan portfolio today?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe the loan portfolio is around \$19.5 million, sir.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

What is the amount of outstanding loans?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, it may be as high as \$4.5 or \$5 million. I think the Minister is looking at that area right now, and he has discussed, with myself, bringing forward a write-off bill for the February session. So, unless Mr. Todd has anything further to add, I think that's it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

What we define as "bad debts," I suppose is currently sitting at somewhere -- depending on your definition of a bad debt, I suppose -- between \$4 and \$4.5 million. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Todd. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I assume that the 2.5 PYs are not all -- it says here for management and collection -- required for collection of the \$4.5 million. So, what exactly are the 2.5 PYs going to be used for?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, these people are not only trying to collect loans, they're also having input into when loans are made, to make sure that all the documents are signed, all the documents are filed, the collateral is there, and all the legal agreements are in place, so, in the event of some kind of problem down the road, there is something to fall back on to be able to get some money back.

I think one of the problems, and I'm probably speaking for Mr. Todd, but one of the problems we've seen in the past is maybe all the "i's" weren't dotted and the "t's" crossed. I think the Business Credit Corporation, as it moves further away from the Government of the Northwest Territories and operates on its own, will want to make sure that the loans it is making now are fully secured, registered, and so on and so forth. No, they're not all racing around repossessing cars and buildings and so on, they are doing other things as well, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Maybe they should, then we might not have all these bad debts. There are 2.5 PYs, is one for a manager, one for a loan officer and one for a bill collector? I'm just curious.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The structure, Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, there is a credit collections officer, a credit officer, and a finance officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Business development, not previously authorized, \$263,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Economic development agreement, special warrant, \$3.986 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, special warrants, \$3.986 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, \$263,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance, advanced education, special warrants, \$1.392 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the third paragraph, to provide funding for increased costs associated with student financial assistance, I note from my previous experience -- and I have a lot of brothers and sisters who still go to school -- that the Inuit and Metis students pay taxes on loans and grants. Although you don't tax them at the time, when income tax time comes around, they is a supplementary income line where they pay taxes on these. While, status Indians

don't. Why are aboriginals being treated differently in that respect?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

I would defer to Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Minister responsible for Education.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. Just to clarify the matter, actually the problem exists for status Indians as well as, what you might say, are status Inuit. Generally speaking, the individuals who are not paying taxes at this time are non-status people in the

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Northwest Territories, mainly because the manner by which we provide assistance to those students is through a forgivable loan. Therefore, it is not taxable. What we are now doing, at this particular juncture, is researching how we might bring forward a legal argument to the federal government about alleviating the taxes.

There is also a form that should be filled out by every student, indicating their status. If they are status Indian, there is a tax form that is available to them. What is occurring is most of the students aren't filling out those forms. But, I can assure you, Mr. Arvaluk, that we will be advising all the students this year about those forms that are available, so they can fill them out and have their names registered by the federal Government of Canada, so they don't have to pay taxes on student financial assistance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, then that would go for all students of aboriginal descent?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I'll pose that to the Minister of Education, again.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's difficult to say because there's a problem with the manner in which we recognize...It's not my problem, it is the federal government's problem to deal with the matter of status, differentiating between status Indian and status Inuit. The fact is, despite what you might say are our best efforts, it may be very difficult to excuse, under present legislation, the so called non-status. But, that's not our problem. It is an issue that we have to argue with the federal government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Advanced education. The Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this department there is provision for student financial assistance for the community teacher education program. In the other department, people haven't seen anything to assist students who are taking social services programs, in Arctic College, mechanics or vocational training. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, have there not been any requests from other students who are taking other programs, other than the community teacher education program? If there have been some requests, why have those requests not been considered by the government? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I stand to be corrected by the Minister of Education, but I understand this is because the enrolment has been exceeded beyond the budgeted amount. I think it has exceeded the original enrolment projections by some 86 people. I think that's the reason, it's a volume increase. I'll let the Minister answer further, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**



Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of dealing with this particular matter, it was a conscious decision, the policy initiative -- on the part of previous governments -- that one aspect that we would be focusing on, in terms of training to alleviate the so called transiency in our workforce, was to try to reach 50 per cent of the educators in the Northwest Territories by the year 2000. That would mean that we would have to have an additional 500 aboriginal teachers in the Northwest Territories. We're well on our way, but one of the aspects that was necessary was for us to provide an additional incentive to the interns who were enrolled in the community and campus-based teacher education program, in order for us to meet the policy direction that we had embarked upon.

The other thing was that there has to be recognition that many of the individuals that we're talking about classroom assistants, or those who have originally been in the teacher program and, in fact, were working in the department. By taking them out of their salaried positions, we reduce the amount of income for those individuals. As a result of that, we had to find the additional resources so we could provide assistance to these individuals.

In terms of years of service, for instance for the TEP program, the total academic year alone was as a loan, a post-secondary loan. That was the basis on which we are providing the additional incentive.

Mr. Chairman, that's not to suggest we won't consider the possibility of changing the student financial assistance program, but we did make changes last year that improved it for aboriginal students. We have done that already. It took away a bit from the non-aboriginal students, but we were able to -- without much difficulty -- exceed this year, by significant numbers, the total projected number of applicants who applied for our programs. Through the changes, we have made very significant advances in our programming.

I recognize the concern that was raised, but all of it rests with whether we had the resources, the extra dollars. If I recall correctly, there have been other suggestions made to us as to where our priorities should be. So, it's all part of those discussions, that we have to consider, in making any decisions of providing additional resources, where we have the financial powers to do so.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Member for Natilikmiot.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say that I think it's a wonderful way to encourage the residents of the NWT to further their education and be part of the workforce in a very important career, especially in teaching. I hope that some day we will be able to expand the program to other areas for students who are taking the social worker program, students who are in vocational training and any other areas of careers. I hope when we are able to afford this, we will expand. In fact, there have been some requests.

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I received a call from Fort Smith when I was in Pelly Bay over the summer. One of the students who were taking the other programs found out that the government was providing this special assistance to students who are taking the community teacher education program. He was wondering if he was eligible for this. I promised this student that I would bring the matter before the House, and that's what I did. Thank you.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Advanced education. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment on the student financial assistance program, resulting in increased enrolment for community teacher education programs. I have received correspondence and phone calls from my constituents who are attending college in Smith. The problem arises there from -- I think this is the area they have a problem -- some of the students who are not in teacher education programs, such as social services and other areas in management, they all have the same type of financial assistance from the government to go to school. They are all aware that the people in the teacher education programs get more funding than they receive and they see that as unfair. The funding from this government should be fair to students. This is the point that has been raised to me. I think all the Members received a copy of a letter from some of the students in that area.

I would like to say that this is a good incentive for the student teachers who are going to be eventually coming out of this program but, at the same time,

there is an element of unfairness for the other students who are in the same program. Being an adult student, it's difficult to go back with limited funds. You see somebody getting more money than you are while you're going to school, doing practically the same thing, it's makes it an additional difficulty. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of this problem, and has he responded to this problem that has arisen as a result of this initiative of the government? If he has, then what kind of action is he going to take to try to satisfy the other students who are in other programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm obviously aware of the problem now. I think it came up at the Standing Committee on Finance last week. I don't know what we can do about it, Mr. Chairman, but we will look into it, see what the problem is and whether or not it can be fixed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Nahendeh. Advanced education, not previously authorized, \$1.043 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Culture, not previously authorized, \$162,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Schools, not previously authorized, \$880,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, special warrant, \$1.392 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, \$2.085 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

NWT Housing Corporation, capital, special warrants, \$9.97 million. The chair recognized the Member for Inuvik.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the \$9.9 million addition, the total appropriation for the Housing Corporation is \$41 million, roughly. My question is, is this \$41 million enough to cover the 1993-94 program, or will we be looking at another supp sometime during the year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$9.735 million will pick up with slack in the area of funding for 55 access units, 135 access units for a home improvement program, and for some 132 home owner assistance units that were started between 1984 and 1991 that needed to be completed. As far as I know, unless the Minister has anything to add, it would appear that the Housing Corporation would be fully funded until the end of this fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.,

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. NWT Housing Corporation, \$9.97 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, \$9.97 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Personnel, capital, staffing,

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special warrant, \$102,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Again, I'd like to raise the issue, on one hand we're getting out the business of staff housing, then we're coming in with a supp for ten houses and staffing houses in other communities, and some major communities. Are we being consistent in the strategy of this government, in terms of dealing with staff housing?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, we're trying to be consistent, but as you move across the territories, you get different situations and different crises. So, every once in a while you have to go back to the way you were doing it before. I think each time we do this kind of thing, we make a conscious decision that it's not, perhaps, the direction that we're trying to head in all across the Northwest Territories but, nevertheless, it needed to be done. In general, we're trying to get out of staff housing, but there will be times, Mr. Chairman, when we're going to have to get involved again just because of the local situation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

In terms of furnishing houses, to my knowledge when we get rid of a house, the tenants have an option to buy the furniture. If they don't, it goes back to the government. I'm just curious why we're spending \$182,000 on new furniture for these units. I'm curious whether there was other furniture available that could have been used to furnish these units.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I don't believe so, although this question has been asked at the Standing Committee on Finance, if I'm not mistaken. I may have already sent a letter to the Standing Committee on Finance, but there are two areas that we're presently looking at. One is, what do we do with our old computers? Two, what do we do with our old furniture? As soon as I have that information, I'll supply it to the Standing Committee on Finance. I also think Mr. Koe would like a copy of that, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Staffing, \$102,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Not previously authorized, \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Total department, \$102,000. That's a special warrant for \$102,000. Not previously authorized, \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Justice

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Justice, page 32, capital, court services, special warrants, \$258,000. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. I think I asked this last year on a similar issue. Is the courthouse a leased building or is that owned by this government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

The courthouse is a leased facility, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Obviously, then, this government is responsible for leasehold improvements, that's why this budget item is here?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Minister of Finance.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

It would appear that way, Mr. Chairman, yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Court services, special warrants, \$258,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Total department, \$258,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Public Works And Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Public Works and Services, capital, accommodation services, special warrant, \$69,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, \$190,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Buildings and works, special warrant, \$492,000. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

I just want to get some clarification with regard to...I'm not too sure whether this is the area in which to address it, but it's with regard to government charters.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister. We can't hear. Mr. Minister would you...Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I was just suggesting whether or not...I wanted to address the whole issue of government charters. I was just wondering if this was under this item that I could do that, but it doesn't look like I'm in the right place.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I believe that would be under Personnel. Buildings and works, \$492,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Public Works and Services, capital, petroleum products, special warrants, \$631,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total department, \$1.192 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$190,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Transportation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Transportation, capital, Arctic airports, special warrants, \$236,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, \$198,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Transportation planning, special warrants, \$2.9 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$386,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Transportation, capital, total department, special warrants, \$3.136 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

There is an item that says to carry over unexpended funds for Lutsel K'e airport, new airport development. Was the contract not completed last year? Is that why this money is there? Or is this new money to complete the contract?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were unexpended funds in the 1992-93 fiscal year. They were in the amount of \$386,000. The department requested to carry it over into the 1993-94 fiscal year. That is the supp you are looking at right now, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total department, \$3.136 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$584,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Renewable Resources, capital, conservation education and resource development, special warrant, \$58,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Forest fire management, \$60,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Total department, \$110,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

Page 615

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Special warrant, pardon me. Municipal and Community Affairs, capital,

community works and capital planning, special warrants, \$2.893 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, special warrants, community planning, \$424,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Sport and recreation, special warrants, \$455,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, \$685,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Municipal and Community Affairs, capital, special warrants, total department, \$3.772 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$685,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Health

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Health, capital, territorial hospital insurance services, special warrants, \$735,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Merci. Not previously authorized, negative \$1.98 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$735,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Not previously authorized, negative \$1.98 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Social Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Social Services, capital, family and children's services, special warrants, \$450,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Alcohol, drugs and community mental health, special warrants, \$2.689 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Page 43, of the supplementary appropriation. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Yellowknife is required to meet health and safety standards, as a result of ongoing spring flooding. Am I on the wrong page?

---Laughter

Page 23?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Page 43, Social Services, capital, special warrants, total department, \$3.139 million. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

It sounded different on TV. This item has been a long-standing issue. What are they doing to this for \$50,000? This is the basement, of what used to be the old receiving home, that keeps filling with water. There is a lake underneath. What are we doing for \$50,000 per year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

We are spending money. Mr. Minister.

---Laughter

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, this is the beginning of a fix to the building, which will eventually cost \$295,000. It is estimated that the \$50,000 will complete some preliminary work this year. There will be a requirement for \$245,000 in

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1994-95. The project was initially established in March, 1991. There was \$180,000 approved through an internal reallocation. That amount was carried over into 1991-92 and \$35,000 was spent on the project. The initial intent, Mr. Chairman, was to add a second story to replace inhabited areas currently located below the water table. Work on these renovations did not proceed, as there was no guarantee that this would resolve the problem. The remaining \$145,000 has been carried over since 1991-92 and it is currently in the department's 1993-94 budget. The total projected cost is \$440,000, which leaves, as I said before, some \$295,000, of which \$50,000 we are dealing with right now. The recommended option was an expansion to the main level of the existing building for the treatment and education program. This offered the most cost-effective solution, since alternate accommodation was not required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to be an ongoing saga with this building. If the records were looked at, you would see that, previous to 1991, a lot of money had been spent renovating that building. It still didn't correct the problem and we are prepared to put another \$250,000. So we end up with \$500,000 just in stop-gap measures. I would question the thought behind trying to salvage a building that is sitting on top of a stream. You're going to have this problem continuously, regardless of whether you put a basement on top of a basement. I just wonder if the cost-benefit of spending \$500,000 on a building, that initially cost somewhere around the neighbourhood of \$50,000, is a wise investment of our money? I would certainly ask the Minister of Finance, who is a very frugal person, to examine this very closely to see

whether or not we're throwing good money after bad. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, the plan is to demolish and replace the existing building, not including the addition that we're talking about right now. This would result in a new treatment centre, constructed in two phases, and that includes this addition we're talking about at the present time. The funding for the second phase has been incorporated into year five of the department's 20 year capital forecast. Mr. Chairman, I think there are a lot of people around who know how much money has gone into this particular centre, so DPW has now come up with a plan to add on a little addition, knock down a part of it, and replace it in two phases. I think that, perhaps, we won't be throwing the money away. At least, I hope we won't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Social Services, capital, special warrants, total department, \$3.139 million. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, over the year, how much has been pumped into this building to renovate it, pump it out, and do whatever they're doing to it? It must be a tremendous amount of money. We could have built ten buildings.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

I believe the same question was asked at the Standing Committee on Finance, and right now, we have 25 accountants out there trying to add the numbers up, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just joking, I don't mean that. As soon as we have the number together, of the amount of money that has been put into this building over the last five or ten years, we'll provide it to the Standing Committee on Finance and Mr. Koe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**



Thank you. Total for this page, Social Services, special warrants, \$3.139 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Economic Development and Tourism, capital, tourism and parks, special warrants, \$229,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Total department, special warrants, \$229,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment Programs

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Page 45, Education, Culture and Employment, capital, advanced education, special warrants, \$396,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Culture, not previously authorized, negative \$45,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Page 46, Education, Culture and Employment, capital, schools, special warrants, \$2.097 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):** Not previously authorized, negative \$5.802 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Education, Culture and Employment, capital, page 47. Special warrants, total department, \$2.493 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Not previously authorized, negative \$5.847 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I think there were some questions to be answered. I hear Mr. Koe saying page 16, but I think it was in Justice that there were questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Okay. Are you referring to page 16, Mr. Koe?

**MR. KOE:**

Yes, my colleague Mr. Arvaluk asked three questions and I think they deserve an answer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence that we go back to page 16, in order to accommodate Mr. Arvaluk?

Department Of Justice

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We will wait for Mr. Arvaluk for a few minutes and if the Member doesn't show up, maybe Mr. Gargan can ask the question on behalf of Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, can I ask that we go back to Personnel?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, we will deal with page 16, and then we will ask the committee if they want to go back to Personnel. Of course, they will probably say yes. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions were from page 16, under item three, territorial judge salary increase of \$97,000. How many judges are involved here, and what is the percentage of their salary increases? Also, what criteria do they use to justify the increases? I'm sure, because they are judges,

that they are not on a merit basis, I would like to know what the criteria is.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Pollard, would you like to answer that question, or do you want to assign them to the appropriate Minister?

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Kakfwi has that information for the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Minister for Justice.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, there are five judges on the territorial court. The percentage increases came in two stages. We increased the judges' base salaries by 4.9 per cent, effective April 1, 1992 and we increased their base salaries by a further 3.09 per cent, effective April 1, 1993. As well, we increased their salaries, retroactive to what was agreed to in the collective agreement: zero per cent and then 1.8 per cent for 1992-93 and 1993-94, to provide economic increases in line with the other groups.

The increase in their salaries in 1994-95 and future years will be according to the annual economic increases awarded to deputy ministers. But, we recognized that the judges were working much longer hours, under more trying conditions than their southern counterparts, and with a greater workload. As well, they take a lot of time to participate and work with local justice committees. Given the larger than average workload, we suggested that the territorial judges should be paid in the upper range of judicial salaries across Canada. Their wages should be comparable to the senior managers in government, that is, to deputy ministers.

We have moved up in the bracket salary-wise for judges at this level, to a level comparable to and perhaps a little better than in most jurisdictions in Canada, considering the cost of living, the workload, and the working conditions these judges work under. So, it has caught up and is in line with senior managers, or deputy ministers. It has caught up and stays in line with it, based on inflation and whatever increases we give on an annual basis.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. We are back on page 16. Justice, operations and maintenance. Are there any further questions on this page? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Gargan has requested to go back to page 15, I believe, to Personnel. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that we go back to page 15 and accommodate Mr. Gargan? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

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**MR. GARGAN:**

I would just like to get some clarification. I would like to ask does the department of Personnel have an arrangement with local airlines here, contractual arrangements? I guess the preference would be, when you're in Yellowknife, you charter people from Yellowknife?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of companies in the Northwest Territories that the Government of the Northwest Territories charters. I guess, is Mr. Gargan asking that when you're in Yellowknife, the preference is to charter Yellowknife companies? Is that the question? Regardless of what the use of the charter is, or what its destination is? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Gargan, would you like to repeat the question?

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I need to charter my pages back tomorrow. I've requested Air Providence and the department is saying, "No, we have a contractual arrangement with a local airline here, and you'll have to use them." That's the reason I was wondering where you draw the line, with regard to local preference and outside preference?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I can understand how that would be somewhat frustrating to the Member. I'm not aware of the situation, so I would respectfully request the Member to perhaps see me after or see Mr. Morin after the session this evening, and we'll try to work out the problem, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does that answer your question, Mr. Gargan? Okay. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

I would like to ask Mr. Gargan if he has concluded his questioning on this particular page. Thank you. Does the committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 is concluded? Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Chairman, I made a commitment yesterday that the special warrants would be rescinded. I have the document before me. FMB dealt with the issue this morning, and the Commissioner signed it shortly after that. So, I just want to confirm to the committee that the special warrant was rescinded, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Minister. Do we have the agreement of the committee agree that Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, now we'll go into detail. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Before we get into clause by clause, can we get a revised schedule, because there are a significant amount of changes. If we can get a revised schedule, it would help.

Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Who provides the revised schedule? We should ask him. Thank you, I am told that, at the appropriate time, the revised schedule will be provided. Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94, clause one.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause two.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik. Clause three.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause four.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause five.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause six.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause seven.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause eight.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Schedule. Mr. Pollard.

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Committee Motion 80-12-(4) To Amend Schedule To Bill 6, Carried

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the schedule to Bill 6 be amended:

a) by reducing the amount set out opposite vote 1, item two, by \$694,000 to \$38.939 million;

b) by reducing the amount set out opposite vote 1, item five, by \$1,000 to \$22.226 million;

c) by reducing the amount set out opposite vote 1, item eight, by \$3,000 to \$499,000;

d) by reducing the amount set out as total operations and maintenance by \$698,000, from \$36,552,650 to \$35,854,650; and,

e) by reducing the amount set out as total supplementary appropriations in parts one and two by \$698,000 from \$55,590,650 to \$54,892,650.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. 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

Schedule, part one, vote 2, capital, total capital, \$19.068 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Part two, vote 1, operation and maintenance, total operation and maintenance, \$35,854,650.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Total supplementary appropriation in parts one and two, \$54,892,650.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Schedule as amended, agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that this schedule, as amended, is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. As amended. Not yet. Does the committee agree that this bill is ready for third reading, as amended? Now you can clap.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

What's next now? Committee Report 10-12(4). Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 10-12(4): Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions Review Of The NWT Power Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

This is committee report 10-12(4). The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions review of the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The other day I made some opening remarks regarding the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. I don't intend to read all the details in this report so I would like unanimous consent from this Assembly to accept our report and consider it as read and recorded into Hansard.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. May I have the agreement of the committee that Mr. Koe, the chairman of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions will not read and we will accept the report as read, for the record.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Introduction

In December 1991, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions tabled a workplan in the Legislative Assembly. One of the projects in this work plan was a comprehensive review of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. On November 25, 1992, the committee held public hearings in Yellowknife related to the review. Presentations were given by the Minister responsible for the

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NWT Power Corporation, the chairperson for the corporation and senior corporation staff. Witness representation was also received from the

Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) and the chairperson of the Public Utilities Board.

In February of 1993, the committee, divided itself into sub-committees, held a number of public hearings. Hearings in Inuvik on February 2 focused on planning activities and policies for research, evaluation and development. The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, the chairperson of the corporation and senior corporation officials attended the hearings. A presentation was also made by the Union of Northern Workers on privatization of the corporation.

On February 2, open meetings were held in Cape Dorset focusing on community input and customer services. The hamlet of Cape Dorset made a presentation.

Public hearings to discuss the corporation's physical holdings and the capital planning process were held on February 4 in Iqaluit. Directors and senior corporation officials appeared as witnesses. The MLA for Iqaluit, Dennis Patterson, and a member of the Union of Northern Workers also made presentations.

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions would like to thank the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, Minister responsible for the Power Corporation; Jim Robertson, chairperson of the corporation; and the other corporation officials for their presentations and responses to committee Members' questions and concerns. The standing committee also wishes to extend its appreciation to the many witnesses who appeared before the committee. The many comments received were very helpful to the committee in this review.

Observations And Recommendations

Role Of The Minister

The committee has a concern about the role of the Minister in the operations and planning of the corporation. The committee was told that the Minister is kept up to date with the activities of the corporation. The Minister is also advised of any major expenditures and is given a five year operation plan.

The Minister has an important role as a link between communities and the corporation. Particularly, in the eastern Arctic, residents feels that the current Power Corporation board is not responsive to their concerns. Citizens should be able to rely on the Minister to

support them in raising these concerns with the board. The Minister must have enough involvement and influence to be accountable for the performance of the corporation and its responsiveness to the people of the territories.

Another role for the Minister is related to the clarification of evaluation of assets. There was conflicting information provided to the committee regarding the value of assets, for example, power plants. The Minister should be responsible for clarifying these values.

#### Use Of Franchise Agreements In Communities

The Power Corporation has been attempting to have all communities sign franchise agreements. These agreements set out the relationship between a community and the utility which is to operate in that community. The committee recognized that the number of franchise agreements signed could have an effect on privatization. However, they were concerned about the impact of these agreements on encouraging choice in utilities and an open market. The committee only supports the concept of franchise agreements if there is still opportunity for consideration of alternative energy sources by communities.

The NWT Association of Municipalities advised the committee that they have negotiated a standard municipal franchise agreement with the corporation. The standard agreement provides a base for each municipal council from which they can work to ensure that all issues of importance to their community have been addressed. The association is encouraging its members to implement the agreements.

#### Plants - Location And Upgrading

In public hearings, the committee heard many questions and concerns about the location of plants. The Members would like the corporation to be sensitive to the concerns of communities in determining plant locations. This will include balancing concerns about noise and other types of pollution with the need for central locations to take advantage of waste heat opportunities. It is important for the corporation to share the rationale for site selection at the local level so residents are informed and involved in the decision-making process.

The Power Corporation was purchased for \$53 million. Since 1988, the corporation has spent \$70 million funds to upgrade or replace aging plants and

equipment. The five year plan also indicates that the corporation will continue to pay \$70 million in each of the next five years into the future to replace assets. The committee has two major concerns with the upgrading of assets.

The explanation received from the corporation regarding why they use a mixture of equipment was not clear to the committee. The Members were told that the corporation does not use just one supplier because that puts them in a situation of dealing with a monopoly. The corporation suggested that spreading their business around left them in a better position if one of the suppliers did not work out.

However, in the opinion of the committee, it would be normal business practice to find the supplier who would provide the best combination of product, service, reliability and price. The committee feels it is not cost-effective to give bits of work to a variety of dealers rather than a large order to one. They also feel that this mixture of equipment makes it more difficult for the operators to obtain replacement parts and generalized training.

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#### Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends:

That the Power Corporation continue to standardize equipment in plants across the Northwest Territories.

The committee also had a concern about the technology being installed in the new plants. It is important to take advantage of the efficiencies of new technologies to make the best use of our resources. However, it is also important that the technology purchased should be suitable for use in our communities. This means ensuring it can be operated and maintained by northern people. The committee feels it is important that technology be purchased to meet a need, not just for the sake of having the latest technology.

#### Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends:

That the Power Corporation ensure the equipment purchased for plants uses technology appropriate to the needs and expertise of local employees and residents.

## Energy Conservation And Alternate Energy Options

The corporation has dedicated two people to work on energy conservation issues. However, the committee feels the corporation should not just encourage people to use energy wisely. The corporation should also identify new efficient sources of energy. The committee believes the corporation has not adequately explored alternate energy options.

There are other alternate sources of energy currently being explored in other parts of the world. Some of these new sources could be explored for the territories including water, power, solar energy, harnessing the power of the wind through windmills, and the use of slow burning wood pellets. Given the combination of cold weather and extended dark winters, northerners consume massive amounts of energy for heating and lighting. It is crucial that the suppliers of energy are actively involved in identifying new energy sources.

The committee feels that the Government of the NWT (GNWT) should take the lead role in the area of energy management. People need to know about potential options. Cheaper or more independent power sources should be explored. The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources' energy management initiatives do not appear to be visible or effective.

### Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends:

That the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources substantially revise its energy management initiatives so as to promote better community awareness and involvement.

The committee also feels the government should be doing more to encourage innovative thinking towards the issue of energy use and development. One possibility is to consider establishing a new energy management incentive program.

The corporation indicated that it is working on a new billing system for people living in social housing to indicate how much energy is used. The committee suggests that this be approached with care and caution. The billing system for GNWT employees appears to be inconsistent and the Members would like to see the corporation ensure

these inconsistencies do not appear on the social housing billing statements.

## Environmental Contaminants

The committee was pleased to hear about the work that the corporation is doing to control environmental contaminants. The committee encourages the corporation to continue this work. Members suggest that the corporation also step up the use of used oils and look carefully at the disposal of fuel drums on an urgent basis. It is also suggested that the corporation find a way of separating contaminants by type to allow used materials to be reused.

## Research And Development

The committee is disappointed with the Power Corporation's approach to research and development. The corporation indicated that it is not in the research and development business. Instead, it relies on the public domain, including agencies such as the Science Institute, to identify new innovations. One characteristic of a strong progressive company is a dedicated expenditure (generally two per cent of gross expenditure) towards research and development.

Energy development and management has been identified in the Legislative Assembly as one of the challenges for the north as we move towards the year 2000. There are many technical challenges in the area of energy development and use that are unique to the north. The corporation should not have a closed mind when looking at problems and creative solutions to those problems. It needs to take a more active and progressive approach to research and development. As a starting point, a program to assess the equipment and technology used in plants in relation to new developments and northern needs is required.

### Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends:

That the Power Corporation develop a research and development program to explore options and solutions which allow technology to better meet the challenges of the north.

## Use Of Northern Business, Labour And Materials

The Power Corporation is not bound by the policies of the GNWT such as the business incentive policy and



the northern preference policy. However, it does have its own northern preference policy. The committee understands that the

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corporation is operating as a business and must focus on a fair return for shareholders. There was acknowledgement that the corporation has improved its dealings with local contractors.

However, the committee believes that, while it is a public corporation, the NWT Power Corporation should follow the same rules to encourage the northern economy as a government department would. There should be a commitment to the economic development and growth of local suppliers.

The committee would also like to see this emphasis on hiring northern firms extended to contract policy and the use of consultants. Whenever possible, the corporation should use northern contractors.

#### Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and

Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation be required to follow Government of the Northwest Territories policies relating to the use of northern businesses, labour and materials.

#### Use Of Contract Workers

The corporation informed the committee that there are nine people currently operating the plants under contractual agreements. Apparently, the practice is to hire two contract workers on a part-time basis and have them cover for each other. The committee Members have a concern with this practice. It is recognized that the corporation must staff each facility, as the size of plant and type of equipment requires. However, the committee has a concern about the apparent lack of equity between long-term permanent workers and long-term contract workers.

In many cases, the Corporation has decided that there is not sufficient work for a permanent full-time worker and instead uses an individual for many years on contract. Problems arise when these long-term contract workers hit retirement age. Unlike their permanent counterparts, they have no pension benefits after years of faithful service. These individuals are often unaware, until they actually retire, that they have not been building retirement equity through their employment. The committee wants the

Corporation to review the situations where long-term contract people are used and explore other options for these workers.

#### Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation ensure fairness to long-term contract workers by reviewing alternative employment methods which would allow greater parity between these workers and permanent employees.

#### Affirmative Action

The Power Corporation indicated during hearings that it has an affirmative action policy. However, based on these discussions, past experience, and the statistical information provided, the committee does not feel there is a commitment to affirmative action by the corporation. The proportion of affirmative action employees within the corporation is far below the proportion of these people in the workforce. There was little evidence of any serious effort on the part of the corporation to develop programs or activities which would support affirmative action employees or potential employees in exploring employment options.

#### Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation take the following steps to promote the hiring and promotion of northern people:

1. Adopt an affirmative action policy which is consistent with the government's affirmative action policy.
2. Include reference to the corporation's affirmative action policy in all job advertisements.
3. Annually table a numerical summary, in the Legislative Assembly, of the affirmative action status of all Power Corporation employees.
4. Table an affirmative action plan in the Legislative Assembly during the February/March 1994 session, indicating specific programs for increasing the employment of northerners by the corporation.

The committee feels there is not an open process when the corporation fills its positions. Too often, the corporation brings in existing corporation employees rather than considering local residents who could do the job. Committee Members related specific

examples of local people being overlooked to hire an existing employee from another location.

#### Recommendation 8

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that all positions within the Power Corporation be filled, using an open competition process which does not give current employees priority over local residents.

#### Education And Training

Committee Members consider education and training of employees to be key to the success of the corporation. They are not satisfied with the corporation's approach to this important area. When questioned about efforts in this area, the corporation did not really address the needs of individual operators. As well, the committee was told that the corporation generally prefers to buy southern training packages and adapt them to its needs.

The committee feels there should be more ongoing, consistent support of operators in the form of short courses, which allow them to keep their skills sharp. The operators tend to be jack-of-all-trades and can benefit from short refresher courses in many areas. Opportunities should also be provided for existing staff who wish to pursue apprenticeships with the corporation. Many operational staff have skills which provide a strong base for work towards a journeyman's certificate.

#### Recommendation 9

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and

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Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation develop a training program for all operational staff which provides regular, ongoing opportunities for professional development, including apprenticeship opportunities.

The committee is not happy with the purchase of southern training resources by the corporation. The concern is not with the technical information contained in these courses; the concern is that they were prepared for employees who have English as a first language, and who are geographically situated closer to support services than many northern plant operators. If southern materials are to be used as a base, it is crucial that they be reviewed and modified to reflect the isolated working conditions operators

face, and the reality that English is the second language for many of the operators.

Arctic College has proven that it is capable of working with a third party to develop a relevant and useful education program, and has specific experience in creating courses for northern residents. The committee would like to see the corporation work with Arctic College, developing courses which address the training needs of its northern employees and support its affirmative action initiatives.

#### Recommendation 10

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation work with Arctic College to develop or identify training courses, as required, to support the corporation's affirmative action initiatives.

#### Housing Policy

The committee also encourages the corporation to look closely at its housing policy. Members indicated that, in many of the small and medium-sized communities, the corporation staff are in homes built in the 1950s. There is a need for structural inspections and recognition of the age of the units in setting rents and sale prices.

The committee must comment on the move of the headquarters operation to Hay River. Originally, the corporation indicated that no more than 45 positions would be moving to Hay River. In the summer of 1993, there were 73 positions located in the Hay River headquarters. The committee considers this apparent growth in a headquarters operation unacceptable.

#### Recommendation 11

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation review its headquarters establishment to determine whether some headquarters functions could be more effectively and efficiently delivered in the field, and report its findings to the Legislative Assembly by March 31, 1994.

#### Service Levels

In its public hearings, particularly in the eastern part of the territory, the committee heard that the level of service provided by the NWT Power Corporation was not as good as it should be. Regular travel by senior corporation officials is a good first step in observing

what is happening in communities. However, the corporation needs to give more thought on how to sample service levels. At this point, the corporation is doing more public relations work than community consultation. There needs to be a mechanism for people to comment on both the service level and on policies which impact on that service. Members would like to see the corporation be creative in their approach, finding alternatives beyond a written questionnaire.

There is a need for a clear and concrete way for people to express their concerns with the corporation's service. However, it is not enough to have a plan for receiving concerns on paper at corporation headquarters in Hay River. It is also important that people are aware of the opportunity and understand how to make themselves heard.

It is important that, whatever system the corporation develops for hearing concerns, businesses are also able to express concerns. For example, there currently is a discrepancy in the use of demand meters versus regular meters for small businesses. However, there is no clear avenue for small business people to relay their concerns and frustrations to the corporation.

#### Recommendation 12

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the Power Corporation develop a more effective system which allows local residents and businesses to comment on the level of service being provided in their community, and ensure that residents and businesses are aware of the system and how to use it.

#### Privatization

The possibility of the privatization of the Power Corporation was raised with the committee late in the review process. Due to the wide-ranging implications this could have, the committee has decided to consider this proposal as a separate issue from the review of the current operations of the Power Corporation.

#### Comprehensive Response By The Executive Council

#### Recommendation 13

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that, in accordance with Rule 93(5), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to all recommendations

contained in this report within 120 calendar days of the presentation of this report to the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, committee, even though some Members wanted me to read it all. We have some recommendations in the report and I would like to deal with those recommendations now, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Continue, Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 81-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

The first recommendation, on page four of the Page 624

report, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation continue to standardize equipment in plants across the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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):**

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 82-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. Recommendation number two, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation ensure the equipment purchased for

plants uses technology appropriate to the needs and expertise of local employees and residents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. GARGAN:**

Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what exactly this means. If an employee is an engineer II or an engineer I, does the equipment that we order have to be brought down to his level as opposed to using the most modern type of equipment and training those people to reach up to that level instead of... because it's pretty hard to turn back the years but is that what it means, really?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Koe, would you clarify?

**MR. KOE:**

Today's technology is changing rapidly throughout the Northwest Territories. We found that there was much old and antiquated equipment but in other communities with new plants there is very high-tech, modern equipment. There are some communities in the east which have such high tech equipment and temperature controls in the plants, that even the operators themselves don't know how to control the temperatures in these buildings so they have to get experts from down south or somewhere else. All we're saying is that with the new technology, they either have to train the operators to be able to run them or else bring them to a level that people can understand so they can manage the facilities. I'm not sure which specific communities it was but there were two communities we went to -- Tony, maybe you can help me -- where they had to get the manuals out to set the temperature controls inside. The problem is that all the manuals are in English and the unilingual operators couldn't read the manuals so they had to bring someone in from somewhere else.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Whitford, I believe Mr. Koe wants you to extend a little bit from here.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we did attend a plant, I believe it was Whale Cove, that had moved its plant

from the centre of town to the outside of town. They added quite a lot of very modern equipment, I wouldn't say tele-metering but it was linked so that it could be operated remotely. We heard expressions of concern by the operator that it was very technical, very sophisticated, and that it was very difficult without the ability to read the manuals and learn about it because it was not printed in Inuktitut. I'm not sure whether this is an option that can be arrived at. What we're doing here is making sure that the corporation is aware of those concerns for the betterment of the communities. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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):**

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 83-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. Recommendation number three, I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources substantially revise its energy management initiatives so as to promote better community awareness and involvement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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):**

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 84-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation number four, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation develop a research and development program to explore options and solutions which allow technology to better meet the challenges of the north.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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. Boy, I'm tired.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 85-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 5,

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Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation five, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation be required to follow Government of the Northwest Territories' policies relating to the use of northern businesses, labour and materials.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The motion is in order. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, this summer I had some opportunity and expressed some interest for people to be hired from the reserve at the headquarters office in Hay River. One of the difficulties I found is that they are hiring mostly university students, and very few native people, in the headquarters office. I don't know whether we should also add in there something with regard to the affirmative action program.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried.

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 86-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Recommendation six. I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation ensure fairness to long-term contract workers by reviewing alternative employment methods which would allow greater parity between these workers and permanent employees.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Did we do recommendation 5? The motion is in order. Recommendation 6 is the motion. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Carried.

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 87-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. Recommendation 7. I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation take the following steps to promote the hiring and promotion of northern people:

1. Adopt an affirmative action policy which is consistent with the government's affirmative action policy.
2. Include reference to the corporation's affirmative action policy in all job advertisements.
3. Annually table a numerical summary, in the Legislative Assembly, of the affirmative action status of all Power Corporation employees.
4. Table an affirmative action plan in the Legislative Assembly during the February/March 1994 session indicating specific programs for increasing the employment of northerners by the corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I guess it would be probably more convenient just to let all these recommendations go by and not say anything, but I would like to indicate, as of November 1, 1993, there were 106 individuals who were eligible for affirmative action status, out of a total of 262 employees. Fifty-nine or 22.5 per cent are indigenous aboriginal employees, 44 or 16.8 per cent indigenous non-aboriginal employees, one or .4 per cent resident disabled employee, two or .8 per cent resident women in a non-traditional occupation. The total is 106 or 40.5 per cent affirmative action employees. The provision of affirmative action in the legislation was implemented throughout the NWTPC in the summer of 1991. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. All those opposed? To the motion. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you. Those are fairly impressive figures. I just wondered if the information will be available to see what category or what level? Are these in management, this 40 per cent? What percentage of aboriginal people would be in management? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I could go through the total record, but I would think it would be more expeditious if I provide a couple of pages to the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The Premier will provide you with the information. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Maybe some of the other information the government could provide is...I would like to know what the employment breakdown is at the Power Corporation's headquarters in Hay River.

The other thing I would like to see is that for casual employment, during the summer months, whether it's student summer jobs or not, that they will also be advertised so it gives equal opportunity to everybody.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

To the motion. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, there is an eight-page list on every individual, in every plant, by every position, where they are, whether they are in headquarters or not. I will provide that information.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Recommendation seven is the motion. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I just get clarification? Was that 466 employees, where 166 were aboriginal indigenous?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I said 106 or 40.5 per cent total affirmative action employees. The total number of employees in positions is 260. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Just another point for clarification. Out of 260, 106 are aboriginal indigenous. That equates out to 40 per cent, but how many of those...I guess what I'd like to ask, subsequent to what my colleague is...How many of those are women in management positions?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, the breakdown here is done in percentages, but if I provide the list of where everyone is, the Member can go through those. I don't have that broken down unless I could take them off the list. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 88-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 8, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. Recommendation eight. I move that this committee recommend that all positions within the Power Corporation be filled using an open competition process which does not give current employees priority over local residents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I would like a clarification on this because, consistently, what we've been doing is if there is a person employed in the corporation long-term and in the plants where we can have a training program, we have been giving preference to that individual for promotion or on-going training, to bring them up to a certain degree so they can take over. We do not go to open competition when we have, for example, a person in Whale Cove, and we generally accelerate a training program. It is not in open competition. Are you suggesting that these people, when they're moving up a stage or there's a reclassification, that it go to open competition? Just for clarification.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the clarification, I'll use Pond Inlet as an example. There were two qualified operators that had worked with the power plant a few decades ago and they have been substituting whenever the power plant operator is on holidays. When the power plant operator was leaving town, through resignation, the competition was issued but the competition was issued within the corporation's offices only. It was not in the public notice. Those two qualified operators from Pond Inlet never had an opportunity to apply. Instead the Power Corporation hired someone from Iqaluit who isn't of aboriginal descent. In fact, he was a linesman, not an operator. What I'm trying to say here is that, with the open competition, it would allow local people who are already qualified and who have worked there before, an opportunity to apply for those positions. When you keep it closed then only regional headquarters and

the people from other communities can apply and not local people.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, sometimes it's a particular situation and an overall recommendation is put in place because there are one or two situations you're trying to address. We move aboriginal employees into other communities without competition as an opportunity. Sometimes you have a person that wants to go to another community and take advantage of an opportunity. For example, we've taken an aboriginal person and moved into a position in Iqaluit, for ongoing training. If you're working in the corporation at the community level and they want to advance, they want to go some place else, or they want to try another community, I hope the motion is not suggesting that this couldn't be done. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(microphone off) we are not trying to do that. All we're trying to say is that if the position is open in Pond Inlet, Pond Inlet qualified operators should also be given an opportunity, not just the Power Corporation employees who are out of town.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I know this is just a recommendation but I think it would be highly unfair for an individual who's working in Rankin Inlet and there's an opening in another power plant, for us to day that person cannot be advanced, trained or transferred because that person's already working in that particular profession. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, perhaps if recommendation eight is read as part of the recommendation seven, it's more or less an insurance for recommendation seven -- to practice affirmative action. Recommendation eight's interpretation is

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similar to that of recommendation seven.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Well, the difficulty I have, and I guess it's just a matter of understanding, is that if you have an aboriginal person, for example, in Whale Cove and there's a position that becomes vacant in Cape Dorset and that person wants to move to Cape Dorset, I think that person should be given that opportunity to move from one location to another, because he's been in the Power Corporation before; or to Iqaluit to take advantage of a position, if he's willing to train to take an advanced position. There would be a limitation if you expect the corporation not to be able to move people around to take advantage of advanced positions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

To the motion. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Not intending to put a kibosh on the current competitive process, if there are two applicants of equal stature, experience and education, whatever criteria required, all we're saying is the one that's in the community at the time should be given priority over any other ones. That's what we're saying.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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):**

Mr. Koe, continue please.

Committee Motion 89-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 9, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. Recommendation nine, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation develop a training program for all operational staff which provides regular ongoing opportunities for professional development, including apprenticeship opportunities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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):**

Mr. Koe, continue.

Committee Motion 90-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 10, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation ten, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation work with Arctic College to develop or identify training courses as required to support the corporation's affirmative action initiatives.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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):**

That was recommendation number ten. Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 91-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 11, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation 11, I move that this committee recommend that the Power Corporation review its headquarters establishment to determine whether some headquarters functions could be more effectively and efficiently delivered in the field and report its finding to the Legislative Assembly by March 31, 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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):**

Continue, Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 92-12(4): To Adopt  
Recommendation 12, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

Recommendation 12, I move that this committee recommends that the Power Corporation develop a more effective system which allows local residents and businesses to comment on the level of service being provided in their community and ensure that residents and businesses are aware of the system and how to use it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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):**

Mr. Koe.

Committee Motion 93-12(4): To Adopt Recommendation 13, Carried

**MR. KOE:**

The final recommendation, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that, in accordance with rule

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93(5), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to all the recommendations contained in this report within 120 calendar days of the presentation of this report to the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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):**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions report and that concludes Committee Report 10-12(4).

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 10-12(4) of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Now what is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Mr. Chairman, we would like to address Bill 2, Bill 3 and Bill 4. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does this committee agree that we deal with Bill 2, Bill 3 and Bill 4?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Is the Minister prepared for his opening remarks?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this in relationship to Bill 2, Bill 3 and Bill 4?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 2, An Act To Amend The Charter Communities Act

Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to address your committee for these proposed amendments to the legislation for municipal governments. They are

amendments that will advance the government's priority of community self-government and prepare municipal governments for their administration of their most valuable community economic resource, municipal land.

At present, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories own and administer the great bulk of community lands in communities of the Northwest Territories. This situation is especially true in the eastern Arctic and in the predominantly Dene hamlets, charter communities and settlements in the western Arctic. Yet, the Government of the Northwest Territories, for a long time, has had a goal of transferring community lands to community governments.

Change is on the way. Mr. Chairman, as you know, legislation to implement the Nunavut final agreement receives its Royal Assent on July 9, 1993. Within three years of the passage of this settlement legislation, the vast majority of the Crown and Commissioner's land, not required for government facilities and operations, was in the built-up areas of the Nunavut communities, and will be transferred to the ownership and control of the 25 municipalities of the Nunavut settlement area.

We also anticipate that with the implementation of the Gwich'in claim, the finalization of the Sahtu claim and the preparations for other claims in the western Arctic, community governments there will be taking on new land management responsibilities.

All of these changes mean that most NWT municipalities will be undertaking major new land administration authorities and responsibilities they have not exercised before in the Nunavut agreement. This has been recognized in the Nunavut political accord. Pursuant to the bilateral funding agreement, \$200,000 is being made available for the development of lands administration training materials for municipal administrations.

Additional funding will be made available for salary costs for municipal land administrators in Nunavut municipalities. Community land or municipal land is an invaluable and scarce resource, which must be managed well for present and future community residents.

It is in preparation for these changes that we are proposing amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act and the Charter Communities Act to provide that municipal

corporations planning to dispose, that is sell or lease, municipal lands to the public, shall each adopt a land administration by-law.

The land administration by-law, for each municipal corporation, would set out, for the information and benefit of the public, the procedures the council will use when it sells or leases land. Primarily, the Government of the Northwest Territories, as represented by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, will be interested in seeing that municipal land administration by-laws are open and fair policies and procedures concerning land sales or leases to members of the public, especially persons wishing to become home owners or small northern businesses wishing to acquire land to start up or expand.

Under the proposed amendments, the Minister would have the authority to review the land administration by-laws, prior to the third reading by the council, to ensure, in consultation with the municipal council, that these interests are addressed in the by-law.

The Minister's authority to exercise approval of by-laws before third reading already exist for community plans and zoning by-laws, which are related to land use. As in the case of these by-

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laws, the department will be prepared to assist municipal governments in drafting model land administration by-laws.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments also include clear authority for municipal corporations to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property. The definitions of personal property and real property have been expanded to allow municipalities to acquire, hold or dispose of interest in real or personal property, as well as the property itself.

The proposed amendments would also make it easier for a municipal corporation to carry on a business which provides a service that is not explicitly allowed by municipal legislation. The Minister would need to consider the business to be in the public interest.

Under the current legislation, the proposed business has to be for a municipal purpose defined in the acts and to be deemed by the Minister to be in the public interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Would the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation like to make opening remarks?

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

**MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Legislation has considered Bill 2. This bill clarifies the powers of municipal corporations to lease and sub-divide land and to set out a land administration scheme for the disposal of land by municipalities. It also specifies when municipalities may dispose of personal property and clarifies that they may lease personal property. Municipalities, under the new amendment, would be allowed to carry out a business to provide a service that may not necessarily be connected to traditional municipal purposes, if the Minister agrees that it is in the public interest.

It is the Standing Committee on Legislation's understanding that the initiative for these amendments relating to the land administration by-law, come from the TFN agreement. Under that agreement, the Commissioner may convey to each municipal corporation the title to the lands within the built up area in the municipality. This must be done within three years of the date of ratification. However, under the agreement, a municipal plan must be in force in the community, if the municipality wishes to deal with the land. If a plan is not in force, the municipality must obtain the prior written permission of the Commissioner, if it wishes to create a legal, equitable estate. This bill provides the framework for the implementation of this part of the TFN agreement.

The standing committee appreciated the attendance of the former Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Titus Alloo, and the department's officials at the public meetings held on May, 1993, when the tabled bill was reviewed.

Members of the standing committee questioned the former Minister extensively, particularly in the proposed land administration provisions. Members heard support expressed by the city of Yellowknife, who made a presentation at the public meeting, although it was noted that time would be required to implement the new process.

During our deliberations on December 1, 1993, the standing committee was satisfied that this bill would provide an appropriate structure within which

municipalities could manage and administer land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General Comments

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I require a clarification. The Minister and the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation did not state clearly where the municipal land provisions fits in this legislation. Other than that, I have no objection to it whatsoever. But I would like to have the clarification of where this municipal land provision would fit in this new amendment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I wonder, if there are going to be a number of questions, I do have one technical expert and one legal expert I would like to call in, if I can. If I may, my understanding is that this act covers municipal land. We're not talking about anything else. It's within the municipal boundaries.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, I am not disputing that, however the land claims section respecting municipal lands overrides territorial legislation because it's a federal act. That is why I was curious where this would be covered.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the three acts. Since the bill was introduced, we have been having some discussions with band councils. They have a concern with regard to empowering the local municipalities to administer lands and real property, even prior to resolving the issue of who owns the land. I think

that's the problem that some of the communities have, with regard to these amendments to the act.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is that we had public meetings in major communities, but we haven't really gone to smaller communities where they have band councils and hamlet councils. Although big cities like Yellowknife support this, it's because it reassures them that their land is secure, that it's not going to go to anybody else. In the municipalities, once you empower the municipalities to do that, then it takes away the power of the land through the band councils. Anything they do in giving property to other people, it becomes real property. The act itself, assures people that nobody else will get that land, even though we might be looking at disputed lands whether it's under claims or non-claimant areas. It's really giving one group of people the authority to disperse and to give.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

It's my understanding -- I've only had this

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I don't see a conflict, myself, with the situation you laid out with respect to claims. I see that as a different issue. This is within the municipal boundaries. But, again, I do have some legal people I would like to bring forward, just in case I'm asked some legal questions. So, I would ask for the committee's indulgence to bring forward the legal counsel with us and the director of policy.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Is this committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Todd. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses at this time?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left is Mr. Gary Vanderhaden, who is the director of policy for MACA and on my immediate right, is Mr. Shawn Flynn, who is the legal counsel for the Department of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:**

Thank you. Perhaps I could ask our legal person what this all means. The way I read it, it is empowering the hamlet council to administer all lands within municipal boundaries, to give or to sell them, and also get rid of them. What happens to the band councils, in this case, that administer lands reserved for Indians? Are we taking away lands reserved for Indians and, in place, empowering hamlet councils to start administering, and for that matter, undermining band councils, in order to achieve their own control over lands?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Legal advisor.

**MS. MACPHERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These amendments do two things with land. The first thing that these amendments do is they clarify that a municipal corporation can lease land and subdivide land. The second thing these amendments do is they make it mandatory for a municipal corporation to pass a land administration by-law before they can sell or lease lands to others.

I think it is on this second point that people have some concern. Municipal corporations can currently purchase or sell land under all three acts we're dealing with tonight. What these amendments do is provide a framework within which a municipal corporation can sell or lease land. They stipulate that, before municipal corporations can dispose of land, they have to have in place a land administration by-law which would set out the process of how a municipal corporation can sell or lease land. These amendments don't give land to the municipal corporations, nor do they affect the status of land currently held in communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand these new bills that are before us are amendments to the Charter Communities Act, the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, and the Hamlets Act. I have a problem with them, because of the area I come from. Earlier today I was on a telephone conference call with a number of chiefs in my area. I gave them the information and the reply was that they totally disagree with this bill, basically because they haven't been consulted.

You see, in my particular area of the Northwest Territories, we are still in dispute with the Government of Canada, which this governments gets delegated authority from. In regard to land, even though it is municipal land, the band sees those lands as theirs as well. Our legal advisor here says we are more or less clarifying the municipal government's powers. In fact, I see it more or less strengthening their powers over lands in the municipal area, although there is still a dispute in these communities in my area.

I understand what it does for the Nunavut area, this is part of the claim. Within three years after initialling, you have to have these powers in place. I understand that, but on the other hand, people from the Nunavut area have to understand that we are still in dispute.

This consultation took place in the major centres, like Yellowknife, but there are hamlets and villages in the other areas that this is going to affect, in my constituency. I find, at this point at time, that this is quite unfair. There is no protection for the majority of people I represent in this new bill. Perhaps there is in the charter communities one, clause two says that nothing in this act shall be interpreted so as to affect aboriginal rights. That is in the Charter Communities Act. There is some protection there, but there is nothing there for the Cities, Towns and Villages Act as well as the Hamlets Act.

So, the instructions I got today from community leaders is that they don't want to see this bill put forward until they are consulted and have their views on it. They weren't given that opportunity, that is the reason why I have some problems with this bill, at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I think what I'd like to do is ask legal council to walk us through this, because I don't think people should be afraid of this bill. It is not making any significant change. It is just clarifying the rules in the way land is leased and sold. My understanding is that the Dene area and the Deh Cho area only apply to leased land, anyway. If I may, I will ask Mr. Flynn to try to give it a go and explain.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Flynn.

**MR. FLYNN:**

My understanding is the concern that these bills will infringe on aboriginal or treaty rights. I don't think there should be concern in that respect, for two reasons, essentially. As was explained earlier, the intent is to take an existing

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situation, there is a provision in each of these acts now which provides for a procedural by-law to be made by the community to govern its dealings in land. We are just taking that existing provision and adding one, essential, key change, we're making the passage of that existing master by-law subject to ministerial approval.

You've already got a situation in place where, if there was going to be an infringement of aboriginal or treaty rights, it is likely we would have had a problem already. Aboriginal and treaty rights are constitutionally protected. Section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982 gives them guaranteed status. We cannot pass a bill that would impair them. So, even if I'm wrong, we can't infringe on those rights.

Secondly, I think that this bill is only dealing with land that is held by a municipal corporation. It is not dealing with land that is held by private interests, or held under a lands claim agreement or treaty. So, it is just land that the city has an interest in, that is within the local boundaries of the community. It is their property. We're just saying, this is how you can deal with it. You can sell it or acquire it, according to these rules. This is already going on now. The key change is that it will be subject to ministerial approval, because it is anticipated that large blocs of land will be transferred to the communities in the near future.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, the legal counsel said it is according to his understanding, and he told me not to be concerned. But, being an aboriginal person, coming from a small community, I go by my own understanding and my own experience, and I am concerned. It may be according to the books, what is written down, and it may be put down on paper and you follow it. In the communities where I come from, there are municipal boundaries and governments. However, the aboriginal people, who lived there before these municipal councils came into place, have a claim to the municipal area, as well as the land outside.

It is not only the land outside the municipal boundaries that people in communities are interested in, it is also land within the municipal boundaries. What this authority is going to do is alienate the municipal lands within the communities. In some of the communities, there are large tracts of municipal land that the municipal government has taken over in block land transfers. So, we're looking at a substantial amount of land within these communities. That's my understanding of it.

The concerns I heard today from the chiefs is that it is the first time some of them heard about it and they're not too clear what this bill is all about. We are here in this Legislative Assembly to represent the people in the communities. There are legitimate concerns out there that these chiefs have given me. They have their own legal advice, and their own positions. They weren't given a chance to review this and have their views heard on these bills. That's one of my main concerns.

We are going to go ahead and pass it without listening to the voices of the people. That's what it said in the motion we passed yesterday, in the conduct for Members, that we are going to listen to the voices of the people. And, there is a substantial section of peoples' voices that haven't been heard. That's the point I want to make. We have to let these people have their say on this bill, as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Antoine may have a point. I'd have to look at it. I'm not going to dispute the fact that perhaps the chiefs, as he has suggested, weren't consulted. It was my understanding, from the notes here, that in 1989 there was a public discussion paper on this whole thing tabled in the House, translated and sent to all municipal governments. I understand his concern. I don't know how we would reassure him. It is my understanding that we are not taking anything away, I see it as adding to municipal governments. I don't know what more to add than that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine. Well, perhaps a lot of Members that don't understand the situation in the Dene communities where there are treaties. There is a lot of dispute in a lot of the communities with regard to who actually owns the land, even though there are designated community boundaries. At first look, the feeling I get from the communities is they're saying that the Government Leader and the Minister for Aboriginal Rights are making general comments about respecting aboriginal people and trying to work with them to develop self-government.

In the meantime, on the day to day level, bills like this are being put into the House to more or less deteriorate and erode the position of the chiefs in the communities. It really has a negative effect on the position of the government, in terms of constitutional development and a full opportunity for the chiefs to participate in this bill for a full understanding. I think it's only fair that these bills be deferred until there's full consultation with the people in the communities who are very concerned about this bill at this time.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I wouldn't want to be misunderstood. Mr. Antoine has spoken on many occasions and I've listened to his counsel many times about the importance of listening to the chiefs and to the leadership within the Dene communities. It's certainly not my intent to circumvent that process. It's obviously a serious issue with his area. However, I would like an opportunity, if I may, to try to reassure him tonight that it's not our intent to erode any authority of the traditional leadership in the area. If you'll allow me, I think what I'll do is ask Mr. Vanderhaden, who's far more familiar with the history

of this bill than I am, to try to reassure Mr. Antoine as to what we're about here.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Proceed.

**MR. VANDERHADEN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To add to what the Minister has said with regard to the impact of the amendments on claims, there is no impact in these bills on land and their claim. The government has had in place, since August 1985, a land-lease only policy in the western Arctic. Under that policy, as a general rule, Commissioner's land is only leased, it is not, as a general rule, sold in communities in the western Arctic, pending the settlement of claims in the settlement areas. These bills deal with land, as the Minister

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pointed out, that is already held by municipal corporations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments. Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recognize that these bills are important to the eastern Members. It's somewhat, at times, very difficult to understand the bill in totality when you're not on the Standing Committee on Legislation, but we've had a fairly good explanation in this House this evening. I believe the concerns, with regard to the process of consultation, with respect to Mr. Antoine's concerns are important. His viewpoints are important. The Minister made an opening remark to address this bill and we didn't get every word of it. Therefore, we may have misunderstood some critical points. I am wondering whether or not it's possible that this bill, recognizing that the act only came into place in July, could be deferred to our February session. That will allow for the consultation process by SCOL to go to the communities that are concerned. I know Members certainly want, with the land claims passed in the eastern Arctic, this addressed and we recognize that. It's going to be somewhat difficult but when we think about it, we're in the middle of December, it's actually six weeks away, or two months away, that we're going to be looking at this bill again.

The problem with our SCOL process, at times, is it doesn't go into the smaller communities. These laws that are passed affect the residents of all the territories. Even though we have a public consultation process, it's difficult to get out into all the communities because of the fact that it just costs too much money. At the same time, when bills like this are brought forth that are going to be seen to have a significant impact, it could cause problems with the communities also. I'd like to ask your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, if we could possibly either have a ten minute break and ask Members if they can live with the idea of deferral or find a method to give assurance to Mr. Antoine's concerns with respect to this bill.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Does Madam Premier have a concern?

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

I'm just going to express this. I think there's an idea on the floor right now. In this particular bill regarding charter communities my understanding is that before these provisions could be implemented you have to be a charter community. There's a whole process of how a community becomes a charter community. My understanding is that at this particular time there are only two, three or four communities that would be in this category. Am I right or am I wrong? Which communities are there?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Rather than prolong the debate, what I prefer to do is to accommodate an important issue of discussion with the chiefs in Mr. Antoine's area. We'll delay the bill and bring it forward again in February. That will give us ample time to negotiate -- negotiate is a long term - - but to discuss with those communities that obviously feel very strongly about this issue. Whether we'll each resolve is another issue but at least we will have given the process it's due course. I will make sure the department moves quickly, right after Christmas, to initiate discussions with Mr. Antoine's riding. That will avoid a lengthy debate tonight.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Are we deferring this Bill 2? Mr. Gargan.



**MR. GARGAN:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour? Raise your hands. Please keep your hands up. Order please. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I believe there was agreement that Bill 2 is deferred. Now we have to go on to Bill 3. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Could we have a ten minutes break because there's some misunderstanding on where we go with these bills and what is understood. Could we have a ten minute break please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Okay, we'll take a ten minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

This committee will come to order. Bill 3, Mr. Todd, your opening remarks.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I do not wish to proceed, Mr. Chairman. I wish to defer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Bill 4, Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I do not wish to proceed with this bill, Mr. Chairman. I wish to defer.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Does this committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Thank you. Bill 2, 3 and 4 are deferred. What is the wish of this committee? Member for Thebacha.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

There is a motion on the floor which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those

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opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I'll rise and report progress.

Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):**

Mr. Speaker, for the last time...

---Laughter

---Applause

Your committee has been considering Bill 6, Committee Report 10-12(4), Bill 2, Bill 3 and Bill 4, and would like to report progress with 14 motions

being adopted, and that Committee Report 10-12(4) is concluded, and that Bill 6 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Secunder to the motion, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS**

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 1 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 5 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to deal with Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Your motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6 has had third reading.

It is my understanding that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills to prorogue this session. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain that his honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the chamber and assent to bills, and prorogue this session.

**ASSENT TO BILLS**

**COMMISSIONER NORRIS:**

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories I hereby assent to Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95; Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1992-93; and, Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1993-94. The Fifth Session of the 12 Legislative Assembly will convene at 1:30 pm Monday, December 13, 1993.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I prorogue this Fourth Session of the 12th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

---PROROGATION