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Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, 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. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 27-12(6): Nunavut Municipal Lands Referendum

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that preparations are now under way to hold a municipal lands referendum in each Nunavut community in April 1995.

The lands referendum, Madam Speaker, is a requirement under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act, which provides for the devolution of public lands administration to Nunavut communities. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will see to the turnover of fee simple title to all municipal lands by July 9, 1996.

As owners of municipal lands, Nunavut communities will have control of the allocation of land in their communities. This is a responsibility communities have sought for many years.

Before the municipalities can dispose of municipal lands, however, it is a requirement of article 14 of the land claims legislation that voters in each community decide on the level of authority the local community council should have.

Each community is to hold its own separate referendum on whether the local community council

should have the choice to sell any of its municipal lands, or whether the council should be prohibited from selling lands and only be able to grant leases and permits.

I am pleased to advise Members that a key first step has been taken with an agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, (NTI), on the details of the community referendum. The date of April 10, 1995 has been set, and the referendum question has also been finalized.

The question will read as follows, Madam Speaker. "Do you want the Town of Iqaluit to be able to sell municipal lands"? All voters are eligible to vote in their local referendum, which will be decided by a simple majority vote.

Madam Speaker, department staff are already working with NTI on referendum preparations, including public information materials such as posters, pamphlets and advertisements (in both Inuktitut and English) to assist the community voters to understand the question being asked. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Provision Of Services To People With Special Needs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus to talk about a group of people who need the support of both government and their communities. These are the children, teenagers and adults who have a special need. There are many types of special needs, ranging from FAS related disorders to blindness, from brain disorders to dyslexia, from autism to speech disorders.

Madam Speaker, the Special Committee on Health and Social Services identified a number of pressing concerns in the provision of services to people with special needs. The more we can support and encourage these people to reach their full potential,

the less they must rely on social assistance and other government programs. We should be doing the best we can as a society to help special needs individuals become, to the best of their ability, accepted and functioning members of society.

Madam Speaker, as an example, recently in this House I and other Members have been asking questions regarding respite care for the families of those with special needs. Respite care would give some well deserved time off to these care givers, allowing them to be refreshed in working with their special needs family members.

Members of the OMC still have many outstanding concerns in the area of special needs. These include assessment, treatment services, support structures, early intervention and appropriate budgeting. Members also find the various roles of the departments involved in providing services or programs for

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special needs, confusing. We are sure families with special needs individuals also share our confusion.

Madam Speaker, during question period today, Members will try to find answers to some of the outstanding issues concerning the services and support for special need individuals. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Fort Simpson Municipal Election

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I rise today to offer my congratulations to the mayor and council of the village of Fort Simpson on their successful election last night.

Madam Speaker, I feel there is a good mix of people on the new council which should make for a smooth transition period. I would like to congratulate Ray Michaud for being re-elected mayor.

---Applause

My congratulations also go out to the following councillors-elect: Andy Norwegian, Tom Wilson, Hilda Antoine, Lindsay Waugh, Robert Hanna, Ken Brown, Stella Gargan and Owen Rowe on their election as village councillors.

---Applause

As the incumbent mayor and councillors on the village council know, Madam Speaker, I am available to work with the village council in Fort Simpson in representing them on territorial matters.

My congratulations also go out, Madam Speaker, to the newly elected members of the community education council. Best wishes go to Ernest Cazon, Hilda Gerlock, Betty Hardisty, John Hazenburg, Marie Lafferty, Anne McKee, Doug Robertson and Albertine Rodh.

The next three years in the term of the village council will be very challenging. There are many important issues to be dealt with at the community, regional and territorial level. The municipal government is there to represent everyone in the community, not only just a small group of residents. The village council must work with the band council and the Metis local of that community. The reality, Madam Speaker, is that there are many common issues, problems and concerns. While there may be a difference of opinion on how to resolve some of these issues, it should not jeopardize the spirit of cooperation in the community.

I look forward to working in the future with them. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Yellowknife Municipal Election

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate our new city of Yellowknife mayor and aldermen.

Yesterday evening ended a very exciting and trying time for the six mayoralty candidates, 24 aldermanic candidates and for over 16,000 Yellowknifers.

Like some things in life, not all things end up even. There are those who won't earn enough votes to win first place, but they are not losers because by placing their name on the ballots and putting their ideas and talents forward we are all the beneficiaries.

I want to congratulate mayor-elect Dave Lovell on his successful campaign, and say thank you to candidates: Beaumont, Brooks, Byrne, Debogorski and Cyr for their efforts. I also extend congratulations to the alderpersons elected: Blake Lyons, Trevor Kasteel, Jo MacQuarrie, John Dalton, Vi Beck, Ruth Spence, Dick Peplow, Meryn Williams and to the school boards because their campaign, Madam Speaker, was kind of down-played during this mayoralty and alderpersons' election. The successful persons in the school board I wish to congratulate are: Edwin Castillo, Dennis Crane, Peter Groenen, Jane Haley, Steve Hill, Fred Nowicki, Noel O'Sullivan; public school, Wendy Bisaro, Debra Jepson, Gary Black, Dave Turner, Joan Lovlin, Terry Brooks and Barb Bilodeau. True, Madam Speaker, the election is over, but now the work begins. I wish all the best and offer my support for their work.

Madam Speaker, this morning, being a public person, I went around to many of the places in Yellowknife where people meet and talk. I was around some of the arenas of public opinion and I heard the same old complaints: the grumbling and the whining, as people have their coffee, about who won and who lost. People with all the answers to all of the problems have an opinion on everything, but, Madam Speaker, we never see their names on any of the ballots or any of their hands...My time has run out. I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was on a roll there, now if I can continue...

---Laughter

People with all the answers to all of the problems have an opinion on everything, but, Madam Speaker, we never see their names on ballots or their hands at the task of helping candidates carry their ideas forward. To them I say they either lead, follow or get

the heck out of the way. Put your name forward, put your money forward, put your knowledge where your mouth is. Don't just stand there criticizing. At least we've had 50 candidates willing to do just that and to them I say thank you. They are all winners.

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---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inuvik Municipal Election

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I too would like to congratulate the winners who were elected in the Inuvik municipal election yesterday. The mayor who was re-elected is Tom Zubko. The councillors who were re-elected are Richard Barnes, Alan Davis, Dennie Lennie, Floyd Roland and Bob Simpson. And the newly elected councillors are Vivian Hunter, Harry Joujan and Julian Tomlinson.

I would like to congratulate these elected people, and I would like to congratulate the other people who ran and who weren't successful. But the spirit of democracy is still alive and well, and people still get a chance to put their X on ballots to choose the people they wish to represent them for the next few years.

I would also like to congratulate the appointees to the community education council. They provide a valuable service to the community of Inuvik and I wish them all well.

Again, I want to continue the work that I've been doing with the Inuvik town council and hope that our relationships prosper and Inuvik prospers with us. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Municipal Elections

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of my constituents, I, too, would like to congratulate all the successful candidates elected in the tax-based municipal elections yesterday. Mayor Tom Zubko and councillors-elect in Inuvik, Mayor Ray Michaud and councillors-elect in Fort Simpson, Mayor Jack Rowe and councillors-elect in Hay River, Mayor Dennis Bevington and councillors-elect in Fort Smith, Mayor Max Melnyk and councillors-elect of Norman Wells and, finally, Mayor Dave Lovell and aldermen-elect of Yellowknife.

At this time I would also wish to formally congratulate Mayor Joe Kunuk and councillors elected in Iqaluit last month, and all education and school board members elected in the tax-based municipalities. They are the individuals who are often overlooked due to the higher profile of municipal council elections. However, their job in dealing with educational issues are just as important as those dealt with by municipal councils.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the unsuccessful candidates for letting their names stand for public office. We all know it's not an easy decision to consider running for public office and we can all attest it's an even tougher job once you get elected. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Travel Of Unilingual Medical Patients

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, last month an elderly lady by the name of Agnes Iqquaqtuq escorted her six-year-old adopted daughter from Pelly Bay to Edmonton for a medical check-up. There is nothing out of the ordinary here, Madam Speaker; a mother escorting a child from a small northern community to a big city except, of course, Agnes Iqquaqtuq is unilingual. Neither the flight staff on board her flight, nor the airport employees in Yellowknife or Edmonton spoke or understood Inuktitut. Bernadette, her daughter, was too young to interpret for her.

There are other situations I've heard about and we have been lucky so far that nobody has been lost

permanently. Will it take a tragedy before we fix the problem? Madam Speaker, I will be pursuing this matter with the appropriate Minister at question period. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Health Services For Residents Of Baffin South

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand today on behalf of my constituents, particularly to represent Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset patients who come here for health services. Many times they have not been picked up at the airport upon arriving for medical services. Although I am not aware of all the incidents, I do know of a few that have actually occurred and like myself, they are unilingual, Madam Speaker. This covers the medical services for Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq. Especially this past year, a lot of the patients have had to come to Yellowknife because of tuberculosis. I will pursue this further with the appropriate Minister during question period also. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On GNWT Achievements In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Being in a kinder, gentler mood this week, Madam Speaker, I looked hard for good things to say about the government. I had to wrack my brain. No, I'm just kidding.

---Laughter

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I rise today, Madam Speaker, to report on four wonderful accomplishments that have dealt with significant problems in my constituency.

---Applause

I'd like to also say there was a crisis that arose this summer over relocation, availability of housing and reasonable rents for staff of the soon-to-open Baffin treatment centre. I'm pleased to say that houses were made available, funds were identified for relocation and rents were reviewed to ensure they were affordable considering the wages of the treatment centre staff.

I'd like to thank the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, Minister of Social Services and the Honourable Rebecca Mike, Minister of Personnel for this achievement.

---Applause

Next, much was made in this Assembly, Madam Speaker, of the plight of families who were living on the beach in Iqaluit. I'm pleased to report that last year, an alternate unit was constructed and made available to one family. This year, two units are, at this moment, being constructed and will be made available to two other families who are living in that situation for which the Honourable Don Morin deserves credit.

---Applause

Finally, Madam Speaker, and I don't know if I'm going to have time to outline this one, I have ranted and raved in this Assembly about the lack of married students' housing for students at Nunatta Campus. Although no long-term solution is in sight yet, an opportunity arose this summer. I'm afraid I will have to ask for consent to conclude. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable Members. As I was saying, an opportunity arose this summer. Due to the unexpected number of GNWT employees who were either moving out of staff housing or building their own units, some vacancies arose in the government's complement of staff housing units in Iqaluit. At the same time there were married students with families who had applied for Arctic College and were ready to pursue their careers in Arctic College, but could not do so for lack of housing.

I'm very pleased to report, thanks to the Honourable John Pollard, in his capacity as Minister of FMBS and with help from the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, 25 surplus units were dedicated to married students. This will allow that number of students to go to college after all.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say I recognize these achievements and accomplishments. There have been prompt responses to what I'd like to think were practical suggestions to make lives better for my constituents and I'm grateful for that. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Taloyoak Residents

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also have a thank you statement, but it's not to the Ministers.

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, on September 23rd, I had the pleasure of travelling to Taloyoak to take part in the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing. As Members know, this is Mr. Ningark's constituency. Mr. Ningark made a special effort of telling everyone in the community to be friendly if they saw us. This special effect was very much appreciated, as it made us feel very welcome.

Mr. Ningark was also smart enough not to invite us for supper at any of the hotels. After seeing the cost of a sandwich, I will no longer complain about the restaurant prices in Fort Providence.

---Laughter

I also had the pleasure of presenting Mr. Ningark with a set of moosehair tuftings, in honour of him having served as a Minister of Renewable Resources in days gone by. The committee spent three days in Taloyoak discussing the concerns and recommendations made by the community delegates during the Housing Corporation's district consultation meeting.

On arrival, Madam Speaker, the committee Members were unsure of the direction the meeting was going to take. But thanks to the MLAs and the hard-working staff of the Housing Corporation, who worked in the evenings and over the weekend and who also provided excellent briefing material and responses to our questions, the meetings were very productive.

As co-chairman of the committee, I will be making a statement on the result of the meeting later in the session. However, I wanted to make a special point of again thanking Mr. Ningark for inviting us to his community. Also a very special thank you to the residents of Taloyoak for making us feel welcome. I'm sure that the positive energy of the community of Taloyoak contributed, in a great way, to the success of our deliberations. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 105-12(6): Policy For Mammography Screening

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Charles Dent on October 12th regarding mammography screening for breast cancer.

Madam Speaker, at this time, a policy for mammography testing for the Northwest Territories has not been developed. A policy is not practical in an evolving field which may require rapid changes to medical practice.

The department's position is that mammography screening should be offered every one to two years to women ages 50 to 69. This is the only age group for which there is good and compelling scientific evidence that routine screening, coupled with clinical breast examination, can actually reduce mortality by 33 per cent from breast cancer. These guidelines have been endorsed by a growing number of authoritative bodies around the world.

Experts do not agree on the role of routine mammography screening for women ages 40 to 49.

British Columbia is the only province in Canada that includes this group of women in a screening program for breast cancer.

Screening is an intervention aimed at individuals who are free of signs or symptoms of disease. It should not be undertaken unless a clear benefit can be shown. To date, no benefit has been shown scientifically for women under the age of 50 years.

The Department of Health and Social Services also recognizes the need for further public and professional education in this complex area. Mammography is only one component of a successful screening program against breast cancer. Another is clinical breast examinations.

The advanced nursing skills in-service program includes training for clinical breast examination to ensure that appropriate expertise will be available in all health centres in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudlat on October 7, 1994 regarding compensation to hunters for damaged equipment.

The Department of Renewable Resources has a disaster compensation program which allows harvesters to receive compensation for loss of equipment or cabins, due to natural disasters such as storms, floods or forest fires. The Department of Renewable Resources does not have a program that provides compensation for damage to equipment caused by polar bears or for other reasons where the harvester could take steps to reduce risk of damage. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 157-12(6): Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Madam Speaker, across the Northwest Territories there are many pre-school children with special needs. These needs range from severe disorders caused by fetal alcohol syndrome to impairment such as speech and mobility problems. Is the Department of Health and Social Services responsible for working with these pre-school children?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 157-12(6): Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I believe the honourable Member related to small communities. I will just relate to that because in many small communities we use health centres. If I had a child who had some problems and difficulties on an ongoing basis, I would take that child to the health centre to be looked at by the clinical nurse at that centre. The nurse will further discuss the problems I am having with that child. Every health centre has a well-baby clinic they hold on a regular basis to help families identify and see a child through the pre-school age development.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(6):
Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wanted confirmation that the Department of Health and Social Services has responsibility for providing these services to special needs children under school age. I can take it from the Minister's answer, I believe, that her department does have responsibility

and she has indicated that the services are provided in the communities by the health centres.

Once this need for early intervention has been identified, it usually involves assessment or treatment. She has indicated in her answer that the assessment is done at the health centre. Is there a program which covers the costs of treatment for pre-school children?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

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Further Return To Question 157-12(6): Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the start of entry for community needs on any health issue is at the local health centre. A child is brought to the health centre, perhaps with the parents, to take part in the well-baby clinics. If it is established that a child has a requirement for further treatment or assessment, the nurse at the health centre would identify some of the areas and would probably consult with a doctor. In the communities, there are regular trips made by doctors into the communities whereby if the condition is severe or is anticipated to be, then the nurse would have on file that the doctor would have to see these certain children. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(6):
Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There needs to be some special tools for some of this assessment and treatment. The Minister has advised that there are travelling specialists. When assessment is not available in the NWT, who makes the decision on whether an assessment is to take place in the south?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 157-12(6): Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, if a child is assessed by a nurse needing extra treatment, the nurse would normally refer to one of the visiting doctors. The doctor may determine that the child needs some special attention. So that child, depending on the circumstances, could be referred to a regional centre where specialists may be available. If that service is not available in a regional centre, that individual child could be referred to some of the referral centres that are available in the Northwest Territories.

The specialists who do come to a regional centre, could very well refer an individual patient to a more specialized facility in southern Canada. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(6):
Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister just referred to referrals in southern Canada. Does the Department of Health and Social Services provide any specific guidelines for referring physicians regarding assessment centres outside the NWT?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 157-12(6): Responsibility For Pre-School Children With Special Needs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the guidelines say to the nearest centre. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 158-12(6): Program For Treatment Of Special Needs

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Part of making early interventions effective for special needs children is providing a consistent program. In other jurisdictions, parents are given training which allows them to carry on when specialists are not available, something which is a common occurrence in our communities. For example, Saskatchewan has used, It Takes Two to Talk, a speech therapy training package for parents whose children are waiting for regular speech therapy. Does the department have a program of parent and/or community training in various treatments which would allow the treatment to continue after the departure of the specialist from the community? That's my question to the honourable Minister. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 158-12(6): Program For Treatment Of Special Needs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the normal procedure that is carried out once a patient has been analyzed and is determined to require a certain treatment, generally if it's at all possible, is to try to have the parent involved with the assessor and also with what can be realistically done at home. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Over the last 10 years, the Minister's department, the Department of Education, has been pursuing the philosophy of inclusion. This means that children with special needs are included as part of the regular school system. However, people have different definitions of special needs. In fact, some say that all

children have special needs. Can the Minister explain how his department defines special needs? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think that there's no one particular definition of special needs.

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The honourable Member has just pointed out that in circumstances, depending on what they are, the basis by which we provide special needs education is addressed in dealing with the individual. What is occurring, Madam Speaker, is that the education system is intended to enhance the learning of all students. The integration or inclusion of students in regular classrooms has, in fact, allowed us to ensure that all students' educational needs are addressed.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

MR. ANTOINE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker, for the same Minister. The Minister has said that there is no one definition of special needs, so it will be difficult to deal with this issue here. We have now boards of education that are required to deal with special needs. I would like to ask the Minister, how are the boards of education dealing with special needs issues if there is no one definition for it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

It's too bad, Madam Speaker, that people don't pay attention to the issues and the individuals, because

what you have is situations where there are hearing impaired, where you have handicapped situations, where you have fetal alcohol syndrome. These are all different circumstances that require different ways to address specific needs. However, there's also a broader general issue of providing educational programs to all students. So what we have to look at in providing services is how we develop educational programs as a collective. We provide education funding for each individual, plus we provide special needs additional funding to address specific educational requirements. What has happened in the past is that everyone has addressed only the special needs funding and not all educational funding that is identified for the student him or herself.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister a final question. Are all boards of education required to use the same definition of special needs? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 159-12(6): Departmental Definition Of Special Needs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. All boards are required to utilize the inclusive student policy, but each individual has to be addressed in terms of their needs.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Culture and Employment, further on defining special needs students. Madam Speaker, I understand that in attempting to categorize students

with special needs for the purposes of budgeting, those students requiring the most support were referred to as "level I needs." However, Madam Speaker, I understand the use of that term has now been discontinued. My question to the Minister is, could he explain why the department no longer uses this method of categorization. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Madam Speaker, maybe it was because there was a situation where people were creating an impression among themselves, among peers where people needed additional support and were being categorized and separated from their peers, from their families in some cases, to a point to the detriment of their education. It's our view, at least from an educational perspective, that all children can learn. If the honourable Member wants us to go back to his old definition of separating children, then I'll certainly consider that recommendation.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, with respect to the honourable Minister, I did not ask him why they're weren't going back to a former system, I asked him simply if he could explain why that method was no longer used.

My supplementary, Madam Speaker, is that I understand that it's perhaps undesirable to label students, but my supplementary, Madam Speaker, is I suggest that in order to identify the financial resources required there must be a way to somehow identify the students who need special assistance, especially those students who will require a great deal of attention and financial resources. So I would like to ask the Minister if categories are no longer used, then how does the Minister and his department determine the number of special needs students in developing appropriate budget estimates? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

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Further Return To Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What has occurred is that the department has completed a substantive assessment report for every region and every school across the Northwest Territories. It includes those that need the most support, those that need the least support. It includes the issue of whether or not it's alcohol related and whether or not it's other matters that have affected that individual. Special needs also must be considered in the context of sexual abuse and family abuse. Those are the kinds of considerations that have to be made. The report has been provided to me, and the basis upon which we are now considering the assessment is on that information.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to hear that the department has done a community-by-community, school-by-school assessment of the costs of the needs of each student in that jurisdiction. What I would now like to ask the Minister, Madam Speaker, is now that this information is in hand, does the department have a method to provide specific funding for the boards of education and each school in their jurisdiction, based on the information and the database they have about the number of special needs students the department must provide support to? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 160-12(6): Categorization Of Special Needs Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are still using the per capita formula arrangement. Also, if you review the formula, there is consideration for those who require additional support. That is all presently part of the formula. What I can say to the honourable Member is that my colleagues have reviewed the whole issue and are in favour of addressing future needs.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 160-12(6):
Categorization Of Special Needs Students

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I suspect that the Minister would agree that per capita funding is a rather imperfect method of ensuring there are adequate resources available to fund the special needs of each student in our system. The preferable method would be to target the funding based on the actual needs, as the department has now determined. I would like to ask the Minister, in this final supplementary, whether we have a chance of seeing the new, specifically targeted, special needs funding formula in place for the coming fiscal year when we review his department's main estimates this winter? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 160-12(6):
Categorization Of Special Needs Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Madam Speaker. I think the honourable Member is asking for a formula without considering all the other funding arrangements that are available to the people of the Northwest Territories. You cannot deal with special needs in isolation of federal funding for Brighter Futures. You can't deal with special needs funding without addressing the whole issue of Head Start. These are all part of the funding arrangements, which have to be part of an overall response.

My honourable colleagues knows that the one region in the Northwest Territories that has taken a very positive approach to using Brighter Futures funding for educational reasons is the Baffin region. It is the only one. They are getting very good results from it.

None of the aboriginal leaders in the north, other than from that region, have considered that. It is very important.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 161-12(6): Special Needs School Survey

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment just referred to a special needs school survey that was recently done. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he will be tabling that survey in this House?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 161-12(6): Special Needs School Survey

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. No, I haven't decided that. I will ask my colleagues whether or not that information could be made available.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 162-12(6): Procedure For Arranging Assessment And Treatment For Special Needs

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Madam Speaker, often teachers are able to define specific therapies for students, such as speech therapy. Once this identification has been made, is there a procedure for schools to make sure that these needs are identified, and assessment and treatment is arranged? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 162-12(6): Procedure For Arranging Assessment And Treatment For Special Needs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I can indicate to the honourable Member that there has never been a specific procedure. But, since I've assumed the responsibility of Minister and since we've signed the memorandum of understanding with Health and Social Services, we are developing a procedure whereby this particular matter can be addressed. But, generally speaking, the recommendation was normally made to health officials.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 162-12(6): Procedure For Arranging Assessment And Treatment For Special Needs

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Which Minister is responsible for ensuring appropriate assessment occurs? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 162-12(6): Procedure For Arranging Assessment And Treatment For Special Needs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Normally, Madam Speaker, it is the Department of Health and Social Services that deals with the assessment matters.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 163-12(6): Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Premier, the Minister of Health and Social Services. Madam Speaker, for school-aged children, which Minister is responsible for the provision of treatment such as speech therapy, occupational therapy and psychotherapy?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 163-12(6): Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, a child would make, hopefully, continued visits to a nursing station with the initiative of the parents. Or, if a teacher is aware, they would probably talk to the parents and they would, in turn, approach a nursing station to establish the extent of the requirements. Depending on the situation or the individual need, this would be referred to a medical professional, a doctor. Whether it would be a touring doctor would depend on the circumstances. Or, they would be referred to a regional centre and these assessments would be made. These referrals would take place according to need. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 163-12(6): Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker. To the Premier, is there a policy which covers the provision of this treatment?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 163-12(6): Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, if any individual patient is determined to need further care, it is the responsibility of the professional people handling that individual to

continue to refer that patient, as the need is identified.
Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 163-12(6):
Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For
Children

MR. GARGAN:

Does this apply to all the communities?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 163-12(6): Responsibility
For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, regarding the referrals for health care matters, communities have health centres. Health centres have a certain degree of expertise, supplemented by visiting medical doctors. If the care cannot be given at that level, they refer it on. All the communities, except for three very small communities, have a health centre. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 163-12(6):
Responsibility For Therapeutic Treatment For
Children

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, again to the Premier, are there any differences in access to treatment, depending on the child's ethnicity at age of diagnosis. Let me just rephrase the question. Is there any difference in treatment depending on whether the child is native or non-native?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 163-12(6): Responsibility
For Therapeutic Treatment For Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, once a certain condition has been identified, in terms of treatment, according to whatever is required for that individual patient...Once a treatment is identified, there would not be any differentiation. The only differentiation would be who pays for it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 164-12(6): Support For Special Needs
Adults

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, a lot of the questions have been directed at pre-school and school-aged children. Once they reach the age of majority at 19, they become adults and they're adults with special needs. My question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is, is the Department of Health and Social Services responsible for providing support to special needs adults.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 164-12(6): Support For Special
Needs Adults

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I don't know if the Member wants me to repeat myself. At the point of entry, a person, for their own purposes -- because I presume once a person is 19, they would be making decisions for himself or herself -- would report to a health station or a health centre in a community and discuss the problems they might be having. Then they would take the same process in accessing medical care either from a visiting doctor, depending on the circumstances, or being referred to a regional centre or to a further specialist whether they're at a regional centre or a point of referral. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 164-12(6): Support For Special Needs Adults

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I'm asking the question so I assume the Minister responsible will answer. Whether she has to repeat herself or not is her prerogative. My supplementary to the Minister is what specific programs are available to assist special needs adults or the families who support them.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 164-12(6): Support For Special Needs Adults

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, it's really dependent on the particular condition that individual finds himself in and what is being prescribed or suggested as they go through the process. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 164-12(6): Support For Special Needs Adults

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. What has the government done to encourage communities to take more responsibility for providing services for special needs adults?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 164-12(6): Support For Special Needs Adults

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, in terms of special areas of needs and also conditions, we try to make sure the community is informed about the various areas of health care that is available to them. I know certainly if you read the statistics and number of people who access health care centres and are referred, when a

person is of age, I would assume we do expect that individual to make more decisions for themselves and access the services we have in those communities.

For example, in terms of the community health representatives in many of our communities, one of their functions is to work in the preventative health care area where people have knowledge. For example, for a child who is nursing from a bottle, there is a great deal of effort to make parents more aware of not having their children sucking on a bottle that has a degree of sugar, in feeding that child. The awareness part of the community delivery system is very important.

I know the nurses who are in the community try very hard to make sure as much of their time can be spent in the schools, with the cooperation of the schools. I know there are posters put up in the schools to try to bring awareness of certain things like AIDS or fetal alcohol syndrome. All these types of things are bringing knowledge to people so they, in turn, can begin their process of trying to link up with the services that are available, whether they're available in the community or at a larger regional centre or elsewhere. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 165-12(6): Study On Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister mentioned fetal alcohol syndrome. There have been dire predictions of the level of FAS and the fetal alcohol effect, as well, to be found amongst the north's young people today. The Special Committee on Health and Social Services recommended gathering baseline clinical information on fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect in the Deh Cho region as a start to help us understand the extent of the problem and to begin to determine ways to deal with it. The question for the Minister is, has such a baseline study been undertaken. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 165-12(6): Study On Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I believe the gathering is in process at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 165-12(6): Study On Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, where is this gathering of information taking place.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, to be specific, I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 166-12(6): Access Of Speech Therapy Services By Children

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister for Health and Social Services. The Stanton Yellowknife Hospital generally has two speech therapists on staff. On occasion, there is an additional therapist-in-training on staff. The staff is responsible for speech therapy across the western Arctic and up to the Kitikmeot area. Stanton has discontinued therapy for school-aged students unless they were diagnosed prior to entering school.

Can the Minister explain why school-aged children cannot access speech therapy services at the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I'm not aware that they cannot so I'll have to take that question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 167-12(6): Responsibility Of Speech Therapy For Children

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Studies have shown that children with speech difficulties can have problems both academically and socially which impact on their future as well-adjusted, functioning members of society. It's quite important that these difficulties are addressed and treated. My question to the Government Leader is which ministry is providing speech therapy services for school-aged children.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 167-12(6): Responsibility Of Speech Therapy For Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, through the Department of Health. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 168-12(6): Funding For Speech Therapy Services Outside Of The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Health, our honoured Premier. Madam Speaker, when speech therapy services are not available in the hospital setting, parents often

have to go out of their way to find other ways of addressing their children's needs. Is the Department of Health and Social Services currently funding any school-aged children in the western Arctic to receive speech therapy services outside of the Northwest Territories?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I just want to caution Members about the amount of information asked for that can be considered detailed, when posing questions to Ministers. Madam Premier, you may want to answer this. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, that's a detail that I could not express knowledgeably at this time, so I will take the question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. May I remind honourable Members that when posing questions to Ministers, detailed questions are to be asked under written questions. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Earlier, he alluded to an MOU with the Department of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister, is that intended to clearly define the responsibilities for special needs students and to eliminate any possible overlap between the two departments? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is an excellent question, Madam Speaker. The Minister of Health

and Social Services and I, as has been the case here for all Members, are committed to coordinating the programs and services delivered by governments. To this end, the memorandum that was signed was the first formal step and, in fact, the first MOU signed in government between these respective departments, to ensure better accessibility to social programs and services.

It is also the intention to develop a number of procedures to deliver specific services, eliminating fragmentation and to establish a process to coordinate the areas of responsibility in our respective departments. That is the need.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

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Supplementary To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier the Minister also mentioned that special needs issues have to be addressed in conjunction with federal government programs as well, such as Brighter Futures. I would like to ask the Minister how his department is coordinating or assessing that information in dealing with the special needs issue. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Madam Speaker, actually, I want to maybe provide additional information to the Member. But, when the first dollars were being provided to the First Nations in the Northwest Territories, I tried to get the opportunity, as a Minister, to meet with the leaders. That did not happen. In fact, I was told that it was really none of my business. That was too bad, because I think we are all interested in dealing with these issues. What we are now trying to do is have the departments involved and work once again with our colleagues in the federal Department of Health.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what the status is with the MOU, and when he anticipates completing it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The MOU has been signed by the respective Ministers. What we are now doing is working out the details to put in place all the issues of concern. In some cases, we have made joint assessment reports, which has never been done before. We are now working together to develop the outlines of responses to some of the issues raised here by my colleagues.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask then, if the MOU has been signed off with the Department of Health and Social Services, in the MOU, which department is the lead department for individuals to come to in order to address the special needs of their children?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 169-12(6): Intention Of Health And Social Service's MOU

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

The problem is we both have certain responsibilities. In the case of the educational system, we have to understand that the educators, special needs assistants, and schooling consultants, who, in many respects have expertise to deliver educational programs to people with special needs, are now in place. What we need to deal with is the whole issue of the health and social services component, so delivery of programs to special needs children are integrated.

That has been the cause of some of the most difficult problems in delivering programming. We have never clearly identified where our responsibility ends and where Health and Social Services picks up, because we have been jointly doing both.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 170-12(6): Treatment Of Dyslexia/Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, the Minister of Health and Social Services. Again, I don't understand a lot about fetal alcohol syndrome but I'm aware that in certain cases, a child who may be viewed as having fetal alcohol syndrome can learn and many problems are due to dyslexia. That is when a child reads backwards or upside down or something like that; I'm not sure. The Minister knows what I am referring to.

How does the department deal with this kind of issue so that we are not misled to believe that maybe the child does have fetal alcohol syndrome, while maybe it is something else?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I could attempt to answer that question in broad perspective. Fetal alcohol syndrome is a symptom of an alcohol-related incident during a certain period of their development. Dyslexia is a condition that is different from that. I will take the question as notice, so I may be able to give a more qualified answer. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Minister of Municipal Affairs made a statement today about the Nunavut municipal lands referendum, in which she states that Nunavut communities have long sought control of the allocation of the land in their communities. I would like to ask the Minister, Madam Speaker, since MACA now handles the allocation of land and registering of titles within the department, how would they exercise this responsibility for allocating land in their communities? Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the referendum, if the answer is yes to the municipal governments, then it would be up to the municipal government, provided that in the referendum they are given the direction whether they are to sell or lease or just issue permits. It will really depend on the local residents and the results of the referendum in each community. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I understand that the community residents will have to decide. My question was if they decide yes we're going to take over these responsibilities, how would they exercise this responsibility. And I'll get more specific, what I'd like to know is, if municipalities take over these

responsibilities, who is going to pay for the cost of administering the community lands? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of MACA, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The local municipal council would be responsible for these lands. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, it's well-known that municipalities are hard pressed, financially, these days.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. PATTERSON:

Especially Iqaluit. I guess I would like to ask the Minister, if MACA is now doing the job at no cost to municipalities, why would a municipality want to take on this responsibility and this financial burden if they're going to have to cough up the costs within the hard-pressed budgets of the local governments? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of MACA, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I cannot answer on behalf of the municipal council. This is something that the community would decide on. It would be totally up to the community. Like I said in my Minister's statement, this referendum is required under the Nunavut Claims Agreement Act. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, the Minister, in her statement, said that the department and staff are working on a public information campaign to assist community voters to understand the question. I would like to ask the Minister, since I think my constituents are particularly concerned about whether this transfer of responsibility is going to end up costing the community more money than it's costing now to have the department do it. I would like to ask the Minister, will the public information materials being prepared by the department include information on the all-important question of who pays for the new administration, and what are the financial implications of voting yes or no? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for MACA, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 171-12(6): Municipal Land Allocation

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The information, I am informed by my department, will be developed between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Municipal and Community Affairs staff. We are working cooperatively with NTI because they were hesitant to lean towards selling lands because of the Inuit traditional value of sharing lands. I hope that is an issue that will be clarified during the referendum. I don't believe the information material will include what the implication will be. I can't assume that because the material is in the process of being developed. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 172-12(6): Policy For Unilingual Medical Patients/Escorts

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is subsequent to my Member's statement made earlier today regarding unilingual escorts escorting little ones to larger medical centres, such as Edmonton. Madam Speaker, my question to the honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services is, what is the policy of the Department of Health and Social Services for providing for escorts for unilingual people accompanying children? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I don't know why a unilingual person would be escorting an individual, although from the Member's comment, it was a mother and child. At this point in time, I am not clear on the policy for an escort having an escort, so I will take the question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 173-12(6): Policy For Patient Referrals

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my Member's statement, I mentioned the patients from my constituency who come from Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset. Madam Speaker, I'm not sure that all people get picked up when they arrive for medical services, but I know that, in some instances, people have been left at the airport. Perhaps there is something in writing to indicate this should be avoided. Can the Minister respond to this question? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 173-12(6): Policy For Patient Referrals

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, with all patient referrals to another centre, there are transportation arrangements in

place. If there are many, many people who do get picked up and are successfully provided that service, from time to time, there may be some individuals who, for some reason, do not get picked up. I believe that is a very low percentage of all patients who are being transported to various destinations.

If there is an individual who has had difficulty, I would like to address that, if the Member could give me some information. I will also see that the Member is provided with the written guidelines on the transportation of referral patients, so that he may have that in his possession. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 173-12(6): Policy For Patient Referrals

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to my question, in Iqaluit where patients are referred, there is a policy whereby they will be picked up by health staff. I wonder if you might have notes in the aboriginal languages indicating that this is where the pick-up stop is for patients being referred to hospitals in this area so at least they will have a waiting area. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 173-12(6): Policy For Patient Referrals

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, in Iqaluit there is a section -- as is in a number of the airports -- where there is a sign in all languages. On this account, I would be pleased to provide the Member with the exact location at the Iqaluit Hospital. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 174-12(6): Time Frame For Cabinet Submission Re Indigenous Games

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. With regard to the North American Indigenous Games, Madam Speaker, yesterday the honourable Member responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs indicated that every Thursday they have Cabinet meetings. I want to make my question explicit so that the Minister can give me a yes or no answer. My question to the honourable Member for Municipal and Community Affairs is on the discussion paper she made reference to yesterday. Will she be bringing forward the discussion paper to the Cabinet meeting which is scheduled to be on October 20, 1994? Will she be bringing that forward to the Cabinet meeting on October 20th? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 174-12(6): Time Frame For Cabinet Submission Re Indigenous Games

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Over the weekend, when I met with my deputy minister, I gave him the instructions that I'd like to bring it to the next Cabinet meeting, which is on October 20th. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Member for Yellowknife North spoke eloquently about the need to look after the rights of victims. My question has to do with victims' services programs. In the past, the Minister of Justice has said that he supports the development of these programs and has stated he would like to see more of them across the territories. My question is, does the Minister still support the activities of the victims' services programs in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, yes I do.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister has confirmed he supports the victims' services programs, but will he also advise whether he is committed to ensuring the existing programs are funded throughout this current year?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, we have tried in the last few years to increase the funding available to these groups. We've gone with some substantial increases in the last couple of years to supporting these groups, in addition to the money that has been coming in from the federal government. We have made a commitment, this year, to trying to increase the level of funding we had given them in the beginning of the year. If there was any lapse in funding internally in the department, we were going to try to provide some funding. We haven't identified any to date. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my understanding is that the budget figure shown in our budget books for this year is the same as what it was last year. Yet in light of that, I understand that the Canadian Mental Health Association, who runs the program in Yellowknife, was told they had to apply for only the first six months of funding this year and that the funding will end in November.

On application to the department, they've been told there is very little chance they will be able to find enough money to carry on with the funding program. My question to the Minister is he says there have been some increases, but where has it gone? Obviously, there isn't enough money for the programs to continue. The CMHA has been told in Yellowknife that the program is out of funding as of November.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since 1991, there has been quite a substantial increase in funding; growing from about \$14,000 total a year to these groups, to now in excess of \$150,000. The funding has stayed the same in the last couple of years. The difficulty is trying to get the federal government to be clear about how they're going to continue funding this government in housing and in the base funding we get every year. The funding to these groups has stayed the same in the last couple of years.

What we indicated at the beginning of the year is, by letter, telling them the funding is going to stay the same as last year, but that they should look at the end of November to making a proposal to the department. And if we found any money internally, we would do everything we can to fund them. The funding that started at the beginning of the year is the same as last year's. It's intended to carry them through the entire year. As we indicated in November, they should consider providing proposals to us and we had hoped to be clear by now, whether or not there would be savings in any of the programs. So far, we have not identified any. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary. The Minister has confirmed that the amount of funding was to be the same this year as last year. My understanding is the amount that has been forwarded to groups this year...For instance, CMHA last year got \$50,000; this year they only got \$39,000. They have been told there is not much chance they're going to get the further \$16,000 to bring them up to whatever...The numbers may not be accurate, Madam Speaker, but the point is they've been told they will not be getting as much as they did last year.

Since the Minister had said the funding has stayed the same, can he advise me why it is that the programs are not getting the same amount of funding they did last year?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 175-12(6): Support For Victims' Assistance Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, there is going to be an attempt on my part to find some money because I think the groups were under the impression that they can -- and they have, in fact, I think budgeted for eight months, the allocation they got for 12 months last year. I think we've made a mistake in the administration of the program. I will do what I can to find some money to offset the difficulties these groups have encountered. I think this is a result of poor communication on our part.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Time for question period has lapsed. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Ng.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize Joe Ohokannoak, former mayor of Cambridge Bay and a current member of the Arctic College board of governors, the Science Institute of the NWT and a member of the Nunavut Implementation Commission. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

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ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 7-12(6): Teacher's Aides And Special Needs Students In The NWT School System

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Would the Minister provide the following information:

- 1) What is the average cost of a teacher's aide within the school system?
- 2) How many special needs students are there in the NWT school system?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Written Question 8-12(6): Costs Associated With Special Needs Persons In The NWT

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my written question is directed to the honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Would the Minister

responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services please advise this House of the following:

- 1) What is the annual cost to the NWT for special needs treatment and assessment?
- 2) What percentage of this cost is spent in the NWT?
- 3) What was the annual cost for 1993-94 for the operation and maintenance of group homes for special needs adults in the NWT?
- 4) What is the number of special needs adults living in group homes in 1993-94?
- 5) Which assessments can be completed in the NWT?
- 6) Where can these assessments take place?

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Written Question 9-12(6): Definition Of Special Needs In The NWT School System

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a written question for the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment:

- 1) What is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's definition of special needs?
- 2) Are all boards of education required to use the same definition?

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Written Question 10-12(6): Speech Therapist Services And Private Practices

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Health and Social Services:

1) Is the Department of Health and Social Services currently funding any school-age students from a) the western Arctic and b) the eastern Arctic, to receive speech therapy services outside of the Northwest Territories?

2) Does the current legislation in the Northwest Territories allow speech therapists to establish a private practice in the Northwest Territories?

3) If speech therapists are allowed to establish private practices, does our current health insurance program allow them to bill for services rendered?

Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 10: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Zoe's Reply

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I would like to make a reply to the 1995-96 capital budget address of the government. My reply will be limited to a brief overview on downsizing and restraint in the territorial economy.

One of the central financial features of the territorial economy is the very large role that our government has come to play. Something in the order of 80 per cent of the territorial gross domestic product is made up of government expenditures. The federal government's formula financing grant and other federal transfers make up most of these expenditures. It follows then that any restraint measures on the part of the federal government will have a major impact on our territorial economy. We have already experienced the effects of recent restraint measures of the federal government.

Madam Speaker, in 1988-89, the federal government imposed a GDP ceiling and introduced the tax effort adjustment factor in the new five-year formula financing agreement of 1990. The GDP ceiling has cost this government millions of dollars in lost revenue over the past four years.

Madam Speaker, in terms of the two largest transfer programs to the provinces and territories, the EPF and CAP, restraints began as far back as 1983 when the federal government capped the escalation formula for education, part of the EPF transfer at six and five per cent for 1983 and 1984 respectively. However, most recently, Madam Speaker, in 1990, both CAP and EPF transfers were put under further federal restraint. In 1991, the freeze on federal payments to provinces and territories for health and post-secondary education under EPF for 1990-91 and 1991-92 was further extended through the end of 1994-95, after which a partial indexation formula of GNP less three percentage points is to apply.

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Madam Speaker, also in 1990-91, the so-called cap on CAP was put in place. This limited federal transfer payments for cost-sharing welfare and social services. Also beginning in 1990, social housing began to cut back in this country, and as Members here are all too aware, this program has now been eliminated.

Madam Speaker, earlier this year, the new Liberal government in Ottawa announced that in 1995-96, transfers to all provinces and territories for CAP and the post-secondary component of the EPF will be frozen at the 1994-95 levels until the social policy reforms are put into place in 1996-97. The intent here is that these transfers will be no greater in 1996-97 than in 1993-94, with savings expected to be at least \$1.5 billion.

Madam Speaker, the idea of downsizing and restraining have been central concepts in the budgetary politics of Canada during the 1980s and 1990s. This government has now clearly adopted and -- particularly over the life of this Assembly -- instituted various downsizing and restraint measures.

Madam Speaker, restraining budgets is a process for limiting and lessening the size and role of the public sector. The central idea behind restraint seems to be a balanced society which effectively means smaller government and less state intervention. Some of the core ideas here include the inherent superiority of the private sector and market mechanisms in producing and allocating most goods and services. Favoured restraint methods and techniques are generally privatization, deregulation and spending limits. We have clearly seen these methods at work here in the Northwest Territories, instituted at the federal level

and through the Government of the Northwest Territories budget and policy process.

Madam Speaker, the point I want to make here is that restraint and downsizing may be the inevitable evils that government must institute in today's fiscal climate. However, nowhere else in this country does the government play such a massive and important role in employment and business development than here in the Northwest Territories. It follows then that nowhere in Canada will government restraint and downsizing measures affect the macro and local economies as severely as in the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, we simply cannot follow similar fiscal restraint goals as our federal and provincial counterparts.

In closing, we must make a very strong case with the federal government that restraint and downsizing measures have a much greater impact in the Northwest Territories than anywhere else in Canada. We must ensure the federal government understands this point during our current negotiation to renew the formula financing agreement and other financially related negotiations with the federal government. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. The House will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 12-12(6): Status Report - Response To Standing Committee On Finance Recommendations

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Standing Committee on Finance is pleased to submit its status report on the response to Standing Committee on Finance recommendations. This report describes the government's response to

committee recommendations made during the review of the 1994-95 main estimates.

SCOF Recommendations

The Standing Committee on Finance made a number of recommendations with deadlines occurring at the time of, or prior to, the September 1994 committee meetings. The committee decided to determine the status of these recommendations during the September review and to discuss the resulting issues when the Ministers appeared before the committee.

How The Government Responded

The committee was very frustrated during its review by the government's lack of response to issues raised and recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Finance. The committee doesn't expect the government or its departments to agree with all the recommendations that the committee makes, but the Members do expect to have the courtesy of a reply.

Many of the recommendations flowing from the committee's review of the 1994-95 main estimates had a deadline prior to or at the time of the committee's scheduled review of the 1995-96 capital plan. These deadlines were set with a purpose. The purpose is to allow the committee an opportunity to review responses and status reports prior to meeting with government witnesses.

In the absence of a timely response, committee Members feel it is not fair to either the committee Members or the government witnesses for the committee to discuss material that has not been seen before. It is, simply stated, not an effective use of witness or committee time.

For example, the committee was presented with an interim report from the Department of Justice on zero tolerance for violence. This report was received by the committee just before the department's witnesses appeared. The interim report, which is extremely important and no doubt took considerable time to prepare, could not be discussed because the committee had not had the opportunity to preview it. Now, it will be necessary to ask all the detailed questions on this very important initiative on the floor of the House.

Another situation that caused great frustration for the committee was in relation to the government's water and sewer

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service subsidy policy. The committee supported the department's argument for increasing the water and sewer rates in the communities, however committee Members added that both the commercial and residential rate increase be held off until the fall of 1994. Members believed this request to be reasonable, with the potential for everyone to benefit. A decision was made, however, to ignore the committee's recommendation and to increase rates in June for residential customers. The committee fails to understand how the small financial gain could offset the risk of damaging working relationships with the committee and with the communities.

Madam Speaker, I would like to turn this report over to the honourable Kelvin Ng. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Government-Wide Recommendations

Definitive Objectives

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Financial Management Board direct all government departments to review and report progress on all the definitive objectives contained in the 1994-95 main estimates documents. The committee asked that the progress reports be provided to the Finance committee one week prior to the commencement of the review of the 1995-96 main estimates.

Further, the committee recommended that all future main estimate documents contain a status report on departmental accomplishments in relationship to its definitive objectives for the fiscal year preceding the one under review.

The Financial Management Board informed the committee that they have directed all departments to provide progress reports on their 1994-95 definitive objectives. In fact, a consolidated status report on the 1994-95 capital definitive objectives is currently being finalized. The Minister informed the committee that a similar consolidated report on operations and maintenance will be submitted to the Standing

Committee on Finance one week prior to the review of the 1995-96 main estimates.

Zero Tolerance For Violence

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee made the following comments about the government's efforts in relation to zero tolerance for violence:

"The Government of the Northwest Territories has taken an important first step in making zero tolerance for violence a reality. Committee Members feel that the Premier, as Government Leader and Minister responsible for the women's advisory task, should demonstrate the government's commitment to this strategy by coordinating its development and implementation. Committee Members feel that the Premier should be responsible for ensuring that departmental responsibilities across government are identified and that interdepartmental work is facilitated."

Therefore, the committee recommended that the Premier coordinate the development and implementation of the government's strategy for eliminating violence against all people. The committee further recommended that a preliminary progress report be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to its review of the 1995-96 capital estimates and a final report prior to its review of the 1995-96 main estimates.

The committee did not receive a response to this request prior to its review of the 1995-96 capital estimates as requested. However, the following status report was provided during the review:

"Violence is a widespread problem in the NWT, as recognized by SCOF through this recommendation as well as recommendations 23 and 33. There is a need to respond with a variety of strategies and a range of expertise from more than one department. Because of the complexity of the problems, the resources and expertise of a program department can best coordinate the multi-disciplinary approach. The Department of Justice has been assigned to this task.

The Premier will continue to take a close interest in our progress and work in this area. The Minister of Health and Social Services will have responsibility for, and a direct involvement in, certain aspects of our action.

The Minister of Justice will provide a more detailed response on how we are proceeding, but SCOF Members will be pleased to note that we have already begun to deal with violence through our violence strategy, for which the Minister of Justice is responsible, and the community wellness initiative, which is being directed by Health and Social Services."

Committee Members were disappointed to learn that the Premier chose not to demonstrate the government's commitment to this initiative by coordinating the development and implementation of this initiative. By this comment, the committee does not wish to indicate a lack of faith in the abilities of the Department of Justice to coordinate this important initiative. Members simply felt that the initiative was important enough to the government to warrant the active involvement of the office of the Premier.

Madam Speaker, with your concurrence, I would like to ask that my honourable colleague for Yellowknife North continue on with this report. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I want to thank my honourable colleague for this honour.

---Laughter

This is a training course they offer to the committee.

---Laughter

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Negotiated Contracts

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee noted a number of concerns relating to the government's way of negotiating contracts. These concerns are summarized in the following excerpt from the committee report:

"In many communities, negotiated contracts have helped establish successful aboriginal enterprises. However, there is a perception that negotiated contracts may, somehow, be less 'fair' than tendered contracts. As well, there have been serious problems with some negotiated contracts, whether negotiated

or tendered. All contracts must be better monitored. The committee also believes that full public disclosure of negotiated contracts would help to ensure that value for money could be assessed."

The committee therefore recommended that the government develop policies and procedures for providing full public disclosure of the details of negotiated contracts, and for monitoring all contracts in order to avoid cost overruns and poor management. The committee asked that this policy and these procedures be in place before August 1, 1994, and that copies of the policy and procedures be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance.

The committee did not receive a response to its recommendation by the deadline date. However, on September 13, 1994, the committee was informed that the Department of Public Works and Services had undertaken to draft policies and procedures, in conjunction with the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Department of Transportation, the NWT Housing Corporation and Economic Development and Tourism. The response suggested that the departments were working toward a completion date of December 1994. No indication was given as to why an extension of the deadline is necessary. The Standing Committee on Finance will follow up on this issue when it meets in January 1995 to review the main estimates.

Maximizing Northern Employment

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the government develop an options paper outlining all possible means of maximizing northern employment and northern spending on work contracted by the government and, further, that the government respond to the Standing Committee on Finance with this paper by August 1, 1994.

The committee did not receive the options paper by August 1, 1994. However, on September 13, 1994, the committee was provided with the following information, and I quote:

"Maximizing northern employment and northern spending on work contracted by the government will be included in the scope of the undertaking referred to in recommendation 4, (negotiated contracts) and will include the participation of Education, Culture and Employment.

The target completion date for work on negotiated contracts is December 1994, therefore, the Standing Committee on Finance will follow up on this issue when it meets in January 1995 to review the main estimates.

Special Needs Of Northern Students

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the government commit to allocating sufficient resources to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for the 1994-95 school year to meet the special needs of northern students.

The committee did not receive a response to this recommendation prior to the commencement of the 1994-95 school year. However, on September 13, 1994, the committee was provided with the following information:

"The Department of Education, Culture and Employment receives funding based on an enrolment-related formula to provide contributions to school boards for their operations. One component of the formula addresses the special needs of northern students. There is provision for special needs consultants based on board enrolments, special needs teachers and assistants based on school enrolments and an O and M component for special needs.

In addition, the 1994-95 funding provided for a new formula factor to address unique transportation requirements of special needs students.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment continues to address the concept of inclusive schooling in its 1995-96 budget submission."

Committee Members were somewhat disappointed with this response. They were very, very disappointed, I must say, Madam Speaker. Some of the committee Members cried, actually. The intention of the recommendation was to encourage the department to scrutinize the special needs of northern students, to assess the resources currently being allocated and to consider allocating additional resources, if necessary. In the committee's Investing in Our Future, October 1994 report, Members recommended that special needs for northern students be the focus of a major government initiative over the next year. Recommendation 4 is on page 27.

The next item deals with the very famous Mortgage Investment Corporation.

Mortgage Investment Corporation

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended the government continue to investigate mechanisms such as a Mortgage Investment Corporation and provide a status report to the committee by August 1, 1994. I emphasize August 1, August 1994.

The committee did not receive a response -- we've said that quite a bit, haven't we? I think there's a message here, right? -- to this recommendation by this deadline. In a letter dated August 8, 1994, the Minister informed the committee chairman that work on this initiative is behind schedule and a report will not be ready until September. September. Where is September? September has come and gone. The letter goes on to request that the deadline be changed to when the Standing Committee on Finance reviews the 1995-96 main estimates.

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The department informed the committee that an interdepartmental committee comprise of representatives from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Department of Executive, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Financial Management Board Secretariat has been formed and mortgage investment corporations are being investigated.

So, Madam Speaker, it is with much reluctance that I will turn over this task to my colleague, Mr. Dent, with your concurrence. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Prior to going to your next speaker, I would like to recognize in the gallery Chief Don Balsillie...

---Applause

...seated with Subchief Danny Beaulieu...

---Applause

...accompanied, I believe, by Mr. Krutko from the Gwich'in. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The next section of our report deals with interdepartmental recommendations.

Interdepartmental Recommendations

MR. DENT:

The first part has to do with partners for youth.

"Partners For Youth"

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in cooperation with the departments of Social Services, Justice and Health, examine the partners for youth model and implement pilot projects based on that model in one school in each region for the 1994-95 school year.

The department did not respond to this recommendation in time for the 1994-95 school year. Instead, the standing committee received the following updated status report on October 11, 1994, and I quote:

"A memorandum of agreement has been signed by the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services. The agreement fosters a cooperative and coordinated approach to delivery of services to children and youth. This approach has been piloted through the school in Arviat over the past couple of years, where the school works closely with Health and Social Services, Economic Development and Tourism, other community agencies and the business sector to provide a wide range of programs and services to meet student needs. A video has been produced of this model of cooperative action entitled, "A Community School: Partnership for the Future." This film is being used to facilitate similar approaches across the education system."

Madam Speaker, when the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment appeared before the committee during the September 1994 budget review, this issue was discussed. Committee Members, once again, outlined the many benefits of this model and strongly urged the department to get on with it. Committee Members noted reluctance on the part of

the Minister to make a commitment to adopt the recommendation and implement pilot projects in the schools.

In response to this reluctance, and because of the potential benefits for our youth and their families, committee Members decided to follow up on the recommendation themselves. The committee has invited the coordinator of the Edmonton project to make a presentation on the model to committee Members and other interested Ordinary Members and Ministers. The presentation is scheduled to take place this week on Thursday morning at 10:30.

The next section, Madam Speaker, has to do with departmental recommendations.

Departmental Recommendations

Economic Development And Tourism

Pirugsajit Secondment

One specific issue that brought concern to the committee during its review of the 1994-95 main estimates was that of a long-term secondment of a GNWT employee in Rankin Inlet to Pirugsajit. This secondment has continued over a number of years at the government's expense. However, the current policy regarding secondment clearly states that, and I quote, "the receiving organization usually pays the full costs associated with the secondment," from the human resource manual, section 1407, page 2.

With reference to Pirugsajit, the committee recommended that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism provide a complete justification for the continuation of the secondment and an assessment of compliance with government policy. This report should be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to the review of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism's budget in committee of the whole.

The committee was later advised that this matter was reviewed and secondment will terminate at the end of the current fiscal year.

Secondment Policy

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism consider and develop a policy for secondment of government employees in new business ventures and provide the

Standing Committee on Finance with a draft policy by May 31, 1994.

In a letter dated July 12, 1994, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism informed that committee that the

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situation has been reviewed internally, and the conclusion was that because secondments are covered by section 1407 of the Financial Management Board Secretariat human resource manual, it is not appropriate for the department to develop a policy.

The Minister added, "although a departmental policy is not required, draft guidelines providing criteria to be used to determine whether a secondment request should be put forward are being developed and should be completed by July 31, 1994." The Minister offered to provide a copy of the guidelines to the committee when the work is completed.

Development Corporation

Small Business Ventures

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Development Corporation focus on smaller ventures and, on a wider distribution of its limited resources, thereby ensuring a more equitable distribution of economic support and job creation across the Northwest Territories. The committee recommended further that the corporation present a plan which incorporates this recommendation with its 1995-96 capital estimates.

The Development Corporation responded to this recommendation in a letter dated September 16, 1994. In the letter, the Minister provided the committee with the following information:

"A corporate plan has been received from the Development Corporation chairman and I am advised that it was used to guide their investment decisions for the 1995-96 capital investment plan. That plan does identify the need to better match the distribution of investments and their associated benefits between and within regions, to the level of unemployment.

The corporate plan will be updated annually. The Development Corporation board looks forward to receiving comments from SCOF on the plan. This will help in the required updating/revisions for next year's plan.

The six larger capital investments for 1995-96 will result in investments in the Deh Cho, Kitikmeot, North Slave, Baffin and Inuvik regions. This distribution will assist in correcting historical imbalances.

At present, the Development Corporation has investments in some 23 communities across the NWT, and Development Corporation ventures regularly make purchases in a further 10 communities."

The committee only very recently received the Development Corporation's corporate plan. Members will review it in preparation for discussion in committee of the whole.

When the Minister responsible for the Development Corporation appeared before the committee, Members asked that more detailed information about expenditure plans, similar to that provided for last year's capital review, be provided. The Minister committed to provide the requested information within the month. The committee received detailed financial information from the Development Corporation on October 11, 1994.

Madam Speaker, I'd now like to request that the report be continued by the honourable Member for Iqaluit.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Education, Culture And Employment

Focus On Excellence

During its review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment adopt a focus on excellence as the fundamental principle of the educational system. The department was also requested to implement a plan, by the 1994-95 school year, to monitor the achievement of northern students and to continually strive to help northern students achieve excellence in their studies.

The committee did not receive a response to this recommendation prior to the commencement of the 1994-95 school year. However, on September 13,

1994, the following information was provided to the committee:

"The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is committed to excellence in education. The department will continue to build on work already being undertaken in the NWT and other jurisdictions and will assume new initiatives, such as numeracy and literacy. Taking into account available human and fiscal resources, the department will plan for incremental development and implementation of the recommended indicators."

When the Minister appeared before the committee, he outlined a number of areas that he felt demonstrated the department's commitment to excellence. For example, the Minister pointed to some specific developments in the curriculum such as Dene Kede.

In other areas, such as developing a comprehensive system of evaluation, he pointed out the difficulties and indicated that an appropriate response would require more time to develop. The committee strongly supports standardized testing and urges the department to implement a testing system as soon as possible. Committee Members look forward to reviewing plans regarding any future involvement of the Northwest Territories in nation-wide standardized testing.

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Finally, the Minister noted that the department would be releasing a strategy by about mid-October. He said that the strategy would articulate the vision for education for the next 15 years. From there, he indicated, they could get on with the work of either moulding, changing, or getting rid of some of the department's existing programs.

I'd now like to turn the reading of this report over to Mr. Zoe, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Health

During the review of the 1994-95 main estimates, the committee recommended that the Department of

Health develop a concrete plan for implementing the recommendations of the following groups:

- the Auditor General of Canada;
- the Standing Committee on Public Accounts;
- the Special Committee on Health and Social Services;
- the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions;
- the Standing Committee on Finance.

The committee further recommended that the department report on how they plan to improve policy development capability within the department. The committee expected the department to present its implementation plan as a prerequisite to approval of the department's 1994-95 budget. This did not occur and the committee later extended the deadline to May 9, 1994.

The department's response to this comprehensive recommendation is summarized, as follows, in a status report received on September 13, 1994:

"On June 30, 1994, the department tabled with the Standing Committee on Finance, a document called, "Preparing For Change." This document outlined an implementation plan to address the recommendations of the various committees that reported on Health and Social Services.

In June, the Department of Health and Social Services were brought together and amalgamated under one Minister and one deputy minister.

The headquarters organization is being restructured and a new organization will be confirmed by late November. Several changes have already occurred that will strengthen the department's policy development capability and the ability to plan and respond to client needs.

These include a restructuring of the finance and administration divisions to incorporate capital planning and the financial consulting staff from the hospital and health facilities division.

As well, a new strategic and evaluation division combining the former divisions within Health and Social Services has been established. This division is responsible for strategic and regional planning, policy

and legislation development, as well as information systems and evaluation.

The MOU project is proceeding on schedule and all partners are pleased with progress."

The NWT Health Care Association requested that the committee grant an extension to the May 9, 1994 deadline, to allow the Department of Health to consult with the health boards regarding its two-year action plan. The committee granted this extension and arranged a meeting in early July.

On July 5, 1994, the committee met first with the NWT Health Care Association and then with the new Minister and deputy minister of the newly merged Department of Health and Social Services to discuss Preparing For Change -- the department's action plan. Committee Members saw the review process with the Department of Health and Social Services as a very useful exercise, with positive results. Although the plan did not, perhaps, go far enough in addressing all of the concerns raised in the various committee reports, Members were generally satisfied.

The NWT Health Care Association, on behalf of health boards across the territories, informed the committee that the relationship between the board and the department has improved significantly. However, they did indicate that there was some room for even more involvement of the boards in the emerging consultative process. In addition, the association mentioned that health boards and the association wanted to be involved in planning health services in anticipation of division in 1999. Further, they indicated that they believed that the need to commence the planning was urgent and they were prepared to start immediately.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to refer the report to our chairman, Mr. Antoine.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Conclusions

In general, committee Members were very disappointed with the government's response to its recommendations. In most cases, the response was

late. In many cases, the response was incomplete or did not respond satisfactorily to the committee's concerns.

In a consensus style of government, it is very important that the Cabinet, the Financial Management Board, the departments and agencies recognize the concerns and recommendations of the standing committees. If this does not happen, it becomes very difficult for standing committees to support government budgets and initiatives. Committee Members expect that the quality and timeliness of the responses will improve.

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

Madam Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Finance. Therefore, I move, and it is seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that the Standing Committee on Finance's Status Report on the Responses to the Standing Committee on Finance Recommendations from the Committee Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates be received by the Assembly and adopted. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 14: TABELLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 33-12(6), 17th Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories for the year ending December 31, 1993. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. In response to my colleagues in the House, I'm tabling the Tabled Document 34-12(6), Madam Speaker, entitled "Creating Choices: Solving the Income Support Puzzle," a discussion paper on income support reform in the Northwest Territories.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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. Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 19: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: An Act To Amend The Motor Vehicles Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act to add the right to appeal the decision of the registrar requiring a driver to have a medical examination and cancelling of a certificate of registration of an NSC vehicle. The bill gives the Minister the power to appoint adjudicators and sets up the appeal procedure. The bill also adds regulation-making powers relating to public service vehicles, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had second reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central.

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Public Service Vehicles Act, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill repeals the Public Services Vehicles Act. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had second reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam 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 second time.

Madam Speaker, this act amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to substitute "Premier" for the term "Government Leader." The same change is made by consequential amendment to the Department of Justice Act and the Public Service Act. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had second reading. Bills 13, 14 and 15 have all had second reading, and, accordingly, the bills stand referred to a committee. 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

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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 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, with Mr. Ningark in the chair. Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Merci. Yesterday when we concluded we were dealing with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend to the committee that we consider Committee Report 9-12(6) followed by Committee Report 10-12(6), and, after that, Bill 1.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee concur with the recommendation by Mr. Dent to deal with Committee Report 9-12(6), Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with Committee Report 9-12(6), Investing In Our Future, October 1994. Mr. Antoine.

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance report, Committee Report 9-12(6), Investing in our Future, was read into the record. If there are any comments on that, we should deal with that. If not, there are five motions that I would like to deal with within this committee report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Any general comments on the report? Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Yes. I'm just looking for the report itself, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan, if you find the report you will have the floor. Mr. Gargan, if you can't find a copy, we could provide you with a copy. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one question, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the report on page 16, fire suppression. It's with regard to the more efficient and effective way of dealing with fire suppression in the north. I don't know if the Minister has any cause, but I would like to ask whether under this, has there been any response on this one? I'm interested in finding out where most of

the expenditures took place. Fire suppression is one area that requires human resources, but most of the expenditure this summer wasn't as a result of fire suppression, it was a result of aircraft being used for these fires and people fighting during ordinary working hours, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Fires don't know the time, but that is when most of the fire operations occurred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance or any Member of the Finance committee can reply. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fire suppression is a big concern to the Standing Committee on Finance. Looking at the current year's expenditures of \$25 million over the budgeted amount, it is quite a large amount. Perhaps it is what it cost to fight the fires because of the type of season we had. However, we have to find more efficient and effective ways of dealing with fire suppression in the north. By fire suppression, I take it that it includes firefighting, equipment and all the resources required to fight fires, including aircraft.

We have been told that the chairman of the Financial Management Board has asked the Minister responsible to develop a plan. That is what we're waiting for. What we are suggesting to the Minister in this report is that the department has to address a number of issues. We listed some of them in our report. We are aware that it is a problem.

We are aware that the government is developing a plan to address this problem and we are suggesting to them that included in looking at the problem and developing a plan, it is important to look at methods used to fight fires, the effectiveness of how they make decisions, the type of resources that are consumed and the involvement of the communities in planning and decision-making. These are the points we have raised, as well as the concern about how much of the expenditure stays in the north. We are all concerned about that.

Just to finish off, Mr. Chairman, the committee is very concerned about this and it is in the hands of the government to deal with it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the concerns I have right now is even after the fire season is over -- or at least that is what the government says, they don't fight fires any more -- they allow the fires to burn until it gets cold and they burn themselves out. There have been concerns expressed by people who depend on caribou and other animals about the amount of fires. They have cause for concern about the migration of caribou too, the migration path.

The other concern is about whether these fires, because they are not fought, put the aboriginal people in the bad position of viewing the land as a burnt area that is no longer useful to them. I think that is not the case. I think even though the areas are burned, I think the government should develop a way

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to allow the burned out areas to reforest, through reforestation and planning. I don't think we should allow what is happening in the west, with the amount of fires that have occurred. It is being talked about. People and the media are concerned about the animals.

I haven't heard anything, absolutely nothing, from this government on their feelings about the amount of fires there were this summer, and whether consultations that are required will be taking place. I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources if, in fact, we should be looking at addressing what happened this summer to avoid the same thing happening next summer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Any further general comments on the report, Committee Report 9-12(6)? Mr. Arngna'naaq.

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Chairman, to answer the question the Member has asked about forest fires this past summer. Forest fires are an element of a cycle which the government is, at this point, studying in a number of areas. Forest fires are one of a number of environmental consequences of a dry season which occurs over perhaps a ten year cycle. This appears to be what we are facing at this point. At this point, not enough research has been done to say for certain that this is the case.

However, the Department of Renewable Resources usually comes out with a report on the previous summer's firefighting progress. I'm hoping that that report will be completed sometime in the new calendar year. I remain committed, as the Minister of Renewable Resources, to having consultations with each community. Department staff are going to be in each of the communities to discuss the forest fires.

The suggestions that are being made by Members, the public at large, fire crews, and the people in our department who specialize in firefighting are being looked at. We are trying to take a holistic look at forest fire management and how we, as a government, can reduce the amount of dollars that were spent on forest fires this past summer. Based on these meetings, the department will develop options for reducing the costs of managing forest fires and looking at alternatives for creating employment through such options. At this point, I'm not able to say for certain exactly where the funds were spent this past summer. I'm hoping that in the new year, we'll have numbers that are certain as to how and where these funds were spent.

The suggestion of the Members has been made by other parties when they make representation to the department regarding forest fires. I'm hoping that, as a department, we will be able to get to each and very person or group who has concerns about forest fires. I believe we should be consulting, especially with the elders, who have been around before the towns, communities and villages were formed, to give us an indication whether the cycle or point we're in at this present stage is something that has been occurring over the past number of decades. With that, I hope we will be able to get a full idea or a full picture and a very good general idea from the people in the Northwest Territories about how we should be fighting forest fires and how we should be reducing costs in forest fires. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I should have provided a clearer direction earlier. In committee of the whole, when they review the committee's report, any Minister of this government is not compelled to answer questions. The appropriate time would be during question period. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I hear you and I will not push my luck. I do have a problem which I thought maybe I would

take the opportunity to express while we're on the general comments of Investing in Our Future. One of the observations is I think the Minister should immediately...If this consultation is going to start, he should start now . I hope that we don't look at the next fiscal year to start that consultation process.

The other thing is I think a lot of the expenditures that occurred this summer could be quite obvious. Where all the expenditures have happened and what could be done about it, that should be identified.

The other issue is if he is going to be talking to the elders, then one of the things we know -- and it's pretty obvious -- is that in the north, the summers are getting warmer and it's getting to be quite a problem. On the fire suppression program, I don't know if the dollars allocated for fire suppression are on the increase from the federal government in order to meet the fire suppression needs for the year.

I'm hoping that when we have a situation like we did this summer where it was dry, the federal government is made aware of it. If we plan then we won't be put in this situation. When I went to Snowdrift there were two fires. Because they were on an island or seemed to be on an island, they were just let go to burn themselves out. I think that's a really bad working policy, if you have such a policy. For the aboriginal people, the land, whether it's burned or not, is important to them.

I still say you should develop a policy in all areas where fires have taken place so that absolutely nothing happens in those areas until those burned areas have had an opportunity to replenish themselves.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any general comments. The body of this report was read into the record. If there are no other general comments, I would like to make some motions. There are five different recommendations we have to make motions on in this report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the agreement of the committee that the chairman of the Standing

Committee on Finance will go with the following motions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Antoine.

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Committee Motion 23-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs report on the organizational restructuring, the rationale for the changes and the anticipated benefits. Further, the committee recommends that this report be provided to the committee by December 23, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the motion that is in front of us, that the report on the organizational structure should be given to us as to the rationale for the changes and the anticipated benefits that we're going to receive from making these changes. I agree with that, but the committee is also further recommending that the report be provided to the standing committee by December 23rd.

I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the standing committee would agree with me if we could ask the government to provide this particular report prior to dealing with the 1995-96 capital estimates of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I understand the department is willing to provide Members with a briefing on this issue. If that's the case, then I can't see why she can't provide this report prior to us dealing with their department's capital budget.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the motion be amended by deleting the words "by December 23, 1994" and substitute the following "of the whole prior to consideration of the detail of the 1995-96 capital estimates of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We have to take about five minutes in order to get the translation for a Member of this committee. We will take a five-minute break for translation. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will come back to order. Mr. Zoe, for the record, would you read your motion again, please.

Committee Motion To Amend Motion To Amend Recommendation 1, Carried

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amendment I would like to make is as follows: I move that the motion be amended by deleting the words "by December 23, 1994" and substituting the following: "of the whole prior to consideration of details of 1995-96 capital estimates of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, to the motion, it is of great interest to me to get the details of the reorganization of this particular department. I think it's warranted that these particular details should be provided as soon as possible because these organizational changes did occur over the summer. I think Members on this side of the House and that portion of the House would like to find out exactly why these changes did occur and how they are going to benefit the programs that are currently being delivered by that department and if it is going to be more efficient. So, Mr. Chairman, I am making this particular amendment for those reasons so that we can deal with the issue that has been identified by the Standing Committee on Finance. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed to the motion? The motion is carried.

---Carried

To the previous motion as amended. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The previous motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 24-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Financial Management Board undertake a full review of the costs and benefits associated with separating the capital and operating budgets. The review should include an assessment of alternative methods of achieving the objective of early tendering of capital projects. Further, the committee recommends that the chair of the Financial Management Board provide a comprehensive report on its findings to the Standing Committee on Finance along with the 1995-96 operations and maintenance documents currently scheduled to be provided December 23, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Did you have your hand up? I didn't see that. Sorry about that. I'm sorry, Sam. Mr. Antoine, do you have further motions?

MR. ANTOINE:

Pardon?

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MR. KOE:

The vote's been taken.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do you have further motions?

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Before we conclude this item, can I make a comment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Recommendation 2, in the form of a motion, was carried. If the Member for Deh Cho has any further comments to the report, Mr. Gargan, you can do so.

MR. GARGAN:

Can I ask, Mr. Chairman, then, that we go to page 18, strategic management?

MR. PUDLUK:

Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Pudluk.

Point Of Order

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am thanking you for remembering my name. The vote has been taken. I think the procedure is the Member has to ask for unanimous consent to go back to that item.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. When I indicated that recommendation 2 in the form of a motion was passed and carried, I did ask Mr. Gargan if he wanted to speak to the report. He has the floor. I didn't hear Mr. Gargan say that he wanted to go back to the motion on recommendation 2. Mr. Pudluk, you don't have a point of order. Mr. Gargan.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER:

He challenges you.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, there were general comments made on the report itself, Investing in Our Future, but with regard to the motion itself, Mr. Zoe made an amendment to the motion. I didn't get a chance to say anything before Mr. Zoe made that amendment, and right after the amendment was made, the motion was amended. I don't remember, Mr. Chairman, you saying, did we have any general comments regarding the recommendation, or did you say anything?

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I indicated the motion was in order. I also indicated to the motion, and prior to that no one indicated they wanted to speak to the motion. I heard Members calling for question. That is when I said, "all those in favour?" Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 25-12(6): To Adopt
Recommendation 3, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to deal with recommendation 3. It's on page 23 and deals with project management. This report, again, was read into the records so everybody should be fully aware of it. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Financial Management Board, in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Services, assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the current practice of managing capital projects and provide a report on the results of that study to the Standing Committee on Finance on December 23, 1994, along with the 1995-96 operations and maintenance documents. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I will go very slow. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please signify. Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 26-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am dealing with recommendation 4 which is on page 27 of our report. It deals with family violence. I move that the committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories assesses spending priorities and current initiatives, and based on that assessment, develop a plan to deal with early intervention services for special needs children, a school-based youth service program and family violence. The goal of the plan is to focus on long-term investments in the people of the Northwest Territories. The committee further recommends that the plan be initiated and implemented during the final year of the government's term. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Recommendation 4, in the form of a motion, is in order. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I wanted to ask the chairman why there is a motion at this time, since there is now a federal initiative for social reform? They talk about programs that would develop training for people on social assistance and services for youth. Are we jumping ahead of ourselves? I would like to ask the chairman of Standing Committee on Finance this question.

I think the federal government is going in this direction. I don't know how you would accomplish this task without new expenditures being made, in turn contributing to the deficit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, we are dealing with a motion on page 27, recommendation 4. I wasn't clear whether or not you were speaking to the motion. Will you clarify that, please?

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MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to get some clarification since there is now a national direction that the federal government is going in. I am saying that under the social reform program, the federal government is looking at changing social assistance so that training is also a part of it. I'm just saying that this motion reflects that direction. We are looking at a recommendation that the federal government is already working on. I'm wondering whether or not we are jumping ahead of ourselves, by supporting such a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Gargan, I think you are referring to social reform. This motion specifically deals with special needs, family violence and so on. To the motion, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. The Member for Deh Cho is asking the chairman of SCOF this question, I believe, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, this recommendation is a specific recommendation directing the government to develop

a plan to deal with early intervention services for special needs children, a school-based youth program and family violence. He mentioned that it is going to cost extra money. However, the goal is to focus on the long-term investment of people. If we deal with and focus on children at the early stage, hopefully in their later lives, they won't get into social problems. It is a long-term investment in people.

The rationale for this motion is in the document. We indicated that the Department of Justice is preparing a declaration on family violence. They are developing and tabling a strategy for dealing with violence. We were very disappointed during our review that no new resources have been allocated to ensure that the goals set out in this declaration become a reality. What we are, in fact, doing here is suggesting to the government that they key in on these three initiatives. We have identified the three initiatives because the government hasn't come forward with any.

We are suggesting they look at these three areas because we feel it is very important to deal with youth today and allocate resources to them in the 1995-96 O and M budget. That way, we will know for sure there is something there to help the youth.

I know there is a federal government initiative, but I don't think we are getting ahead of ourselves. I think, in fact, we are catching up to what we should have been doing all along, and that is working with the future of the north, our youth.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. ANTOINE:

I feel this motion is right in line with what we should be doing. It will also enhance the federal government initiative, as well.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. To the motion, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So, the recommendation is looking at having the government identify new dollars to initiate this program? Or, is the Standing Committee on Finance suggesting that, if we have to, we should go into a deficit to support these programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine, to the motion.

MR. ANTOINE:

We are not saying either of those things, Mr. Chairman. We are directing the government to assess its spending priorities and all the current initiatives and, based on this assessment, to develop a plan to deal with these initiatives. We are asking them to look at what they're doing now and perhaps, once they are done their assessment, to develop a plan to look at these different initiatives. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

With regard to intervention services, you are looking at special needs children which is under Education. You are also looking at school-based youth service programs which is under Education and family violence which, I presume, is under Social Services.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Justice.

MR. GARGAN:

Or Justice. I am wondering whether, by initiating these programs, we are taking away from other programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to respond to the Member who is asking a specific question, but I would like to speak to the motion. I think the intent of the standing committee, as outlined in the report, is straightforward. What the committee is suggesting to the government as a whole, and not to a specific department, is that it should assess its spending priorities and its current initiatives. Once they do this assessment, then they will know exactly where they are, and what they are going to do. Based on that assessment, we want the government to develop a plan to deal with the three areas that have been identified in the motion.

One is intervention services for special needs children, another is school-based youth service programs and also family violence. We want the government to develop a plan and we are suggesting strongly to the government that they implement these initiatives in the final year of our term here in the 12th Assembly. We only have another year to go. We have one more budget session to go in the wintertime, the O and M session. We're strongly suggesting to the government that they undertake this work now so that they can incorporate it, if necessary, into the 1995-96 O and M budget. That's what we're asking the government to do. I guess we'll have to wait and see how the government is going to respond to this particular recommendation, if it's carried.

I am in favour of this particular motion in front of us, Mr. Chairman. I think the onus is on us to strongly suggest that to the government now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

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MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the motion itself recommends to the government to assess its spending priorities to include these intervention services. All I'm suggesting is if what we're asking of the government is realistic. Or whether or not we're saying in order for us to do that, then we have to take away from other programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Here is what we're asking. In order to accomplish what is in the motion, are we doing this to the detriment of the basic program? Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. The motion is quite straightforward. It's saying that we'd like to ask the government to look at how they're spending, look at their priorities and initiatives and do an assessment and from there, develop a plan. We're not saying to take away from other programs. That's not the intention of the motion at all. It's too specific to do that. Maybe the Member has concerns about the intent of the motion. The intent of the motion is to try to put some programs in place that will focus on the development of people in the north, especially our youth. That is the intention of this motion. It may cost some dollars, but it's up-front dollars. We don't know that yet. The

government has to do an assessment of their initiative right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I wasn't going to speak on this, but what is contradictory, I think, in the remarks by the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance is that that has been one of the issues, as a government, we have been trying to struggle with -- the assessment of services and dollars available so that we could try to respond positively to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance.

In terms of trying to assess the monies that are in the Department of Health and Social Services and Education for special needs and youth services, that has been a very difficult thing until we had a policy and the direction of government because what we're finding is that the recommendation, so far, even from the boards, has been to increase the dollars. I think your recommendation of being more frugal and more responsible in spending dollars is the better approach to take. That, in many respects, has not been done to date. It has really only been within this last year that advice has been given through the Special Committee on Health and Social Services to bring some sense to what it is we've been trying to do.

The other thing is even in terms of pilot projects, the issues are still who is actually responsible and who works those things out. We've been criticized for trying to come forward with a number of those assessments. On the one hand, we're advised to go in a direction and we're trying to say we want to be responsible to you and organize the expenditures and at the same time, we're criticized because we're not spending money.

I just wanted to highlight that because the comments you made are really good comments in the last couple of moments. It has not been the kind of direction that it seems we're getting, at least not that I'm getting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I'm being contradictory at all. I think we're just focusing our attention on some very vital issues that are before us, that is the development of the youth in the north. There's nothing contradictory about that at all.

In fact, I'd like to say that the Standing Committee on Finance got a response from the government on September 13th which states the Department of Health and Social Services has begun work on the community wellness strategy. This strategy will develop a range of options for responding to family violence and child sexual abuse issues.

It goes on to say that the development of strategy, is directed by a working group of representatives and the Department of Justice and Education, Culture and Employment are closely involved, as well that other departments are consulted and that a report will be tabled in this Legislative Assembly this fall. What we're saying is the standing committee would like to see this fast-tracked. On top of that, we're saying we'd like it to go from a strategy to implementation and we give it a time frame of the final year of this government's term.

We further are identifying three initiatives that the government should be pursuing when they're doing this work they already say they're doing. There's no contradiction in there. We're just following up on the recommendation response the government made to us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. I have Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance has answered the concern very adequately. I think it's not the role of the Standing Committee on Finance to say here's where something should come from. As I said yesterday in my reply to the budget speech, I expect the Cabinet to get together to examine priorities and ensure they're all working in the same direction and not trying to protect their own individual departments.

I think that also responds to Mr. Nerysoo's comments about deciding which department might be taking the lead. Part of what we're saying here is we can't afford to have difficulties or problems with which department takes the lead. We need a coordinated approach.

Personally, I don't care which department takes the lead role, as long as we see some action in these areas. I think that this Legislature took upon itself a commitment to do something when we adopted a zero tolerance towards violence policy.

It takes a commitment of funds to prove to the public that we're putting the money where our mouth is and to prove that we're actually going to take some action. As far as I'm concerned, it's the government's responsibility to examine whether that means shifting money around from one program to another. If they do that, I'll take a look at where they've shifted from and to and then make a decision as to whether or not I'll support the budget when it comes forward.

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It's up to the government to examine whether or not, by doing things in a coordinated manner, they can save enough money in one area to deal with another issue. Again, when they come forward with that, I'll take a look at it and decide at that point in time whether to support the budget or not.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make it perfectly clear that if the O and M budget that comes forward in February doesn't demonstrate to me that the government has taken action in some of these areas, I will not be able to vote for the budget. I think what the Members of SCOF are saying is that we cannot just talk about these things, we have to demonstrate that we have a real commitment to them. And, where the money comes from, we'll wait and take the leadership from Cabinet and see how they recommend it be handled. Then we'll decide whether or not we support their decisions.

An ordinary Member does not have enough expertise to assess where changes should be made or whether an amalgamation of a department will save enough money to put funds into one thing or another. We are waiting to see leadership coming from Cabinet and how they'll deal with the recommendation. Then, we'll assess their performance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. I have Mr. Nerysoo, the Premier, and Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I wasn't trying to create an argument, but I do say that in the report that has been brought forward -- not in this particular recommendation, but in

other elements of the report that have been part of the discussion -- there have been attempts to clarify that there are other issues that are important for us to address as part of the overall plan, which makes it very difficult to come forward with an automatic response. That's all I'm saying.

I think I said earlier that I agree with the honourable Member and the advice and comments made by Mr. Dent as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty with trying to find a coordinated response. I believe that is what we are all about right now, because of the precious little resources we have. We are trying to meet all the recommendations and coordinate them so it looks like we have a coordinated approach to deal the recommendations, which vary from different regions.

Therefore, I think our thrust is to try to find a way so that communities have the support to deal with as much as possible at the community level. There are a lot of ideas out there, they are wide and varied. Many of them deal with putting a little program here and a little program there, sitting in one community and one region and doing nothing for the overall population of the Northwest Territories. We are trying to analyze many of the recommendations that are coming forward, to place them in a cohesive plan where communities can take a hold of their own lives with a wellness program. That's what we are trying to do.

In trying to do that, there are all kinds of different ideas that don't necessarily fit in. I'm sure that will be worked out. I fully concur that the support has to be distributed in an equitable manner and addressed as much as possible at the community level. I hope that is where we're going to get some support. I feel that is a direction we are looking at when we think about community wellness. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I'm not quite sure what the confusion is about. It seems very, very straightforward to me what the standing committee is asking for here. We have been

quite consistent and have been quite strong with this and it is going to be a big issue during the next budget session.

Basically, what we are saying is, one, we fully support the government's zero tolerance to violence policy, but we want to see some teeth in it and we want to see something concrete and tangible in the next budget. If that costs money, that costs money. The second thing we are saying is we think the only real, long-term way to deal with many of the social problems of the Northwest Territories is to intervene with kids, intervene with the young and intervene quite aggressively. We think those two issues are very important and we want the government to make those two issues priorities of the government in the next year.

The wellness strategy, the anti-violence strategy, we are actually giving recommendations which are fine-tuning your very own policies and your very own philosophies. I don't see that there is any confusion here. I don't see that there should be any problem with it at all. The Premier talks about bringing it down to the community level; we don't have a problem with that. That is obviously, ultimately, how the issues have to be addressed, at the community level. You address them at the community level, but we want to see violence addressed and early intervention with youth addressed.

The other recommendation to the Ministers of Education and Social Services is to at least try, in a couple of regions, a model of the school-based system. There may be other models. What we are saying, though, is that this one has proved itself, so let's try it. It is one tool of many. The committee doesn't see any confusion and it shouldn't cause any problem, whatsoever, for the government. We were very careful about how we did this and how we brought it forward. So, we are very strongly supporting this and looking for tangible results in the budget session. That is why these recommendations are being made now, so that there is fair warning to the government that this is the direction we want to see the government go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with supporting the recommendation. The only problem I have is making

it a priority. I have talked with some Members about the whole issue of salaries and benefits for care givers, alcohol and drug treatment workers, home makers, even people who work in family violence shelters. What does this do to those

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kinds of initiatives we want to see go ahead? My concern is what we give in some areas, we take away from other areas.

I just want to make sure that when it comes time to bring these issues forward, we don't say that we already have given priority to other areas and that we should stick to those first. It takes away the priorities that other Members may have. I can tell you right now, Mr. Chairman, that as far as youth programs going to Providence, things are going well there already. They are organizing a trip to Edmonton for a youth conference on dream capture, for example. They are doing a lot of fund raising and so on, to do these kinds of things. I don't know whether that is more positive than trying to come up with new dollars and give it to them outright, without a second thought about what it might do to them in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 27-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. The last motion is a motion about a balanced budget. The committee remains committed to targeting for a balanced budget, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee recognize how difficult it is to maintain a delicate balance to avoiding an accumulated deficit, while at the same time protecting the interests of the public. We realize the government

has been faced with tremendous pressures, fiscally, ranging from the decline in levels of federal funding to the need to provide extraordinary expenditures, which are unanticipated. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I have a motion.

I move that the committee recommends that the Financial Management Board, as part of the transition planning, seriously consider protecting the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories by introducing, during the life of this Legislative Assembly, legislation that requires the Government of the Northwest Territories, in preparation for division, to ensure that on March 31, 1998, no deficit has accumulated. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. BALLANTYNE:

One quick comment on this, Mr. Chairman. The thinking here was, because there were a number of unexpected developments during the past year which made it impossible for the government to come up with a balanced budget, and because of the uncertainty of the next year as we negotiate formula financing and try to work out the various disagreements we have with the federal government, it would be unrealistic to expect the government to come up with a balanced budget in this fiscal year.

But, we think that, in the longer term, between now and 1988, that they should put a plan into place so that we can make sure that, by 1988, we don't have any accumulated debt.

AN HON. MEMBER:

1998.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Bravo? Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Bravo.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the report Investing in Our Future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Committee Report 9-12(6), Investing in Our Future, October 1994, is concluded. Do we agree that this report is concluded? Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, having learned from the last time when we were late producing information for the committee with regard to recommendations that they had made, I would just caution Members of the House that we have looked at the amount of work that is required to respond by December 23rd. We will make every effort to make those responses and have them available for the committee, but some of them may be pretty skinny, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot of work there and, presently, the staff who does this kind of stuff are tied up responding to this House.

I don't have to tell Members the amount of time our staff spends responding to questions made in the House, or preparing documents, budgets, et cetera. We will try to make the deadline, but some of the information may be a little thin, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree that this report is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to report progress, please signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

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I will report progress.

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 21, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 9-12(6), and would like to report progress with five motions being adopted. Committee Report 9-12(6) is concluded and, Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there are meetings tomorrow at 8:30 am of the Standing Committee on Legislation, at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 19, 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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. 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 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
- 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
- Bill 6, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 19, 1994, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT