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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1994

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Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good morning. Item 2, budget address. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: BUDGET ADDRESS

1995-96 Capital Budget Address

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning. Madam Speaker, we are approaching a three-day weekend, which will give Members time to abate the excitement I am about to generate today.

Madam Speaker, the 1995-96 capital budget is the fourth and probably the last capital budget of the current government. Over the last four years, the capital planning process underwent considerable change. Communities and Members of the Legislative Assembly were instrumental in developing a capital budget that better meets local needs and priorities. Gone are the days of centralized priority setting for community capital projects.

Madam Speaker, before discussing the capital budget, I will begin by bringing Members up to date on our fiscal situation. In February of this year, we forecast a deficit of \$23 million for the 1993-94 fiscal year. In fact, Madam Speaker, the deficit for last year was \$35 million. The primary reason for this revised fiscal position was a large increase in the calculated liability for employee ultimate removal benefits.

This year, it was primarily two areas of expenditure that caused us to revise the fiscal projection for 1994-95 from a balanced budget to a deficit of \$35 million.

The first expense was due to the federal government's continuing refusal to reinstate the over \$45 million budget for social housing in the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, we, as a government, could not ignore our social housing crisis in the Northwest Territories. As a result, we expended an additional \$17 million of our own funding to deliver a modified social housing program.

This, Madam Speaker, was a conscious decision that was not taken lightly. Our decision recognizes the importance of a social housing program which we believe is a cornerstone to better health, better education and better social well-being of residents of the Northwest Territories. In addition, we took into account the positive impact this housing program has on our economy and on the labour market.

This is not to say, Madam Speaker, that we have merely stepped into the Government of Canada's shoes by providing this modified program. We are continuing to try to educate the federal government about the social housing crisis in the Northwest Territories. Regrettably, the federal government has yet to take notice of the argument that the provision of adequate social housing would promote long-term cost-savings in areas of health, social services and corrections.

Madam Speaker, I don't want people to think that there haven't been efforts made to convince the federal government. Mr. Morin, the Premier, myself, other Ministers, Members of this House and particularly our MPs have played a great role in trying to convince the federal government to reinstate this funding. Madam Speaker, we must continue to pressure the federal government to reinstate this funding. Because we have funded a modified social housing program this year and plan to do the same next year, doesn't mean that we are letting the federal government off the hook. This is clearly a responsibility that the federal government must ultimately live up to.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the summer of 1994 was the worst and most costly forest fire season since the federal government transferred the responsibility for forestry in 1987. Forest fire fighting cost an extra \$20 million this past summer, and there still may be some bills coming in, Madam Speaker, to the tune of another \$2 or \$3 million. Supplementary reserves will fund part of this requirement, but much of it will add to the forecast deficit for 1994-95. In this area, we have

recognized that even though there was an increase in the amount of money spent to fight forest fires, concerns were still raised by residents and by communities about which fires should be fought, when they should be actioned, which areas should take priority, and how the fires should be fought.

Therefore, the Financial Management Board has asked the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq, Minister responsible for the forestry program, to consult with communities on ways to improve the approach to forest fire fighting. As a government, Madam speaker, we hope to prevent these large infusions of funds in future years and, at the same time, address the community concerns that I have previously mentioned. We hope that the consultation process will help us to find solutions to address these concerns.

Madam Speaker, the fiscal outlook for 1995-96 does not appear to offer any relief. The current formula financing agreement with Canada expires on March 31, 1995.

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Discussions on a new agreement are under way. However, the federal approach to the process has significantly diminished the options. This is reflected in a letter from the federal Finance Minister in which he states, "I have instructed my officials to ensure that the renewal discussions proceed from the premise that the new formula will either cost less, or at most, cost the same as the current formula."

Madam Speaker, international financial institutions have clearly stated that Canada's future depends heavily on the federal government's ability to reduce the deficit. As responsible politicians, it is difficult to argue with the objective of reducing Canada's deficit. However, we can, and do, take exception to the method through which the federal government is making funding cuts. The federal government continues to make cuts, as they did with social housing, without consulting us. Another example, Madam Speaker, would be the reduction of funding for language programs by over 30 per cent in 1994-95. This reduction puts the delivery of our official language services in jeopardy.

Madam Speaker, our message to the federal government is that it must not abandon the Northwest Territories to achieve its short-term fiscal objectives. Our message is that there will be future benefits for Canada in investing in the north and its people. The

federal government already has a large investment in the north. It must be encouraged to protect that investment and to ensure the long-term financial viability of the north and its people. Canada must recognize that our efforts towards greater self-sufficiency will, over the long run, be good for us, as well as Canada as a whole.

Madam Speaker, our dependency on the federal government is too great. We must become more fiscally independent. In order to do so, the residents of the NWT must cooperate with each other to approach the federal government with a united position, and that's regardless of the subject, Madam Speaker. For the federal government's part, they should be receptive to these positions and should support our efforts by setting the proper fiscal environment through the arrangements that they make with us.

Again, Madam Speaker, as I said in February, the current rate of revenue growth is insufficient to finance new spending. New dollars are required to meet the demands placed upon us by the basic needs of our constituents. These demands, whether they be for assistance to business, social programs, infrastructure or transportation, cost money. One of the ways to find these new monies would be to gain control of our resources. Although progress is being made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Madam Speaker, with regard to the devolution of oil and gas and minerals, ownership and control of Northwest Territories non-renewable resources still lies with the federal government.

Until such time that we gain control over these areas, none of the associated royalties -- whether they be in place now or whether they be future royalties -- will flow to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Collectively, Madam Speaker, we must make every effort to arrive at an arrangement whereby the territorial government takes over responsibility for oil, gas and minerals in order to gain the benefits of the revenues from those commodities. Madam Speaker, if we're regaining those benefits, they could be then spread across the Northwest Territories, for whatever requirements may exist in particular regions, and they do vary across the Northwest Territories. I reiterate, Madam Speaker, those revenues are not presently available to us under the existing arrangements, nor will they be available to us in the future under the existing arrangements.

Madam Speaker, we are faced with the same fiscal challenges as every other Canadian jurisdiction and

our limited revenue-raising options lead us once again to turn to expenditure restraint. The impact of restraint must be fairly distributed taking into account the government's obligation to meet its residents' basic needs and protect those most at risk. At the same time, we must not fall into the trap of sacrificing our long-term goals for short-term fiscal relief.

The government will have to phase in spending reductions to deal with its financial situation. The federal Finance Minister's October update on Canada's fiscal position could, I say regretfully, Madam Speaker, further impact on our already bleak outlook. In addition, we have yet to assess the impact of Minister Axworthy's initiative to restructure the social safety net.

Madam Speaker, the size of the financial problem we face is too large for any one solution. We continue to look carefully at all aspects of our government's spending. Over the course of the past summer and into early fall, the government has been doing just that. We are determined to have program action plans that can be considered in conjunction with the 1995-96 main estimates.

Program cutbacks are always difficult, Madam Speaker, but may be necessary.

Madam Speaker, the largest single component of our operating costs is salaries and wages. The February budget speech identified the need to rationalize the \$400 million cost of the public service. This year, the government entered into negotiations with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Union of Northern Workers. The government's approach was to be realistic within the context of today's financial realities and labour environment.

Madam Speaker, we have just completed a Northwest Territories public sector wage survey, with the input of 152 public sector employers including band councils and school boards. This survey shows that there is a wide disparity in the compensation package of the various public sector employers. Madam Speaker, you may recall that it was non-salary benefits that the February budget speech identified as an area to be researched. The results of the survey support the concern that non-salary benefits are the greatest area of discrepancy between Government of the Northwest Territories employees and other Northwest Territories public sector employees. In the area of non-salary benefits, the difference between the two groups was found to be 41 per cent.

Madam Speaker, in February, I noted that we have a history in the Northwest Territories of resolving difficult problems together. This confidence in our employees and their representatives was validated when the government and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association signed a new two-year agreement in July. This was a responsible agreement that recognized the financial situation of the

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government. The agreement provided for a zero per cent increase in salaries for two years and introduced long-overdue modifications to vacation travel assistance and also to removals and severance pay. Considering the types of roll-backs that are occurring in other jurisdictions, this, we believe, was a reasonable settlement.

Madam Speaker, I am announcing today that the government has approved the same provisions for the management and excluded categories of employees as those accepted by the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. This means that these employees will receive a zero per cent salary increase for two years and identical vacation travel assistance, removal and severance pay modifications as negotiated with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. Madam Speaker, there are approximately 900 employees in the management and excluded group.

The negotiations with the Union of Northern Workers for the main group of employees are still under way. I am confident that a responsible collective agreement can also be negotiated with the employees represented by the Union of Northern Workers.

Now, onto the capital budget, Madam Speaker. The 1995-96 capital estimates propose spending of close to \$195 million. This maintains the level of capital spending undertaken in 1994-95, including temporary funding to partially offset the federal funding reductions for social housing. As a result, the Honourable Don Morin will be delivering a social housing capital program in 1995-96 of \$49 million.

The government has made the difficult decision to maintain the level of capital spending for 1995-96, even though our financial situation has deteriorated. This decision was based on the reality that the capital plan is more than just the means to acquire and build assets. The capital plan is a major economic and social policy tool. The capital plan represents jobs. It represents the major business opportunity for the year

in many of our small communities, it represents needed training opportunities and lastly, it represents the means to improve the quality of life in our communities, primarily for our youth, our elderly and for those in need.

Nevertheless, the long-term financial stability of the Northwest Territories will require that our capital programs be subjected to the same degree of scrutiny and justification that is being applied to all programs of the government. In recognition of this, the government has initiated a comprehensive review of its capital standards and criteria. This review will:

- examine existing capital standards and criteria that establish eligibility criteria and construction standards to consider how they can be adjusted to better serve program objectives and be delivered with less money;

- examine program alternatives to acquiring or building additional physical infrastructure;

- examine the government's approach to project design to determine if there are more cost-effective alternatives; and

- examine the government's project approval and management practices to identify methods to speed up the tender and contract award process.

It is anticipated that this work will be completed by next year and be available for consideration by the new government in the development of the 1997-98 capital plan.

Madam Speaker, I would point out that it's very difficult to make changes to the capital plan because we're on a three-year cycle with communities and we certainly don't want to lessen the expectation of those communities or break any of the promises that we've made to those communities. That's why it's going to take some time to look at these particular areas.

Madam Speaker, I mentioned that the capital plan is a major economic tool. In 1994-95, 582 new contracts have been let to date with a total value of approximately \$100 million. Of this number, \$537,000 went to northern contractors with a value of \$94.5 million. And it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that that's 94.5 per cent of the value of contracts, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, Members of this House requested greater disclosure of negotiated contracts. In response to this request, the Premier has provided the Standing Committee on Finance a detailed listing

of all negotiated contracts since the spring of 1993. Madam Speaker, I realize that people want more details, but until those contracts have been completed and have been analyzed, some of those finer details may not be available. Madam Speaker, this listing identifies that over the past 18 months there have been approximately 50 negotiated contracts for acquisitions or construction totalling in value over \$15 million. Almost every one of these negotiated contracts has been with aboriginal or community development corporations.

As was identified in the capital budget address last year, negotiated contracts provide northern organizations with the opportunity to develop experience and reputation for performance. These contractors are still required to provide full value for money.

Madam Speaker, a new innovation in our capital program is the building and learning strategy, cosponsored by the Honourable Richard Nerysoo and the Honourable Don Morin. This is a program whereby community people can get certifiable training in building occupations using capital projects in their community. In 1994-95, the building and learning strategy approach was applied to projects in 12 communities. Currently, 100 local residents are being trained on these projects, compared to 46 trained in the 1993-94 pilot projects. The scope of the program for 1995-96 is currently being developed.

Education and training are also strongly supported in this capital budget. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, under the direction of the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, will complete construction on three new schools in Igloodik, Coppermine and Yellowknife. Construction or major renovations will start on 15 school projects throughout the Northwest Territories. In addition, 1995-96 will see the completion of the new \$8.4 million applied arts building on Arctic College's Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

Adult education facilities are also entering the planning phase for Cambridge Bay and Taloyoak.

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The Honourable John Todd is bringing forward an aggressive transportation capital plan for 1995-96. There is \$19 million in the budget for reconstruction of highways in the Fort Smith and Inuvik regions. The Nahanni Butte airport will be relocated and the Cape Dorset airport terminal will be replaced.

Under the five-year \$20 million cost-shared strategic transportation initiative agreement with Canada, construction will be completed on the airport upgrades in Lutsel K'e, Snare Lake, Fort Good Hope and Pelly Bay, while construction will commence on the airport upgrade at Deline. On the marine side, construction is scheduled for the Pangnirtung harbour and the Coral Harbour breakwater.

There is \$3.5 million proposed for investment in the Northwest Territories tourism and parks infrastructure, along with an additional \$4.9 million to be directed to the development and diversification of the Northwest Territories business sector through the NWT Development Corporation investments.

Madam Speaker, under the guidance of our Premier, the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, the Department of Health and Social Services and its boards and agencies will complete planning for the Inuvik and Iqaluit hospital replacements as well as construction on health centres in Fort Providence and Clyde River. Construction will commence on the Gjoa Haven health centre while health stations will be completed in Jean Marie River, Snare Lake and Trout Lake. In total, the Department of Health and Social Services capital budget will be \$10.4 million.

The Honourable Rebecca Mike, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs is sponsoring a \$40 million capital program which includes: \$12 million for water and sewer projects; \$10 million for road, site and land development; \$4 million for municipal buildings; and, \$7 million for recreation facilities.

Madam Speaker, two other major capital undertakings for 1995-96 do not show in the capital budget. These are the projects under the two-year \$10.8 million cost-shared national infrastructure program agreement with Canada that was signed on August 24th of this year. This program provides contributions to communities to deliver programs that provide community infrastructure while generating employment and training. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment will deliver the program in all Northwest Territories communities during 1994-95 and 1995-96. The Government of the Northwest Territories share of funding for this program will be obtained from within the proposed 1994-95 and 1995-96 capital funding levels through savings generated from taking specific cost-saving approaches to construction of planned capital projects.

Madam Speaker, the second major undertaking that is not reflected in the capital budget is the corrections capital plan. Over the last few years, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi has been developing a plan for rationalizing correctional facilities in the Northwest Territories. This was in order to address the space shortages that we're experiencing at the present time. Recently, Mr. Kakfwi brought forward a facility needs assessment for corrections. On the basis of this assessment, the Financial Management Board has authorized the Department of Justice to develop a construction plan within a funding target of \$3 million for 1995-96, rising to \$4 million for 1996-97 and \$5 million for 1997-98. Mr. Kakfwi will be bringing forward a capital plan to the Financial Management Board shortly. Madam Speaker, as soon as we have looked at it, we will be passing it on to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Madam Speaker, this has been a difficult capital budget to prepare. We do face tough times. And, Madam Speaker, I've probably sounded like there's a lot of doom and gloom today, but the situation is not unmanageable. If it were not for the fact that we were filling the federal government's shoes, as I said before, with regard to capital funding for social housing, our budget wouldn't be in that much difficulty. If it wasn't for the fact that we're experiencing these cutbacks, because the GDP is not growing at the rate that we anticipated, if our formula wasn't so constrictive, we would be able to be living within our means.

So it's not as bleak as I've painted, but I do send a warning to this House and I send a warning to people in the Northwest Territories that tougher times are coming and we have to be very careful about the dollars we spend. I recognize the pressures that are upon MLAs from all kinds of different groups; from communities, from individuals who are requesting this particular expenditure or that particular expenditure. Somehow, collectively, we have to prioritize those requests and come together and make some coordinated approach to controlling our fiscal outlay. As I said before, when Mr. Martin is done in the next budget session, it may be more difficult than we anticipate, Madam Speaker.

So as I said, we need everybody's support and contribution to keep programs and services flowing to those in need. I am confident that we will receive that support, Madam Speaker.

I will conclude by thanking the communities, who assisted with the capital budget, for their input;

Members of the Legislative Assembly who also contributed their input to this budget; the Standing Committee on Finance for their direction and their suggestions; and, the Ministers for their input and assistance in putting together this capital plan. Their collective input has been critical to the development of a capital plan that provides urgently needed facilities relative to training opportunities for local business and jobs for Northwest Territories residents.

Madam Speaker, at the appropriate time I will submit the 1995-96 capital estimates to the Legislative Assembly for its consideration. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Before we go on, I would like to recognize in the Speaker's gallery, Mayor Larry Aknavigak, mayor of Cambridge Bay, along with his daughter. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

Item 3, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 19-12(6): Hydro Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as Members know, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the Dogrib

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Power Corporation are involved in a joint venture to develop a hydro dam at Snare Cascades. Once completed, the Power Corporation will lease and operate the facility as part of the Snare/Yellowknife system serving the city of Yellowknife, Royal Oak Mine, Miramar Con Mine, Rae-Edzo and Dettah.

I am pleased to report that the details of financing the project have been finalized; that the contractor is currently on site; that the manufacture of the turbine -- a major component of the dam -- is under way; and, that the engineering and design phases of this project are proceeding. Madam Speaker, construction of this multi-million dollar facility is scheduled to begin in April and I understand that a ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for October 12th.

Madam Speaker, the Dogrib Nation, through the efforts of the Dogrib Power Corporation, deserve our congratulations for bringing this major project to its current state. By July, 1996, the customers served by the Snare/Yellowknife system can look forward to a new, environmentally-friendly source of hydro power that will assist in the development of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Congratulating The Dogrib Power Corporation

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I would like to echo the statements just made by the Premier. This project will indeed benefit the economy of the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, let me first acknowledge the support of the Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive and all my other colleagues in this House for this project. On behalf of Grand Chief Joe Rabesca and members of the Dogrib Nation, it is my privilege to thank you all, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the various territorial and federal government officials who have worked on this project.

The model of cooperation developed is indeed an example of the public, private and aboriginal partnership in sustainable, responsible and people-centred development that the Dogrib Nation has been working hard to promote.

Madam Speaker, as the Honourable Premier mentioned earlier, the Snare cascades is only the first phase of the two-phase project. This project is an important cornerstone in the Dogrib Nation's strategic plan to solidify our economic security. It is also a project that will significantly benefit the Northwest Territories as a whole.

We look forward to working with you and your Cabinet colleagues, Madam Premier, on the next phase of the project and, indeed, on other important initiatives that lead to the development of the economy of the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, it would be difficult to name all the people who deserve recognition for their role in this project. On behalf of the Dogrib Nation, we want to thank them all and, once again, thank Madam Premier and her colleagues for their support. Weather permitting, Madam Speaker, there will be a ground-breaking ceremony at the Snare Cascades site on Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00 am, to which we would like to invite you all. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Appreciation OF SCOF Visit To Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude and, in doing so, represent my constituency of Lake Harbour. Fairly late this spring and early this summer, the Finance committee came over to Lake Harbour to hold a meeting. I wanted to express my gratitude for them coming over. I'm sure my community now has a better understanding of how the committees work.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministers and I would encourage them to come and visit our community as well. Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is all I have to say for my Member's statement. I will have more to say during oral questions.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Seal Studies In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a concern from my constituency that I would like to express. It concerns the seals being studied in our region. For over a year now, a survey has been conducted around the Resolute area. The seals are being handled manually in the springtime, usually in the months of April and May.

The studies are being conducted very close to the communities. Sometimes they go out to areas further away, but usually they stay within the ice floes close to the communities. Many people, of course, go seal hunting and the scientists are coming too close to the hunting areas. In the hunting areas, the seals are not reproducing any more. Pups are becoming more scarce; this has been noticed by Resolute people. People of Resolute have requested that something be done to keep the scientists from coming too close to the areas where people usually do their sealing. It would improve the pup growth rate. People have noticed a significant change in the numbers of pups.

Further on this morning, or in the afternoon, I will produce a document, a letter from the HTA of Resolute. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Federal Government Housing Cutbacks

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Today, I rise in this House to speak about housing. Yesterday, I mentioned that the federal government is continuing to reduce funding support to the Northwest Territories in a number of areas. One of the most critical areas of funding cuts is support for social housing.

Madam Speaker, people in my constituency need funding support for housing. The federal government has the fiduciary responsibility to provide this support. It was part of the treaty made in 1921 by my ancestors. I understand that the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and our federal Members of Parliament have been working very hard to convince the federal government to reinstate this funding support. So far, these efforts have not been successful.

In the meantime, people in the communities have been allocated fewer housing units. In addition, I'm told that the number of staff in the Housing Corporation has not decreased. In fact, it seems that some positions may even have been added. It doesn't make sense, Madam Speaker, that funding from the federal government has been cut, fewer housing units are being allocated to communities, and

yet the size of the bureaucracy responsible for delivering the programs remains the same.

It seems to me that we need to look at new ways to deliver programs. Maybe we also need new ways to find out what people in the communities really want and need. They need to have a say in how services are delivered in our communities. It may be that standards are too high. Maybe it would be more cost-beneficial to build smaller houses, but to build more of them. Maybe the standards should be more flexible so that the communities can make more decisions for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the government to examine the way the housing program is being delivered and to find new ways of meeting the housing needs of our citizens. In looking for innovative ways to deliver the housing program, the government must keep in mind the reduced funding and that people in the communities must be involved in the decisions that affect their lives every day. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Tourism In The Western Arctic

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk a bit about tourism and tourism development, especially in the western Arctic. We are all aware that the oil and gas industry is not a major player now in the western Arctic. They basically moved out and shut down their camps. The only industry, if we can call it quasi-industry, is government. As the Minister mentioned today, the government plays a major role in keeping people in the communities busy through their capital estimates.

But in the western Arctic, tourism is a growth industry. We have major attractions now throughout most of our communities. We have a lot of natural attractions that people across the world are coming to the north, especially the western Arctic, to experience. The other major attraction in the western Arctic -- an experience, I guess -- is the Dempster Highway. We're finding a lot more road traffic travelling up the Dempster Highway.

I had the privilege this summer of travelling the Dempster to see for myself the conditions of the road and also an opportunity to look at some of the parks and the sites and talk to some of our travellers who come from different parts of the world. The majority of them come up and they all have favourable comments other than it's a long drive. They're disappointed once they get to Inuvik; they want to drive all the way to the coast to Tuktoyaktuk so they can dip their toes in the Arctic Ocean.

I fully support the Minister of Transportation's initiatives, in looking at our highways and seeing that there is some money in the capital budget for improving the Dempster Highway. We have a lot of attractions in the western Arctic. We have renewed interest in tourism. There's a revised group -- the Western Arctic Tourism Association. They have a new executive director and the communities are involved...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mr. Koe, your last few statements didn't get on the record.

MR. KOE:

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statements.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Okay, Mahsi. I just want to conclude by saying that there's a renewed interest in the development of tourism. The Western Arctic Tourism Association has been revised. They have a new executive director. There are members of all the communities involved. There's renewed interest between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. I wish the association and all the tourism operators in the western Arctic all the best in their future endeavours. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Alcohol Supplied To
Communities By Building Contractors

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. At the appropriate time today, I will be tabling two letters I have received here in the Legislative Assembly. One is addressed to the Honourable Don Morin, Minister of Housing Corporation, from Mayor John Kaunak of Repulse Bay and the other is to Mayor Kaunak from Dr. M.B.K. Moffatt, paediatric consultant from the University of Manitoba. They both deal with the

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problem of alcohol and drugs being supplied to the community by outside building contractors and other transients in the summertime. (Translation ends)

The authors of the letters are very concerned about the fact that alcohol and drugs are being made available to teenagers, in particular. Problems such as impulsive behaviour that leads to suicide and injuries are cited. We all know how many problems we have in our community that can be attributed to alcohol and drugs: violence; suicide; family breakups; unplanned pregnancies; and, social diseases, et cetera.

We do not need extra imported problems in our community as described in the two letters. Most of us can recall examples of serious incidents that have occurred in small communities that resulted from alcohol and drugs that were brought in by outside construction companies.

The hamlet of Repulse Bay is asking the Minister of Housing not to award any more contracts to one company in particular, because of its unacceptable behaviour and lack of response to pleas from the hamlet to act responsibly. I will be pursuing this matter with the Minister of Housing at question period. Qujannamiik.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Major League Baseball

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak on an important topic to myself and several of my

constituents. It is October and there is no baseball on television. Madam Speaker, for the past few weeks, we have heard the owners complain that the players want too much money and the players complain that each of the 28 major league owners have their own agenda that prevents them from working together. It kind of reminds me of this place sometimes, Madam Speaker, with salary caps and hidden agendas. We, however, have 58,000 owners.

But seriously, Madam Speaker, I feel there is a far darker cloud than two sides of a labour dispute that cannot agree on how to divide the spoils. The plot may indeed reach all the way to the White House.

Madam Speaker, the simple reason there is no world series this year are the Montreal Expos. I do not think that the upper echelon of American society could stand to see their national past-time's greatest honour go to a Canadian team for a third year in a row.

---Applause

Even though because of the strike, major league baseball announced yesterday that the Toronto Bluejays remain world champions, I still think there is a plot. Madam Speaker, I can't prove these allegations, but maybe the Premier could use some of her pull with CSIS or the RCMP to do some investigation.

---Laughter

---Applause

I would like to ask the House, Madam Speaker, to join me in congratulating the Montreal Expos for winning the national league eastern pennant for having the best record in baseball and for being Canada's unofficial world series champion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Advisory
Committee On Social Housing

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand today to express my gratitude to the Members of the Advisory

Committee on Social Housing that came to Taloyoak on September 23rd to 25th; Mr. Don Morin, the Minister for Housing, who is also the chairperson of the Advisory Committee for Social Housing; Sam Gargan, the deputy chairman of the advisory committee; Tony Whitford; Dennis Patterson; James Arvaluk; and, Titus Allooloo.

Madam Speaker, the community of Taloyoak was very, very proud to have these Members from the Advisory Committee on Social Housing, especially the Members from the western Arctic. Madam Speaker, I hope we will have another committee of the Legislature meet in the Kitikmeot region. To all the Members of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing, thank you very much from the community of Taloyoak. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement On Congratulating Organizers Of Nunavut Royal Visit

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as we all know, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, were in the NWT from August 20th to the 22nd. I was pleased, on behalf of my constituents, to receive Her Majesty's words of wisdom at the Legislative Assembly.

Like the majority of Nunavut Caucus Members, I also had the opportunity to participate during the royal couple's visit to Nunavut and Rankin Inlet on August 22nd. We also know of their visit to Iqaluit, which was their point of departure from Canada. Many individuals and volunteers were involved in organizing, assisting and participating in the NWT visit of the royal couple.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I wish to acknowledge and recognize those from my constituency. Canadian Rangers from Cambridge Bay: George Angohiatok; Sam Ehaloak; Allen Elatiak; Jimmy Haniliak, George Kavana; Allen Kitigon; and, Doug Stern. Canadian Rangers from Coppermine: Bobby Etoktok, George Hala; Angus Havioyak; Colin Havioyak; Roger Hitkoluk; and, Bubba Pedersen.

I also wish to acknowledge Mrs. Marion Glawson of Economic Development and Tourism from Cambridge Bay, who was part of the Rankin Inlet organization

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committee. Finally, Mr. Attima Hadlari, who performed during the royal visit in Rankin Inlet.

Madam Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in congratulating and thanking these and all other individuals involved in making the 1994 NWT royal visit a success. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife south, Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Congratulating Dogrib Power Corporation

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in the early 1960s, I was fortunate to be part of planning the building and the operating of the Taltson Twin Gorge hydro plant near Fort Smith. I worked for the corporation at the time and my involvement was rather indirect, but nonetheless I saw the beginning and the completion of that project. I can understand the excitement and enthusiasm that the people of the Dogrib Nation are now experiencing after the announcements this morning on the hydro development in that area. This time, they have a direct involvement and an ownership in this project. I am sure that in 1947 or 1948, when the Snare rapids and the Snare falls projects were undertaken, little if any consultation took place with the people of that region. It is good to see that now the stakeholders are so directly involved.

Since my involvement in hydro, I have had the pleasure of visiting many projects, Big Horn, Peace River, Bennett, and dams Mica and La Grande in Quebec and I would say these are big projects. They may have caused a lot of concern to the environmentalists over the years because of their size and because of the lack of environmental planning that went into them. We are all well aware of the effects the Peace River, Slave River and the Mackenzie River are feeling now from the dams on the Peace River in British Columbia.

If hydro is planned properly and built with the environment in mind, it is perhaps the best way to go. We use a lot of power in the territories. Our only

source, in many cases is diesel and until we get another form of energy in the north, we will be stuck with diesel for a long time. So any time hydro can be developed with the environment in mind, we must use it.

I extend, on behalf of the people of Yellowknife South, congratulations to the Dogrib Power Corporation and the people for this great venture that they are undertaking. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Media Coverage Of MLAs' Salaries

MR. LEWIS:

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to deal with a very personal and sensitive issue. I was discouraged by my colleagues to raise this issue today. It is something that I have not discussed very much. But today, I would like to point out that the press very often can cause conflict between man and wife.

MR. WHITFORD:

Oh, oh.

MR. LEWIS:

My wife has been the manager of my household ever since we were married 31 years ago. She prepares my tax returns before they go to my accountant and he just rubber-stamps them because they are always right. Madam Speaker, I have the dubious honour, according to the media, of being the lowest paid Member of this Assembly.

---Applause

MR. WHITFORD:

Shame, shame.

MR. LEWIS:

I didn't know how I could put a good, positive spin on that fact. Since Mr. Gargan has raised the business of salaries and salary caps, it makes me pause to reflect that maybe the amount of money one gets in

return for one's work is not a true reflection of the amount of work that one does and the value of the individual.

So I had to explain that to my wife. I should also point out to the media that the official piece of paper I take from my employer is called a T-4. My T-4 reflects an amount that is less \$70,000. My take-home pay, according to my last paycheque of the last fiscal year, was \$30,000. I can live on that because I am a man of modest tastes, very moderate and frugal...

---Laughter

...and I live quite simply. I should point out to the media that it is the job of this House to try to present facts so that people can understand them. We know we are elected to take other people's abuse. That is part of the job. But when you do it, you should make sure the facts that you use are facts that are real, not bloated information...

---Applause

...that the public then uses to further inflict injury on their elected people.

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, I seek consent to continue my statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue with his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, I have been faithful to my wife for 31 years.

---Applause

I am not hiding anything from her. It is not true that I made close to \$89,000 last year. I shouldn't have to explain to her what I did with the other \$20,000.

---Laughter

I don't have anyone that I have to look after beyond the kids in my household.

---Laughter

The money that I get I earn honestly and does not reflect the amount of money that I was paid at other stages in my career in the past. I do the work because I enjoy the work. I enjoy public service. I don't mind taking abuse. I am used to it. However, I am used to people dealing with me in a fair, straightforward, honest fashion. I wish that when we table information in the House, people would do their homework to find out exactly what it is that my employer says I earn and which I am accountable to Revenue Canada to pay taxes on. That is what I earn and that is what is not contained in the document that was tabled last week. It is unfortunate that members of the public now want to ask me why it is we make so much money. Quite frankly, \$89,000 is a lot of money. There are not that many people who make that kind of money. I don't make it and other Members in this House don't make it. If they were to see the T-4 that every one of us has to submit to pay taxes every year, they would know exactly what it is that we get in the way of earnings. The rest of it are expenses, which other businesses and other people also have to incur on behalf of the people they work for.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for Madam Premier and it is with respect to the policy that the government has for departments to relay non-confidential government information to Members. Does the government have a policy respecting the passing of information to Members requesting it at the regional office level? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, perhaps the Member could further clarify what type of information he is requesting. As the Member knows, we have a policy in various departments about what is permissible to release. There is confidential information in various departments, portfolios and programs. There are policies about what is to be kept confidential. I would request further clarification. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

MR. NG:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I am speaking about information that is non-confidential, things like government programs, costs of operating government facilities, those types of things that would normally be public information. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, information on matters of program information and of a non-confidential nature, according to general policy and practice, is available to Members of this Legislative Assembly, whether it is at a community, regional or head office level. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to clarify, when a Member requests information at a regional level, does that information have to be cleared through headquarters, or can it be released at the regional level to Members requesting this information? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I would suggest that any information of a non-confidential nature that has been requested by a Member of the Legislative Assembly at the regional level would not require further approval from head office, unless there is some question at the regional level about whether certain information is confidential or not yet ready for release. Oft-times in government work, there are some areas where the head office would say, in an area of a development program, that work is not conclusive. So, that may be an area where a person would contact head office to see if the information is ready for release, but, by and large, there should be no hesitation to release information at the regional level.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary. In some instances, I've encountered difficulties with certain departments in releasing information, where they say that approval must come from the Minister and where I'm requesting non confidential public

information. I would like to ask, is it up to the individual Ministers to decide whether that information must be released, under their signature? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 68-12(6): Government Policy Of Release Of Information To MLAs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, if there is public information being requested, I see no reason why that should be denied to a Member of the Legislative Assembly. If there are circumstances where the Member has a concern about information being held back, I would be very pleased to address those specific issues. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 69-12(6): Appointment Of New Commissioner

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Wednesday, October 5th was the last day of Commissioner Dan Norris' term as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Since that date, the Deputy Commissioner, Helen Maksagak, has been acting in his stead. Is the Premier aware if a decision has been made regarding the selection of a new Commissioner?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 69-12(6): Appointment Of New Commissioner

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as of 9:45 this morning, no decision had been made. Since we've come to this House, I don't know. As far as I understand, the Minister of Indian Affairs has concluded that he will need a little more time to make a final decision. Helen Maksagak will be Acting Commissioner until such time as that decision has been made. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 69-12(6): Appointment Of New Commissioner

MR. ANTOINE:

The Premier indicated that it would take a little bit more time. I would like to ask the Premier when the announcement of a new Commissioner will be made? Is there a specific time frame for that? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 69-12(6): Appointment Of New Commissioner

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I have no control or influence in telling the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Ron Irwin, when to make a decision. He has not conveyed to me when he will make that decision. I know he wants to. As of right now, we have processed everything required of us and forwarded the information to the Honourable Minister of Indian Affairs. It is entirely in his jurisdiction right now to make a decision on that matter. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Question 70-12(6): Purpose Of Appearance Of Honourable Ron Irwin

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice regarding his intention to invite the honourable Ron Irwin to address the Assembly. I would like to ask the Minister exactly what is the intended purpose of the appearance of Mr. Irwin?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 70-12(6): Purpose Of Appearance Of Honourable Ron Irwin

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, later on in the business of this House, I will be moving a motion that addresses the invitation of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to address the Assembly. At the time that I am moving the motion, I will be making a statement to explain and place the invitation in context.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Point of order, Mr. Gargan.

Point Of Order

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, is my question out of order?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, your question is not out of order, but I should caution you that that motion is on the order paper for today and it can be discussed today at the prerogative of the mover of the motion. We all know that motions have two days, which would be today and Tuesday, for discussion. Since the motion is on the order paper, your questioning should be cautious, depending on whether your question can be debated. I'm saying that your question is not out of order, depending on how you phrase the question.

The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 70-12(6): Purpose Of Appearance Of Honourable Ron Irwin

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I understood the response that the Minister gave, that there are a number of issues and concerns that the Cabinet and this House would like to address with Mr. Irwin. Has the Minister of Justice been in contact with Mr. Irwin regarding potential issues and agenda items for discussion?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 70-12(6): Purpose Of Appearance Of Honourable Ron Irwin

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the reason and the context for inviting the Minister will be addressed when the

motion is duly moved by myself, later on the order paper. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, under our rules we cannot ask questions regarding motions. You can speak to the motion, that's the reason why I've been asking the questions the way I've been asking them, so it doesn't have an impact on whatever the motion is. I have not referred to the motion at all. I would like to ask the Minister whether the discussions in committee of the whole will be structured and limited to only those items that the Minister wishes to talk about, or can we ask questions following his presentation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, just reviewing the motion placed on the order paper for today, in determining your question and I just want to indicate to the Members of the House that the motion does read: "Whereas the Legislative Assembly has requested the Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs to follow up and seek clarification from the Prime Minister and DIAND Minister on federal policies and initiatives relating to division of the Northwest Territories public and aboriginal government and devolution."

It seems to me, Mr. Gargan, that within this particular paragraph there is a possibility to seek clarification from possibly the questions that you may be wanting to ask of the Minister today. So, anticipating that, I feel that your question may be answered within the motion that is being posed. Therefore, I would like to ask you to rephrase your question so that it does not reflect anticipated discussions that this motion is presenting to our House and being discussed today. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 70-12(6): Purpose Of Appearance Of Honourable Ron Irwin

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I'll rephrase my last question, then. Madam Speaker, in committee of the whole the rules are quite open with regard to asking questions back

and forth between the witnesses in committee of the whole and Members here. I would like to ask the Minister whether that same type of arrangement is going to be used when Mr. Irwin appears as a witness.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Unfortunately, Mr. Gargan, I have to rule your question out of order. On the last portion of our motion it states "Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nunakput, that the Speaker be authorized to invite the Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to appear before the Legislative Assembly in committee of the whole on a date certain convenient to the Minister and the Speaker."

In the event this motion passes in the House, it will allow the Minister to appear in committee of the whole. Therefore, your question is anticipating the same type of reply that this motion is on the order paper for today. Therefore, I have to rule your supplementary question out of order.

---Ruled Out Of Order

Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Question 71-12(6): Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on August 24, 1994, there was a joint news release issued by the federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Honourable Marcel Masse, and the Government of the Northwest Territories Finance Minister, John Pollard. It's a federal/territorial plan aimed at making government work better. Just listening to today's budget address, I didn't hear the Minister of Finance make any reference to this news release and to this initiative of improving the efficiency of government. My question to the Minister of Finance is can he briefly explain what this new arrangement is, which is aimed at making government work better.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 71-12(6): Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, for some years now the federal Finance Minister has been imparting to his provincial and territorial counterparts that there's a lot of overlap and duplication in Canada. I think it was estimated some years ago at some \$5 billion. The Premiers, along with the Prime Minister of Canada looked at this situation and asked Ministers to start looking at the problem. When the new government came into place they really put some good store in this overlap and duplication area, and appointed Mr. Masse as their Minister for overlap and duplication.

Madam Premier asked me to look at this on behalf of the Northwest Territories. Consequently, the federal Minister has been making arrangements with different jurisdictions across Canada on how to look at overlap and duplication within our particular jurisdictions.

The agreement that we signed is the first step towards identifying areas where maybe the federal government and the territorial government are doing the same or similar things. It didn't go quite as far as we would have liked it to go, but certainly it's a move in the right direction. I'll be glad to provide a copy of the agreement to Members of the House, Madam Speaker. In fact, I'll table it in this House. Then Members can look at the fine print.

But, in general, it's to look at where there's overlap and duplication between the two governments in order to get some efficiency. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. What specific initiatives are being looked at currently?

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, one of the areas that we've been suggesting is the environmental area; we've looked at regulation of industry, there have been complaints from the mining industry with regard to all the hoops they have to jump through from different areas of regulation. So we're continuing to look at those particular areas. As I say, I'll get a copy of the agreement and you can see specifically other areas where we've reached agreement. I'm sorry, I don't have the agreement with me, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Who, specifically, in our government has been working on these initiatives, or is it a combination of people throughout the territories doing some of the specific things that are looking at improving the efficiency of government?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government Work Better

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, it's been the deputy minister of Finance, Mr. Eric Nielsen, who has been heading up the negotiations and the discussions. And, as required, other members from the different departments have been involved. All of the departments were polled and asked for their input as to where they saw areas that we could examine and explore. As I say, Mr. Nielsen coordinated the effort and used whatever expertise from different departments that he required at particular times. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government
Work Better

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. There are obviously many different people and many departments involved in this initiative and I would hope they're all involved because they're all part of government. We all know that, in a lot of cases, we have to improve our efficiency and effectiveness in delivering programs. What time frame are you looking at in achieving some of these initiatives?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 71-12(6):
Federal/Territorial Agreement On Making Government
Work Better

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, Mr. Masse is anxious to move very quickly. They want to start out in small ways with small strides and conclude them as soon as possible. It may require us going outside of government to negotiate or to at least discuss with other people who may be affected by some of these moves. Depending on how much time we have to spend discussing it in the Northwest Territories, which I think is very important, I would say we should start to see some improvement within the next 12 months, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building
Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Earlier I spoke about the concern that has been expressed by the hamlet of Repulse Bay and the paediatric consultant who has been doing work in that area for the past 11 years,

about the problem of alcohol and drugs being supplied by the outside building contractors.

Surely the Minister has been made aware of this, like the rest of us, in the past. My question is, what has the Minister found out about the situation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building
Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am aware of this issue of alcohol and drug use in Repulse Bay and the concern the community raised through their local MLA to bring it to our attention. The district manager of that region has met with the mayor of Repulse Bay. They have met with the contractors in the community to express the concern the community raised. The Housing Corporation district staff will be monitoring the contracts in that area, as well as the whole region, to try to ensure that they don't bring alcohol or drugs into the communities. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 72-12(6): Problem With
Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To
Community

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The hamlet of Coral Harbour pleaded, as in my statement, with that particular company over the summer and they have not changed their attitude and behaviour in that regard. I don't know if monitoring will result in any improvement.

My question then is, is there a way to deal with such issues where the contractor is acting irresponsibly in the community when, in fact, they've been told not to? Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have made the contractors aware of the concerns the community has about the alcohol and drug problems they do have in that community. We have tried our best to encourage the contractors and any other transients not to bring alcohol and drugs into the community. Laying of charges does fall in the hands of the Minister of Justice or the RCMP. We are willing to work with the community of Repulse Bay to try to stop this problem from continuing to happen. And I suggest that they also work with the RCMP to see that if people are bringing drugs into the community, charges should be laid. Thank you.

--Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This reply seems to be for all the future contractors who will be coming into the communities. My question is with regard to that particular contractor in that particular community. Will the company that caused the problem not be awarded the contract in the next season? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. When we tender for contracts in any region, I do not think that we could hold back contracts unless these people are tried and

convicted. We cannot do that as a government, as it would be seen as us being prejudiced against the contractor without undue cause. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary, will the Minister then communicate his response to me on the procedure that can be used with the hamlet immediately? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 72-12(6): Problem With Building Contractors Supplying Alcohol To Community

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Like I said previously to the Member, I would be willing to instruct my district staff to work with the hamlet and the mayor, as well as the Member to try to solve this problem. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 73-12(6): Social Worker For Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my area, Arctic Bay has the highest population. I would like to ask the Minister of Social Services a question. The social worker had resigned because of the size of the population in Arctic Bay. Does she know when they will get another social worker? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will check into the matter and take that question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier this week, when I was at home in Coral Harbour, I was told that the Minister of Education made a statement to the divisional board of education in the Keewatin that the language cuts from the federal government to our government were the fault of the Languages Commissioner and that the Minister's statement was aired on CBC Kivallivik. In the meantime, I'm trying to get the transcript from the CBC. Up to this time, I have not yet been successful. I am confident that I will be getting those transcripts later on. However, I want to know from the Minister if this rumour I hear from my own community is true.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk, you're asking the Minister to confirm or deny a media report which is not allowed under our rules, so therefore I ask you to rephrase your question or your current question will have to be ruled out of order. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 74-12(6): Media Report On Minister's Comments Re Language Funding Cuts

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My apologies. I did not do that very well, did I? What I'm trying to ask is did he make such a statement regarding what the CBC Kivallivik said? If that will also be ruled out of order, I'll try to find another way of finding that out. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Unfortunately, your question is asking the same matter, so therefore I would have to rule it out of order. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

---Ruled Out Of Order

Question 75-12(6): Legislation Re Collective Bargaining

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to Mr. Pollard, in his role as the chairman Of the Financial

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Management Board. All Members received a letter dated September 21st. It is a confidential letter, and it is in keeping with a promise that was made to keep Members informed about collective bargaining, so I will not divulge the contents of the letter.

However, there is an attachment that points out to Members that across the country, various things have happened, including a list -- which is a matter of public record -- of all the legislation that has been passed across the country in order to impose collective bargaining through the legislation process. I would like to ask the Minister, does he have legislation prepared, just in case everything breaks down?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 75-12(6): Legislation Re Collective Bargaining

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Madam Speaker, I don't. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Question 76-12(6): Investigation Of Contractor In Pond Inlet

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of the Department of Public Works a question. Last year, I told him that a contractor in my community put through a false claim. I also let the Premier know, and there was an RCMP investigation. Has that RCMP investigation been concluded now? It has been over a year. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 77-12(6): Availability of Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Madam Speaker, there have been a number of stories, widely reported in the Alberta press, on the effects of the cutbacks in the Alberta health care system. Given our recent ties to the Royal Alec Hospital, one, in particular, stood out. That was where a patient who was being medevaced to Edmonton from northern Alberta who had to overfly Edmonton and go to a hospital in Calgary because the emergency departments were full at both the Royal Alec and the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Obviously, if this can happen to an Albertan in Alberta, I would think the chances are it could happen to somebody from the Northwest Territories. Given the fact that it is a greater distance and there is more time involved, this may become a critical issue. I would like to know if the Minister of Health has followed up on the cutbacks in Alberta and has made sure that NWT residents who are being medevaced to Edmonton will always be able to be served there by the emergency departments.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 77-12(6): Assurance That Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta Hospital

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, yes. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 77-12(6): Assurance That Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta Hospital

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just for further clarification, by yes, does the Minister mean that we have been guaranteed that if an NWT resident is being medevaced to Edmonton, there will be space available in the emergency department at the Royal Alec?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 77-12(6): Assurance That Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta Hospital

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, that is part of the agreement, that space will be available. I don't know, we may have an emergency circumstance, I can't say that I can guarantee it 100 per cent because we never know what may happen. But, according to the agreement, we are supposed to be on the priority list at all times to have access to emergency care when we require it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 77-12(6): Assurance That Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta Hospital

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Further to the agreement with the Royal Alec and given that, as recently as yesterday, there were further announcements of proposed cutbacks and closures of beds in Edmonton, including at the Royal Alec, can the Minister advise this House if the agreement we have with the Royal Alec will ensure that the services that NWT residents receive are not being cut back at the same rate they are to Alberta residents?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 77-12(6): Assurance That Emergency Medical Services Available In Alberta Hospital

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as the Member quite rightly brings to our attention, there are continual announcements from the province of Alberta about cutbacks. We have been assured that the Royal Alec will live up to the agreement. We are checking on the latest cutbacks to see, once again, whether that is

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going to affect us or not. Once we've made an assessment, I would be pleased to provide that information to the Assembly. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 78-12(6): Compensation To Hunters For Damaged Equipment

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. During the spring and summer, people cannot harvest polar bears. When hunters leave their equipment out on the land, they have noticed a lot of polar bears destroying the equipment. Is there anything we can do to rectify this? Also, Madam Speaker, hunters cannot receive any compensation for the destroyed equipment. Has the Minister done anything about polar bears destroying hunters' equipment?

MADAM SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources is not available. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the Minister just stepped out for a moment to take a telephone call, so I will take that question as notice on his behalf.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the Fourth Session, I asked the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism a question regarding the development of a policy for using renewable resources. The Minister responded, "I will check to see, in fact, if there is a policy in place and if there isn't, I'm suggesting to you that I agree with you that we need to look at one. I will commit to it, yes, absolutely."

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if his department has made any progress on developing this policy? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good question. The honourable Member is correct, I did undertake to determine whether or not there was a policy with respect to the utilization of renewable resources by government agencies and others. Much to my surprise, the utilization of renewable resources was somewhat limited. I believe I did provide the honourable Member with a list of each department and what they have expended. I undertook to write to my colleagues who were directly responsible for education, corrections, et cetera, to try to encourage them to encourage their departments to purchase more.

We are in the throes right now of developing a policy with respect to greater utilization of renewable resources and I'm optimistic that we will be able to accomplish that in the coming months. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, then, did he have any positive responses to his letters to his colleagues, requesting the use of renewable resources? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

I'm optimistic that we will see greater utilization by government agencies -- whether it is a hospital, corrections facility or an educational facility -- of the renewable resources we have across the territories. Yes, the Ministers have indicated to me that they're onside with this issue and they're going to find a method to accelerate greater purchases of northern foods. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe the Minister recognizes that this is a fairly important issue. Is it one of the priorities of his department to complete this policy? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

There is an old saying, actions speak louder than words, and I guess the policy is one thing -- which we are going to complete -- but the other thing is to get people at the buying and bureaucratic levels to recognize that there is an obligation and responsibility to use the renewable resources which all our constituencies harvest.

I made this a priority when I was an ordinary Member. I've made it a priority as a Minister of Economic Development. And I want to assure the honourable Member, that particularly in the Kitikmeot area with these new \$1.2 or \$1.3 million meat and fish plants, we will make every effort to accelerate the use of the renewable resources from that area, as well as others. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ng.

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Supplementary To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister then, when you would anticipate tabling such a policy for our consideration? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 79-12(6): Development Of Policy Re Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

I don't recall exactly where it's at right now, but I'm fairly confident that we're far enough along that I may be able to advise the Member later on next week exactly when we could table it.

Again, I want to say, policy is one thing. The other thing is to make sure that everybody recognizes their obligation and their responsibility to be purchasing these goods, whether it's white fish from Hay River, muskox from Sachs Harbour or caribou from the centre of the universe, Rankin Inlet. We are making the right moves. We are pressing the departments to upgrade their utilization of renewable resources.

I would say for the record that I was frankly disappointed that last year as a government we only purchased \$15,000 worth of renewable resources. I did provide that information to the Member. That's one way which we can...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, shame.

HON. JOHN TODD:

I agree. Shame. That's one way that we can evaluate whether there's been any significant change because we know exactly what was spent last year and we want to ensure that more is spent in the coming years. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

Question 80-12(6): Effect Of Cutbacks To Waste Disposal Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question I want to direct to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It's somewhat following along the lines of my colleague, Mr. Dent. In the press that we receive from Alberta, we read about all of the cutbacks that the Klein government is taking in many areas, not only health. But, the fact is that we have a great dependency on Alberta for many of our services that are not available here in the territories.

The environmental waste program that we have in the Northwest Territories...We have a protocol with the province of Alberta, the Swan Hills incinerator, as an example. I read in the press that major cutbacks have taken place and it's affecting other provinces. I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources whether the waste disposal program and protocol that we have with Alberta...Is this still in effect, or have the cutbacks affected it?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 80-12(6): Effect Of Cutbacks To Waste Disposal Program

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The protocol that we have set with the Government of Alberta for disposal of hazardous wastes in Swan Hills is still in effect and it has not affected the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 81-12(6): Compensation To Hunters For Damaged Equipment

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to go back to my question. I know the Minister was supposed to have been given notice. Could my question be repeated again? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Pudlat, the Premier has taken the question as notice for the Minister. Once a question is taken as notice in the House, it is to be returned under returns to oral questions. So this will give the Minister a chance to look over the document as to what your original question was, and return an answer to you under returns to oral questions on our order paper. Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It's to do with the whole area of income support reform. My understanding is that the federal government has at least two initiatives; there's the Axworthy initiative and I understand there's an initiative for aboriginal people. We have our initiative. It would also seem to be, Madam Speaker, that the federal initiative is going to take some time. It seems to be bogged down already. So my question to the Minister is how do we coordinate our initiatives with both the major federal initiative and also the aboriginal federal initiative? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. For Members who are not aware, I think the document that was released, *Creating Choices: Solving the Income Support Puzzle*, articulated some of the issues that are necessary for us, in the north, to address both in terms of the overall public and the aboriginal community itself. It's our view that any solution has to be collective, it has to be comprehensive. Therefore, the divisions that the federal government has established would only cause us more problems rather than provide for more appropriate solutions

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for the northern communities.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I'm not sure, Madam Speaker, that exactly answers my question. Obviously, whatever the federal government does in this area is going to have significant impact on us because of our funding relationship with the federal government. My specific question is how are we organizing ourselves to work with the federal government so that we're not left moving in a direction while the federal government is bogged down somewhere else and we're financially exposed in a different area? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, the problem is that the honourable Member should realize that we've already sent out the consultation document to the people of the Northwest Territories. That is before the federal government has even announced their document. It deals with all portions of our community, including youth and elders who were overlooked and aboriginal people who were divided and overlooked by the federal government.

We have established, in our government, the task force to develop the comprehensive position on the part of our government because we didn't want to in any way take a back seat to the processes that were to be established by the federal government. If anything, we would like to lead the federal government in solutions that would be proposed by the people of the Northwest Territories.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Madam Speaker, that's well and good. Obviously we want made-in-the-north programs. But as the Minister is aware, this whole area of income support reform is an area that has been going on for many years. The major barriers to us making progress have been those financial barriers set up by the federal government. So my question to the Minister, Madam Speaker, is more specific. Are there specific federal, provincial, territorial task forces that we're involved with? I'll use that as my question, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What we have done initially is to establish our own task force to review our own programs. We have \$192 million worth of social program funding that is expended in the Northwest Territories. We have to get a handle, first of all, about the picture that we have and the expenditures that we're making. Secondly, we have to get an indication from the communities as to where their priorities are. And part of the task force responsibility is to bring some sense to that.

The second portion to our initiative is to bring the federal process north with the standing committee and, secondly, we're meeting on an ongoing basis with federal officials to review their position in conjunction to our position, and to try to bring some sense to the issues that are being brought forward.

They are, as the honourable Member has pointed out, very complex and very divided in terms of the provinces. What we need to do is to try to get some sense of what we're trying to accomplish.

There are already divisions being brought about by the federal initiative where they are dividing the aboriginal community and non-aboriginal community, the north versus the south, provinces versus the territories and province versus province. It is a very complex issue. We've been trying to ensure that we have a collective position, rather than a divided position.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I don't argue with that particular component of the approach. I think it's very, very important. My concern goes hand in hand with that. In the northern approach, there has to be the federal strategy. My question to the Minister is, is the Minister taking steps to ensure that the process which will take place in the north won't raise expectations to a point that whatever the federal government is prepared to do, those expectations won't be able to be met? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 82-12(6): Coordination Of Initiatives Re Income Support Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, we are not intending to raise expectations. What we are trying to do is to ensure that what people see as our social responsibility, that those dollars are presently in the programs in existence at this particular juncture.

The other point is we want to ensure that we use our money much better. The investing in people program, which deals with offering education and training, the building and learning strategy and our renewable resources development strategy are all components

of a bigger picture. We are trying to bring them all together and use our resources more appropriately.

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There are also initiatives being undertaken by the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism for creating new businesses and new jobs for the north.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 83-12(6): Delay In Delivery Of Federal Pension Cheques To Elders

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Madam Speaker, we are very lucky that most of the employees in the territories, including the politicians, get their pay cheques on the same day as we expect to. I'm sure federal employees get their cheques on the same day they expect them.

I have been approached by a number of elders in my community, and I'm sure the problem is the same across the board. Elders have approached me saying that their cheques are usually late, sometimes two or three weeks late. I wonder if the honourable Minister would communicate with the federal Minister of Finance to see if there is a way to solve the problem for elders in this jurisdiction? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 83-12(6): Delay In Delivery Of Federal Pension Cheques To Elders

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for drawing the matter to my attention. I will do everything with the federal government to ensure that the cheques arrive in a timely fashion. It may also be that our government has been lax in that area, so I will check that as well, Madam Speaker, and report back to the Member. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq. It is with regard to fires. Madam Speaker, as of September 16, there were still some active fires going in the western Arctic. I want to ask the Minister if there has been any monitoring of those fires still going at this time, and does the Minister know how many are still going?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, there are, we understand, approximately 80 fires still smouldering. These are all located in the western Arctic regions, except for the Inuvik area. All fires that the department is aware of are being monitored by departmental staff. We expect that as the temperature cools, these fires should go out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I also understand that under forestry, there are three zones under which fires are identified. Zone 1 are fires you must fight, zone 2 you fight sometimes and zone 3 fires that you just let go. Is the Minister aware of what categories the 80 fires he has mentioned are in?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, no, I'm not aware of what categories these fires are being observed at at the present time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

MR. GARGAN:

Well, can I ask the Minister, then, if he would provide me with that information?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 84-12(6): Monitoring Of Forest Fires

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Are you finished, Mr. Gargan? Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 85-12(6): Status Of Firefighting Crews

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question I want to ask is related to what my colleague, Mr. Gargan, has directed to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources dealing with the fire situation. We did have a lot of fires this year and, as my colleague has pointed out, there are still a number of them burning in some areas that are considered by the people living in those areas to be vital areas. They are still burning, although we are expecting more rain and snow which will probably knock them down a little more.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources whether the fire crews that they have had all summer are still active. Are they still in their base, or has everything been shut down now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for Renewable Resources.

Return To Question 85-12(6): Status Of Firefighting Crews

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, all fire bases have been shut down. I indicated earlier

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that there are some fires that are still being monitored. Departmental staff are checking into the fires that are still going. As of September 30th, they are monitoring these fires using all-terrain vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 85-12(6): Status Of Firefighting Crews

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a concern, of course, that we still have fires burning in some areas and while it appears to be regulated at the same time everything is being shut down. I just wonder if it is the policy of Renewable Resources and this government to look at the calendar as a measurement to shut down fire operations. Is this policy, or is it based on the fact that if there is a fire we fight them, regardless if it goes into October or November?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 85-12(6): Status Of Firefighting Crews

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question of whether fires should be fought is a question that has been raised with the department over the summer by, if not all then most, communities in the western Arctic. In fact, there were some questions raised in communities in the east about how, when, where and how many firefighters there should be in any one fire. Because this was such a bad year for fires, the departmental staff are and will be going into communities to find out concerns that the people in

the communities have about the way in which we fight fires at the present time.

As to the question raised by Mr. Whitford, the policies we do have are to fight fires that have value at risk. At the present time, I believe all the fires that are ongoing are not lands which have any value to people in the communities, or they are valued in that they are land but there are no buildings or any such valuable items on the lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Arngna'naaq. The time for question period has elapsed, so we'll take a 15-minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

I'll call the House back to order. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address. Item 12, petitions.

Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. KOE:

Yes, I have a report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, but I would like to have a quorum in the House before I proceed.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. No quorum in the House. Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bells, please. The chair recognizes a quorum. Proceed, Mr. Koe.

Committee Report 8-12(6): Report On The Medical Registration Committee

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. This morning, I wish to present a report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on the review of the Medical Registration Committee.

Introduction

Following recent events which drew attention to the issue of certification of physicians in the Northwest

Territories, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions selected the Medical Registration Committee for review.

The standing committee considered this matter in meetings in Yellowknife from April 25 to 29, 1994. On April 28, 1994, public hearings were held with the Minister of Health, the Honourable John Pollard, the chair of the Medical Registration Committee, Dr. Margaret Woodside and the president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association, Dr. Perry Caplan.

The standing committee wishes to acknowledge the input of the witnesses and thank them for their appearance at the public hearings. We would also like to thank Ms. Helen Roberts, registrar of the Medical Registration Committee, for her assistance in our review.

Background

The Medical Registration Committee (MRC) considers applications for registration of physicians in the Northwest Territories and makes recommendations regarding registrations to the Minister of Health. Their responsibility is derived from the Medical Profession Act.

This is a role that is usually adopted in the provinces by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. These colleges also deal with the discipline of physicians, whereas the Medical Registration Committee does not.

Both the government and the Northwest Territories Medical Association have indicated that they would prefer an arrangement where physicians had more independence. It may be too expensive or difficult to establish a full college in the Northwest Territories. However it should still be possible to amend the act to give Northwest Territories physicians that independence, either by amending the committee's mandate or through the establishment of a new body.

As well, Members of the standing committee support the general principle that non-departmental agencies should generally be at arm's length from the government. This holds true for the Medical Registration Committee.

Forthcoming Changes

Committee Members see the present relationship between the department and the Medical Registration

Committee as too close. An arm's-length relationship would be more appropriate and would better serve the

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principle of physicians' self-governance.

The Minister indicated that amendments to the act are being drafted which would change the Medical Registration Committee in the following ways:

- more independence from the department;
- majority of members would be physicians;
- stronger representation of non-physicians on the committee;
- allow better representation of aboriginal views and concerns.

The standing committee is encouraged by these suggestions and looks forward to seeing the draft legislation when it is introduced early next year. Committee Members especially commend the proposals to have more lay representatives on the Medical Registration Committee and to ensure that aboriginal people and issues are well represented on the new committee.

While the new body will not have all of the powers and duties of a provincial college of physicians, it will be a step towards that position. We understand the concerns of the Minister and the Northwest Territories Medical Association that establishing a full college in the Northwest Territories would be unnecessarily expensive and complicated. The standing committee agrees that the proposal, as outlined by the Minister, is a suitable step for physicians in the Northwest Territories.

For routine registration of physicians wishing to practise in the north, the Minister and the department need not be involved. The current practice of only registering physicians who have been licensed by the Medical Council of Canada is quite adequate to ensure that physicians practising in the north are properly trained.

The appropriate role for the Minister and the department would be in dealing with appeals. If a physician has been refused registration, or has been suspended or otherwise disciplined, the Minister would be the next avenue of appeal. Otherwise, committee Members agree that the Minister and the department need not be directly involved with the

decisions of the Medical Registration Committee. To that end, the present practice of having a representative of the Department of Health as a voting member of the Medical Registration Committee should be reviewed. The status of the registrar on the committee should also be reviewed, perhaps by making the registrar a non-voting member of the Medical Registration Committee.

Also related to disciplinary issues is the balance between protecting the interests of the public and the desire of physicians to be self-regulating. Any amendments to the disciplinary procedures in the act must take this balance into account. While self-regulation is a desirable goal, the interests of the public must not only be protected, but must be seen to be protected.

Traditional Healers

While not directly related to the mandate of the Medical Registration Committee, the issue of traditional healers and traditional medicine was raised by the standing committee. Committee Members were concerned that valuable skills possessed by traditional healers are often ignored, as northerners focus more and more on the western model of health care.

Committee Members raised the example of the Navajo First Nation. Traditional healers there are a respected part of the health care system. In fact, Navajo traditional healers have established a college, similar to a college of physicians, which has the responsibility for training, registering and disciplining traditional healers.

The Special Committee on Health and Social Services, in their final report of November 1993, recommended that "Traditional healing methods must be recognized, funded by government and incorporated into our system of health and social services". The standing committee endorses this recommendation and encourages the Department of Health to act upon it. Specifically, the standing committee recommends that the Department of health must ensure that traditional healers and healing methods are considered in the department's strategic plans. The department should meet with traditional healers in the north in order to receive their views on how they might be better recognized and respected by the Northwest Territories Health Care System.

Madam Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and

Commissions on its review of the Medical Registration Committee.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 8-12(6), Carried

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report be received by the Assembly and adopted. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 13, reports of standing and special committees. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

ITEM 15: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to table a document. Tabled Document 27-12(6) is a letter to Mayor John Kaunak from Dr. Moffatt dated September 16th. I would also like to include in this tabling, a letter to the Honourable Donnie Morin from Mayor John Kaunak, dated October 5th.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 15, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 28-12(6), and it is a letter that was addressed to me on March 17, 1994, from the president of the HTA of Resolute Bay concerning disturbing natural seal feeding and gaming areas. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 15, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 18, motions. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 18: MOTIONS

Motion 9-12(6): Tabled Document 23-12(6) "Report Of The Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories" Be Moved To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly requested the Electoral District Boundaries Commission to review certain boundaries so as they may conform to the boundary to divide the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS, the report of the Commission's review has been tabled in accordance with the act;

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 18, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Motion 10-12(6): Appearance Of The Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister Of Indian Affairs And Northern Development, Carried

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly has requested the Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs to follow-up and seek clarification from the Prime Minister and DIAND Minister on federal policies and initiatives relating to division of the Northwest Territories, public and aboriginal government and devolution;

AND WHEREAS, it is understood that the DIAND Minister is prepared to provide the Legislative Assembly with clarification of federal policies and broad statements of principle respecting a number of issues relating to the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that the Speaker be authorized to invite the Honourable Ron Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to appear before the Legislative Assembly in committee of the whole on a date certain convenient to the Minister and the Speaker.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to provide some brief remarks in support of the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier, I just want to ask Mr. Kakfwi who is the mover, and also to ask the seconder if they did want to take first opportunity, according to our rules, to speak to the motion. If not, then you can proceed. Mr. Kakfwi, did you intend to make any type of remarks on your motion?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the April 1994 strategic planning workshop in Fort Smith, Members of this Legislative Assembly in Caucus directed the Premier and I to take steps which would provide clarification on the federal government's policies as they relate to the implementation of aboriginal government and the evolution of public government in the Northwest Territories.

More specifically, Caucus directed that the Premier and I seek this clarification directly from the Prime Minister and the Minister of DIAND, not only on behalf of the west but also because of the implications these would have on the future of Nunavut.

During the course of the summer, the Premier raised this matter with the Prime Minister on two occasions, including in a First Ministers' meeting in July and the second time when she met privately with the Prime Minister on August 21st during the course of the royal visit.

The need for clarification was also raised by the Premier or myself on three separate meetings with Minister Irwin. I should also note that the federal and territorial officials have collaborated over the last few months to determine if the DIAND Minister is in a position to make a statement as opposed to writing a letter, on the evolution of public and aboriginal government in the west.

Recently, Minister Irwin indicated he would be prepared to make a broad statement which provides principles and clarification of federal policies as requested in Fort Smith, and that he would be prepared to deliver this statement before the Legislative Assembly. It should be noted that the Minister has also been encouraged to use his remarks to reaffirm the federal commitment to the creation of Nunavut by April 1999. Members should also be aware that the Minister has committed to meeting with the Constitutional Development Steering

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Committee, given the implications which the principles and clarifications in his remarks could have for the upcoming constitutional conference and a new western territory.

I urge Members to support this motion. The Premier and I have responded to the best of our ability over the last few months. We believe that Minister Irwin addressing the Assembly gives us and the public an excellent opportunity to receive first-hand response to some of the issues which were raised during the Fort Smith strategic planning workshop, and to have these remarks on the public record. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Secunder to the motion, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as seconder of the motion, I would like to provide a few brief remarks in support of the motion.

When the House reconvened on Wednesday, I made reference to the work that Minister Kakwi and I have done over the summer months in inviting Minister Irwin to this House. As I stated in my remarks, we are concerned that various federal statements regarding self-government and treaty land entitlement in the western NWT have meant different things to different people and are creating a range of expectations. We need a greater degree of clarity and certainty about these matters. I went on to state that Minister Irwin has indicated his willingness to speak on the self-government matters and also on issues such as devolution, the evolution of public government in a western territory and the implementation of a Nunavut territory by April 1999.

Finally, Madam Speaker, given current fiscal realities, we should expect that Minister Irwin may also offer some thoughts on setting realistic expectations, particularly because of the federal program and budget reductions.

In closing, I want to advise Members that Minister Irwin was initially reluctant to appear before the House because he might be perceived as a federal governor directing the colonial administration on how to conduct itself.

Madam Speaker, I'm sure I speak for all Members in stating that this House has evolved to the stage where its status is not compromised by the offer of timely and welcome input by a Minister of the federal government. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this motion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I, too, support the motion. It is based on what the federal Liberal party's mandate is with regard to the aboriginal communities in its efforts to address the obstacles to their development and to help them marshal the human and physical resources necessary to sustain a viable community.

Madam Speaker, in the Deh Cho region, there are two MLAs who represent 10 aboriginal communities.

Those 10 aboriginal communities each have their own agenda of their own political initiative. That initiative shouldn't deter from the Liberal's own position regarding the inherent right to self-government and existing aboriginal and treaty rights. Madam Speaker, for the record, we have a federal policy regarding aboriginal rights and rights that can be extended under the red book of the Liberal government.

I would hope that when Mr. Irwin comes here, he doesn't come under any illusion that he comes with a different platform as opposed to what the Liberal government has already promised the aboriginal people.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I, too, would like to see the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development address us here in this Legislative Assembly. I would like to have the opportunity, however, to be able to question the Minister. The purpose of the visit, according to the Honourable Minister Stephen Kakfwi, is for clarification of the federal government's position. To just have the Minister give us a statement and leave may raise more questions. There may be a requirement for more clarification after he makes the statement. I would like to have an opportunity to try to further clarify any statement the Minister may give in this House.

I, too, agree with the Premier, the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, that to invite Minister Ronald Irwin here is not to get direction from the big federal government and to have them tell us what to do. I come from an area where we are fiercely independent. We don't like people telling us what to do and I'm sure people in the north feel the same. We don't want somebody from Ottawa telling us what to do. I don't expect to hear that kind of message. For that reason, as well, I would like to be able to question the Minister when he comes into the House to give a statement.

You must realize that there are regions that have reached settlement and other regions that don't have claims. You must go back into history when, 20 years ago, the whole notion of aboriginal rights was thrown out by the federal government. We have evolved quite a bit in dealing with aboriginal issues. Now we

are even talking about aboriginal self-government. That is a big evolution.

As well, I don't want to see the territorial government and the Ministers here try to put roadblocks in front of those groups that are not negotiating their own areas, but are endeavouring to make arrangements with the federal government, just because there aren't claims in their regions. I don't want them to take this opportunity to set parameters and principles that will deter other regions from reaching their initiatives.

I just wanted to make those comments, but I will support this motion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion, the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Just a quick question to the mover. In the second paragraph, it says, "the DIAND Minister is prepared to provide the Legislative Assembly with clarification of federal policies and broad statements of principles." In that case, will we be able to ask questions, as Members, directly to the Minister directly after the statement made by him?

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk, when we debate a motion, you can make comments and state concerns within your discussion of the motion. In his final response as the mover of the motion, Mr. Kakfwi may respond to those concerns, or he may not. While you are discussing any type of motion in the House, you are not allowed to ask questions of the mover. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. With the understanding that if we approve this motion, we won't be able to ask questions directly to the Minister of Indian Affairs and raise the numerous concerns we have, and also because the Nunavut Implementation Commission, along with the Nunavut Caucus and NTI have been working with the federal government already on Bill 132 -- or whatever it is called, the bill respecting article four of the land claims agreement -- and there have been problems with definitions already, I won't be supporting the motion. It will not allow me to get

clarification regarding the implementation.
Qujannamiik.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting the motion but I want to reiterate some of the statements raised by my colleague from Nahendeh. There are many types of negotiations taking place. The Delta-Beaufort is negotiating with the federal and territorial governments on a regional government concept, there are initiatives in the Deh Cho, there are initiatives with Treaty 8, there are self-government initiatives with the Dogrib and the Sahtu and other types of arrangements that these groups are working on.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has, traditionally, been part of the federal negotiating team. As such, I hope the Minister doesn't come intending to set too strict parameters because these negotiations, in many cases, are just starting. I don't want to undermine and I want to respect the positions taken by these various groups. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, will be supporting this motion that has been put forward by the honourable Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs. Madam Speaker, my interpretation of the motion we are dealing with is that it would allow us, under our current rules, to ask questions with committee of the whole. I haven't a big problem because the rules for committee of the whole addresses that concern. As well, under rule 97 with regard to witnesses, the Members of committee of the whole can ask questions to the Minister. So, in that respect, Madam Speaker, these allow Members to question the Minister when he does appear before us. So, I will be supporting this particular motion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 19: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had first reading. Item 20, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River.

ITEM 20: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make capital

expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1996. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Item 21, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 14-12(6), "Open for Business" - Privatizing the Northwest Territories Power Corporation; Minister's Statement 11-12(6), Return to Session; Committee Report 4-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 6 - Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Committee Report 5-12(6), Report on the Review of the Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Report of the Auditor General for Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1993; Committee Report 6-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 3 - Guardianship and Trusteeship Act; Bill 2, Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act; Bill 3, Guardianship and Trusteeship Act; Bill 6, Access to Information and

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Protection of Privacy Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act; Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act; and, Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee of the whole will come to order. What is the wish of the committee? Yesterday we were on Bill 12 and we may have stopped on clause 7 of Bill 12. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we continue dealing with Bill 12.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that we continue with Bill 12?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Commissioner's Land Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Does the Minister wish to invite in her witnesses to assist her at the witness table?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses to the witness table?

Thank you. Madam Minister, would you be so kind as to introduce your witnesses to the committee?

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Shawn Flynn, legislative counsel from Justice and, on my right, is the deputy minister of MACA, Dave Ramsden.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. We're on Bill 12, clause 7. Are there any comments? The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Clause By Clause

MR. GARGAN:

Yesterday, the Minister said she would provide me with the areas where Commissioner's lands are identified outside the municipalities. I wanted to ask the Minister whether or not she has that information today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that Mr. Gargan requested will take more than a day to gather. So, if he doesn't mind, we will provide it at a later date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further comments? The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Just a question. I know the Minister already commented on this, but why do we have a clause in here to have this act come into force on June 27, 1969?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let the legal counsel respond to Mr. Koe's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent of that provision is to make a declaration that the provisions referred to have always existed and the date in question is the date that the act was originally passed, to ensure it is very clear that those powers existed as of the first date of the operation of the act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. That is a retroactive clause. Mr. Koe, is that the answer you are looking for?

MR. KOE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The chair recognizes Mr. Zoe, Member for North Slave.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I understand what the legal counsel for the government is saying, but why are there only three sections of the act that are retroactive back to 1969? What about the other sections? Why is it only those three specific areas that have to go that far back to 1969?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

I'll let Mr. Flynn respond to that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are essentially two types of provisions in this bill. One type are what you might call "empowerment provisions." They are the ones that we're saying very clearly have always existed. The other type of provision in this bill is what you might call a fee validation provision. We say that those provisions are deemed to have existed as of the date of first reading because that will preclude any lawsuits being launched after that point, with the advantage of the publicity that the introduction into the House brings. Then when you read those provisions, you see that they make a declaratory statement that those fees are valid. So, there was no need to say anything further in that respect. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Any further comments on clause 7? The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Again, just with regard to that retroactive clause, I'd like to ask the Minister if, in fact, by making it retroactive to when the challenge was made, it would set a precedent. I don't think you'll get any other

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case. I wouldn't think so, anyway. Am I wrong in suggesting that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Member repeat his question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Gargan, for clarification, the Minister didn't get all of the question.

MR. GARGAN:

I don't know which community is launching the lawsuit regarding this particular section. All I'm saying is whether or not...Why don't you just go back as far as when the lawsuit was launched, as opposed to only going back that far? Because I would think that just by doing it from that time on, that you set a precedent and I don't think you'll get any other challenges on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, just to make a clarification. The community is not launching a lawsuit. I'll let Mr. Flynn elaborate on this matter in response to the question of Mr. Gargan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good question. The concern is that because the Statute of Limitations Act probably only runs once the person has discovered this mistake, there's a bit of concern that this problem could have continued to exist into the past for some period of time. So the intent is to make it clear that this bill goes right back to the beginning and makes it very clear from that point on that we've always had this authority. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Mr Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. With regard to our own fiscal problems and the fact that we don't have that kind of

money available, I would think this would benefit the communities as opposed to the government.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

That was by way of a side comment. Do we have any further comments on clause 7 of Bill 12?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

No further comments. Okay. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. The last clause is the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get some clarification before we approve Bill 12. In the standing committee report referring to bills 9 to 12 -- and I know we've passed 9, 10 and 11 -- one of the issues raised was that the committee Members weren't convinced that a piecemeal review of the legislation is the preferred way of ensuring that the legislation we have in place is the best it can be.

The committee suggests that the government review the legislation as a whole with a view to bringing it up to date. I have raised this at the committee level, not only this round, but last year when we made amendments to these specific bills on another issue.

I'm just wondering, what is the status or what is the department doing in terms of reviewing the bills pertaining to the Charter Communities Act, Cities, Town and Villages Act, Commissioner's Lands Act and the Hamlets Act, in terms of bringing it up to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have made some indications to the NWTAM that we will be reviewing these three pieces of legislation, in cooperation with the municipalities of association. So I do agree with the committee's suggestion that we should be reviewing these pieces of legislation that we have been dealing with. I think this is the first time the amendments have been made to this legislation, to my understanding, to the Commissioner's Land Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. The chair continues to recognize the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Just for clarification, is the department doing a comprehensive review of the municipal bills, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act, and the Cities, Towns and Villages Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Minister.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, the review itself has not commenced, but we have made indications to the NWTAM informing them ahead of time that we will be reviewing them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Minister. Does that answer your question, Mr. Koe? The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Does the committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Bill 12 is now ready for third reading. The chair recognizes Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Just before we get into that, Mr. Gargan, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister and the witnesses for their appearance before this committee. If I didn't do that, they'd be here all day. Thank you very much. We have a motion on the floor to report progress which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I shall rise and report progress to the Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 22, report of committee of the whole.

ITEM 22: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in your absence, your committee has been considering Bill 12 and would like to report progress, in that Bill 12 is now ready for third reading. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 23: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Liquor Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the third time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 4 has had third reading. Item 23, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Charter Communities Act

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act, be read for the third time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had third reading. Item 23, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Bill 10: An Act To Amend The Cities, Towns And Villages Act

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the third time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had third reading. Item 23, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Bill 11: An Act To Amend The Hamlets Act

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act, be read for the third time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

--Carried

Bill 11 has had third reading. Item 23, third reading of bills. Item 24, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

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ITEM 24: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at 1:30 pm this afternoon. Meetings for Tuesday, October 11th, at 9:00 am of the Caucus and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 11, 1994.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 14-12(6), "Open for Business"
 - Privatizing the Northwest Territories Power Corporation
 - Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories
 - Minister's Statement 11-12(6), Return to Session
 - Committee Report 4-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 6 - Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - Committee Report 5-12(6), Report on the Review of the Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Report of the Auditor General for Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1993
 - Committee Report 6-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 3 - Guardianship and Trusteeship Act
 - Committee Report 7-12(6), Report on Review of Bill 7 - An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act
 - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96
 - Bill 2, Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act
 - Bill 3, Guardianship and Trusteeship Act
 - Bill 6, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the
Commissioner's Land Act

23. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 11, 1994 at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT