



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. Prior to going to Ministers' statements, I would like to recognize the Honourable Allan Rock, Member of Parliament for Etobicoke Centre, Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Canada, seated in the gallery. Welcome to the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 25-12(6): Remote Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to advise the Members that Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will be providing approximately \$9 million in capital funding for new social housing units in the Northwest Territories this year.

---Applause

This funding is being provided under the remote housing program for fiscal year 1994-95. I wish to acknowledge and thank the Honourable David Dingwall, Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, for his personal support in finding money within his budget to provide some immediate assistance to us. I am pleased that my efforts, as well as those of other Cabinet Ministers and our Members of Parliament, have resulted in Mr.

Dingwall recognizing the urgent housing needs we face.

As Members know, this federal funding will not come close to solving the housing problems here in the Northwest Territories, but it is a start.

I will provide additional information to this House once I have received the program details from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 26-12(6): NWT Credit Union Week

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. October 17th to 22nd has been set aside to celebrate National Co-op Week with October 20th being Credit Union Day.

---Applause

This is a hard one to say. On behalf of many co-op members, staff and board of directors of the NWT cooperatives, I would like to declare October 17th to October 22 as NWT Cooperative Week.

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the Northwest Territories cooperative credit union movement as you celebrate co-op week and International Credit Union Day.

This year's theme, the Co-op Family: Building a Better Future...Saluting the 1994 International Year of the Family, reflects the importance that the cooperative and credit union movement places on the family, which it recognizes as the cornerstone of a strong and vibrant society.

My best wishes to the cooperative movement for a productive and enjoyable week, as well as for every success in meeting your objectives in the years to come. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Federal Firearms Legislation

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus to speak on an issue that touches us all in the territories. That issue is the proposed legislation relating to gun control. Madam Speaker, the federal government may pass legislation that would require all firearms, including long arms, to be registered. Presently, legislation requires that only restricted weapons must be registered. This proposed initiative, Madam Speaker, could result in significant increases in the administration and enforcement costs.

In the NWT, firearms are used as a tool to support traditional lifestyles of our people. In the Northwest Territories, people use firearms to provide income as well as protection from animals. This legislation,

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Madam Speaker, would place unnecessary control on the people of the north, as well as present enforcement problems.

Each community could require an enforcement officer to execute this legislation. But this is not all, Madam Speaker. The federal government is also proposing a restriction on ammunition purchases. The intention is to control the sales of ammunition by requiring a firearm acquisition permit to purchase it. The lifestyle of the north provides for fathers, sons, uncles and brothers to hunt together. It is a way of life, Madam Speaker. To limit access to ammunition in this way would pose unnecessary restrictions on our way of life.

Our federal Minister, Mr. Rock, may believe that a mandatory universal registration of firearms in Canada will make it a safer place. Members of the Ordinary Members' Caucus fully support safe use of firearms. We appreciate the Minister travelling to the north to better understand how we use firearms as a part of our traditional lifestyle.

We hope, in preparing legislation, the Minister will acknowledge our unique situation and provide exemptions or other mechanisms which will provide legislation that is practical, safe and realistic in the northern environment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Obtaining Pardon For Past Criminal Record

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to inform this House and the public that on August 22nd of this year I was granted a Queen's pardon for all of my past transgressions.

---Applause

What this means, Madam Speaker, is that outside of the run-ins with buffalo and highway patrol, I have been on good behaviour for over 10 years. Madam Speaker, I can put my good behaviour over the last 10 years down to the fact that I am no longer young and foolish. No longer young anyway.

---Applause

And perhaps a bit more mature. Madam Speaker, as you and everyone in this House knows, persons in the public eye are subject to more scrutiny than the average Joe Public. You have to watch what you say and do all the time. I have definitely learned my lesson in that capacity.

The reason, Madam Speaker, that I chose to get up and make this announcement was to encourage other people to take charge of their lives. The process of getting a pardon is not too difficult. What is required is that a person be of good behaviour with no criminal convictions for a period of five years.

However, Madam Speaker, I must warn the public that the process itself can take one to two years from initial application to the granting of a pardon. About 25 years ago, I did some pretty stupid things and I would like to state for the record, Madam Speaker, that even though I am not obliged, I will be making restitutions to the people I have wronged. If I can

change, I am sure that everyone else who makes an honest effort can also.

The Northwest Territories and its people have always been famous for giving a person a second chance. All you have to do, Madam Speaker, is take advantage of it. Mahsi cho.

--Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Member's Statement On The Canadian Justice System

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today we are honoured by the visit of the Honourable Allan Rock, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. I think it is an appropriate opportunity to give our viewpoints of the present state of the Canadian justice system.

Four recent rulings by the Supreme Court of Canada have provoked criticisms by places, by victims' organizations, by many politicians and much of the public. The High Court has put so much emphasis on the right of the accused, that the rights of victims and the rights of society at large are being diminished.

I think Members are aware of these four particular cases. I will go through them quickly. One of the cases was that extreme drunkenness might sometimes be used against sexual assault charges. The second decision was one where suspected drunk drivers don't have to take a breathalyser test unless they are given a chance to contact their lawyer first. The third example is DNA evidence linking the accused to the rape of an elderly woman couldn't be used because the police did not follow the proper procedures. And, I just read in the newspaper that last Thursday, the Supreme Court ruled that a man who stabbed his wife and killed her by smashing her against a sidewalk curb will get his third chance to argue that he should be acquitted because he was sleep-walking.

Although some legal experts have minimized the actual impact of these rulings on the justice system, at the very least, a strong symbolic message has been sent out to present and future violent offenders that our legal system remains very user-friendly to them.

It seems to me, anyhow, that the Canadian justice system is in danger of losing relevance and credibility as it struggles to deal with the harsh realities of violent crimes in today's context with a philosophy of laws and procedures more appropriate to a gentler past era.

Although there is no doubt that intense media coverage of violent crimes often inflames and exaggerates public fears, the fact remains that the face of crime is getting uglier and more chilling

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Parents are very concerned that children are not safe anywhere in Canada. They are being kidnapped, attacked and murdered at an alarming rate. Two cases that have, to me, become metaphors for public concern about our legal system are the following: One is the saga of Charles Ng, an individual who had been charged with particularly horrendous tortures and murders in California and who escaped to Canada. Our government and our legal system, I understand, spent close to \$4 million over a four-year period before this individual was finally extradited to the United States.

Another very troubling case that Canadians have been following lately is the Paul Teale/Carla Homolka case in Ontario. It seems our system will spend lavish amounts of money to ensure that these types of accused are afforded the very, very best in a legal defence. I think that sometimes, in our almost slavish devotion to making sure justice is done to the accused, we sometimes forget the unspeakable horrors involved in the crimes, the shattered hopes and dreams of families and friends who will never be able to erase the insane cruelty that snuffed out the lives of their children.

It came close to home here in Yellowknife over the last three years. Four young girls have disappeared. The police suspect foul play. I understand also that federally-funded victims' programs are in danger of having their finances cut.

I guess to me the bottom line in a justice system is that of balance. It seems that the government, the system as a whole, lawyers, judges and everyone involved in the system, have to look at many ways to deal with this. This is not a partisan political issue. I made that point to Minister Rock, though the Reform Party and others have made it a prime issue for them. I think it is something that affects all of us. I think, as Minister Rock stated at lunch, it is going to take a diverse number of solutions.

It is a very complex problem and the solutions are obviously going to have to involve enhanced victims' programs, very aggressive intervention for troubled youth, new laws that allow the police and prosecutors to obtain legitimate convictions so that criminals are not getting off on technicalities. There are some cases where stronger deterrents for violent crimes are needed -- longer jail sentences. And, stronger community involvement is needed. This is not something that just the justice system alone can do. It is something that all of us have to be involved in.

It seems to me that in Canada today, Canadians must re-examine and redefine our justice system to ensure it is appropriate to modern realities and that the rights of victims, the rights of society as a whole, as well as the rights of the accused, are looked after in better balance than we do now. I think it is very important that we do that if we are going to continue to say that we, in Canada, have the best justice system in the world. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Prior to going on with Members' statements, I would like to recognize a former colleague of ours in the gallery, Nick Sibbeston. Good afternoon and welcome.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

Member's Statement On Tribute To Chief James Ross

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to Chief James Ross, who recently resigned his duties as chief of the Tetlit Zheh Gwich'in. There are days when we must all make

significant decisions that change our lives and the roles we play in providing service to others.

James, who has been my friend and I know the friend of many in this House, and a political leader for many years, has chosen to play a different role in the development of the Gwich'in nation. I want to thank James for his continued contribution to the Gwich'in nation, his personal commitment to serving the Gwich'in and the residents of Fort McPherson and the Mackenzie Delta.

I know that, as political leaders, we all realize the importance of the support that is necessary from our families. In saying this, I want to recognize the support that has been given and the sacrifice that has been made by his wife, Mary, and his children, Frederick, Kayla, Stephanie and Jolene, during his tenure as chief.

I know all of us would want to extend our best wishes to James Ross in his future endeavours and recognize and thank him for his contribution to providing leadership and advice when it was necessary. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Gun Control

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, for some odd reason, whenever things happen in southern Canada and in the United States that are of concern we, here in the Northwest Territories, feel the negative impact of legislation being created to correct that concern. More often than not, the input from northern people is seldom sought.

Today we had a very interesting meeting with Minister Rock and I would like to thank him for coming all the way to the Northwest Territories to hear our concerns on the issue, certainly on the one I'm going to raise, of gun control. An example of legislation would be the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. It was passed at the turn of the century by the United States, Mexico and southern Canada to conserve our bird population. No consultation was ever done in the

Northwest Territories on the impact that it would have on the people.

It affected the spring hunting of hunters and trappers. That was an historical event. It was a time of year when people could take birds because in the fall, when the act allowed for hunting, any bird with any common sense -- that is; ducks and geese -- would have been long gone. It affected, until just recently, the ban on the sealing and whaling. Again, it was not northerners' fault that there was a problem with seal and whale hunting, but we felt that problem. The anti-fur law is another one.

Now there is a threat of gun control. Perhaps it's misunderstood, but nevertheless without consultation, it certainly would end up having a very severe negative impact on northern peoples.

Madam Speaker, just by way of example, there are very serious concerns on the restriction of all types of firearms. Madam Speaker, my time has run out. I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Some of these things, I think, may have been assuaged through our meeting. However, I want to point out that these concerns are still on the minds of northern hunters and trappers when they hear what is happening in southern Canada and they hear that there is going to be a restriction on certain areas. They want to be assured that it's not going to have a negative impact on it, because people here use firearms far differently than they're used in southern Canada.

There is a suggestion that there would be an annual fee, like a registration fee, for each gun a person owns. Everybody here in the north knows the average trapper has several guns. They're like tools to the tradesperson. A carpenter has many saws for different jobs. The hunter has different guns for different types of tasks.

I use myself as an example, Madam Speaker. I have several guns which I used in my early years to hunt small game birds and big game, as well. To register

them all, to pay a fee for all of them, would be quite negative to northern peoples.

The restriction of the number of guns we would be able to own is of concern. The centralization of firearms, I recognize the fact that it's probably an asinine suggestion to even do that anywhere. Nonetheless, people's fears are in those areas. Many people in my riding have little difficulty in accepting restrictions on certain types of guns such as automatic firing guns and different calibers. There is no need in this territory for owning machine or submachine guns, this type of thing. People recognize that fact. We use them here like a tool, so to have those types of guns around is perhaps not a necessity.

Same with the registration of handguns. They are mainly used for sports. It would not have an adverse impact to register firearms like the law requires at the present time. To use identification to purchase ammunition may be a difficulty in the territories. The use of the documentation that's going to be required to buy shells or cartridges, then to buy guns, again is going to be unmanageable here given the numbers of people who would have difficulty in completing the forms.

I just recently saw documents I had to help individuals fill out just to get the firearms permit. I had difficulty with them, Madam Speaker. And I'm saying to the federal government, if they're listening, take a good look at where these things are going to impact.

Here in the territories, we buy guns at a young age. Perhaps I am speaking again for myself. I will hopefully, like my grandfather did with me, transfer that gun to my namesakes, later on. I have guns that go back almost 50 years. They were handed down from father to son. I would do the same thing.

Madam Speaker, I say again to the Minister, thank you for coming to look at our territories and to listen to our concerns. It is going to be quite helpful in our future input into gun control. Thank you very much.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Healing Workshop In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

Qujannamiik. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to rise today to thank Members. In the last 18 years some students were finally able to bring forth their concerns with regard to their teachers taking advantage of them. For 18 years, the students have been hurt deeply. Madam Speaker, the same people I'm talking about are having a meeting in one community. They're attending a healing workshop. This is the first kind of meeting they have been involved in, Madam Speaker. There are a lot of different people gathering in Resolute Bay and these people are involved in a meeting whereby they're taking part in this healing workshop.

I'm very thankful for the coordinators who are taking part in this and who are trying to help with the healing workshop. I feel the children will feel helped and some of them will start to heal. I would like to see more of this in the future. I'm very thankful for people who have participated in the workshop and also thankful to the people who are involved from the Department of Social Services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On National Co-op Week

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was very pleased this afternoon to hear the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism announce that this week is National Co-op Week. We would like to congratulate all the co-ops in the Northwest Territories and all the members of these co-ops. Cooperatives have been a vibrant part of our northern economy. Originally, they were involved in the arts and crafts business and today they're involved in all aspects of our economy.

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Thursday, October 20th has been set aside as National Credit Union Day. I find this ironic because here in the north we don't have an active credit union. There has been a lot of active lobbying over the past years to get one established, and I would encourage this government to continue supporting cooperatives

in the Northwest Territories and the initiatives to establish a credit union in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statement. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement On New Jet Service For Coppermine

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, earlier today history was made in Coppermine. At approximately 12:10 pm, the first scheduled Boeing 737 jet service touched down on the Coppermine airstrip. NWT Air flight 951 signalled the start of an additional new airline service to residents of Coppermine. Coppermine residents are excited and appreciative of the fact that their community now has the opportunity to utilize jet service for their travels. The current NWT Air schedule allows Coppermine residents direct flights to Yellowknife twice a week and to Yellowknife through Cambridge Bay once a week.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I wish to thank the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable John Todd, and his departmental officials for their efforts in planning and financing the Coppermine airstrip upgrade project under the cost-shared NWT transportation initiative with the Government of Canada.

We would also like to thank NWT Air for their commitment to providing jet service to Coppermine by expanding their service in Kitikmeot. NWT Air jet service to Coppermine for this winter season only runs up until April 4, 1995, due to changing runway conditions as a result of the warmer season. However, the completion of the airstrip upgrade late next year will allow for full year-round access by Boeing 737 and 727 jet aircraft and will benefit all air carriers to the community.

Finally, Madam Speaker, although they may be disappointed by the start-up of NWT Air into Coppermine, on behalf of my constituents, I also wish to acknowledge and thank First Air and Ptarmigan Airways for their past and continued commitment to providing air service to the residents of Coppermine and the Kitikmeot.

--Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Gun Control

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to thank our Minister of Justice for encouraging the federal Minister of Justice to come here and learn more about justice concerns in the Northwest Territories, specifically on the current issue of gun control. I am sure all Members agree that we must be committed to developing our renewable

resource economy, our fishery, the harvesting of muskox, caribou, seal and other country foods and furs.

Our renewable resource economy is valuable, cherished and, more than a long-standing tradition, it's also a reflection of aboriginal culture and values. Those values include teaching the young how to hunt and live on the land from an early age, the sharing of resources harvested and the sharing of equipment needed to harvest resources, including firearms and ammunition.

Our hunters and trappers choose to live on the land and work on the land. This is not an easy life. They are very skillful, self-reliant people. They don't have the benefit of many of the programs and facilities available to those who live in town and have jobs. They are often people who don't have extensive cash income, even though what they harvest and share is very valuable. They are often not amenable to paperwork, record-keeping and filing, and they can ill-afford fees and permits.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that these values and the special circumstances of the majority of our aboriginal population can be considered by the Honourable Allan Rock when he looks at the issue of gun control in Canada. There must either be flexibility in the north or an exemption for subsistence hunters.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. PATTERSON:

If there are to be exemptions for subsistence hunters, then subsistence must not be narrowly defined. Madam Speaker, I hope these comments and the other comments that Members have had the chance to make privately to Mr. Rock will assist in producing a law that can be enforceable and can be applied and can be accepted in the Northwest Territories.

--Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Madam Premier.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 66-12(6): Progress On Policy For Respite Care

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I have a return to an oral question which was asked by Charles Dent on October 6, 1994, regarding the progress on policy for respite care.

Madam Speaker, in implementing the government's response to the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, the department has developed guidelines for the provision of respite care in the long-term care program. These guidelines were developed in consultation with the NWT Council for Disabled Persons as well as long-term care facility operators, home care coordinators and staff of health boards. Based on these guidelines, a pilot project is being developed for 1995-96 to provide respite care in several communities across the Northwest Territories. Based on the results of the pilot project, the department will be looking at ways and means of integrating respite care into the range of services currently offered in communities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 142-12(6): Questions On Municipal Election Ballots

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to Mr. Jim Antoine's question on October 14, 1994, on municipal election questions.

Questions asked by a council during a municipal election may or may not be binding on the council, depending on the nature of the question and/or whether council wishes to be bound by the result.

For example, if the question is to seek approval to borrow money, then the result of the vote is binding; if the council asks a question which is seeking an opinion, then the results may or may not bind council.

In the case of the question being asked in Fort Simpson, which I believe is the basis for the Member's question, the council is asking the eligible voters if they are in favour of continuing the present liquor rationing system in Fort Simpson. The question is seeking an opinion and, as such, council is not bound by the result. To actually change the present liquor rationing system, council will have to apply to the Minister of Safety and Public Services to conduct a plebiscite under the Liquor Act. The results of such a plebiscite would be binding. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to welcome Mr. Don Farrell, president of Farrell Financial Limited of Vancouver, and Edgar Fenwick, who is in charge of corporate communications. This company is engaged in venture capital and the environmental and biotechnical field. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 143-12(6): Transfer Of Resolute Bay Airport

MR. PUDLUK:

On Friday, October 14, 1994, I asked a question of the Minister of Transportation regarding the airports, which he took as notice. I have reviewed unedited Hansard and realize that there was a mistake in translation, so I will just ask this question to replace Question 135-12(6) in unedited Hansard, which was wrong. Last summer, the airport at Resolute Bay was upgraded and the runway lighting improved. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if there are plans to transfer the airport to the hands of the territorial government from the federal government. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 143-12(6): Transfer Of Resolute Bay Airport

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, the transfer of the airport at Resolute Bay is part of the negotiations that are currently under way with the federal government with respect to the transfer of Arctic airports. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Premier with regard to a return that she gave regarding to the testing of drinking water. I was more concerned about the water in the rivers than I was with drinking water. Sure, testing drinking water out of a tap or that type of testing is done all over. I was more interested in finding out if the Mackenzie River and the Slave River are still safe enough to drink while people travel on the river.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the reply I gave to the honourable Member indicated action that was to be taken and testing that is being done. To my knowledge, the testing, whether it is with Renewable Resources or the Department of Health, does not indicate that there is danger or there should be restrictions put on drinking water, from the information we have received. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, when you do the testing, is it prior to it going through the water treatment plant or after it comes out of the water treatment plant.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that it is done in various locations. It would take into consideration sources above stream and downstream, as well. The testing has a wide range of locations. It is not restricted to locations that are anticipated to produce safer measurements, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I would like to thank the Premier for that answer. I would like to ask the Premier, then, whether she might be able to give me some information about the kind of testing that was done in Fort Providence, upstream and downstream; how often it has occurred and the results of those tests.

MADAM SPEAKER:

I recognize that you are asking for more information, Mr. Gargan, but these types of questions you should note in the future should be made under written questions. However, I will see if the Premier will reply to your question. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 144-12(6): Testing Quality Of River Water

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I will provide those details to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In

The NWT

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, earlier today, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism spoke about National Co-op Week and International Credit Union Day. At the annual general meeting this summer of the Northwest Territories cooperatives, they had expected the Minister to respond to a request they had made to establish a credit union in the Northwest Territories.

My question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is what is the status of this request.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe I stated last week that I've received more letters on this issue than Santa Claus gets in December. My position on the NWT Arctic Cooperatives Ltd. request for fiscal assistance to establish a credit union is that we are moving as quickly as we can to put an application before the EDA to see if they're prepared to provide them with some of the initial funds they require to move forward on the important issue of establishing credit unions in the Northwest Territories. We are responding as quickly as we can. We are trying to move quickly on it, hopefully by the end of November.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. This application to EDA, is this a joint effort proposal between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Arctic Cooperatives?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, this is a direct request from the Arctic Co-op Ltd., through Mr. Lyall, who is the president of that operation. It was a direct request to me to provide, if you want, the Seed money necessary for them to take a look at what kind of fiscal resources they would need to put a credit union into place.

I want to make it clear to everybody in the House that it is not our intention to provide all the money necessary to put together a credit corporation. The request we have been given is for some initial funds to take a look at the options that may be available in terms of funding an NWT credit union. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

MR. KOE:

Thank you. Just for clarification then, the application that is going through EDA, the economic development agreement, is that for Seed money or is that for investigative money?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, it is for both. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The Minister stated that they are moving very quickly to do this. Does he have a target date as to when he expects to have something lucrative to report back to the cooperative?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 145-12(6): Status Of Establishing Credit Union In The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I don't know if it is going to be lucrative, but this Minister made a commitment to the board of

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directors of ACL to put forward an application to invite some assistance in the potential development of a credit union. It is my understanding in talking to the department that it is going before the EDA subcommittee. Hopefully, if we get a positive response from them, we will be able to tell Mr. Lyall and his many co-op members, that we are moving

forward positively on this issue, and then I will stop getting letters about it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, who I would like to welcome back to the House. I know, Madam Speaker, that the Minister has been meeting with his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts this past week. We've read in the newspapers that there were proposals put forward, one of which would abolish the provincial sales tax and the GST to be replaced by a so-called "flat tax."

I would like to ask our Minister of Finance, since we don't have a sales tax in the Northwest Territories how would the Northwest Territories fit into this proposed new flat tax scheme? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good afternoon. Madam Speaker, we just don't know how provinces and territories, such as Alberta, the Yukon and ourselves, will fit into this program. There have been some suggestions back and forth about a refund of personal income taxes or a distribution of those funds over and above the five per cent that the federal government would require back to the territorial and Alberta government for redistribution.

There have been a number of casual comments made in that regard. But we are, by far, the least of Mr. Martin's problems. His problems are with those provinces that are going to have a shortfall if he goes through with this particular proposal. It is up in the air at the present time.

I should remind Members that there are now three proposals. Manitoba and Ontario have tabled

proposals in this regard as well. So, until the smoke clears and there is some clarification about which proposal is going to take effect and how it is going to take effect, we will continue, along with Alberta and the Yukon, to monitor the situation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask Mr. Pollard whether or not the Ministers have agreed to a timetable to resolve this issue, or are we just going to continue hearing about various proposals floating around indefinitely? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Mr. Martin was committed to an early date in 1996 to have this new proposal in effect. Let's say maybe he wasn't committed, but he suggested it. But, I think at the last meeting, he indicated to us that he wanted to progress on the issue. So there is no hard and fast deadline. He did make it quite clear that his government, when they were running in the election as Members, had indicated that their policy would replace the GST. It was something referred to in the red book, and he made it quite clear to us that one way or another there are going to be some changes. There's no hard and fast deadline, but certainly resolution on the part of the Minister to change, rename, replace or restructure this particular tax. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

MR. PATTERSON:

The Minister referred to consultations and working closely with the government of the province of Alberta. I'd like to ask the Minister, since we share in common with Alberta and, I believe, the Yukon, the distinction of not having a sales tax, does that mean we are working closely with Alberta because we have the same interest in preserving a situation where citizens are not subjected to a sales tax? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 146-12(6): Status Of NWT In Proposed Flat Tax Scheme

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, at the meeting, Quebec threw out the suggestion that there could be regional rates, to which Alberta replied, in the west there is already a regional rate between Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and that regional rate is zero. So they're working with us and consulting back and forth. When western Finance Ministers meet, we discuss the issue of what our respective positions are. Yes, there's quite a bit of consultation and, of course, there's very little to react to until such time as the larger issue, which is how do you deal with those provinces that are going to experience a shortfall...Until they get past that issue, they won't be dealing in total with us. But we are consulting, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 147-12(6): Location Of Respite Care Pilot Projects

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier today, Madam Speaker, the Minister responded to a question I had asked earlier about respite care. In the response, I understand the Minister said that respite care is being planned as a pilot project in several communities across the Northwest Territories for 1995-96. I'm just wondering if she could advise the

House which communities are planned for this pilot project.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 147-12(6): Location Of Respite Care Pilot Projects

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the plan is to have two respite care pilot projects which are being proposed for 1995-96. They'll be in the Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Baffin regions. The pilot projects would provide care up to a maximum of 20 hours per week through adding extra staff to existing home maker and coordinated home care programs, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 148-12(6): Forecast Of Budgets For Hamlets

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of MACA. There were quite a few hamlets that had a deficit. What is the forecast with regard to these hamlets in the coming year? What will their budgets be like? Could she advise the House on this matter? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 148-12(6): Forecast Of Budgets For Hamlets

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. There were quite a few of the hamlets and the communities...I will provide the Member with documents regarding the hamlets' budgets, if he wants them. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ng.

Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

MR. NG:

First of all, I'd like to commend the Minister of Housing for his work and efforts towards reinstating federal funding for housing because I think the announcement he made today is indicative of the hard work and efforts he has made. I'd like to ask the Minister, with respect to funding for elders' residences, if he feels that is one of the priorities of the Housing Corporation. Has his department addressed this? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Funding for elders' residences falls under the responsibilities of the Minister of Social Services. They have to find the money and then we, as the Housing Corporation, design the buildings and work with the communities and elders in the design, to see that it meets their needs. I do agree with the Member, elders' facilities are a priority of most communities. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, would the responsibility for elders' residences include basic facilities and not extended care facilities? Would that still be with the Department of Social Services? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Housing Corporation supplies units into the community on need and all need is treated equally, whether you're an elder or a single person or whatever. It's not just for elders. So our allocation process is based on need in the community. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, if there's a need identified in the community, how would he correlate with the Department of Social Services to address this need? Does he meet with the Minister to discuss these matters? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we do work closely with Social Services on this issue and we are working with Social Services right now. I will be working with the Minister responsible for Social Services to try to address the need of elders' units in your riding, as well as other ridings. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, is he aware of the specific needs and the requests that have come forward from the communities of Coppermine and of Cambridge Bay in my constituency. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 149-12(6): Priority Of Funding For Elders' Residences

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Member has made me well aware of the issue. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 150-12(6): Docks For Cape Dorset And Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. Madam Speaker, a lot of communities have been provided docks in the communities. If there was an evaluation done already, would they be providing a dock for the community of Cape Dorset or Lake Harbour?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister Todd.

Return To Question 150-12(6): Docks For Cape Dorset And Lake Harbour

HON. JOHN TODD:

I believe the honourable Member raised this issue some time before, Madam Speaker. Subject to the hamlet council defining docks as a priority in the capital planning process, we are prepared to consider docks and breakwaters as we have done in some communities like Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and currently in Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet and a number of other communities.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Whale Cove.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Whale Cove probably, too. I appreciate the honourable Member enlightening me, it is so rare.

Anyway, yes, Madam Speaker, we are in a position to provide some fiscal support to communities that request breakwaters and docks. We would only be too happy to with respect to Lake Harbour or Cape Dorset. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(6): Docks For Cape Dorset And Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Has this been evaluated already? I am happy to hear that they will be able to give some support, financially. I wanted to find out, are we included in the plan for providing breakwaters in our shores this summer? Will this be provided during the upcoming year? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister Todd.

Further Return To Question 150-12(6): Docks For Cape Dorset And Lake Harbour

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not entirely sure about every single capital dollar and detail. I do know this, the regional superintendent of the Department of Transportation has been in close communication with the hamlet councils both in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour, and in other Baffin communities that have requested some assistance.

With respect to specific dollars in the capital budget, I will have to review the book and advise the Member. I do know that discussions are under way with the local municipalities in an effort to determine what kind of financial resources they will require for the building of docks and breakwaters. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, since the Standing Committee on Finance of this Legislature has recommended that the government pursue a Mortgage Investment Corporation and since the Caucus was briefed on how a Mortgage Investment Corporation might be established in the Northwest Territories in order to raise capital and also provide financial services in our communities, is the concept of the Mortgage Investment Corporation still being pursued by his department and himself? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is an important initiative on the part of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to find new sources and make readily available access to new capital, particularly with residential and commercial mortgages. We are currently in the second phase of this important initiative. I think we are extremely fortunate to have the former Finance Minister of Ontario, Larry Grossman, working with us on it.

Hopefully, as we move forward with the final plan which requires the introduction of legislation, et cetera, we will have a positive response from this House by the end of the year. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In addition to raising capital for residential and commercial investment, I would like to ask the Minister, does the Mortgage Investment Corporation concept he's pursuing also

include the eventual provision of improved financial services in communities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the honourable Member is asking if it provides services similar to our conventional banks, the answer is no. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

MR. PATTERSON:

I understand that it wouldn't provide the same services as a bank, but what new financial services might eventually be provided by a Mortgage Investment Corporation of the kind that is being investigated for our communities, particularly our smaller communities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 151-12(6): Status Of Mortgage Investment Corporation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This has to do primarily with long-term lending with respect to mortgages, whether they be commercial ones or residential ones. If you will recall, this came about because we were looking at new sources of capital to assist in this process. There was general concern across the territories, and I believe still is, that perhaps banks were shrinking that exposure and not expanding it, and there was a need for a more creative way of providing this type of funding.

The other thing that is somewhat unique to a MIC, which is slightly different from banking, is that we're able to lever the money three to five times. That puts

us in a position to take \$25 million and make it \$125 million. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 152-12(6): Staff Cuts To Yellowknife Health Centre

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, it has to do with the Yellowknife public health unit. Madam Speaker, I recognize, and I think most Members recognize, the importance of the work that public health nurses do, not only dealing with problems when they occur, such as last year's whooping cough epidemic, but especially in the preventative public health services they provide, such as school visits, the home outreach programs and the educational programs.

I know the Special Committee on Health and Social Services pointed out the significant long-term benefits and the cost savings of increasing the number of public health nurses across the north, especially those dealing with health prevention. I was, therefore, surprised to hear recently that the local unit is losing a nurse. I was wondering if the Minister could advise this House if the Yellowknife public health unit is having its staff cut by one public health nurse.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with regard to the North American Indigenous Games which are going to take place in 1995, I note that the Minister indicated that she will be making a submission to Cabinet. I also note, Madam Speaker, that this morning I believe Cabinet had a meeting. I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs if she made her submission to Cabinet this morning, and if she didn't I would like to know when she is planning to make that submission. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I recollect what I said in my response, I said I would be bringing forward a discussion paper and that the issue was a Cabinet issue. But, my honourable colleague, Mr. Pollard, informs me that if there is a submission to be made it should be made to FMB. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A discussion paper or a financial management submission; I know they are two separate issues. Is the Minister saying that until this whole issue is discussed first by Cabinet, if it comes out of that meeting that a submission is required, then that will be going to FMB? Is that my understanding? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes. Also, to elaborate a little further, this issue has been asked about in the House previously and the decision was made by the Minister of the time, on December 9, 1993, that any Cabinet decisions that are made have to go to FMB. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. It is of great urgency for our aboriginal athletes, our officials and our cultural performers who are anticipating that they will be going to these games subject to financial assistance from our government. So I would like to ask the Minister how soon this discussion paper will be submitted to Cabinet. Could I get a time frame or a specific date? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This past weekend, I met with my deputy minister regarding this, and I have asked him to prepare the discussion paper. We have weekly Cabinet and Financial Management Board meetings on Thursdays.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Zoe, do you want to proceed with your final supplementary?

Supplementary To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary. Is the Minister indicating to the House that if this paper is ready, it will be brought forward to Thursday's Cabinet meeting? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 153-12(6): Status Of Cabinet Submission For Indigenous Games

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the past, the department has provided assistance to the participants who went to the North American Indigenous Games. That will continue, but there were, I believe, 50 participants in 1993, and should the number of participants increase, then it becomes a policy issue. That's when I would like to bring a discussion paper on policy issues.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 154-12(6): Use Of Radio Collars On Polar Bears

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. For a number of years there have been studies on putting radio collars on polar bears. Last summer, there were ships going up to the North Pole putting radio collars on polar bears. I would like to know if the Minister is aware how much longer they will be using radio collars. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will take the question Mr. Pudluk raised as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

Question 155-12(6): Status Of Boat Launch At Prosperous Lake

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Transportation. Last year, some time, I think the Department of Transportation undertook to develop a boat launch at Prelude Lake -- McMeekin Bay, I believe it was -- to make it a little bit more accessible to the boaters to get onto the lake. Subsequent to their work there, the site they were developing suddenly collapsed into the lake. I just wondered if the department has taken a look at this and what the status of this project now is. It seems to have made the lake a little shallower in some areas, and I was wondering if any work has been done to correct that.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 155-12(6): Status Of Boat Launch At Prosperous Lake

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I could have fun with this one but I won't. Yes, the honourable Member is correct, and he has drawn this particular incident to my attention on a number of occasions. The Department of Transportation, on those rare occasions when we all make mistakes, unfortunately did not design this thing in the manner that we thought would provide the kinds of facilities for the boat owners in that particular area. There is new installation of concrete launch ramps under way at the present time, along with the floating dock which will make it ideally suited for the boaters and yachters of Prosperous Lake.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 155-12(6): Status Of Boat Launch At Prosperous Lake

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The subject does cause a little smile, but this is really a serious issue in that I think the general public, as they drive past there, are going to notice that this area has enlarged by quite a number of square feet or yards, at least. The shoreline is now quite a ways out into the lake as a

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result of this project that was undertaken. It has caused some problem to boaters there, particularly the workers on Prosperous that were going to build the hydro across there. They had to build a new launch altogether. The floating dock and all that will be all right, but what about the earth and rock that had been put in there that has moved out a bit now? The shoreline is extended. The bottom has come up. Is this going to be taken into consideration as well, to get that back out of there again so that the bottom level is again restored somewhat closer to what it originally was?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 155-12(6): Status Of Boat Launch At Prosperous Lake

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, Madam Speaker, I am not technically qualified to address that issue as to what's required with respect to the collapsing of the embankment. It's my understanding that the department has made its best effort to provide adequate launching and docking facilities for these Prosperous Lake people who utilize boats in that area. With respect to -- and I know it's a serious issue and I'm treating it seriously -- the embankment collapsing, it's my understanding that when the water rises again, the embankment will be under water and will be A-okay. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 156-12(6): Concerns Re Proposed Gun Control Legislation

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in the absence of the honourable Minister of Justice, I would like to direct my question to the Premier of this government. Earlier, during Members' statements, many of the Members spoke about their concern regarding the new proposed firearms control by our federal counterpart since the Northwest Territories may be the only jurisdiction -- perhaps also the Yukon -- where the majority of the people use firearms for hunting, sometimes on a daily basis. Madam Speaker, as this is a legitimate concern, I would like to ask the Premier if the representative of this government has conveyed a message to our federal counterpart on our concern regarding the new control. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 156-12(6): Concerns Re Proposed Gun Control Legislation

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I think I can say, without any hesitation, that the Minister responsible has been conveying that message to the Government of Canada and the Minister responsible over the last period of time, and, presently, the Honourable Minister responsible for Justice is again meeting with Mr. Rock on this very issue. So this has been a major concern that we as a government have tried to relay to Minister Rock, and with the meeting over the lunch hour with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I feel that message has been clear and definite, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 6-12(6): Costs Associated With Translation And Television Services For Session

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Education,

Culture and Employment to please advise this House of the following:

1. What is the cost for interpreting services for the Legislative Assembly when the House is in session for one month, including wages and benefits, travel, accommodation, per diems, contract services and any committee meetings?
2. How many hours of Legislative Assembly proceedings are broadcast each day on radio and television in aboriginal languages?
3. What are the average wages of government interpreters?
4. What are the average wages of interpreters at hospitals?
5. What are the average wages of court interpreters?

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. The House will recess for 15 minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Ningark):

I will call the House back to order. Item 10, replies to budget address.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Koe's Reply

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to make a make a reply to the budget address. As politicians, we all have developed and hopefully progressed to some extent. Some politicians, especially the ones who are fortunate to get re-elected, usually have opportunities to participate on the various standing committees and then if really lucky, they may become a Cabinet Minister. In doing so, they create some kind of legacy and leave their mark on our northern society. It has been said that our lives, as politicians, are open books and what was said several years ago may eventually come back to haunt you.

Mr. Speaker, our illustrious Finance Minister is no different if you recall. Our present Finance Minister was the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance during the last Assembly. Just for fun, I'd like to reiterate some of the comments Mr. Pollard made while he was chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance.

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At a SCOF meeting in December 1989, Mr. Pollard stated, and I will quote some excerpts from his statements, "I guess what really concerns me is we are just not seeing the kind of thinking from the Executive that we would like to see, we just keep doing the same old things over and over and over again, and we keep having the same old arguments over and over and over again."

"Mr. Minister of Finance, what we need to know is we have asked all Ministers, have you a plan to cut your budget if the cut comes forward...and everyone knows there is going to be a cut. Are we going to be looking at a budget that goes deeper into debt? You are already \$17 million in the hole and, as an individual, you know that I am against that. That is fiscally irresponsible. You guys should never, in my opinion, have come out of that sixth floor with a budget that was going to put us \$17 million in the hole. That is absolutely unnecessary."

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote excerpts from Mr. Pollard's speech which he made during the Territorial Leadership Committee in November 1993.

"I believe in good fiscal management. Personally, Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to deficit spending. I cannot see us getting into an accumulated deficit and then loading that debt onto our children and grandchildren, and I want everyone to know that is my personal belief."

Minister Pollard has restated his conviction of achieving a balanced budget at every budget speech he has delivered in this House since he became the Minister of Finance. These are honourable traits, Mr. Speaker, but as usual in this business, we are faced with reality and this is what the public hears and are impacted by.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the task of being the Minister of Finance is not an easy task and I wish to congratulate Mr. Pollard for hanging in there and trying his best.

---Applause

However, as a government, we still managed to incur a deficit of approximately \$35 million in the fiscal year 1993-94.

Now for the current fiscal year, 1994-95, this government is estimated to end up with a cumulative deficit of \$35 million. This means -- and this is only my personal calculation -- that this government has managed to move from an overall surplus position of about \$56 million at March 31, 1993, to a projected accumulated deficit of \$35 million at the end of March 31, 1995. To me, this is a negative change of about \$91 million.

Now I know that our government has outlined all the reasons why this has happened: forest fires, cuts to social housing programs, and lately the method by which the liability for employee ultimate removal benefits was calculated. However, I firmly believe that some of these events could have been predicted and budget adjustments made earlier. Basically, I think it comes down to the original negotiations to take over responsibilities of some of the programs from the federal government. We were shafted. What was done is done and we are now living with the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, there are lessons to be learned from this. Currently, some of our Cabinet Ministers are aggressively pursuing the devolution of more responsibilities from the federal government to this government, and in some cases, timing is a factor. However, I contest that if the proper framework and preparation for negotiations are not done, then we stand to lose in the long term -- short-term gains for long-term pain.

Mr. Speaker, this government needs a lot of help. And I've mentioned this point before, that maybe we should be hiring some of our aboriginal leaders who have successfully negotiated land claim agreements for their people. I'm sure this government can use their wise counsel and guidance when dealing with the federal government. Let's not make the same mistakes again.

Mr. Speaker, not all is doom and gloom, even though the rays of sunshine sometimes have difficulty breaking through the clouds, especially during this time of year.

In many regions of the Northwest Territories, government is the only game in town. I'd like to quote

from Minister Pollard's budget speech, "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."

Mr. Speaker, these words are true and express the reality in which a lot of our communities find themselves.

Even though this government may not do everything right, we have to give them credit on the new initiatives and programs which they introduced and implemented, and in many cases, Mr. Speaker, they work for the benefit of our people. I wish to highlight a few of these.

Firstly, the whole manner in which the capital plan is developed. People in the communities now have meaningful input and are part of the process. There are still some bugs to work out but, generally, the new process is being received favourably.

Secondly, I and many of the leaders in the Beaufort/Delta communities applaud the initiatives and actions taken by the Minister of Public Works and Services and the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Transportation and Economic Development and Tourism in implementing the program of negotiated contracts.

The economic benefits can be measured in actual dollars and cents. But what is very hard to measure are the social impacts. One just has to see the pride and self-worth of the employees once they finish their jobs or the project which they worked on. They can very proudly say, I helped to build that.

Thirdly -- and this program is tied in very closely with the capital plan -- is the building and learning strategy co-sponsored by the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment and Housing Corporation. This program is creating opportunities for people to

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become tradesmen, wage earners and assets to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the positive initiatives which are being done, and I'm sure that there are more. But these ones in particular are making a noticeable impact on our economy, and on

how business gets done in the north. I fully support these initiatives.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the Cabinet Ministers who have served during this 12th Legislative Assembly. I would especially like to thank the ones who have visited my constituency and had a chance to meet the residents and see some of the activities in Inuvik. I would also like to thank all the Ministers and their staff for the great cooperation which I and my constituents enjoy when working on government projects and programs.

I would also like to thank my colleagues who serve on the Standing Committee on Finance, for their hard work. I fully support the work which they do and support the recommendations in their various reports.

Finally, I'd like to thank the people of Inuvik for their ongoing cooperation and support. Mahsi cho. Qujannamiik.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. Mr. Ballantyne.

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to reply to the budget address of the government. The government, the Legislative Assembly, and the people of the north are caught up in an extended period of rapid change and evolution. We have to deal with the very complex issues of division, self-government, and of a federal government that is broke. It is within this context that this government has brought down their capital budget for this year.

First of all, I, too, would like to thank the Finance Minister for his fine work over the last three years. He has tried to do an impossible task of keeping this government in the red when so many issues out of the control of this government are forcing the budget and the actions of this government. I think, if you look at the Finance Minister's record over the last three years, that he's done a very good job. I think he has done as good a job as could have been done.

He's involved in very difficult negotiations now with the federal government. I think the federal

government has signalled their intent. They are hundreds of billions of dollars in debt and Paul Martin, over the next two years, is going to be bringing forth some very harsh measures; measures that I think we all have to acknowledge that he's going to have to bring forth. We, in the north, are going to be impacted by those harsh measures.

We've already seen the opening shots across our bow, with reductions in funding for social housing, with the health billings dispute, and proposed cuts to aboriginal funding. I know the negotiations on formula financing are very, very tough. There is no doubt in my mind that the federal government negotiators have a mandate to cut the funding we have. The Finance Minister and the government have a very tough task cut out for them to negotiate a sound fiscal base for this government and for the people of the north, as we come into the era of division.

What all this means to me is that we, in the Northwest Territories, are going to be forced to rethink how we do business in the Northwest Territories, and how we work together. I think we are going to have to have a hard look at how public government and self-government can work together. There may be some that disagree with me, but I don't think there will be enough money in the future for five or six independent governments in the Northwest Territories. That won't happen. I think what we have to look at is a realistic, pragmatic way to ensure that aboriginal groups and regional groups who have very legitimate aspirations about self-government are able to finalize those approaches, but within an overall framework of a central government and a public government.

I, for one, think that there are enough pragmatic people in the Northwest Territories that at the end of the day, there is going to be a middle ground. At the end of the day, there will be a way to use the strengths of a central public government, along with the regional strengths and self-government initiatives. I think the process in the western Arctic now, though it is frustrating to a lot of people, is one that, at the end of the day, will bear some fruit. I don't think we can afford to rush this issue.

I think those groups who are pursuing treaty objectives should be given the opportunity to pursue those objectives. They are legitimate objectives. I think people have to recognize that the right to pursue self-government agreements is a right that is found in the Constitution of Canada. It is something that aboriginal groups have every right to do. I think we have to respect that.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

But, again, at the end of the day, I think that we in the north, and especially we in the western Arctic, are a pretty small population. We have tremendous social problems and challenges facing us. We are going to have to find some mechanisms in order to work together. I think that even during post-division, it is very important that very close ties remain between Nunavut and the new western territory.

As a corollary to that observation, I, too, would like to talk a little about the concept of devolution. I will bring to it a slightly different approach than my colleague, Mr. Koe. I'm the first to acknowledge that some of the transfers from the federal government perhaps weren't the best deals we could have got. It is always wise to be prudent in these endeavours. On the other hand, there is another reality. The federal scene has changed so rapidly in Ottawa that if we had maintained the status quo, the federal government would have cut back. They are cutting back across the country, so it is a double-edged sword.

It is great to say that we shouldn't have done it, but that only works if we assume that the status quo at the federal level is going to be maintained going to

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be maintained. And the status quo won't be maintained. For the last number of years, every year they have been cutting, cutting and cutting. They are cutting programs.

I, for one, think that, although we made some mistakes in the past, the basic philosophy of trying to get as many programs devolved from the federal government to the territorial government was and is the correct approach. I think today it is even more important than it has ever been. Again, I will agree with Mr. Koe that we should be prudent. But, if we wait and if we don't devolve these programs very soon, I will guarantee that two, three or four years from now, there will be nothing left to devolve. The federal government is cutting their programs right, left and centre.

I think it is really important that we move ahead with the devolution of transportation, the devolution of prosecutions, and the devolution of oil, gas and minerals. I think it is very important that this

government takes over as many federal programs as it can. I also think it's important for those groups, especially in the western Arctic, who have opposed devolution to look at it in a different way.

What I am proposing and what the government is proposing is that the present territorial government -- which over the next five or six years is going to change dramatically because of self-government and because of the negotiations that are going on, to protect all of the groups active in the north and the western Arctic -- should bring those programs to the present territorial government in a holding pattern, not take away the rights from any of the groups at the end of the day, depending on what arrangement we make with each other or we make with the federal government on how those resources ultimately are divided up. I don't think it's anybody's right at this time to pre-think what those negotiations, what our self-government or what our western constitutional negotiations, are going to bring.

I think it's really important that we protect the existing pie, so no matter how, at the end of the day, that pie is cut up, there's something in the pie. My theory is that if we don't repatriate these programs to the Northwest Territories, at the end of the day, when everyone might be happy with the arrangements that we have worked out, there's really nothing left to divide up because the federal government has slashed all their programs.

So that's the context in which I am looking at devolution. I don't see it as a plot to ensure that the status quo is maintained because whether or not we have four or five more programs here in the Northwest Territories, it's not going to change the reality of the self-government negotiations. It won't matter. If we have five more, it doesn't mean that the status quo, I think, is more likely to carry on. What it means is we'll have protected some resources for all northerners, and then we can decide in our own time how these resources are going to be distributed.

So I think it's very important that all of us, when we are making decisions on constitutional development and political evolution in the Northwest Territories, make them in the context of an ever-shrinking federal pot of money. That is going to be, I am absolutely convinced, dramatically shown to us in the next couple of years. I think there are going to be dramatic cuts at the federal level.

On this particular budget that we will be looking at soon, in the next few days, I think the budget was an

improvement over the process we had in the past to do capital budgets. I have heard Members say that the communities have been brought much more meaningfully into the process, and I think the government and the Finance Minister deserve credit for those improvements that have been made to the system. I think we have a better product out of the system.

The Standing Committee on Finance this year, because of the fact that when the Minister of Finance made his comments about his budget -- it's impossible to limit those comments, obviously, just to the capital side of our fiscal policy, but it has to look at the overall impact of what's happening financially to the government, and the Finance committee likewise found it impossible to limit our comments to just the capital budget, but again, the linkages between the capital and O and M budgets are key and critical and we can't really talk about one without the other -- tried to provide a broad overview of the standing committee's feelings about the government approach.

We thought that most of the smaller capital details would leave to individual Members to deal with on a Minister-by-Minister basis in the House, and our general comments, I thought, were quite reasonable.

We recognize the difficulty that -- with all the Finance Minister's best efforts to achieve a balanced budget this year -- as happens, things out of the control of the government have impacted on the cash flow of this government. It's going to be difficult, but the committee remains very firm in their resolve that in the long term, it's very, very important that the government stays out of an accumulated debt. The government's not able to do that this year. We would like to see steps taken by the government to ensure that, at least before division, this government has no accumulated debt, therefore, the two new territories can start off without a debt load. We suggested the mechanism of legislation that would compel the government by 1998 to have no accumulated debt, and it's something we hope that this government takes seriously.

When I was Finance Minister, I accused the standing committee, of which Mr. Pollard was chairman, of making a number of recommendations that added to the deficit and at the same time giving me a hard time about having one. We recognize that by us making recommendations we could be accused of that, so we were quite prudent in the recommendations that we made.

The one recommendation about a school-based social system is one that's been tried in other jurisdictions and it's proven not to be very costly. It uses existing resources. The other two concepts, the concept of early intervention to do with special needs students and the concept using Mr. Kakfwi's initiative of zero tolerance to violence, are both concepts that we think are real investments in the future. If you don't make some investments now, in youth especially, the downside ten years from now will be that the cost to this government will be horrendous.

The committee talked a lot about these particular recommendations that we made. We take these recommendations very seriously. We think that we have made recommendations that generally fit

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within the government's philosophical framework. In fact, they are supportive to government initiatives, and we are very serious about seeing something significant with these recommendations done in the budget session. I think that is only fair. We have gone out of our way to try to not add too much burden to the government's difficulty in dealing with areas which are important in both the short and long-term, and we think we have dealt in a very reasonable, constructive way with this budget, so in return, we very much expect to see some real response reflected in the O and M budget that's coming before us.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks. We, in the Northwest Territories, have our problems. We have increasing social problems that we think have to be addressed. We have an increasing fiscal problem, as every jurisdiction in the country has. We have right now a rather confusing array of constitutional processes -- some are linked, some aren't -- at different stages of evolution happening, which a lot of people in the territories find confusing.

On the other hand, we have tremendous strengths in the Northwest Territories, and though it's fashionable to bash governments and to bash politicians and to bash legislative assemblies, in fact, I think it's quite extraordinary how well this Legislative Assembly works. People come from all over the territories, from different cultures, speaking different languages. The government, which is essentially a minority here in the House, has to act as an ever-changing coalition government. Though we have had our differences, I

think that this House works as well, if not better, than most legislatures in southern Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I think that though we can criticize the Finance Minister for having a \$35 million deficit, the big picture and the reality of things is that we have the smallest accumulated debt, by far, in the country. We still have very reasonable tax levels here. We haven't been forced to slash social programs. We have been very fair with our unions and, in return, our unions have been quite reasonable with us. We all recognize, it's in everyone's interest, to come to some mutually acceptable resolution to pay. I, for one, am quite confident we'll reach that resolution without having a need for legislation. The need for legislation has never been discussed at all in the House. I haven't heard the Ministers put it forward. The union in the past has proven itself to be reasonable. I think they understand the financial pressures that are upon this government and upon this Legislative Assembly. I, for one, am quite confident that at the end of the day, we'll come out with a reasonable conclusion of negotiations with the union.

I say all in all, the people of the Northwest Territories are quite fortunate. They're in a comparatively very good situation to the rest of the country. The key to maintaining that situation is for people of the Northwest Territories to work together. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Mr. Gargan's Reply

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1990, I made a motion in the House regarding a reduction in person years of 2.5 per cent in 1990-91 and 2.5 per cent in 1991-92. The motion was passed and since that time, Mr. Speaker, this would have been accomplished with attrition and distribution of job responsibilities and there would be no lay-offs.

In the standing committee's motion on mission statement, it does say something on behalf of the public in all areas related to financial management and the proposed expenditure of funds; and to hold government accountable for all the spending. They also have some principles; that government spending and financial management must respond first to the fundamental human needs; it must be guided by the strategic framework and be based on sound financial policies; it must ensure equity, fairness and universality of benefit to all residents of the Northwest Territories; and, it must be effective, efficient and economical. This was made back in October, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, my budget address is with this statement in mind. While I applaud some of the efforts this government has made to decentralize its operations and give the communities an opportunity to look after their own programs and concerns, I am nonetheless dismayed, Mr. Speaker, that the bureaucracy of the territorial government continues to increase in size and scope.

As I have mentioned earlier, the government has made some efforts to decentralize, to share the wealth amongst all residents of the Northwest Territories, but they have not gone far enough. Decentralization, while I admit it is a good concept, in my opinion, it has only benefitted taxed-based communities in the west and the larger communities in Nunavut.

I have not seen any positions put into the smaller communities such as my home town of Fort Providence. These are the communities that really need the jobs. In addition, Mr. Speaker, in this rush to decentralize, I believe this government has lost sight of the economy of scale. For example, Mr. Speaker, sending children from Fort Providence and Kakisa to Fort Simpson for high school, in addition to being a further distance for the children to travel and also for the parents to visit, is quite simply expensive for all those concerned.

An example, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a scheduled air service from Fort Providence to Hay River. We also have a road service, scheduled bus service and the river system, but we don't have those types of services when we send our children to Fort Simpson. I think, when I speak, I have the general support of the town of Hay River with regard to having our children going to school in Hay River.

The people of the Northwest Territories are ready, at the community and band council level, to take the

responsibility of many of the territorial programs within their jurisdictions. All they need is a chance and less interference from the government hierarchy.

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Mr. Speaker, other than providing jobs at a local level and ensuring that as much of the program money as possible stays in the community, what does the initiative program accomplish? Slowly down the road, there have to be lay-offs in the government. Otherwise, there is nothing more than a duplication of services or in the worst-case scenario, a governmental apparatus larger than the community transfer initiative they are supposed to oversee.

Mr. Speaker, the best example of continued government interference in what is considered to be a local issue is in the area of aboriginal languages. I have said before, Mr. Speaker, you cannot institutionalize culture. The community itself should be responsible for teaching of the local language and culture. Not the schools, as a small part of a larger program.

We have heard and talked a lot, over the last two weeks, Mr. Speaker, about the possible loss of funding from the federal government for our aboriginal language programs. It is an area of major concern to this government. I have not, however, heard any feedback from aboriginal organizations or communities. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if this lack of concern on the part of the aboriginal organizations has anything to do with the fact that these organizations -- the very organizations that should be at the forefront of language issues in the Northwest Territories -- receive little or no funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories for language programs.

Mr. Speaker, the whole area of pay equity between the highly-paid territorial employees and local public sector employees is one that needs to be addressed also. I appreciate that the Minister is taking steps to deal with this inequity.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the issue of gender equality will have to be dealt with sooner or later at, I believe, a significant cost to this government.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated in the House before that I do not necessarily believe in a balanced budget. This may fly in the face of public approval and even perhaps political correctness. I strongly believe the government and our own Standing Committee on

Finance has to take a holistic approach towards financing programs in the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all the hard work both the Minister of Finance and the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation have done in an effort to have the federal financing for social housing in the Northwest Territories reinstated. As the Minister of Finance stated in his address, we have managed to find some money to fund some social housing in the Northwest Territories. However, Mr. Speaker, I do strongly feel that we, as a government, are not doing enough.

My own observation, Mr. Speaker, is that the allocation of social housing funds continue to benefit tax-based communities at the expense of smaller communities.

The South Slave district, for example, Mr. Speaker, for the 1995-96 unit allocation; Fort Simpson has seven units; Fort Smith has nine units; and, Hay River has 14 units. That was revised in August to six, seven and 13 units, respectively. None of the other communities in the district have more than four units being allocated. Five of the communities are not being allocated any housing in the upcoming years.

With regard to the most recent revised version, Mr. Speaker, again, in the south Slave; Fort Smith's allocation has been increased to 11; Hay River's has gone down to eight; and, Fort Simpson has remained the same. Fort Providence has been reduced by one and Kakisa doesn't get one, except for the one that was transferred from last year. Mr. Speaker, each of the tax-based communities has a housing market.

The other observations I have made is that in the eastern Arctic, most of the allocations are pretty well consistent, even between the largest community, which is Iqaluit, and the smallest communities. However, in the western Arctic, the allocation stands out. I think that should be looked at.

I strongly believe that the Housing Corporation should be looking at housing on a needs-based basis, as opposed to the largest communities getting the bulk of social housing money, simply because of their population.

---Applause

I will be following this matter up with the Advisory Committee on Social Housing.

As I mentioned before, I believe we should take a holistic approach to financing. If we invest money in programs such as housing and alcohol and drug counselling now, we, as a government, are making an investment in the future -- as Mr. Ballantyne has stated -- thereby reducing the costs of providing health and social programs to future governments.

Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's address, he raised some good points. I certainly hope he follows through with them. Community consultation on which forest fires to fight was one positive step.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the government, the Department of Renewable Resources, for the five-year agreement that was signed last year between Evergreen Forestry and the communities of Fort Providence, Kakisa and the Hay River reserve. The methods of firefighting are one area I like to touch on a bit, since most of the firefighting that is done now is based on the working hours of the day, rather than looking at the most convenient time to fight fires.

I believe that most of the fires that were started this year were not from natural causes. I would like to say that a lot could have been caused by human error. More and more in my travels this summer, I saw aircraft, water bombers and choppers, that go back and forth along the rivers, using a lot of money to fight fires. In my time as a firefighter, most of the fires we fought were during the evenings and in the early mornings. We rested during the day and continued at night. We did a more effective job doing this than having people going to work at 8:00 in the morning to fight fires and then going home in the evenings. The fires are worse in the day time and you can't fight them. But, still that's the way they are doing it.

If it is going to be economical, the only way to fight fires is during the evenings. During my travels to Lutsel K'e this summer, talking to residents there, I understand that a fire that was within distance of Lutsel K'e, which could be seen burning at night, was not fought. The local people said it was not their

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fire, it was Yellowknife's fire. This kind of communication has caused the delay in fighting fires. There was a squabble between two government agencies trying to determine who should be fighting fires. While the argument was going on, the fires were getting away.

Mr. Speaker, as territorial politicians, we have a responsibility to all the residents of the Northwest Territories. We have to look after their physical, mental and spiritual needs. The housing and recreational program needs in the small communities are not being addressed by this government. For example, my honourable colleague from the Kitikmeot recently made a statement about the plight of the people in Bathurst Inlet, as it was formerly known. Just because it is a small community, their needs should not be ignored by the government. Out of sight should not mean out of mind.

Mr. Speaker, we must tailor our programs and devote what limited resources we have to the next generation of northerners. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe this government should seriously consider the creation of a child advocacy worker's position. Too often, Mr. Speaker, I have seen social workers, with the support of RCMP officers, run roughshod over the rights of a child, should the child come to be placed in the care of the superintendent of child welfare.

Although these people all mean well, they are forced, by the very nature of the bureaucracy, to operate within the confines of a rigid set of rules. It is because of these rules, and the department's interpretation of them, that children need an advocate. In some cases, Mr. Speaker, the child is estranged from his or her parents. Who makes sure the child's rights are not violated? This is an area that I think we should be taking bold steps to address.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for his noble efforts on behalf of all the residents of the Northwest Territories. In these trying economic times and with the uncertainty of financing from the federal government, I do not envy his task. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister keep in mind the whole of the Northwest Territories and its people in his future deliberations and treats everybody fairly.

I strongly believe that if we spend money on social infrastructure now, we will save future governments money and hundreds of residents undue pain and suffering, especially children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Before I recognize the next speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Joe Kunuk, the mayor of Iqaluit, in the public gallery.

---Applause

Item 10, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Mr. Ng's Reply

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Minister of Finance's budget address, the Honourable Mr. Pollard outlines some of the impediments to the continued fiscal health of our government's financing, the virtual elimination of federal funding for social housing and the continued overspending on forest firefighting and the recognition of additional employee ultimate renewal benefits.

There are also many other unresolved financial issues; the health billings dispute with the Government of Canada; the wage parity dispute with the union; and, most significantly, the negotiation of a new formula financing agreement with the Government of Canada.

I believe the new formula financing agreement will not be as beneficial as the existing one, as the Government of Canada is demonstrating fiscal restraint and cutbacks in almost all of their policies. You only have to look at Transport Canada's plans to downsize their operations and most recently, with the renewal of the official language agreement funding in which the amount of reduced funding is still under negotiation.

Too many times, we have seen companies awarded GNWT contracts bring in their total workforce, not utilize local services, bypass the commercial accommodation policy and minimize their contribution to the local economy. These issues are what a new redefined and enforceable BIP should specifically address. Mr. Speaker, if the capital budget remains at around the \$200 million mark for the next few years, with all the pressure to meet currently planned needs and the unforeseen need for new program dollars, the capital budget will begin to address a smaller and smaller percentage of yearly capital requirements.

A rapidly expanding population will also continue to increase pressure on our infrastructure needs. The budget has continued to place a high priority on education and housing needs, and rightly so, as basic housing is critical to the social well-being of our residents. We all concur that education and training of our youth and adult population is critical, not only now, but to the future of the two new territories after 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the major concern I have with the 1995-96 capital budget is with respect to the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice. The capital spending of these departments represents only 5.3 per cent of the total capital budget. I find this unacceptable, given the fact that in my constituency -- which I am sure is no different than many others -- there are numerous requests and demands put forward to the department for facilities and program support to address health and social needs.

Recent ones that I am aware of, since my election, are elders' residences and family violence shelters. More recent ones that have come to light from recent constituency meetings are alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities and, what I feel should

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become one of the future priorities of the department and the government, youth centres.

Mr. Speaker, I raise the issue of youth centres and support programming for youth as a result of youth throughout the NWT requesting government assistance to establish these facilities and support programming to address their needs. We, as leaders, have recognized the importance of youth to our future, yet have failed, besides providing what we feel they need, to provide services to youth based on what they feel is needed.

During my constituency visit to Coppermine last week, I met with four classes at the high school, the teacher education program class, the adult education class and I held a public constituency meeting, which was attended by approximately 75 people.

A common concern and request from all of the meetings was the need for additional support for youth. It was pointed out that whether it be drop-in centres, counselling services, expanded recreational programs, or cultural experience activities, we must begin to recognize and address the needs of our

youth, as they won't simply disappear if we choose to ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, the government must also address how they provide capital and services to unorganized, smaller communities. Many times, these communities are overlooked, or left to the end of the list in recognizing their infrastructure needs. Even though these communities have very small population bases, our government must still address their needs, along with all others, in a fair, equitable manner.

With the exception of the Health and Social Services budget, which I feel is underfunded, I commend the government in their preparation of the 1995-96 capital budget. They have addressed as many needs as possible, given financial realities they have to work under of never having enough resources to adequately address all our needs.

Mr. Speaker, although we are addressing the capital budget, it cannot be done in isolation of the main estimates as they are directly related. I've never understood the reasoning of carrying out two budget processes. The SCOF review and the Legislative Assembly review of two different budgets, doubles the amount of time required to approve proposed government expenditures. It's an unnecessary waste of our valuable human resources. It's my understanding that the reason for bringing forward the capital budget earlier was to allow more time and efficiency for earlier planning and tendering of projects. I'm still to be convinced that this is the case as I don't see it happening in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, although the government must continue to address the current unresolved and ongoing disputed issues which will affect their financing, I believe that this government and the next government have to focus on three major financial initiatives with the federal government:

1. Ensuring a reasonable formula financing agreement is reached in order not to significantly erode our existing baseline funding;
2. Ensuring that sufficient incremental financial resources are provided in order to meet the additional infrastructure and program delivery requirements of establishing two new territories leading up to and after 1999; and, I do not envy the position this and the next government finds itself in, of having to deliver more with less financial resources at their disposal. We must assess the way we deliver our capital programs

to ensure that we are doing it effectively and efficiently.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet Members for their support and assistance to me in addressing the needs of my constituents since I became the Member for Kitikmeot. I also wish to thank my honourable colleagues who have, on many occasions, provided me words of wisdom even though I've never asked for them. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Mr. Dent's Reply

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also make a reply to the budget address. To start, I too would like to thank the Minister of Finance for his work. I know he has a very difficult job and I think he has done extremely well, given the cuts we've had to face in our funding to date.

---Applause

Of course, it doesn't mean that I haven't criticized.

Mr. Speaker, the capital budget represents only approximately 20 per cent of our overall budget. For that reason, it's somewhat difficult to make comprehensive comments on the overall budget. I think that's perhaps one more reason to reconsider the splitting of the budget into the two parts -- the capital and the O&M. In tougher financial times like we face now, perhaps we need to be able to consider the entire budget at once. It's much more difficult to make sure we're reflecting our overall priorities when the two parts are considered separate. If tough choices are needed, we need to have the whole package in front of us.

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As has been pointed out by another honourable Member already this afternoon, the process we have in place right now has meant that the communities are much more involved in the preparation of the capital budget and I think there's much more satisfaction

amongst the people of the Northwest Territories that their voices are heard when priorities are being set.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to see from this capital budget just exactly what the priorities of government are. You need to have both the capital and the O and M budgets together in order to assess where the government is going. Is this budget an effective economic tool? It is really hard to tell when the capital budget is taken in isolation. So, Mr. Speaker, before making detailed comment on the budget, I'm going to wait for the O and M budget to be tabled as well.

But, what I would like to do today is take this opportunity to outline to the government some of the things that I hope -- actually, Mr. Speaker, some of the things that I expect -- to see when we have the O and M budget tabled in February.

Mr. Speaker, I expect we will see a clear indication that education really is the number one priority. I think we have some pretty clear statistics in the Northwest Territories that prove that the better educated our residents are, the better their chances of finding employment. We need to make sure that we are preparing northerners for involvement in meaningful employment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, making sure that we do that will cut down, in the long run, social problems and will make sure that our people are better able to help themselves provide adequate housing. As has been said by Mr. Ballantyne and other Members in this House, investing in the future of northern youth is the best possible economic development program.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the new day care program, introduced by Education, Culture and Employment, looks like it's a good step. Now, having taken that step, perhaps it is time to look at more early intervention programs and perhaps even head start program for preschoolers, especially those at risk.

Mr. Speaker, another area which I expect to see a focus on is social issues. This government has made an important step by adopting a policy of zero tolerance towards violence. Now, we are going to have to see some money in place of those words. I expect to see a detailed outline by this government, including financial commitments, in setting up a strategy for zero tolerance towards violence.

Secondly, I hope we will see a comprehensive update of the government's response, again showing money committed, to the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, as I said last spring, the initial response of this government, entitled "Renewed Partnerships," looked very good. I was encouraged. But now, it is time to replace the words with action.

I think there are two important things that have to happen if we're to have any chance of successfully dealing with the fiscal crunch and the demand for services that we face. The first is the government, the Cabinet, needs to make sure they are all singing from the same songbook. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is no room for soloists and the days of the big bands are finished.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

---Applause

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Take away Todd's instrument.

---Laughter

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, what we want now is the a cappella version, with sweet harmony.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ohh.

MR. DENT:

What we need to see is some coordination among the Cabinet Members of their priorities and activities, in order to make sure we fine tune what we are doing, in order to achieve the most for the least.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we have to keep working to improve our fiscal situation. This means, for instance, a coordinated approach to dealing with the federal government, which the Standing Committee on Finance has recommended, whether that is negotiating fiscal agreements, the formula financing agreement, or Health and RCMP billings and so on. I also think we have to make sure we're working really hard towards a northern accord.

I think it's important to try to build a consensus of northerners on this issue. We have to try to deal with all the concerns that are out there. I believe we must work towards having more ability to raise our own revenue through resource royalties. We must loosen the ties to Ottawa. Otherwise, they will always call the tune.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would just like to reiterate that, come February, I hope this government rises to the challenge. I hope we see some innovation, a real demonstration of teamwork and priority setting when we get the second, and the biggest, part of this budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. Mr. Patterson.

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Mr. Patterson's Reply

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to see you in the chair today, Mr. Speaker. Inspired by the eloquence of my colleagues, I am motivated to make a few comments about the budget address.

I would like to first of all say that one of the things that leapt out at me was the clear commitment to building new regional hospitals in Iqaluit and Inuvik.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, this long-awaited project -- and I dare not speak for Inuvik, but I think I can say it is a long-awaited project -- in my constituency was promised in the transfer of Health by the federal government many years ago now. The facilities are old, out-moded, over-crowded and inadequate for the rapidly growing population of the region. I'm pleased to see there is a

clear commitment reflected in the capital plan to get moving on this long-awaited project.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I won't have a lot to say today because I have been privileged to participate in the Standing Committee on Finance deliberations on the capital budget and totally endorse the SCOF report. I would like to think it is a responsible, thoughtful and constructive document that wasn't presented in a spirit of confrontation or criticism, but rather intended to compliment the good work of the Minister of Finance and the other Ministers in the difficult task of putting together a capital budget during a time of diminishing resources.

I want to say one thing about the SCOF report now, and that is that I am very grateful that all the Members of that committee accepted the invitation of myself and Mr. Pudlat to meet in our constituencies and visit the newest and largest territorial park at Katannalik. I would like to thank the Members for taking the time and trouble to travel to Baffin to see first hand the investment that our government has in that park and the sense of ownership that the community of Lake Harbour and Iqaluit have in that park.

I want to thank the Members for their positive comments about the benefits of an investment of this kind for jobs, tourism and economic activity. I would like to think that issue has now been clarified, after some questions and doubts were raised in this Legislature. It is now clear that, where it is a priority in a community and in a region -- and it may not be the first priority in other communities and other regions, which I respect -- as it clearly is in the Baffin, tourism and parks can be a worthwhile investment and can generate real economic benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply echo the comments of my colleagues previously in their replies to the budget address that education must be the first and most important priority of the government. I think it's clear, Mr. Speaker, that economic development, constitutional development, political development and social development will only be accomplished with an educated population, and so education becomes the most important of all priorities. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments about education, and I guess I would like to specifically express some concerns related to education in Nunavut and in my constituency.

The first one has to do with the split of Arctic College, and I want to say that I think this is the right thing to do. Education will be critical to the success of

Nunavut. We have not struggled and fought for Nunavut for over 15 years so that the new government will employ southerners. We want the Nunavut government to have Inuktitut as its working language. This means northern people must be predominant in the Nunavut public service. I am pleased that the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the step of preparing for Nunavut by proposing to divide Arctic College, and I am pleased that legislation is now before this House. But today, what I would like to address, Mr. Speaker, is the financial underpinnings and financial support for that college. It's not enough to divide the college into two colleges, east and west. I think we have to be sure that there's a fair allocation of resources. So, while I wish to congratulate the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for moving ahead with the establishment of the Nunavut Arctic College and western Arctic College, I also want to express my concern that as we prepare for the establishment of new colleges in Nunavut and the western NWT, we ensure that there's equity and fairness in the allocation of resources within the present Arctic College systems.

It is clear that the people of Nunavut will rely heavily on the Nunavut Arctic College to meet the bulk of our training requirements. It is also clear there will be enormous positive economic benefits and cost-savings if northern residents can be trained to qualify for the jobs in the Nunavut government or an organization implementing the land claims. However, Mr. Speaker, in examining the current allocation of financial and human resources for programs in various campuses of Arctic College, it seems that there are sometimes wide disparities in funding and staffing levels. Some areas that I have looked at -- not necessarily, by any means, exhaustive -- are environmental technology, trades, student services and driver education and heavy equipment operator programs. Furthermore, as new health and hospital facilities are actively being planned in Nunavut, there are also rising expectations about the establishment of a nursing program and other health training in Nunavut. There is also a tremendous amount of interest in this area of political and constitutional development in a native studies program. We don't have a native studies program in any of the Nunavut Arctic College campuses.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my earnest hope that the establishment of two new colleges from one will be seen by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and his Cabinet colleagues as an

opportunity to rectify present inequities so as to ensure that the Nunavut Arctic College begins operations with its fair share of the existing resources and is given the capacity to deliver programs and training already in high demand and to respond quickly to the anticipated demands for new programming. May I say that I think this will be especially pressing in the area of trades training. All I am asking for, Mr. Speaker, is fairness and equity, nothing more. So I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that as we implement the division of Arctic College following the passage of this legislation, there will be a fair process to carefully and objectively review the adequacy of base funding provided for all programs and services within the financial arrangements for the new colleges.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a college funding allocation system that has been developed by the ministry following work done by a consultant

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from the firm of Price Waterhouse, and I know that this college funding allocation system is designed to implement the new financial arrangements in a fair manner. I want to serve notice that I will want to be assured, as we move forward with the financial arrangements -- some of which will be discussed in the forthcoming O and M budget session -- that there is an equitable and fair distribution of existing resources.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I think the job of the Minister of Finance is undoubtedly the toughest one in Cabinet. I know I can recall, when I had the onerous task of assigning portfolio responsibilities in the distant past, I never found any great competition for the job of the Finance portfolio. It's a difficult job and it becomes increasingly difficult in our increasingly difficult financial times, and I do want to say that I admire the discipline that Mr. Pollard is putting into the job and the personal commitment he's putting into the job, and I know that if he listened to all the requests to preserve programs, we'd be getting nowhere with our restraint, and our government wouldn't be in the strong financial position that it now is, relative to other jurisdictions in Canada, including the federal government. However, Mr. Speaker, I have another concern that I want to express about education, because I think that if we have to make cuts, we have to avoid making cuts that diminish our human resources and the capital that we have invested in the people of the Northwest Territories.

One other point I wanted to make about the challenging job of the Minister of Finance before I turn to another educational issue, Mr. Speaker, is that I am just delighted today to learn that his financial burden has been somewhat relieved by the announcement made by Mr. Morin about the recovery of the \$9 million. Now, I suspect there will be some interesting debate within the Financial Management Board about just how much of that \$9 million Mr. Morin gets to keep and how much Mr. Pollard takes into general revenues. I would love to observe that debate, Mr. Speaker, but the bottom line is that whether the whole sum is put into housing or whether some of it is put into deficit reduction, we have been relieved somewhat today by this accomplishment, and I don't want to underestimate the difficult challenge that Mr. Morin has had in getting this money. I frankly was increasingly pessimistic that we would recover anything from the social housing shortfall, and I think it's a tribute to his doggedness and determination and undoubtedly that of his Cabinet colleagues that we have this positive news today as we debate the budget. So I want to say that I am happy for Mr. Pollard that after a dry season of forest fires and the increased cost of fighting forest fires, and after the challenges he's had with the health billings dispute and with the social housing shortfall, I'm delighted that some good news has come on us today, and that his job might be made just a trifle easier by this good news we have today.

Mr. Speaker, I was talking about the importance of education. I want to note another concern. I've recently had occasion to take a look at the terms of reference for a consultant proposal call issued by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to evaluate future direction for existing student residences located in Inuvik, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, not surprisingly in our present difficult climate, one of the main purposes of this study -- and it's listed upfront in the terms of reference -- is to realize cost savings. This goal I understand. However, the terms of reference seem to anticipate the closure of some or all of these residences. The terms of reference called for a "phase-out plan for residences that are recommended for closure," "explore optional uses" and, "recommend future direction for residences that will be phased out."

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Ukiivik Residence in Iqaluit with the Minister of Education, and I was surprised to find that the complexion of that residence had changed. There were some students from smaller communities in the

Baffin where high school programs were still not yet available as has been in the past, but I was surprised to learn that the majority of students who were there were in Iqaluit to take the advanced diploma or matriculation program, either because there was no advanced diploma offered in the high school program in their community, or there was no demand in their home community for such a program at all.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have now the pleasant situation of having students from communities who are making the difficult journey to a regional residence because they want to go to university, and they want to take professional training to prepare them for Nunavut. So I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that even though I know we have increasing fiscal problems and even though I know that these residences are very costly institutions to run and that there might be a great temptation on the Department of Education to close those residences because community high school programs have been established, it may just not be that simple. In fact, what we may be doing is imposing a barrier if we close those residences, imposing an obstacle to students who want to gain the advanced diploma and go on to university who do not today have that opportunity in their home community.

So I want to say, let us take great care as we establish the Nunavut Arctic College, and as we review the high school residences in Inuvik, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, that we do not jeopardize the progress we've worked hard to make in the Northwest Territories...more students going to college closer to home, more students finally taking the advanced diploma and taking matriculation and even being willing to leave their home community to do so.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express these two concerns of many about education. I want to endorse the report of the Standing Committee on Finance, their emphasis on early intervention, their emphasis on special needs, and, of course, the challenges that we've thrown to the government to have a response on family violence, to have plans for justice programs developed in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Kenoayoak Pudlat.

ITEM 11: PETITIONS

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though we heard that we're getting some money for housing, my people are not very happy about the proposed rates that will be imposed. Petition No. 3-12(6) is with regard to that. There are over 30 signatures. Therefore, for us who live in the Northwest Territories, it's getting more difficult to get funding

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for social housing. The people in my constituency are not too happy about the proposed rates so I'm tabling this petition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Qujannamiik. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. James Arvaluk.

ITEM 14: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Tabled Document 32-12(6), transcript of a statement by Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, to the Keewatin Divisional Health Board, in Rankin Inlet, September 27 to 29, 1994, regarding language agreement funding cuts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Qujannamiik. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 18: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is being called. All those in favour, please signify in the usual manner. Opposed to the motion? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. Item 18, first reading of bills, Mr. Todd.

Bill 13: An Act To Amend The Motor Vehicles Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion, please signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 13 has had first reading. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

Bill 14: An Act To Repeal The Public Service Vehicles Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Public Service Vehicles Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion, please signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14 has had first reading. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 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 6-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 3 - Guardianship and Trusteeship Act; Committee Report 7-12(6), Report on the Review of Bill 7 - An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act; Committee Report 9-12(6), Investing In Our Future, October 1994; Committee Report 10-12(6), Report on the Review of the 1995-96 Capital Estimates; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96; Bill 2, Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act; Bill 3, Guardianship and Trusteeship Act; Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act; Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to recommend that we deal first with Committee Report 7-12(6), followed by consideration of Bill 7. Although it's unlikely we'll finish much more than that today, we'll see if we finish those before we go onto anything else.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that we deal with Committee Report 7-12(6) and, if we have time, Bill 7, Arctic College Act.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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Committee Report 7-12(6): Report On The Review Of Bill 7 - An Act To Amend The Arctic College Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Who is going to present the committee report? The chairman of the committee, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee has had the opportunity to review Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act, and has presented its report in the House for consideration. As is stated in our report on the review of Bill 7, the standing committee has two concerns:

1. that this bill places the authority to establish and name colleges in regulation. The committee is not convinced that the establishment and naming of colleges should be decided behind closed doors;
2. that this bill repeals the Science Institute Act and the potential loss of Science Institutes into peripheral abilities may have serious implications on science research and activities in the north and that the colleges' priorities of training and education would overshadow the Science Institute.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that although the committee passed a motion to refer this bill to the committee of the whole it could be debated clause by clause, that the committee also pass a motion not to support Bill 7 in its present form. The motion for non-support received unanimous consent by Members in attendance. The standing committee fully supports the creation of two colleges in the Northwest Territories to prepare for Nunavut.

The committee also was concerned, however, that this bill places the authority to establish and name

colleges in regulation. The decision to create or dissolve colleges is important to the public, as well as Members of this House. The committee is not convinced that the establishment and naming of colleges should be decided by Cabinet.

The committee believes that these decisions should have a level of accountability to the Members of the Assembly attached to them. Therefore, I have a motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Please proceed with your motion.

Committee Motion 22-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends that the establishment and naming of colleges be established in legislation where Members of the Assembly may participate in the process and, further, that the legislation expressly limit the creation of colleges to two, one in the west and one in Nunavut.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, do you wish to continue?

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that concludes our report on Bill 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Do we have any comments on Committee Report 7-12(6)? The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

General Comments

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is one situation that I don't like being placed in, but I am placed in it. The fact is, my name is mentioned in the committee report because I am an alternate Member of the Standing Committee on Legislation. As an alternate Member of this committee, I have been quite active in the committee and have participated in some of its deliberations.

In this case, I participated in some of the discussions and deliberations that led up to the review of the Arctic College Act. I find myself in a precarious position where I am opposed to the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Legislation. The situation I find myself in is that a motion was passed by the committee not to support Bill 7 in its present form. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I wasn't at that meeting.

But I was present during some of the deliberations and I find myself in this position because, as an alternate Member, you are called when you are required, usually to make a quorum. The door is always open to participate and, at the time the motion was made, I wasn't present. But I did by letter and by personal presentation to the committee, express my concerns. I was hoping that the committee would, somewhere, give a qualification that the total committee was not in agreement with the position taken by the majority of Members who voted.

That didn't happen, so I find myself, today, having to state my case of my opposition to the committee on the matter of the bill repealing the Science Institute Act. I personally am in favour of the amalgamation of the Science Institute with Arctic College. I also supported the decisions made by Cabinet, I think it was a year and a half ago or longer, to move the Science Institute to the communities. One community that is impacted, obviously, is Inuvik where the western headquarters of the Science Institute would be located. That decision was made quite some time ago and we have been waiting, very patiently, for the repeal of the act and the approval of the new act so that the move can take place accordingly.

If the Members of this Legislative Assembly support the committee's motion not to present Bill 7 in its present form, then those types of activities wouldn't take place. That's why I'm raising these issues and concerns. It has bothered me greatly because of the

position I have been placed in. I have no other recourse, other than to make this statement at this time. As I mentioned, I work with the committee. I told them I would be making this statement. They have it in writing that I don't support what they stated

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in the report, and I wanted to make my position very clear, for the record. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Your comments are duly noted. Any further comments on the committee report? The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not been participating in SCOL as an alternate Member, or in any other form. I have just been watching very carefully where this would go. I was the Minister at the time when the initiative for dividing Arctic College and the amalgamation of the Science Institute occurred.

I find the committee's report on the bill repealing the Science Institute Act weak. I read in more in the vein of "what if" all the way through. The committee is concerned that the college's priority of education and training could be overshadowed by the Science Institute. It doesn't have to. And any other argument they have made in there doesn't mean what they are concerned about will happen.

How I read the committee report is that there is not enough production by the Science Institute under this forum. If there is good management established for both the Arctic College and the Science Institute, then the committee's concerns about the Science Institute's being overshadowed will not occur. I would have appreciated a stronger feeling on the issue, and that a more tangible argument would have been put forth.

It is well-written, but I find the reasoning and the arguments weak, Mr. Chairman. Along that line, there seems to be more nit-picking than solid arguments for why this bill should not be supported in its present form. I find it weak. Qujannamiik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Any further comments about the committee report? The chair recognizes Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, may I thank the committee for taking the trouble to visit Iqaluit and seek the views of my constituents this summer on this bill and other bills. I know the chairman was ill and was unable to come along, but I think that Members of the committee who did attend those hearings felt that they got a good turnout and good advice from constituents who presented the presentations to the committee on this bill and other bills.

I would like to reiterate what I said when the committee was in Iqaluit, that I firmly support the principle of the bill of dividing Arctic College. I think it's critical to prepare for Nunavut, and I think it's timely that it should be done at this time. I believe, as well, that there's no question that the constituents who came to the committee hearings also gave that firm endorsement of the principle of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there is a lot of concern about the changes made to the Science Institute through this bill. I would just like to make a few quick points on that. Some Members have reminded me that when the issue of amalgamating the Science Institute or integrating it with Arctic College came up while this House was in session last year, along with Mr. Lewis, I asked some questions of the Minister about this move. I would like to clarify now, Mr. Chairman, that I felt at the time that the process of consultation with the Science Institute was not handled as sensitively as it might have been. Perhaps whenever one proposes changes there is going to be a sense of anxiety, if not betrayal, on the part of some of those persons who are feeling threatened by such a process, but the thrust of my questions and interventions at the time was more directed at the process rather than at the principle of integrating the Science Institute with Arctic College.

I would like to remind Members of this committee, Mr. Chairman, that although it's fine to talk about the lofty goals of the Science Institute acting as a body to refer questions from the Legislature on science and research and development issues, if we examine the history of the Science Institute, we find that this provision and this capability in the legislation has

indeed been very rarely used. So those who are concerned about losing that particular ability and accountability between the Legislature and the Science Institute should openly acknowledge that it hasn't been used very much, and, when it has been used, I am not sure that it was used particularly effectively. I am not sure how valuable the advice that we got from the Science Institute was on the uranium exploration issue, as one of the members of the Science Institute of that day was a very prominent Canadian pro-uranium, pro-nuclear activist who need not be named today. So, Mr. Chairman, I think that those who object to that principle should really ask themselves whether it's ever been actually seriously utilized in this Legislature.

Now, I am not saying the Science Institute hasn't done many good things in many areas, and they have been discussed in this House and reported on by various Ministers responsible, but that particular function of receiving scientific enquiries from the Legislature has simply not been well utilized, Mr. Chairman, and we should admit today that if that is what we are concerned about losing, we will not lose something that's been used very often.

Now, having said that, I think it may still be useful, if Members of this Legislature can ask questions about scientific issues and about research and development issues to people who have the expertise to provide answers, and I am hoping that as we discuss this bill we may find a way to retain that capacity in case future Legislatures might want to use it more than past legislatures have. I understand there may be some amendments, either from the Minister or from Members of this House, and I am hoping that issue can be addressed, Mr. Chairman. So, I think we should move on with this.

The reality, Mr. Chairman, is that because the government stated its intention to divide Arctic College, because that stated intention was approved by the Legislature and by the Reshaping Northern Government committee and because the government then went ahead and undertook planning to prepare for the implementation of two colleges, including the creation of headquarters offices in Fort Smith and Iqaluit for those two new colleges, what we are really doing now is finishing what has begun. So the legislation will legitimize a lot of administrative changes that have already been put in place.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think it's critical that we do pass this bill, that we wish the employees of the Science

Institute every success and that they continue their good work, albeit in a new relationship with a new

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department. But I am confident that the good works that have been initiated, including the IRAP program, the support for science fairs and the monitoring of scientific research, can continue at the same calibre that has been undertaken already, because we still have many of those same capable people still in place. So I have no hesitation, Mr. Chairman, in endorsing and indeed welcoming this bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member from Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson. If there are no further comments on the committee report, does the committee agree that we proceed with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act? The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, we travelled to Norman Wells, Fort Smith and Inuvik -- at least I did -- to discuss this bill. When we met in Fort Smith, we arrived during the evening and waited most of the evening for people to show up to discuss the access bill and the Arctic College Act, but we really didn't have anybody that evening. We tried again the next morning; no one showed up, or in the afternoon, either. I can say that in Norman Wells we had people make presentations but they were mostly on the access bill itself. In Inuvik, we had no presentations, even though the Science Institute was there and Arctic College was also there. We didn't really get any kind of concern expressed with regard to the bill itself, so we went ahead with discussing it.

The only thing I want to say is that, again, some of the Members are saying that we really don't have an argument that says we shouldn't do it, so they support the bill as is. I would like to tell the Members that everything that happens henceforth or from now is that...The purpose of the bill itself hasn't changed any; the Minister would still decide on the naming of Arctic College. I haven't heard anything to suggest that the Minister has indicated, in any way, shape or form, that he's willing to amend the act to reflect the committee's recommendation.

The other thing is that during the next few months...More and more, we see the need for the

Science Institute to do work in the areas of radiation levels, baseline studies, studies on animal habitats and also studies on plants, those kinds of things; the level of pollution that's occurring and also the pulp mills down south. It hasn't helped a bit.

My feeling is it still should be separate from Arctic College. I also feel that the Science Institutes in the rest of the country are big organizations that operate based on a large budget. They get donations and they also raise money. I don't know whether or not, by amalgamating it and making the Science Institute part of the Arctic College budget, it would be up to the Science Institute then to justify the monies. I think that's what was said last week when we dealt with the access bill. Nobody supported it because of the amount of money that's going to be used. And in this case, I think the amount of money the Science Institute gets and their accountability will be lost to Arctic College.

We see a situation in which you have a concern, then you express it to the Minister. The Minister, in turn, advises the Arctic College board and the board will decide whether or not it is important enough for the Science Institute to address. While the arrangement now is that under the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories, the Legislative Assembly has some direct input into the way the Science Institute can conduct itself.

I think that's very important because if we start having 52 communities and all the 52 communities have certain concerns -- for example in Fort Providence, we getting more kids who are having kidney problems. What's wrong? Nobody has an answer for it. What about lead contaminants? This is really a complicated type of technology. Lead in water is very hard to detect. We need that professional help on those areas. I don't see Arctic College overly expressing themselves over those kinds of concerns.

I just don't know. My concern is we have one Arctic College in the west -- that's the intent of the legislation -- and one in the east and we want to include the Science Institute. I know we don't even influence the Arctic College budget. It comes under Arctic College as an information item. We don't see the details of the budget itself. So I could imagine what it would be like if part of the budget of the Science Institute is part of the Arctic College budget. How do you know how much they get? Or whether or not they exist?

I have some real serious reservations about the act being passed as it is. I think I speak for most people

in the Mackenzie Valley and the Slave River area, that we are, in the next few years, going to be seeing a lot of changes as a result of pollution, the ozone and everything else. I think all the Members should be concerned about that. We can express our concern in the House, but it's really up to Arctic College to determine whether or not it even warrants the Science Institute to study it or look at it or analyze it or anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. No further comments on the committee report? Does the committee agree that the committee report 7-12(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Arctic College Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee agrees. We will proceed on to Bill 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee agrees that we allow the Minister to bring his witnesses in. Perhaps he'd like to make comments from where he is first. Sergeant-at-Arms, assist the Minister in fetching his witnesses. Welcome, Mr. Minister, to our committee. For the record, would you be so kind as to introduce your witnesses?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. If I could, Mr Chairman, introduce the witnesses. On my right is the assistant deputy minister of culture and careers, Mr. Mark Cleveland. On my left is Carol Whitehouse, legal counsel.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Welcome, witnesses. Would the Minister care to present his opening comments?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we are aware, the act that is before you, Bill 7, is to amend the Arctic College Act and will strengthen, in my view, the Northwest Territories post secondary education system and its role in the field of science and technology. The proposed amendment removes references to Arctic College in the act and allows for the creation of one or more college.

In addition, it also provides for more flexibility in establishing a student association. The bill also recognizes the importance of scientific research and investigations. It gives the board of governors of the college the functions previously held by the Science Institute, as well as the power to establish a science advisory council to which the board may delegate these functions.

Mr. Chairman, I have much more to say about this particular legislation, but in responding to the House here, I would like to deal with a couple of issues. While I didn't necessarily agree with everything in the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I think that the important component is that it highlights concerns that have been raised by many. Despite the concerns that have been raised, it is my belief that the new relationship that has been established will only improve the quality of service and quality of the institution that we're establishing.

I noted, Mr. Chairman, some of the concerns that were raised about baseline data and health issues. I, too, and I think also the Cabinet Members, realize these are important components of research that have to be conducted. But, with respect to those concerns, we already have departments that are responsible for carrying out that research. In the case of habitat and wildlife, we have the Department of Renewable Resources. In the case of the health issues, the Department of Health and Social Services, through its responsibility, has to be held accountable for that kind of research.

I think what is most important, as well, is that an important component of any post-secondary institution in the north, as we lead to an institution that might be an institution which delivers four-year university degree programs, is to play a high profile role in research and technology. We cannot have an institution in the north where our students or our institution don't play that role.

I do appreciate the concern that was raised by the Standing Committee on Legislation. Without question, in my view, it has to be a serious consideration in any of the deliberations that the science advisory council will take in the future. It is something that the public colleges also have to consider. I think everyone recognizes the importance of science and technology. What is important, though, is that we haven't paid a great deal of attention to it in our post-secondary institutions. We need to do better. I think this will allow us to take advantage of the quality of people already involved in the system.

With those opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to deal directly with Bill 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments on Bill 7. The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

General Comments

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, I support the bill. I have a couple of concerns that I would like the Minister to address. I have publicly stated before that I have a concern about the incremental costs of division and the possibility of letting the federal government off the hook.

There's a good argument about why we have to start doing things. Division can't happen overnight, and we have to start, in an orderly and structured way, to get there. I'm willing to support this bill as long as I know that any time we do this type of thing, any time we do anything which leads towards division, a letter goes to the federal government telling them we are doing it, that we expect there are going to be incremental costs, that we will make an accounting of those costs, and at the end of the day, we expect it to be part of the discussion about incremental costs.

I think it is important that the relevant departments, whether it is DIAND or Finance, know exactly that this is the beginning of a process. We would be foolish to leave everything to the last moment. We should tell them we have a concern that at the end of the day there will be incremental costs to dividing Arctic College into two.

I would ask the Minister to give me some assurances that the incremental costs will be recorded and the

federal government will be informed that this is the process we are going to undergo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the information of the honourable Member, we are in fact putting in place tracking procedures of all the costs relating to the establishment of two colleges. We are not only doing it for the colleges, but also the incremental costs for other programs in the department. That makes sure we keep track of the ongoing costs of all aspects of delivering educational programming, including Arctic College programming.

I want to make one point. While I appreciate the position taken by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, in my own view, the attempt to equalize dollars also requires the participation of the federal government in the development of the institution as part of division. I think we cannot, as Mr. Ballantyne has pointed out, allow the federal government off the hook for paying for their responsibility in terms of the creation of institutions, whether it is this post-secondary institution or other institutions in the future.

We will be developing a tracking system to deal with incremental costs. I will be able to show that in the future.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had some concerns, too, about incremental costs. I'm glad to hear that those will be tracked. As Mr. Ballantyne said, it's important that we start keeping track of those costs as we head into division. There will be other areas where we have to make some moves before 1999.

There is one area I'm interested in getting some information from the Minister on. I'll be up front, I have yet to be convinced of the need for a Science Institute in the Northwest Territories. I suspect that, especially in light of our financial situation, we should

have probably repealed the Science Institute Act and not replaced it with anything.

I know the Minister said in his opening comments that we need to pay attention to science and technology. When I look at section 18 of this act, it outlines all the wonderful things the Science Institute should be doing. It's hard to tell from that whether we are planning to launch our own space program or find a cure for AIDS through the auspices of the Science Institute and the Arctic College.

I would like to get a feel from the Minister just what he sees the Science Institute and the Arctic College doing that couldn't be done by a department of science, if that was thought to be necessary by the two boards of governors of the college? Why couldn't they just have a department? And, how much is it costing us to run the Science Institute now? Has there been an assessment of what the incremental costs will be for the two science institutes as part of Arctic College?

I guess what I'm heading towards, Mr. Chairman, is that we've heard a lot of discussion during the past week about the costs of another bill and whether or not it was worthwhile when we need to find money for housing and other important needs. I'm seriously questioning whether the expenditures for the Science Institute might not be better put in other areas completely.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. There were at least three questions in that comment, Mr. Minister, if you could sort them out.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of issues that I think can obviously be dealt with, in which the institution can play, I think, a more important role. In the area of construction, there has been a great deal of work that has been undertaken in terms of delivering construction programming in our college, in the trades area. The component that's important that has not really been dealt with in terms of utilizing our students is the whole area of teaching them about northern engineering and northern construction technology. The other issue is housing construction. The other matter is social issues and how we address and utilize students in dealing with some of the research that is now being conducted. Much of the research that is being conducted in the

Northwest Territories is not done by this government. In fact, it's being done by agents outside, including post-secondary institutions. What we need to do is to utilize our students to be part of that research.

Another component is health issues. It's all nice and well that we have an institution like McGill carrying out health studies on aboriginal people in the north, but the issue is, what are we doing in terms of utilizing our own, now newly-created nursing program to give those students an opportunity to deal with some of the research, even on a summer program? We're not doing that.

There is archaeological work that is being conducted. I guess I can probably point out the chair of the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education, Mr. John B. Zoe, who does a lot of archaeological work in the summer time. In my view, that kind of work is really helpful for us, but we need to do it collectively with our post-secondary institutions, including our educators. That's the kind of stuff that, in my view, needs to be done.

The other thing is, in science technology programming, we're doing very little and we need to improve the programming in our institution. We're beginning to see it in terms of the need, particularly for our land claims negotiations, we have now for a lot of land water management people, people in renewable resource technology and in wildlife. All these are not necessarily part of the programming. So, for scientific research, that's necessary. Water shed management, which Mr. Gargan raised a few minutes ago, that's part of the responsibility of some of the aboriginal organizations now. We just don't have the trained, skilled people in place and we don't have the programming in place to provide that kind of expertise.

I guess I look at it in terms of all these issues and I say I think we need to change our institution around so that it's more responsive.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the Minister is saying there aren't enough northerners involved in northern technology research and that sort of thing. It seems to me that institutions that do

research, the sort that he's talking about, tend to be fairly large institutions and typically well funded. I'm just wondering, is it realistic for us, given the size of our soon-to-be-two jurisdictions, for a population of, let's pick 35,000, to support activities of something as lofty as a science institute?

We can't support a full university up here, it appears. I'm having a hard time understanding how we can get into the scientific side, or what would appear to be the scientific side, of a university with a science institute and justify the expenditure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I think what is interesting here is a debate of this type occurred when the Yukon College, which is a newer institution, was established. It established after our institution. Much later, in fact, within the last maybe five years. In terms of its major development, that was in place a little earlier. They're already into scientific research and research generally. They're already in the business of doing that. We're not at

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that point yet and they're not a very big institution.

The other point is that within the last year, because of the work we've been doing with this amalgamation, we've been able to work with the local science centre in Fort Smith. We conducted a number of research opportunities with students in the area of social programming, so we're already doing it now and we're just beginning the process. But we're new at it and we're just getting our feet wet. We're already beginning to see some success in it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I guess what the Minister hasn't really made clear to me is why even call it a science institute? Why not have an Arctic College and let Arctic College have a department of science, department of humanities, a department of whatever? I don't understand why there has to be a science

institute within the college and what the advantages are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I guess what we're trying to do is alleviate some of the fears of the Members and that is that there is no particular group that is going to focus on the area of science and technology. The Member for Deh Cho raised that point. We didn't want the Members to be placed in a position where we were losing focus. If that happened later on, where there was a choice to get out of it, then it would be a matter of changing the legislation only at the approval of the Assembly. So we're moving, but we're moving cautiously. At the same time, we're trying to move the institution so it is headed in the direction of dealing with science and technology issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask what the annual costs are for running a science institute now and whether or not an assessment has been made of what the incremental costs will be after moving the Science Institute within the two colleges and after the split?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I'll get Mr. Cleveland to answer the question about the specific details, but I want to say to the honourable Member is that what we're dealing with is primarily the utilization of existing resources. There are no incremental costs in terms of this issue at this particular time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments on Bill 7? The chair recognizes Mr. Dent and Mr. Gargan.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, my first question was, what are the costs of the Science Institute?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Sorry, Mr. Dent. I neglected to recognize Mr. Cleveland.

MR. CLEVELAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The annual contribution from the GNWT is about \$1.3 million. The institute, itself, then raises additional funding through contractual work much as the college would do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Cleveland. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find it very difficult to believe you could set up two offices of anything and not have some incremental costs. If you're moving people from one location and putting them into other locations, there have to be some incremental costs.

I am having a little trouble with that, but let's just say that there are not incremental costs; if I have to choose between \$1.3 million on an early intervention program for young kids or on a head-start program for young kids and a Science Institute, my vote is going to be with the kids. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister, did you want to respond to that?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

It's a matter of debate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chairman recognizes Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, right now you have on the Science Institute no more than 13 but over seven members. Who is on the board of the Science

Institute of the Northwest Territories now and which communities are they from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I have to make a list of that. We are going to make a list, and I will give to you in a second here those members. We recently appointed some new members to the Science Institute.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

You had them committed to memory and now you are putting them down on paper, are you? He'll have the answer for you in a moment, Mr. Gargan. A partial list. A couple of names. Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are to proceed.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I will give you a list of those who we can recall: Dr. Loretta Foley of Yellowknife; Stefan Simek of Yellowknife; Phillip Uviluq of Pond Inlet; Joe Ohokannoak of Cambridge Bay; Steve Richards of Yellowknife and Joanne Deneron of Fort Liard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. GARGAN:

With the amalgamation of the Science Institute and the Arctic College, do we have someone from the Science Institute who is going to be sitting on the

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board of directors of Arctic College or whatever it's called?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Yes. I forgot one individual from Inuvik, Rudy Cockney. They are cross-appointments: Phillip Uviluq from Pond Inlet, Joe Ohokannoak from Cambridge Bay, Steve Richards from Yellowknife and Joanne Deneron from Fort Liard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has also indicated the arrangements with Arctic College regarding research or studies. I am just wondering...He said that with the Science Institute being part of Arctic College there will be more opportunities for students to do studies. When you refer to students doing studies, are you referring to students doing studies in Arctic College, or are you referring to students who are going to universities in the south and doing studies in the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Certainly the students in Arctic College should be an important component if they are in a particular field, but that does not rule out using other university students as well. That has been one of the major criticisms about other institutions doing research in the Northwest Territories. They have not been using our students very well. In fact, the kind of research being done often doesn't reflect some of the needs of our communities. They are being done basically as they can find the resources, and it's often that conflict with our communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one final comment, and the comment is with regard to recommendation 1. "The establishment and the naming of colleges be established in legislation where Members of the Assembly may participate in the process." I would like to ask the Minister whether he intends to act on it or not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

What I intended to do, Mr. Chairman, is to come back to the House with the appropriate motion with the naming of the two new colleges so that Members would have an opportunity to support those two particular names.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So you intend not to change it then, leave it as is. If you look at the bill itself, it would be by regulations you would establish names of the two colleges and you consult the Members about it, and that's it. You don't intend to change the sections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Not at this particular time. We have some amendments but we are not proposing to change it at this particular time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Does the committee agree we proceed clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 1. Chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion to report progress on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress to Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before this committee, and I look forward to seeing you again tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The House will come to order. Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your absence, your committee has been considering Committee Report 7-12(6) and Bill 7, and would like to report that Committee Report 7-12(6) is concluded, with one motion being adopted. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Is there a seconder for the motion? Seconded by Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

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ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be meetings tomorrow at 9:00 am of Caucus, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and at 12:00 noon of the Special Joint Committee on Division.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 18, 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
 - Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
 - Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Public Service Vehicles Act
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
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 6-12(6), Report on the
Review of Bill 3 - Guardianship and Trusteeship Act

- Committee Report 9-12(6), Investing In Our
Future, October 1994

- Committee Report 10-12(6), Report on the
Review of the 1995-96 Capital Estimates

- Committee Report 11-12(6), Report on the
First Annual

Report 1992-93 of the Languages
Commissioner of the NWT

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

- Bill 2, Aboriginal Custom Adoption
Recognition Act

- Bill 3, Guardianship and Trusteeship 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 6, Access to Information and Protection
of Privacy Act

23. Orders of the Day

ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until 1:30 pm, Tuesday, October 18, 1994.

---ADJOURNMENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994