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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1994

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Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. I wish to inform the House that I have received the following message dated October 21, 1994 from the honourable Deputy Commissioner: "I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94; Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, during the sixth session of the 12th Legislative Assembly." Signed by Helen Maksagak, Deputy Commissioner.

---Applause

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 37-12(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq will be absent from the House today and part of tomorrow to attend the Nunavut Tunngavik economic development conference in Rankin Inlet.

Madam Speaker, I have another statement. May I proceed?

Minister's Statement 38-12(6): Implementation Of Family Law Reform

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring the Members up to date on the implementation of family law reform.

I am pleased to advise that work is proceeding on schedule. The Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services have been working on the development of new legislation, as recommended by the family law review report in September 1992 and by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services in November 1993.

The first piece of legislation, the Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act, has already been introduced and will come forward for further consideration in committee of the whole this session. Cabinet has approved three additional pieces of legislation to be prepared by the spring of 1995, so they can be tabled for consultation during the life of this Legislative Assembly.

Work has commenced on a new Family Law Act, a new Children's Law Act and a new Child Welfare Act. The child welfare legislation presents several opportunities and challenges. Communities must be given more opportunity to be involved in child welfare matters. This will have to be balanced with the responsibility to ensure that children taken into care receive the protection and care they need.

Further consultations with interested groups and individuals will occur as this act is drafted. Both Minister Kakfwi and myself will consult with Members, communities and the public as work on family law reform progresses. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 39-12(6): Zero Tolerance For Violence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, later today I will be tabling a document entitled "Zero Tolerance for Violence: A Status Report." This document was prepared in fulfilment of a commitment made in the "Renewed Partnerships" document that followed the final report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. It is also part of the government's ongoing commitment to ensure that dealing with violence remains at the top of the list, not

just of the government's priorities, but of everyone's priorities.

The reality is that many of our people are not well. Many individuals and families are caught up in a cycle of abuse and neglect that is profoundly unhealthy. The violence that takes place is as much a symptom as a cause of that unhealthiness. Violence, and our tolerance for violence and denial of its effects, will continue as long as our communities and our families remain unhealthy. A strategy to eliminate violence is essentially one which has, as its fundamental goals, the wellness of our communities.

Such a strategy, called the "community wellness strategy," is currently being developed by a broad coalition of 30 different

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social agencies, aboriginal and cultural organizations, women's groups, mental health services providers and government departments. The departments of Health and Social Services, Justice and Education, Culture and Employment are working closely together in this process, with the overall direction being provided by the broad coalition of 30 groups.

These groups, in spite of their diverse mandates and approaches, share a common understanding about the seriousness of the problems faced by our communities. More importantly, there is also a shared vision of the direction in which we all would like to move towards achieving health in our communities.

The community wellness strategy properly situates violence in a broad social context, rather than isolating it and trying to deal with it as a discreet problem as we have done so often and so unsuccessfully in the past. The strategy also is anchored in a community development approach. This approach is based on the belief that we must start a process that reverses the long-standing trend of removing responsibility and power from the communities. It is exactly that trend that is responsible in large measure for the extent of dysfunction that is now characterizing our communities. In addressing the issue in this way, we are getting at the heart of the matter, we are cutting away at the roots of family violence. This is the only approach that holds promise in the long term, and it is one that communities have been encouraging us to pursue for some time.

At the same time as this process of developing a strategy moves ahead, we continue to do whatever we can to improve the response of the justice system to acts of violence. This includes working together with the federal government and our provincial and territorial colleagues in designing changes to the Criminal Code which will provide the greatest possible degree of protection to victims of violence. The document looks in detail at some of the proposed amendments that have been brought forward recently.

The document also discusses other specific initiatives that are being looked at here in this jurisdiction such as a victim impact statements program; changes in our programs which will free up resources so that greater assistance can be provided to victims, and proposed amendments to the Limitation of Actions Act.

The government is also looking closely at other measures such as emergency intervention orders to protect victims of family violence, similar to what has been enacted recently in Saskatchewan; a number of housing initiatives to respond to the recommendations of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services; and, possible legislation to provide leadership from the Legislative Assembly with respect to acts of violence by political leaders.

If we look down the road at what we are hoping to achieve as a society, I think we would all agree that the goal of wellness is something we all share. Wellness, we would all agree, is not compatible with violence, particularly violence directed at our family members and loved ones. Madam Speaker, we will reach this goal by making it a common cause and working together to achieve it. The community wellness strategy process is a promising start to this process and I believe it deserves the support of all of us. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 40-12(6): Education, Culture And Employment Strategy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am proud to present to the Members of this Assembly, and to the people of the Northwest Territories, the details of our new Education, Culture and Employment strategy called "People: Our Focus for the Future, A Strategy to 2010."

Communities in the north have been, and continue to be, challenged to find ways to maintain their traditions, while continuing to adopt to social, technological and political change. As well, in the territories, we are also contending with the same fiscal realities as many other jurisdictions. Choices will have to be made about how we organize, fund and deliver education, culture and employment programs and services now and in the future.

Madam Speaker, 12 years ago a strategy for education was approved by this Assembly. That strategy, "Learning: Tradition and Change," focused on three major initiatives: the implementation of aboriginal language programs, the establishment of divisional boards of education across the Northwest Territories and the establishment and development of a regional campus system for Arctic College. Madam Speaker, these goals have been accomplished and it is now time to move forward with a strategy to meet the realities of the Northwest Territories that they are now facing and will be facing into the next century.

The Strategy to 2010 represents the ideas and comments of citizens and organizations across the Northwest Territories. During the past 18 months, the department received comments from many different sources:

- elders participated in focus group session and proposed ways to enhance culture and tradition;
- educators and students provided valuable comments on the way education programs should be delivered;
- community and aboriginal organizations provided insight for great local decision-making; and,
- business and industry groups identified methods for establishing stronger links between work and education and training.

Madam Speaker, last November, I tabled Towards a Strategy to 2010: A Discussion Paper which was considered by Members in committee of the whole. The completed Strategy to 2010, which I will be tabling today, represents the outcome of a

comprehensive consultation process. It incorporates the themes, issues and solutions which people in the Northwest Territories identified.

Our consultations have led us to further develop a community-based model for education, culture and employment programs which focuses on three major strategy concepts:

-First, we plan to link all phases of the learning cycle, from early childhood to adult education, into a continuum of

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lifelong learning activities;

-Second, we plan to enable greater community control and ownership of education, culture and employment programs through changes to the Education Act; and,

-Third, we propose to develop the concept of a community learning network which would link all community-based programs and services together through a single organization.

People have told us about the importance of being able to address their community's learning priorities through education, culture and employment programs coordinated and delivered at the community level.

The community-based model proposed in the strategy will meet many of the objectives we heard in our consultation, including:

- establishing an early childhood learning system;
- improving student achievement;
- developing a comprehensive system of post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories;
- improving support to communities for culture programs; and,
- developing a territorial system of information networks.

Madam Speaker, the completion of the Strategy to 2010 marks the beginning of a new period of planning and activity for Education, Culture and Employment in the Northwest Territories. The focus of that planning and activity over the next 15 years will be on the people and communities in the Northwest Territories. I will be making announcements over the next few months about the programs initiatives we are taking

as a result of our strategic plan. I look forward to Members' comments and suggestions, and the comments of all our constituents. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Prevention Of Oil Spills

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in 1989 when the Legislative Assembly was sitting in Norman Wells, myself and some of my colleagues had a chance to visit the Esso refinery and the interprovincial pipeline pumping stations in Norman Wells to see how they do things. Some of us even had a chance to fly over the right-of-way to see the reclamation work that was done and the hillside stabilization program that they put in place. To say the least, Madam Speaker, I was quite impressed with the technology being used to monitor the entire pumping and pipeline system that IPL was using. I was even amazed to learn that the pressure and flow was monitored so closely that if a barrel of oil was spilled accidentally or, in some cases, deliberately in a test, this could be detected and attended to at once. The pipeline would immediately shut down if they lost pressure of even a small amount.

I believe that in the past 10 years or more since the pipeline had been instituted, there have been only a couple of minor oil spills; certainly no major ones that we're aware of. Those minor ones were quickly detected, and clean-up was taken care of almost immediately. I compliment IPL and Esso for their attention to such an important area.

Today, my colleagues and I were shocked to learn that a major, major oil spill has occurred in northern Russia, where tens of thousands of barrels of crude oil escaped before the flow was detected and stopped. And, Madam Speaker, that was only the start of this potential environmental disaster: the copper dams that were built to contain the spill were breached when heavy rains raised levels of oil and fluids behind the dam and sent the oil into the river

system that has the possibility of emptying into Arctic waters.

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, colleagues. The sad part of all this is that the spill is only now being brought to the world's attention. This occurred some time ago but we're only learning of it now. We, in the north, are fortunate enough to have good planning that has gone into the major part of the oil industry: oil and gas exploration, oil and gas extraction and transportation. Good planning, good work and perhaps good luck have gone into it. We have not been faced with such a disaster yet.

But, as Murphy's law predicts, if anything can go wrong, it will. I am confident, however, that Esso, IPL and this government are prepared for such an inevitable event and they are coordinated enough to foresee any subsequent or secondary conditions which could compound what would be a minor accident into something much more major. Thank you, very much.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On NWT Power Corporation Proposed Rate Structure Changes

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I am very concerned, Madam Speaker, about the NWT Power Corporation's proposed rate structure changes which are presently before the Public Utilities Board.

Madam Speaker, the proposal raises several questions. It is based on the cost of service analysis completed by the corporation over the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994. This analysis looked at the true cost of providing electrical services to a community versus the actual revenue received. The

Power Corporation has said it needs revenue of nearly \$100 million to remain in the black.

Proposed rate zones were created according to the source of power, diesel generator or hydroelectric. Also taken into

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consideration for creating these rate zones was the community's geopolitical location. What this means, Madam Speaker, is that rates in some areas, such as areas served by the Taltson hydroelectric project will go down and rates in the western diesel system rate area, which includes all the communities in my constituency, will go up. As a matter of fact, Madam Speaker, the rates in the western Arctic diesel zone for domestic service will have increased by approximately 50 per cent to meet the corporation's cost and service revenue requirements.

While the corporation has indicated in their proposal that the cost of commercial services will go down, the government will now pay the same rate as other ratepayers. The corporation, in its rate application, is shifting the onus for revenue generation to the private household ratepayer. Rates for domestic service in the communities in my constituency will go up by 20 per cent over the next two years. Of course, none of my constituents are too happy with this development. It means that people in my constituency will be paying more money for their power. Some people pay too much already.

In addition, Madam Speaker, I am not too impressed with the entire process of public hearings held by the Public Utilities Board into the proposed new rate structure. Adequate notice was not given to the residents of the NWT so that they could make informed submissions to the board. I am very disappointed that there were no hearings held in any of the regions on this important matter.

Madam Speaker, I am running out of time. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. It also seems to me, Madam Speaker, from looking through the newspapers of the

last few weeks, that there has either been a news blackout of the hearings, or that it has been decided that the conclusions of the board are foregone conclusions and there is no point in sending out anyone to cover this matter by the media. Putting a small advertisement in the territorial newspaper announcing that there will be hearings into the NWT Power Corporation's application for proposed rate structure changes gives people little information on how this will affect them. When the hearings on such an important matter are only held in one community, it causes undue financial hardship for anybody who would like to appear before the Public Utilities Board.

Madam Speaker, as a publicly-owned corporation, I believe it is the responsibility and, indeed, the obligation of the NWT Power Corporation when it proposes such a radical change in the way it provides services to residents of the NWT, to provide as much information as possible. As well, to give an opportunity to people in the communities to make presentations to the Public Utilities Board in their own communities.

I also have concern about how these rate change proposals will affect the territorial government's power subsidy program, given that the power subsidy amount is based on the cost of providing power in Yellowknife. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statement. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Impact Of Land Claims Settlements On Non-Claimant Groups

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to, first of all, congratulate all the native organizations and groups that have been successful in negotiating final claims agreements with the federal and territorial governments over the last ten years.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, in most cases when this negotiating process occurred, the people most affected by the outcome are the non-claimant groups in the areas. A classic example of this is the impact of the Nunavut land claims on the Treaty 8 claimant groups.

This claim has not only affected the Dene and Metis of the western Northwest Territories, but also the aboriginal people living in northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A recent signing of an agreement in the Sahtu has impacted on the future selection of lands in the Deh Cho area. We also have concerns about the Dogrib claims also incorporating traditional Deh Cho and Treaty 8 lands in their claim.

It seems to me, Madam Speaker, that this is another example of the federal government's traditional approach of negotiating with aboriginal groups which is, simply put, divide and conquer. The government doesn't care if, in the process of finalizing land claims, it is discovered that the boundaries impact on another group. This has been proven time and time again in claim after claim.

Madam Speaker, I understand the reasoning on the part of the claimant groups that have signed. They have their land base and money to provide economic opportunities for their people. In the old days, Madam Speaker, when aboriginal people had a disagreement about the boundaries between two tribes, the matter was usually settled by consultation between the elders of the two groups. The elders would use traditional knowledge and common sense in solving the problems. They would make the best solution for all the Dene people.

Madam Speaker, we...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Sorry, Mr. Gargan, your time has lapsed. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members. Madam Speaker, we, as a people, have lost sight of the guiding principles in the rush to sign these

agreements. In the rush to provide opportunities for their members, the

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claimant groups have forgotten their Dene brothers and sisters in the non-claimant areas.

I don't blame any groups for going for the biggest piece of the pie. Just remember to leave the rightful share for the rest of us. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Mary Simon As Circumpolar Ambassador

MR. ARVALUK:

Madam Speaker, over the past few months, Members were aware that the federal government was considering appointing a circumpolar ambassador. Many of us were concerned about what duties this ambassador would have. We were also worried that this might be a patronage appointment, rather than getting the best person for this important job.

Therefore, it was with great pleasure that I heard the announcement of Mary Simon as Canada's first circumpolar ambassador. In my opinion, Madam Speaker, Ms. Simon is definitely a great choice for a circumpolar ambassador as Canada's first Inuk ambassador. Mary Simon is no stranger to the people of the north, either in Canada or in other circumpolar countries. For the past two decades she has been a strong spokesperson for Inuit people. Her work has included a leadership for the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Makivik Corporation and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Many of you may have met her, especially at the last ITC conference in Inuvik.

Ms. Simon will have an important responsibility to carry out, at the time when circumpolar relations are becoming more important. She will represent Canada at international meetings on circumpolar issues, raising our concerns and ideas. She will also be responsible for coordinating Canada's participation in the eight-nation Arctic environmental protection strategy.

During my two terms as president of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, I had the pleasure of working with this remarkable lady. I am confident that she will continue to be a positive role model for our young people and an excellent ambassador for Canada.

I am sure all Members of this Assembly will join me in wishing Ms. Simon success when she assumes her new role this coming Monday, October 31st. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Emergency Measures For Resolute Bay And Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. In my constituency, during the late summer and early fall when ice begins to form and the glaciers start running through our passages, many of these glaciers are old formations and they start to break up during the summer months. This has been a problem for the communities in my riding, particularly for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. Just this last summer, we almost did not get our annual sealift because of too much ice in the area. In fact, the Russian ice breaker was unable to make it to Grise Fiord because of the ice.

At this point, I have a concern. Any time in the future should the annual sealift not make it to those communities because of the ice, the government will have to be in a position to plan for provisions such as heating oil to ensure that they have enough supplies if an annual sealift doesn't make it in.

The airstrip and the runway are too short so that large planes aren't able to land there, except in the months of March and April when we can get airplanes landing on the ice to provide heating oils and other necessities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Outbreak Of TB In Baffin Region

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm making a Member's statement with regard to this spring there was a large TB outbreak and there were a lot of people in the Baffin region -- I'm not really such about the number of people -- who had TB, especially from Cape Dorset and other Baffin areas.

Madam Speaker, this is a concern of mine, as well. I remember years ago when we were younger when there was a TB outbreak; I know, Madam Speaker, that the people of Cape Dorset pulled together to send people out for medical treatment. The people helped each other out as much as they could.

Madam Speaker, I would like those people who get struck by TB to be assisted by the medical services staff, especially the people of Cape Dorset, so this disease will not be spread throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Financial Support For Sports

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak about sports in the north. My colleagues, Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Zoe, over the last few weeks have raised issues about the status and support to various sporting events and support to communities to host sporting events in the Northwest Territories.

In sports there are many people involved; there are the athletes, there are officials, cheerleaders and organizers, and they all participate one way or another. There are many sporting events and gatherings in the Northwest Territories. We have regional community games which mainly focus in on northern games, which include the Arctic sports and the Dene

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games. We also have indigenous games, as was mentioned by Mr. Zoe. The next set of annual games are in the United States. There are spring carnivals and festivals in most communities. We also have Arctic Winter Games and Canada Games.

These events, Madam Speaker, help keep our people busy, especially our youth. There's an adage that if you have a healthy body you're going to have a healthy mind. So that's something that we should continue to support.

There are several questions that have to be raised, though, and that is are we focusing our energies on the right events; are we spending our finances supporting the right things? Madam Speaker, these are issues which concern organizers and athletes in communities, and these are the ones, especially in small communities, who don't have a lot of corporate sponsors to turn to so that many athletes don't have the opportunities to get the experience and get to places where others are more fortunate to get to.

I would like to just say that this government has to look at and review how and where our financial support for sports in the Northwest Territories is going. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Family Violence Workers And Programs

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on Friday, October 21st, this Assembly passed a motion supporting the increase of salaries and benefits to family violence prevention workers, to make their salaries and benefits comparable to equivalent positions within the GNWT.

As we all know, the funding for the family violence shelters comes from the Department of Health and Social Services. Many of them have been in existence for years; most are operating at minimum service levels due to inadequate funding. In my constituency, Cambridge Bay has a crisis shelter operated by the Katimavik Society. Of all the shelters funded by the GNWT, this one receives the least funding. They have in the past, and currently continue, to make do with what funds they are given to operate with.

Madam Speaker, in some instances, strong community-based and supported initiatives have been ignored as a result of, what I believe are, financial

reasons. The other major community in my constituency, Coppermine, submitted a modest funding proposal in February 1994 to operate a crisis shelter. This proposal was from the hamlet council in conjunction with the Coppermine women's group. The facility to operate the crisis shelter was to be provided by the hamlet council. The proposal was turned down on the basis of unavailable financial resources.

Madam Speaker, the government must review the overall funding to organizations operating family violence prevention programs. Firstly, to ensure that there is fairness and equity in the allocation of funding and, secondly, to ensure that there is an opportunity for communities recognizing and willing to act upon, the need to establish family violence prevention programs in their communities.

Our Legislative Assembly and the GNWT have adopted the policy of zero tolerance for violence against all people. The Standing Committee on Finance and the Assembly have recommended that the government develop a plan to deal with family violence, which I believe must focus on supporting and expanding community-based programs such as family violence prevention initiatives and recognizing and addressing some of the needs in our communities. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the pleasure of introducing Lydia Bardak. She's the executive director of the NWT Council for Disabled Persons here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. I just looked through the famous red book here. Mr. Gargan keeps it handy, so we check the Liberal bible here everyday to see if there is anything interesting.

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, I notice there is not a lot of emphasis on programs for victims in the red book. In his discussions with the federal Finance Minister and in the face of impending massive cuts, has the federal Justice Minister indicated to our Justice Minister that he intends to fully support victims' programs here in the Northwest Territories?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

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Return To Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the Minister has given no specific assurance in that area, nor have we discussed that particular issue in any detail. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. In the last five years, I think we have made a lot of progress in the area of programs for victims. The Northwest Territories, I think, is one of the more enlightened jurisdictions in the country. But, we still do depend on some federal funding for some of the programs available here in the Northwest Territories.

Has the Minister made a strong representation to the federal Minister to at least protect existing federal funding for victims' programs?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the federal Minister is aware that all across Canada there are increasing calls for support and assistance to be provided to victims, as opposed to the more traditional approach which is to spend all our resources and efforts in dealing with the offenders. The Minister is aware of that. What is not clear, in the face of continuing cuts and reprofiling of resources, is where the issue is in federal priorities. But, I would think he would try to do everything he can to ensure that those are not cut as a result of the fiscal situation of the federal government. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. As I said, Madam Speaker, during the last few years we've come a long way. But, I think it is recognized by everybody that the rights of the victims, to this point, are still nowhere equal to the rights of the accused or the rights of somebody convicted of a crime.

Can the Minister give assurances to this House that he will aggressively pursue, with the Minister, the continuation of the existing programs we have for victims throughout the Northwest Territories?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 236-12(6): Federal Support For Victims' Programs

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, as the Member knows, the red book, for instance, makes some commitments that the

federal government is trying to keep. One of them, which has obsessed the federal Minister, is gun control. He is actively pursuing that with a vengeance, so to speak. I think the Minister will recognize that victims of violence programs and all of that are related. There is a political agenda. There are specific commitments in the red book that they have made and I think they want to make sure they achieve those. They will turn their attention, I'm sure, to the other issues as soon as they feel they have achieved those things they made public commitments to. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 237-12(6): Elders' Residence For Cape Dorset

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last week, I mentioned that elders have to have a better place to live. Like I mentioned before, there should be an elders' centre in Cape Dorset. This has been talked about for quite some time now. I wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Services or her department has done any planning to put an elders' centre in the Cape Dorset area so the elders in my constituency and community could stay in their own community instead of going to different communities or regions. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 237-12(6): Elders' Residence For Cape Dorset

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, the Minister of Housing and myself are trying to find solutions for elders' housing. We are working very hard to see if we can put into place a program where we can do long-range planning for the needs of elders. At this point, I don't see the specific planning for Cape Dorset in the capital budget. However, I want to emphasize that we know the program for elders is one of great importance. We are trying to work that out, jointly, to come forward with a plan of

action on when and how to provide those facilities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is the Minister of Health and Social Services. In our communities, there are family violence shelters which are funded by the department. In the communities where there aren't these shelters, I would like to ask the Minister how people that are in these conflicting situations of having to find emergency shelters are dealt with. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I can't give you a breakdown of exactly what is available in each community. I'm attempting to do that so we can address the global concern of what is available to communities in terms of the support they get. I am aware that in areas or in

communities where there aren't any crisis centres, that the department works with several families in communities where there can be designated safe homes. This is where we have a working arrangement with an individual family who will receive families or children or mothers who find themselves in a critical situation where the situation at home becomes unbearable and they have to be placed under someone's care. So there are designated safe homes pretty well in all communities, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister, in a situation where individuals would require some emergency assistance, who would be the initial contact in the community for that person. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, generally the social worker or the mental health worker. It would be in that department's responsibility, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Recognizing that the social workers in some of the communities turn over fairly quickly, I would like to ask the Minister how the department gets out the information of which social worker or where that social worker resides in order to be contacted in these types of situations. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the one area where it seems that people are very well aware who the particular employee is, is in that area of social work. As we all are aware, in our attempt to try to refocus where we're putting our support, our income support, right at this moment in time it goes to the social worker. So there should not be an incident that the social worker would

be unknown to the community because normally, if there is a crisis situation, the RCMP are called in on a difficult situation, or if another family or friend is aware of it, they generally call the social worker, and advise them that there are severe problems. Otherwise, the RCMP is aware of where we allocated the safe homes, and would immediately bring that person to that particular location. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister then, in a situation where the community is aware of the social worker and somebody goes to that social worker for assistance, given that it's not going to be during regular working hours, I would like to ask the Minister would that social worker be expected to answer these emergency calls at any time of the day or night. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 238-12(6): Emergency Shelter For Victims Of Violence

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I know that certainly where there is more than one social worker, they generally make an arrangement of who is going to be on call. I know there are some communities that don't have the privilege of having more than one person, but the RCMP would also be aware of where that safe house is and so would the nurse in charge, Madam Speaker. So to access a safe home is generally a known location to all the authorities who work in the community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 239-12(6): Rationale For Power Rate Schedule And PUB Hearings

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. It's related to my Member's statement earlier in the session today. The majority of the communities in the western Arctic diesel zone, as proposed by the new power rates, have no heavy industry; they don't have any major corporate clients such as mines, for example, to create revenue for the Power Corporation. Under the proposed new plan, each region will be responsible for creating a monitor reserve to replace equipment if it breaks down. Given this, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the rationale for their rate schedule. Is it based on a system that is currently used in Canada? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation,
Madam Premier.

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Return To Question 239-12(6): Rationale For Power Rate Schedule And PUB Hearings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the issue of the rate zones is not a new issue. On several occasions, as we made our report to the standing committees of this House, there was always an acknowledgement that there was a commitment, when we took over the Power Corporation, to rationalize the rate and rate structures.

The body that hears the application and suggestions or proposals is the Public Utilities Board. The Public Utilities Board is an agency that is set up, and it's a quasi-judicial body that looks at the applications that are put before it, analyses the application, looks at the rationale as to why that particular proposal is put forward. What shoots out at the end of the hearings would be the determination of what the Public Utilities Board has determined on the application and proposals that have been put forward by the Power Corporation, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 239-12(6): Rationale For Power Rate Schedule And PUB Hearings

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know whether I received an answer to my question, but I will follow up with a supplementary question since the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation mentioned the Public Utilities hearing process. There was a great concern by ordinary Members that this hearing was only held in Yellowknife. I know there was discussion earlier in this session, last week, about this. I would like to know from the Minister whether the people in the communities will have the opportunity to provide their presentations on the NWT Power Corporation rates to the Public Utilities Board in the communities. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation,
Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 239-12(6): Rationale For Power Rate Schedule And PUB Hearings

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the question legitimately should be placed to the Minister responsible, Mr. Todd, or the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

Madam Speaker, the Public Utilities Board is a quasi-judicial body and frowns very strongly upon interference, as they generally call it if you try to short circuit the legitimate responsibility they have as a Public Utilities Board, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 239-12(6): Rationale For Power Rate Schedule And PUB Hearings

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My reason for questioning is not to interfere or short circuit any quasi-judicial board. I'm here to represent the members of my constituency and their concerns about the huge increase that they expect to incur once this proposal has been reviewed and if it's approved by the Public Utilities Board. So I would like to further ask the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation whether these hearings have been concluded, or if there's opportunity for people in

communities to express their views on this. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 240-12(6): Resolution For Staff Housing Shortage In Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Personnel. In the Baffin region, there is a shortage of housing, mainly in Arctic Bay. This is with regard to staff housing. What is the Minister going to do about the shortage of staff housing in Arctic Bay? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Personnel, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 240-12(6): Resolution For Staff Housing Shortage In Arctic Bay

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. On July 11th, we did a survey as to how many staff houses might be needed. According to the July 11th document, we have 36 employees in Arctic Bay and they have 16 units. Seven of them are presently occupied. The other units are occupied by people in the Department of Health. I think there are some units that are not occupied. We did a survey on July 11th. After the survey, there were other units that were not occupied. I will look into this and find out what we can do. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 241-12(6): Status Of MOU With Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Over the past several years, there has been a lot of work going on in terms of reviewing the status of the Department of Health and health boards. There has been work on the memorandum of understanding to clarify the roles of the Department of Health and the roles of the health boards. Can the Minister advise this House as to what the status of that MOU is? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 241-12(6): Status Of MOU With Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say the arrangements between the health boards and the Department of Health are moving along very quickly. We have a very high degree of cooperation at this time. I am hopeful that in the immediate future, the MOUs will be concluded. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 241-12(6): Status Of MOU With Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The Minister is responsible for appointments to health boards. Can the Minister very briefly advise as to the responsibility of an appointee to a health board in relationship to the Minister? What is the relationship between an appointee and the Minister once an appointment is made?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 241-12(6): Status Of
MOU With Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the process for the appointee is names are solicited and recommendations are made to the Minister responsible. The person then being selected is appointed. Those representatives are community representatives and they are responsible for communicating health needs and concerns to the health board, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 241-12(6): Status Of
MOU With Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister for her response. So once an appointment is made, what are the duties of an appointee? Do they have a job description?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 241-12(6): Status Of
MOU With Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I believe so and that would be at the board level. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 241-12(6): Status Of
MOU With Health Boards

MR. KOE:

So would that job description be included in this memorandum of understanding that is being developed?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I would have to take that as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 242-12(6): Review Or Evaluation Of
Affirmative Action Policy

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, yesterday I made a Member's statement on the affirmative action policy, so my question would be directed to the Minister of Finance. Is the Minister's department planning on doing a policy review or a program evaluation? Madam Speaker, the two are very different. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 242-12(6): Review Or Evaluation
Of Affirmative Action Policy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it is a review of the 1989 affirmative action policy. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I have a question to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. If the Public Utilities Board agrees with the new rate zones, when would be the earliest that the new rate zones could be set up?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ballantyne, could I ask you to repeat your question? I wasn't sure if I heard the first part clearly.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Certainly, I would be pleased to. My question was if the Public Utilities Board agrees with the new rate zones, when would be the earliest the new rate zones could be set up?

MADAM SPEAKER:

The reason I asked you to repeat that question, Mr. Ballantyne, is somehow I find it could be considered as a hypothetical question since the process has not been completed. Therefore, I would like to ask if you could rephrase your question. I know what you are trying to ask, but rephrase it so it doesn't appear to be hypothetical. Thank you.

Question 243-12(6): Time Frame Of Implementation Of New Rate Zones

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I can do that, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, in the presentation that the Power Corporation made to the Public Utilities Board, when did the Power Corporation anticipate that the new rate zones could be set up?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

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Return To Question 243-12(6): Time Frame Of Implementation Of New Rate Zones

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I am afraid I don't know the answer to that question. I am not aware that there has been any date set at this time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 244-12(6): Shortage Of Staff Housing In Arctic Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to make a supplementary to the question I asked to the Minister of Personnel. She mentioned she would check into this. How many houses are they

short and where are the people who don't have staff housing housed right now. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Personnel, Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the Member for High Arctic knows, we will try to provide staff housing in the communities, but not in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River or Inuvik. We will be providing more staff housing. At this time, 1994-95, there is construction of staff housing through the Housing Corporation. At this time, I cannot answer exactly how many employees require housing. I will have to take his question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. May I remind honourable Members that when you take a question as notice, you just indicate that you are taking notice and not give an explanation. Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I have another question, Madam Speaker, for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Since the Government of the Northwest Territories bought the Power Corporation, have rate increases been spread over the whole system or have individual areas even been burdened with special rate increases.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I did not understand the question. Perhaps the Member could restate the question. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 245-12(6): Locations Of Rate Increases In The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Certainly. During the period of time since the GNWT bought the Power Corporation, there have been a number of rate increases. My question to the Minister is, have those rate increases been spread over the whole system

across the Northwest Territories, or have there been examples of individual areas being burdened with special rate increases?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation,
Madam Premier.

Return To Question 245-12(6): Locations Of Rate
Increases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the rate increases that have been approved -- and there weren't a large number of them, as the Member has indicated -- have been general rate increases across the board.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 245-12(6): Locations Of
Rate Increases In The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I think we can all agree that the new rate zones haven't been set up yet. The Minister will let us know when they are anticipated to be set up. There are no new rate zones. So, my question to the Minister is, what was the rationale of the Power Corporation to break with standard procedure and ask for an extraordinary increase in a zone that has not yet been set up.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation,
Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 245-12(6): Locations Of
Rate Increases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, it is not unusual to have a water surcharge levied. As a matter of fact, Madam Speaker, this is not the first time. When the federal government, or Crown, had the corporation, they,

themselves, also levied a water surcharge. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 245-12(6): Locations Of
Rate Increases In The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my information is that \$7 million was what the system generated over the last two years, since the territorial government has run the Power Corporation. To do something like this, which is quite extraordinary, the Power Corporation must have come forward with some very strong rationale to break with all precedent, to ignore the reality that this particular area has put \$7 million into the system, and to decide at this time that this particular area would pay the total cost for the low water. I will ask again, what was the rationale given to the Minister by the Power Corporation to make this extraordinary decision?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation,
Madam Premier.

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Further Return To Question 245-12(6): Locations Of
Rate Increases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, when the Power Corporation came forward to build a multi-million dollar line from Snare to Yellowknife, that application had to go through the Public Utilities Board. When we had to install the large, extraordinary funding for Yellowknife customers for diesel generation, that had to go through the Public Utilities Board. When the Power Corporation looked at the cost of losing water, that also is before the Public Utilities Board and their rationale is also before the Public Utilities Board. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 17-12(6): Impact Of The Proposed 22 Per Cent Low Water Surcharge

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. These are two questions, Madam Speaker, for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Would the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation please advise this House of the following:

1. What would be the impact on power rates throughout the Northwest Territories if the proposed 22 per cent low water surcharge on the Snare system is approved by the Public Utilities Board?
2. What would be the impact on the power subsidy paid by the NWT if the proposed 22 per cent low water surcharge is approved by the Public Utilities Board?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 40-12(6), Zero Tolerance for Violence: A Status Report, the Department of Justice, October, 1994.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 41-12(6), People, Our Focus for the Future: Education, Culture and Employment, A Strategy to 2010, in English and Inuktitut.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 1994, I shall move that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Bill 20: An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 27, 1994, I shall move that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Motion To Move Tabled Document 36-12(6) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Tabled Document 36-12(6), Action Plan - Consolidation - Health and Social Services, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Tabled Document 36-12(6) is moved into committee of the whole for today.

Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 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 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; and, Tabled Document 36-12(6), "Action Plan -

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Consolidation - Health and Social Services," with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I would like to call the committee of the whole to order. Good afternoon, colleagues. What would you like to do? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that we continue on with Bill 1, considering the Department of Health and Social Services and Committee Report 10-12(6), then perhaps if we finish the Department of Health and Social Services, we can resume debate on Bill 7.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do Members agree that that's the order of business?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Committee Report 10-12(6): Report On The Review Of The 1995-96 Capital Estimates

Department Of Health And Social Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I would like to invite the Minister responsible for Health to make any opening comments.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1995-96 capital estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services include 344 projects totalling \$10.403 million.

As you know, this is the first capital budget to reflect the consolidation of the two departments as recommended by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. The budget reflects the beginning of an approach that will result in a better level of integration of health and social services facilities.

The first major integration will be the alcohol and drug treatment centre and the hospital in Inuvik, to be planned in the coming year. Other opportunities for integration will be explored in preparing plans for the future.

One area that will receive more attention over the coming year is housing for elders. The Department of Health and Social Services and the Housing Corporation are working together to clarify the roles of each organization. Mr. Morin and I will be tabling a strategy in the House during the winter session to deal with the provision of housing and care to elders.

Mr. Chairman, there has not been time to make major changes in the 1995-96 capital plan for the newly consolidated department. However, in consultation with communities, we will bring forward a rationalized

departmental capital plan for consideration in 1995-96. Some hard decisions will be needed,

but they are necessary if the department is going to do a better job of satisfying community needs.

There are a wide variety of projects in the 1995-96 capital plan.

Functional programs will be developed for replacement hospitals. In Inuvik and Iqaluit, these will be funded under cost-sharing agreements with the federal government which were part of the health transfer agreement in 1988.

In addition, health centres will be upgraded in Fort Providence and Fort Resolution, along with health stations in Trout Lake and Jean Marie River. The design of a health station in Snare Lake and a replacement health centre in Gjoa Haven will be finalized and the construction of replacement health centres in Clyde River and Fort Good Hope will be completed.

In family support, the planning and design for a family group home in Pangnirtung will be completed.

In community development, an elders' residence will be built in Fort Resolution and the planning and design for an elders' residence in Fort Norman will be completed. Planning for an alcohol and drug treatment centre in the Keewatin will be completed and a psychiatric half-way house will be built in Yellowknife.

The remainder of the budget is for equipment, technology enhancements and renovations to existing facilities.

Mr. Chairman, over the past year, the department has consulted with communities and regions, as directed by the Standing Committee on Finance in its review of the 1994-95 plan, and it continues to work with health boards to develop community and regional health services plans.

The department is also revising its standards and criteria for capital planning and facilities. These revised standards and criteria will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. They will improve our ability to complete regional and community needs assessments, which will also improve the consultation process. Mr. Chairman, that completes my comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The standing committee report on this department. Mr. Ng.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee notes with approval that this is the first budget since the amalgamation of the departments of Health and Social Services. Committee Members hope that the new combined department will be better able to provide facilities to care for NWT residents' physical and mental health needs.

New Technologies

Members welcomed new initiatives such as capital funding for distance health system technologies, as advised by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. This specific project will allow for remote consultations between Edmonton and Yellowknife, as well as for transmission of radiology, ultrasound and electrocardiogram data between Inuvik and Yellowknife. The committee recognizes that such initiatives may save a

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great deal of expense in the long term, and will improve the efficient delivery of health services to northerners. Committee Members encourage the department to pursue further developments in this area.

Alternatives To Institutions

Sometimes, there are alternatives to building institutional facilities. An example would be to consider providing home care to elders, rather than building a new elders' facility. Committee Members urge the department, however, to ensure that choices to use alternatives such as home care rather than building new facilities are made only after full and thorough consultation with those affected, with interested organizations and with all community leaders, including the communities' MLA, in the communities affected. Choosing such alternatives should never be done just to cut the budget.

In one specific example, previously mentioned in capital planning and consultation process, a proposed elders' facility in Gjoa Haven was removed from the capital plan in favour of providing home care to the Kitikmeot elders who would have used that facility. Committee Members felt that the department did not

consult adequately with all community leaders, especially the MLA for that area. As a result, the committee feels that deleting the project from the capital plan was not appropriate, and that the project should be reinstated.

Hospitals New And Old

Committee Members note that projects for building new regional hospitals in Iqaluit and Inuvik have been added to the capital plan. These facilities will be of great benefit to the Baffin and Inuvik regions respectively, and the committee is looking forward to their completion. Cost-sharing assistance provided by the federal government for these projects is also worthy of note. Also, the committee is looking forward to the completion of the analysis regarding the proposed Keewatin regional health facility. If such a project will indeed be a net benefit to the people of the Keewatin and of the NWT in general, then committee Members will look forward to seeing the proposal in next year's capital plan.

Along with these new facilities, the committee encourages the department to continue to examine providing capital funding to the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital to provide services to northerners that are now only available in southern Canada. Often, the cost of new capital equipment may be more than offset by savings in travel expenses for patients. Committee Members recognize that there may not be enough demand to justify some equipment, such as a CT scanner, perhaps. But the department should constantly be looking for ways to provide more cost-effective health services to northerners in the north. Medical travel costs are increasing, and whether this is due to increased utilization or increased costs, any initiative which can reduce this item is worth examining. This issue may also become increasingly crucial if there are further cutbacks to health services in Alberta and other provinces which receive NWT referrals.

Birthing Centres

The committee again discussed the pilot project of a birthing centre in Rankin Inlet. Members are looking forward to the analysis of the project when its two-year term is completed in the next few months. It is hoped that such centres can be provided in other communities.

By allowing northern women to have their babies closer to home, birthing centres could reduce the social costs of disruption to families resulting from

mothers being away from home for weeks at a time. Also, birthing centres may well be a more cost-effective means of serving women's health needs. In fact, if the project is deemed successful, committee Members would like to see future plans for health centre construction or renovation include space for possible birthing centres. This would allow these centres to be established in communities at future dates, when the community is ready for such a centre, without significant added expense.

Social Services Planning

In last year's review, the committee made a strong recommendation concerning the capital planning strategy of the Department of Social Services. Committee Members were glad to see the new combined department develop a new capital planning framework, which will be implemented in 1995. While Members have not yet been able to study the framework in detail, the mere fact that such a strategy exists is gratifying.

Committee Members appreciate that alcohol and drug abuse is one of the most serious problems facing northerners. There are a number of good facilities and programs available for helping NWT residents overcome abuse. However, many are not used to capacity and yet some northerners go south for treatment instead. The committee encourages the department to find ways to convince northerners in need of such treatment to make use of the facilities here. Not only will money be saved, but local and culturally-relevant programs may very well be more effective.

Committee Motion 36-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I have one motion. I move that this committee recommends that the Gjoa Haven elders' facility be reinstated in the five-year capital forecast for the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion was originally read when you read the report, but this is your motion now. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

---Applause

Madam Premier, would you like to take the stand and bring in your witnesses, please? Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis): Members agree. Madam Premier, go ahead.

I would like to recognize Mr. Merlyn Williams, an alderman-elect to the city council of Yellowknife. He has just entered the visitor's gallery.

---Applause

Madam Premier, would you like to introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I have with me the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ken Lovely and the director of capital planning, Norm Hatlevik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Do any Members have any general comments, statement or questions they would like to raise with this department? Mr. Koe.

General Comments

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. For obvious reasons, I'm very pleased with the capital plan of this restructured department of Health and Social Services. The departments have, in their good wisdom, included several projects that are urgently required in Inuvik. They were mentioned in the Minister's opening remarks. The hospital, the need for which I've been raising since I've been in this House, seriously needs to be looked at, and the planning is well under way.

Also, the group home for handicapped adults -- and when we get to that specific page, I'll be asking questions on that project -- is one that fits in with the policy of repatriating people from the south to northern institutions. Also in the plans is money for an alcohol and drug centre in Inuvik. That has to be seriously considered in view of the problems we have with alcohol and drug abuse in the north.

The one caution I would like to make is that it is really imperative in doing major project planning, that we get as much local and community input in the planning phases and, eventually, in the design phases of these projects. Without community and local support, we always seem to run into problems and we are always backtracking. I would like to say thank you to the departments for the work they've done and for listening to the concerns of the residents of Inuvik and for including the projects in the plan.

As always, though, there is something missing. I've listened very carefully to the questions and statements made by my colleagues from other communities about the need for elders' residences. The people in Inuvik are no different. There has been a needs study done; an assessment of the requirements of our senior citizens in Inuvik and I think the numbers warrant careful consideration. Eventually, we have to look at something for that community. Within the region, itself, there are a lot of elders and I think we have to look at the needs of the regions and determine the best possible locations for elders' centres.

But, generally, I'm pleased with the work the department has done in terms of capital planning and I want to say, again, mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Are there any other Members with general statements, comments or questions? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the departmental overview, item 4 implies that social well-being and independence of the aged, disabled, and mentally handicapped are supported and promoted. Mr. Chairman, to me that means that we have to look after our elders. Even when the elders are not able to look after themselves, there may be some requirement to send the elders from one community to another where there is an elders' facility.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about the elders in our communities, we are, in fact, talking about those people who have looked after us from the time we were too young to care for ourselves. When you move an elder from his or her community to another community where there is an elders' centre, you are taking away the pride of that person, whether they be a man or a woman, especially when that person is native to his or her community. That person is taken to a strange environment, the language is different and the food is different.

I've talked to people in my area, in the Kitikmeot region, not only in Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, but as well, other communities like Coppermine and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, I remember many years ago, about 20 to 30 years ago, there was an elder who was too old to look after himself and he was sent to Aklavik. The communication was not very good at that time. We rarely heard anything from that person, only by word of mouth through another person who would have travelled to Aklavik and come back to the community and talked to his family. But in the end, we heard that the old man was very ill and he wanted to go back to his community. He never complained when he was in Pelly Bay. He knew he was leaving the town but he never complained. But in the end, when the man was critically ill, he finally told his family that he wanted to stay at home with his family.

Subsequently, because the man was introduced to a different community, different lifestyle, different language, different culture, that was the cause of his illness in the end.

Mr. Chairman, I have talked with the people of Gjoa Haven, especially the mayor of Gjoa Haven. The community profoundly wants their own facility for elders. Even Taloyoak wants their own facility, Pelly Bay wants their own facility, Coppermine and Cambridge Bay. We are not able to accomplish that, we know, because we don't have all the resources needed to facilitate every community. But I hope that -- and I need your support, my colleagues -- that we will be able to have a facility in the Kitikmeot; one for the west and one for the east. I also hope that every region will be able to enjoy facilities in their own region.

Mr. Chairman, I know it's very difficult and very hard to try and get a facility for every community and every region, and I know that the department is trying very hard to promote the well-being of the elders, the

handicapped, the disabled and so on. Mr. Chairman, that is my comment. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Ningark. General comments. Any further general comments? Are we ready to go into the book? Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are general comments. I guess I don't have to speak on the elders' residence issue just yet; the Minister and the departmental staff are aware of my position on it. But I would like to ask for some clarification since this budget that's coming forward does have funding to two elders' residences, and we're aware that the funding from the federal CMHC has been virtually eliminated now. So, has the department acknowledged and taken on the responsibilities for funding for elders' residences now within our territorial programs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Any response?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, in the issue of the elders' residence and the requirement for extraordinary needs and the fact that the federal government continues not to respond to the request of restoration of funds as we've had in the past, the department, with the Housing Corporation, feels compelled to try to address the problem with the resources that we do have. But that is not to say that the communications with the federal government and federal agency are not ongoing. However, there are some needs that have to be met and we're going to try to do that with bringing together a strategy on some of those immediate needs, as well as a longer-term strategy on housing for elders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to a different item, family violence shelters, that I had spoken on earlier. I recognize that the department doesn't

provide capital, but I know it's related to the overall budget in that they provide operating funds for these shelters. So, does the department, first of all, have any family violence shelters that they actually own outright, or is it strictly that they provide operating money for existing facilities, I would like to ask. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct in saying that we do provide contributions for such a program, but we do not, to my knowledge, have ownership of any particular building in that category.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

In some communities, I'm aware of the Katimavik Society one in Cambridge Bay, where they have a charity lease of a GNWT building, then they receive funding to provide the crisis shelter for the community. In that circumstance, in effect, the government is providing the capital residence or the capital facility for operating that program, although it's not designated outright under the Department of Health and Social Services. Is that the case in the majority of these family violence shelters?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct in saying that in almost all instances, there is a lease arrangement, whether it's a charity lease or whether we're leasing a unit through the contribution agreements. But I should make a correction that we do, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, have a family violence shelter in Iqaluit which is under the ownership of the Government of the Northwest Territories. But all the other shelters are also provided facilities by CMHC, or leased.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Are you finished, Mr. Ng? Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Another general question regarding elders' centres, and I'm not referring to residences now. I recognize in some communities that I've had the opportunity to go to...In Rankin Inlet, there's an elders' centre that's being constructed by a private organization, the Rankin Inlet Royal Yacht Club, I believe. They are putting together the facility, plus they're providing some of the operating funds for the elders' centre. There is one in Iqaluit; a very nice one that the Members of the Standing Committee on Finance had an opportunity to see, which is funded and provided by the Royal Canadian Legion in Iqaluit. I know in my constituency, in Cambridge Bay, the community, through private donations, from the hamlet council and from volunteer labour, have put together...And I think many of the Members have had an opportunity to see that one in Cambridge Bay. It's not a fancy unit, by any means, but nevertheless it's there. There's been a lot of community initiative to get it established, but they've been running into some difficulties, I guess, in finding the operating funds. I would like to ask, as far the Department of Health and Social Services, is it within their mandate and responsibility to address elders' needs as it relates to this type of facility where it's not specifically housing but deals with their social well-being? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, in that particular category I'm not aware that the Government of the Northwest Territories has a specific program for the provision of a recreation type meeting place for elders. In all the spaces that are provided, there is generally a community space that is used by everybody, under the recreation program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Is there any department in the GNWT, or federally, that she is aware of, that could address this type of need?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, very much, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I know that, in some circumstances where there is a friendship centre, often times in the funding for the friendship centre category -- I think it is with the Secretary of State -- there is a provision for a room or two for elders; it is incorporated in the overall federal plan for friendship centres. My understanding is that they continue to be cut financially, or the total contribution is still under a lot of scrutiny for cuts as we move along. I'm not aware that there is a specific program for elders in federal coffers for the type of facilities the Member is referring to.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

One final question before I give other Members the opportunity to make general comments. I would like to ask the Premier about youth, who are in a different situation in that -- from what I understand from my area -- they don't have any facilities. They don't even have a strong group of supporters or advocates for their position, except for the odd council member or maybe an MLA who is looking at their issues. I would like to ask, would it be in the mandate of this Department of Health and Social Services or some other department of our government to deal with youth issues? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I know there are limitations on youth and we do expend some funds under the Department of Health and Social Services for drug and alcohol youth programs. We have a small contribution that can be accessed. The Minister of Education and ourselves were looking at an area, but it has become a federal funding program under the Secretary of State. This funding is handled by the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew. I know quite a number of communities have accessed that program. If I can remember correctly, there is something like \$250,000

in this year's funding that hasn't been allocated at this time. But, that is a federal program, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Are you done, Mr. Ng? I would like to recognize, and I'm sure the Inuit in the House would like to recognize, Mr. Louis Pilakapsi, who is in our gallery.

---Applause

On my list, I have Mr. Gargan next.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is one area in which I don't mind saying that Members have been quite effective, at least in the Deh Cho region. One of the main reasons for that is because we don't really have a board to deal with. When I do experience problems, I phone the Minister or even the regional director. We've been able to get assistance for medical travel, or whatever the case may be.

I would like to say that there is a program initiated by the federal government regarding the national strategy to deal with urgent health priorities of First Nations and Inuit. The whole initiative is to provide First Nations with the tools necessary to tackle the physical or mental health issues they face.

Even though we don't have a health board in the region, my health hasn't deteriorated or improved that much. Life goes on. I appreciate that the department is doing its job in delivering health in the Deh Cho region, regardless of whether we have a board or not.

I would like to see what all the regions will be deciding regarding the creation of a Mackenzie health board in the region. Naturally, if we don't create one, we will have fewer hurdles to deal with in the event that the inherent right of self-government is implemented in the region. This is the political reality in the Deh Cho region. I would like to see the region determine what is in their best interest at this point in time, and whether they decide to even consider spending a large amount of dollars necessary to create a board, when we really need to set our priorities straight because of the budget restraint.

Mr. Chairman, in Fort Providence, there is going to be a little over \$1 million spent on the renovation of the health centre. I don't know how much consultation has taken place, but I know that, as part of their own community plans, there is a possibility that the

existing nursing station may be required to locate to a different area. If the community decides to reprioritize their agenda in the area of health, then I think the hamlets, the bands and, of course, the nursing stations should be consulted about how they feel the best way to solve the issue is.

I don't think we should be spending a large amount of money if the priorities of the community of Fort Providence have changed. I say that because I know the local hamlet band have taken a different view. The view is that a lot of commercial and business areas are all by the river banks. They feel those should be residential areas. They are looking at rezoning it. The nursing station may be too far out of the way, and they would like to see it moved closer to the centre of the community.

In the event this happens, at least that will free up some money in Providence to other areas that might need it more at this time. I would like to ask that the department consult and ensure we don't spend money now that we might spend later on.

The other thing is with regard to the Hay River group home. I don't know if that has been an issue, but there are family group homes in the capital budget. I want to get an update as to what has been happening with the group home in Hay River, and whether you anticipate further expenditures or, are we looking at some of the recommendations made by Mr. Cooper about the operation of the group home? His recommendation is that most of the people in the group homes are aboriginal people and it should be run by aboriginal people.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we've met with the Minister of Health and Social Services on the Hay River Reserve. I would like to express my thanks to the Minister for that. But also, they brought up certain issues that needed to be addressed, and most of them were with regard to the operation of the alcohol and drug treatment centre on the reserve itself. The landscaping issue has not been quite resolved, and some of the landscaping that was done wasn't done right. I think this was brought up with the Minister and the Minister is aware of it. Of course, in the summertime, the building itself, because the limited number of opening windows, has made it quite hot. I hope that the Minister will address that somehow.

My very, very last comment is with regard to the creation of the Mackenzie Health Board. If you do decide to go ahead with something like this, I would

hope that you consider Fort Providence as the operating point. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

A response to any or all of those comments, Madam Premier.

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HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the location of the Fort Providence health facility, there was a meeting on October 12th to discuss this with the community. The community will be meeting in relationship to setting up their town plan I think in the very near future -- I think in the next week -- and to see where they are going to be zoning. From the result of that, we will make a decision. We don't want to go ahead and do something, and then find ourselves zoned out of business. It's just a non-starter for us. So we'll be paying close attention to what the community decides on in terms of zoning.

In the matter of the group home in Hay River, this will probably change to a renovation program because in assessing the building, it looks like it has a much better lifespan than was originally anticipated. So rather than building a new one, it will probably be a renovation program.

With regard to the issue of the tenants in the group home, we realize that the majority of those tenants and clients are aboriginal people. And we're trying to move to address how we are going to staff that particular centre, taking into consideration that particular concern.

In the matter of the alcohol and drug treatment centre in Hay River, I am working with the department to see how we can resolve some of those issues that they brought up. So we're actively pursuing those concerns, and we'll try to come to some reconciliation on how we can organize the finances so that they can take care of the particular two issues you have: the one with the summer very high intensity heat problem, as well I know that some of the issues surrounding what was supposed to be done in landscaping and some of the other minor work that there is some disagreement over, I will try to get that resolved. I committed myself to do that and I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. This seems like a good time to take a break. On my list, I still have Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Antoine. Before we go on, do you still have something to say, Mr. Gargan?

MR. GARGAN:

Yes. I would like to ask the Premier if she intends to table the report that was done by Mr. Cooper.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to check into that. I'm not really sure what's in the report or what the status of that is. I will report back to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Madam Premier. We'll take a break. On my list I still have Mr. Pudlat and Mr. Antoine, and when we come back Mr. Whitford will be in the chair.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will come back to order. When we left off, as I recall, it was Mr. Gargan, the Member for Deh Cho, who had the floor. Mr. Gargan has indicated that he is done. General comments on the Department of Health and Social Services. Next on the list was the honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a general comment, and it will be a short comment; it is not a question. We respect our elders and I don't think a lot of people respect their elders all the time. In my constituency, people are looking forward to having an elders' facility. We have to work harder to look after our elders. We are here today because our elders took care of us. We have to make sure our elders are well taken care of and they have places to stay where they feel comfortable.

We all know we are in times of fiscal restraint, but, even if we are in times of fiscal restraint, we have to work hard to look after our elders. And, not just our elders, but also our youth. I know there is housing available for elders, but they have to make sure

elders' facilities are closer to communities and in the communities. We don't see our elders very much in the community or in public places, but we have to think of them and we should be concerned about where they live.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make general comments about that. I said I would make my comment short, so that is it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The chair will now recognize Mr. Antoine, from Nahendeh. He is not in the House. The chair will now recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the budget for the Department of Health and Social Services totals about \$10.403 million, basically for facilities such as nursing stations, group homes, vehicles and equipment. Mr. Chairman, I always emphasize in the House that in smaller communities we have to have the basic infrastructure in place. This includes health. I note that in the capital budget, one of my communities from my constituency is listed. I am glad the government has finally incorporated the need for a nursing station for Snare Lake in this year's capital plan.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, in the North Slave region, there is a need for a group home for kids who are apprehended by Social Services. They are currently being transported to Yellowknife and placed in group homes here.

I know that the community has been in contact with the department, expressing the need for a group home. I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, has the department included in their five-year capital plan any group home for the North Slave area. I would like to get that information from the Minister, if possible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, there is some budget in 1997 and 1999 for a family group home in Rae-Edzo.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Premier. Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I'm glad it's listed in the five-year capital plan, but in future years; I believe that the facility won't be available until 1999. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, what the department is going to do on a temporary basis until this

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facility is built. How are they going to handle the kids who are apprehended?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is referring to the proposal that was put forward by the Dogrib band in June of 1994, with using a building that's existing and providing renovation. Public Works did an inspection that was completed September 1st. A report was expected on September 9th. What we are trying to do is look at the renovation costs, and we have an estimate. So what we want to do is look for the funding within our existing resources in the 1994-95 capital plan. So we're pursuing the issue as we made a commitment to do so, to cover off the particular problem at this point in time. We thought that we would be able to identify a source for the operation and maintenance costs, but we're falling a little bit short so we have to do a little bit more work on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that the department revisits the five-year capital plan, and from time to time they reshuffle various capital, either delaying it or fast-tracking it. I wonder if the department, when they're revisiting the five-year capital plan, could seriously consider placing this group home a priority within the department so that it could possibly be fast-tracked. Because it is needed; it is a need that's currently required in the area.

Currently, all the kids who are being apprehended are in Yellowknife. The parents and relatives of these individuals don't have the opportunity to visit and to travel to the city of Yellowknife. So, in that respect, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the department could place a priority on this particular home when they're revisiting their five-year capital plan. If I could, Mr. Chairman, I wonder how high a priority this particular group is within the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I have had a number of meetings with the chief and other band members on the need. We have discussed what's being done now, so we are making a certain amount of expenditures already in the care of children. What we're really trying to do is to pull all those funds together. I didn't anticipate pulling the capital funds forward on a new facility, but rather to reorganize the dollars that are being expended to provide for the renovation of the building, which is somewhere around \$94,000. I think we've almost identified all the dollars that are required, already. The operation and maintenance part of it, we're still working on. So we're still committed to try to get that done now within existing funds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. General comments. The chair recognizes the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just general comments on this Department of Health and Social Services. This is the first opportunity we've had to discuss this department after it's amalgamation, so I wish the department luck in the work they have to do to amalgamate these two departments into one department.

In the area of health, in Fort Simpson, over the last three years, I've raised this issue with regard to the hospital that was there. Historically, there has always been a hospital in Fort Simpson. It goes back to the time when they had a hospital there where they took care of the TB patients and so forth. Once this 1988 health transfer happened with the federal government, since that time the hospital services

have deteriorated quite a bit to now where we don't have much service.

The staff and the doctors in the hospital are very good, but this department has eroded the services and moved everything to Yellowknife, as in everybody's case. People from Simpson have been asking to maintain the hospital and improve the services there. If you look at it, people from that region, my constituents have to get chartered out of the smaller communities like Trout Lake, Nahanni Butte, Jean Marie, Fort Liard, even Wrigley, to Fort Simpson and then get on a sched flight to Yellowknife. A charter from Trout Lake to Simpson is about \$600 for a one-way trip. Then you tag on the cost of the sched flight to Yellowknife and costs of accommodating them here at the Vital Abel Home for a number of days; that's quite a lot of cost just to take care of people to come here, sometimes just to get an X-ray and sometimes to get blood work done. That's a lot of cost to do that.

What I'm saying is if we could look at beefing up the services that the hospital could provide in Simpson, perhaps it may cost some money up front, but in the long run it may save this government some dollars by cutting out all the travel that is going on.

Just recently, Mr. Chairman, there was a birth here in Yellowknife by a woman living in Simpson. She had to come here for six weeks before she had her baby. She had to leave her husband and children at home and this family expressed their concerns to me. They appreciated the service that was provided to them, but while the government is talking about restraint, and it is all over the press, they turn around and spend money. They told me they were spending a lot of money just being here. If you compound that with everyone else that has to go through that, that is an enormous cost.

The argument in Simpson is we've always had a hospital there; why not beef up some of the services there and any equipment that may be required. In the SCOF presentation, we talked about distance health systems technology that allows for remote consultations between a major centre and a smaller centre. In this case, this is happening between Edmonton and Yellowknife. As well, there is going to be transmission of radiology, ultrasound and electrocardiogram data between Inuvik and Yellowknife. If that type of technology is available, why can't it be available to smaller communities, rather than incurring all these costs and moving

people around? If that technology is available, why couldn't we have it in the hospital in Fort Simpson?

There may be some expense up front, but in the long-term, it may save some bucks. It might improve the delivery of health services to the people in my constituency. I am focusing on

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my constituency because I understand it the most, but there might be other centres in the north that may provide those types of services.

We have a problem in Simpson. The department has not been able to determine whether or not they can provide these additional services until studies have been done to determine what kinds of services can be provided in the Fort Simpson area. I've been pushing to maintain the hospital, but there are other ideas out there on how to save money on the government side by cutting more in Simpson. I'm asking if you could look at it seriously and try to determine if providing better services might cut down the costs in the long run.

The whole issue of health boards comes into play here too, Mr. Chairman. We don't have health boards in our area, therefore we don't have people at the community level involved in decisions about health. My colleague from Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan, spoke about this earlier in his general comments; about how we don't have a health board in the Deh Cho area. I think it's necessary to look at that. I think it is important to have some sort of group or committee in the communities that deal with community health.

There was the case in Wrigley this past summer where a nurse left the community because she was threatened by community members. She didn't have anywhere to turn, so she left. Upon working with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Mackenzie Regional Health Board, the band from Wrigley had a meeting and determined that the best way to solve the problem was to have the band become more involved and, at the same time, to form a community health committee in Wrigley, where the committee would work with the nurse and the community to determine the types of services Health provides to them.

In the final outcome, the nurse who left returned after being talked to by the chief. That is a good example of how a community health committee could work in a small community. We need them not only for the

services, but the type of equipment we may need in these communities. I think it's important to go in that direction.

The other point I would like to make, and it may be an O and M issue, is there is a problem in Simpson where we have one doctor who is contracted with the Mackenzie Regional Health Board. There are two; they alternate, but one left and went to Rankin Inlet. We only have one left there. Just last week, I was talking to the mayor of Simpson who had to go for an appointment. He told me he wanted to see the doctor immediately but the doctor was so booked, they told him to come the next week. There is a requirement for better service there, so there is not just one doctor, but perhaps two.

This is one of the complaints I am starting to receive from my constituency. The doctor and nurses are very busy and if you go there for some medical treatment, even if it is sort of an emergency, you are asked to come back at a later date because there is too much work for them. These are the types of concerns I would like to express about health in my area.

In the area of social services, I have a number of concerns. One of them deals with the community of Fort Liard. I have been asking for an elders' facility in the community. Quite a few elders live there. Some of them have families and one of the ideas coming from there is, because some of the elders have their own homes, that we provide some funding for them to attach additions to the units so family members can live with them.

On the other hand, there are some elders who don't have families who require a home. The band, over 20 years ago, built a log structure of four units. But, it doesn't have running water or constant heat; it has wood heat. As a result of being so old, it has deteriorated and nobody is living there any more. The band did try to take it upon themselves to do something for their people, but now it is up to this government to provide that type of facility. That is one of the points I would like to raise as a general comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. General comments. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a quick question. We, too, have been having problems with nursing personnel in Coral Harbour. But, this is more of a general question, not so much about the capital area, but more in O and M. But it does have to do with long-term goals, and is mentioned in the Minister's opening remarks. I guess my question is, whether Social Services will be able to find out the condition of clients from the health centres now, with this consolidation, or vice versa. Will the nursing station be able to find out about living standards in relation to the health conditions of a patient or their family, with this consolidation, so that these two departments can work together? Will the two sections in the same community be able to work together?

Sometimes what happens is an interrelated problem. In one community, a patient will go to the nursing station and is sick and the health centres won't find out what the living condition of that family is. They are required to work together in this area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that one of the main reasons it was very important to amalgamate or to consolidate Health and Social Services was to, once and for all, get a very much closer working relationship between the health component of programs and the social service component of the programs.

The further realigning of some of the resources going to Education, Culture and Employment will allow the social services worker, that program, to spend more time on the area of their expertise, in terms of counselling and just being more able to do a lot of the work they've been trained for, rather than be bogged down by a lot of paperwork which is the case right now, in terms of being fully responsible for issuing social service cheques and social service assessments. I think that this would accommodate an awful lot in the area of putting the two resources together very closely, and it will also help to overcome some of the feeling of isolation that the health centre staff has sometimes because, by and large, the social service counsellors and the CHRs that we have are much closer to the community, or from time to time are the people themselves or the people who are indigenous to the particular community.

So I think many of the issues that create problems because of people working in two separate areas without talking to each other a lot will be overcome. I know the social services workers are certainly looking forward to the time when they can do the job they're trained for and work with the health centre at the same time, rather than being tied down with paperwork.

So, Mr. Chairman, the Member is exactly right. That was the intent of trying to put the two program areas together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just two more quick questions. In small communities, there are usually two half PYs; one for a CHR and another half PY for a social worker. I think most of my communities are operating under that condition.

Those two PYs can be handled, then, by one person. One PY to do CHR and social work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I'm really not aware of a CHR half-time and a SS half-time being combined to make one person year. Unless, what the Member is saying is that the social worker is only a half-time term position and the CHR is a half-time position. My understanding from the beginning of the CHR program, was that those positions would be full time.

But one of the things is that I think when we're doing this amalgamation or consolidation and with the Education department taking over certain responsibilities, what could happen then, we could sit down with the community and assess the person years they have in their community, whether it's an employment officer, a GLO, a CHR or a social worker, and will try to come to some consideration with the community as to what kind of positions in that community are most important. So putting all those different resources together could possibly create a

better support within those programs than we've had before. I know there are little bits and pieces here and there that we tried to accommodate in a piecemeal fashion because issues come up; but now I think we can start looking at a community in terms of the total holistic need and saying where do you feel that these positions are best placed. Some of the positions may be redundant. Then giving the person years clearer terms of reference on their job functions and training people for the right reason to do a certain job, probably would allow in most cases to put together a fairly good package along with the community. We would want to do it along with the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. I should warn Members that we're in general comments, Department of Health and Social Services; capital expenditures. Any further comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. I'm not trying to get away with getting into O and M. The last question I have, Mr. Chairman, is will there be a directive issued from the department requiring both health and social services workers in the community to work together on this issue -- that you are expecting better cooperation -- because this is a government initiative that you're expecting those workers to cooperate with the government directive and the communities' desire to have a more holistic approach to the issue to be abided by. Will you be issuing a directive on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would expect that there would be guidelines. But given that, once we've taken care of the community and what approach we're going to take, I would say that there would only be one boss and that would compel people to work together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. General comments. Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. I'll be very short, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one area that seems to attract very little attention when we talk about health issues may be because the number doesn't warrant the need to have this facility. I don't really know the term -- facility or treatment centre. But I know that in just about every community that we travelled to, we'll see some little kids and perhaps adults who require treatment from time to time. It could be on an ongoing basis, or just regular treatment.

But this is a specialized area, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if we are able to build facilities and treatment centres in each region. But I know that there is one little boy in my area who has to travel to a treatment centre once or twice a year, Mr. Chairman. I know this type of travelling for that condition could be very tedious, very tiring, and in the end, the patient could be very weak. It takes longer, much longer for a patient to recuperate; or, in this case, rehabilitate.

Mr. Chairman, my question to the honourable Minister is do we have any such treatment centres in this particular jurisdiction? If there are any, where are they located? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I'm not quite sure, Mr. Chairman, what the Member is specifically talking about, so if he could just explain a little bit more because I think he's talking about two different things. If he could just explain a little bit more, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Ningark, there may have been some misunderstanding as to what you're getting at. You have the floor again.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'm talking about when a patient is really handicapped, perhaps due to being a victim of FAS. It could be a person who cannot breathe on his or her own. It could be a person who can hardly move by himself or herself who may need treatment from time to time, to teach that person how to breathe, for example, at some kind of rehabilitation centre in a jurisdiction.

I know there is one in Hay River, but I know of a lady who lives in Taloyoak who has to travel to Hay River in order for her son

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to receive such treatment. That's what I'm talking about. Do we have any other treatment centres for people who are unable to breathe or are having a difficult time moving around by themselves, who may need treatment from time to time? That's what I'm asking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Perhaps a special care centre of some sort, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the question is that the individuals being referred to are basically people who are caring for themselves anyway, but need some extra help. That's my understanding. To some degree, the health centres do take care of some of the physiotherapy needs. It would really depend on the extent of the treatment that is required. That is generally referred to the Iqaluit, Inuvik, Hay River, Yellowknife or Churchill hospitals.

I know we were trying to get some special programs where health care centre nurses would have extra skills and would try to deal with needs, as much as possible, at the community level. But, for centres to take those types of people...Other than Chesterfield Inlet, I'm not aware there are other centres where people can stay. I know the Member is quite right when he says there are travelling physiotherapists who do visit, but, by and large, when the required care is at a certain level, people are sent out. I think that is what the process is, presently.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern is basically for the patient, when a patient has to travel a long distance to another centre where specialized treatment is given. Especially in the winter, when the person is very tired, and very weak, and it may take longer for that person to get better, to recuperate. That was my concern. It was conveyed to me some

time ago. I just want the Minister to be aware of it.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The Member for High Arctic,
Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have some comments
to make about the Department of Health and Social
Services and their programs. First of all, I want to
thank the department for the workshop on healing
from family violence and abuse that was held in
Resolute Bay this past summer. The group consisted
not just of young people, but elders as well. They
helped a great deal and I want to express my thanks
to these people for their help. Many people were
involved in putting together and facilitating the
workshop in Resolute Bay.

This was the very first of its kind in the Baffin region.
The people who came up with the idea suggested that
this not be the first and last one that is held in the
Baffin. I was thankful that many people came forth to
help out. They really did help a lot. A lot of people
came away feeling much better about themselves and
they were able to go home happier.

Many people came in from different communities to
hold a healing workshop and it was found that it
helped a great deal, for older people and others. We
want to see this continued. We expect to see future
workshops. There are many people who have to go
through the healing process and this is just a
beginning. I really wanted to express my gratitude.

On to another subject: the social workers in Resolute
Bay sometimes have problems with their staff
because of high turnover; for example, with
receptionists. Sometimes, this causes problems. As
well, the alcohol committee has been requesting their
own building to work out of; their own office to
operate, in case people have personal problems. At
least they would be able to service these people
within the confines of their own offices, rather than
relying on the hamlet office to give them space.

Perhaps people are embarrassed to seek
professional help for their social problems. This can
be a barrier to people who need their help because
there are many different employees in that building.
For example, if a person has an alcohol problem or a
drug problem, even if they were willing to seek

professional help, it is difficult to expose yourself to all
kinds of different employees.

There is a building that is available that belongs to the
government. It has not been in use for many years
and they have requested the building for their own to
hold meetings with people. This is common sense,
but we have never received a response from the
government. They are trying to work out a solution,
but as of this date, nothing has been done. The
alcohol committee that deals with alcohol and drug
problems, requests some help. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. General comments. Is the
committee ready to go into detail, line by line?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Health And Hospital Boards

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 12-11, detail of capital, health and hospital
boards. Building and works, headquarters, total
region, \$775,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if the
Minister could advise, is there any funding in this
section for renovations to Stanton; for instance, to
accommodate things like a kidney dialysis machine or
improve the specialist services which I had heard
were planned. If we could get an update on where
we're at with those right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the issue of those particular areas, in
my discussion with the Minister of Finance, what we
had done when we went forward with these
suggestions we had indicated where we could get the
money from; from some of the savings on travel. As it

was, the figures were not detailed enough, so we're still going to proceed with

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trying to...It's not in the budget here, but the Minister of Finance has indicated that when we get our figures right and a rationale right, then I will bring the submissions forward. We had anticipated that we would have some savings in the travel area that would be redirected towards those programs. So I'll be proceeding in bringing it forward as soon as we get the numbers to the satisfaction of the Minister of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is then, that we can expect to see a supplementary for these expenditures at some future time this year. Perhaps I could get the Premier to outline what sort of timetable she's expecting this to take, and what specific improvements are right now hoped to be included for Stanton.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I don't have the information right here, but in the area of what the Member is talking about is the dialysis support system and we're trying to look at a couple of other areas. But I have to prove to the Minister of Finance that my figures are correct. So if the Member doesn't mind, I can provide some of the areas that we are exploring where we feel would make some sense to provide the services in the Northwest Territories rather than Edmonton.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's quite satisfactory. The one other question I had asked that the Premier didn't respond to was the timetable. Is it something

that we can expect to see a supplementary on, or are we talking about next year's capital budget now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, if I can show the figures to the Minister of Finance, because we would have to find the savings that would occur as we would not have to be sending people to Edmonton for long periods of time, particularly for dialysis treatment...I would like to see that move ahead quite quickly, and it would be taken care of in a supp providing that I can make the arguments effective, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Total region, \$775,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Fort Smith, total region, \$1.626 million. The chairman recognizes the Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, in undertaking and accessing renovations or expansions to health centres, does the department do that internally. I know in the Fort Smith region there's no health board, but I know that in some of the regions there are health boards. So I would like to clarify what the relationship is here. Do health boards put forward proposals for capital projects for renovations of health centres, or does the department do it on its own? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The capital plan for renovations or health care needs is done in collaboration with the health boards. The health boards that do exist, generally indicate the priorities they would have in their region. And we would work very closely with those health boards to

see how we can manage to get the needed dollars towards the areas where they feel the programs have to be enhanced. But as the Member would realize, they often have a much larger budget that they present. So we do work in collaboration with the health boards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Total region. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The health boards put forward their capital budgets to the department, but ultimately it's the department that decides what capital projects to recommend for approval, or to bring forward to the Assembly for approval. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, in the deliberation of what is required in the various regions, it is based on a community health needs analysis that is sometimes more advanced in some areas than others. But it is done in collaboration, what we bring forward in the end.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm trying to clarify in my mind then because in areas where there isn't a health board in place to make any kind of recommendations, what consultation process would the department go through in preparing their capital plans. Is it done all internally within the department? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, even though there isn't a health board in some areas, there are health needs studies that are done by an administration. For example, in the Mackenzie there is an administration of the

Mackenzie region which, in fact, could be a board. But there is still an area of responsibility that looks after the needs of those communities on a day-to-day basis; as the work progresses, the needs fall out and it's done with the communities' involvement. There are a lot of times when we visit communities, and the MLAs put

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forward the needs using the health needs study, and we work with the administrative arm in that region in identifying priorities on the capital plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Total region, \$1.626 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$129,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Baffin, total region, \$690,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Kitikmeot, total region, \$179,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$3.399 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I need the chairman's direction; I did not see anything for the Keewatin region in this capital on the health and hospital boards. Although, on the following pages, there is a program on community development for an alcohol and drug treatment centre, Keewatin various, for future years anticipated.

What I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, is if there's an issue of a repatriation of the health services hospital board from Churchill, Manitoba that is not listed here. So, I need direction from you. Should I wait until we get to the community development section, specifically dealing with Keewatin, before I ask about the hospital that we thought was going to be joined together as a consolidated program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. You are probably in order to ask the question now to the Premier or to the Minister responsible. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, because there are studies in place and completed, I would like to refer the question to Ed Norwich, to specify exactly where we are with the health plan and what the intentions are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Norwich.

MR. NORWICH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Keewatin review is currently under way. At the present time, the community needs assessment or, as the Keewatin board has called it, the community action plans, have been completed in draft form. In fact, we received them just recently. They are also proceeding with the economic evaluation of the placement of a facility in the Keewatin, plus the cost-benefit analysis of the existing health services. The economic evaluation will start in December and is proposed to take seven or eight months to do, after which time, all this information will be pulled together and presented accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Norwich. Total buildings and works, \$3.399 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Equipment acquisition, total region, \$914,000. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe, then Mr. Dent.

MR. KOE:

This distance health system technology, can someone advise us what that entails, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The issue is the telemedicine link between Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. The department and the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital will collaborate with the Royal Alec to establish a remote consultative network for audio-visual capabilities between Yellowknife and Edmonton by April 1, 1995. The network link will be evaluated for six months and recommendations for the purchase of technology and to establish a permanent link between the Stanton Hospital and the Royal Alec will be made after the evaluation is complete.

The funds necessary to implement phase I of the project are what you see in the 1995-96 capital budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Are there any plans to link the health centres or hospitals in the north with Stanton, similar to what they are doing with the Royal Alec?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, what is planned is that there will be additional technology needed to expand the telemedicine services to regional centres and communities. This is supposed to be considered during the evaluation of the remote consulting network. The selection of sites for phase II expansion of the network will be coordinated with a health board; for example, in Inuvik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair now recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask the same question Mr. Koe did.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Koe.

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MR. KOE:

Mahsi, the mobile equipment for health centres for \$83,000. What is that for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, Mr. Norwich will answer that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Not at all. Mr. Norwich, please.

MR. NORWICH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an ongoing program to replace snowmobiles and ATVs, as Public Works doesn't do that under their program. So, we have maintained the money in the capital budget. It is for those facilities where there aren't large vehicles or where there is a need for small units to get around the communities. We have a planned replacement program on a five to six-year cycle. This represents the ongoing replacement of the needed vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Norwich. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we buy equipment, do we buy a special brand like Bombardier snow machines, as opposed to other snow machines that are made in other countries? Do we buy Canadian-made? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, on that detail, can Mr. Norwich please respond?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Certainly. Mr. Norwich, please.

MR. NORWICH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The replacement equipment is done through a tendering process. Admittedly, in certain communities where there is a proliferation of Hondas or Yamahas, then the purchasing agent does buy that type of equipment. We do endeavour to buy Canadian, obviously. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Norwich. Equipment acquisition, \$914,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total equipment acquisition, \$914,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Contributions, headquarters, total region, \$535,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$653,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Baffin, total region, \$679,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total contributions, \$1.867 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total activity, \$6.180 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Family Support

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 12-15, family support. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$150,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Baffin, total region, \$138,000. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the family group home in Pangnirtung, information we were supplied in the Standing Committee on Finance indicates that this family group home will be fully occupied as soon as it is completed. Is it normal practice for the department to build facilities that will be full as soon as they are built, with no room for expansion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I believe if we know the numbers that we have to institutionalize or take care of, it is normal that we build a little above what is required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Premier saying that the back-up material we received at SCOF is incorrect and that the facility will not be fully occupied as soon as it opens in 1996-97?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

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HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should have been clearer. If the case is that it is going to be fully occupied, then we would have to reassess so we are building to take in a few extra. I know that the facilities should be looking to future needs, as well as immediate needs. So, I will reassess this to see why it is only being built for immediate occupation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Baffin, total region, \$138,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Keewatin, total region, \$25,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total building and works, \$313,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

I don't seem to see the Kitikmeot here. It's probably on the next page. Total activities, \$313,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Minister whether or not there is any direction that the department is going with regard to group homes, especially with them being put in major centres as opposed to smaller communities where they might be more cost effective in delivering the programs. Of course, having them in major centres...Most people in the centres are aboriginal people. I think if we are going to be enhancing any kind of aboriginal values or even traditional foods and that, these group homes should actually be based in smaller communities where there is direct cultural links, language links. Also, the traditional food could supplement the

operation of those centres. I would like to ask, if the long-term goal of the department is to keep building these centres in large communities for the purposes of economy, would they look at them being built in the medium or smaller communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I have not really had a discussion with the department on this matter but I am aware of the situation, mainly because some communities have much more heavy support leaning towards foster care; where people take youth into their own homes. There are some areas where we do have a contract with a family who runs a home, which may be theirs or it may be a charity lease where we have the facility but we pay a specific family to move into the residence to work with the youth. Other than for extreme medical circumstances, I think that it's important that this issue gets addressed along with the other areas we are talking about: what are the elders' needs, what are the other community needs?

Certainly, keeping youth in the communities and close to their family group probably would create a bit more of a supportive type of treatment. At the same time we're also faced with a lot of youth that have to get away from their community because they've got themselves in a situation where they are not criminals or anything like that; it's just that sometimes you get yourself into some kind of trouble and you need another place to go. I am concerned about the issue of where we house our youth and I think that with the department, I really would like to address that with what has been indicated in many of the communities: how do we look after the youth in the community, whether it's through group homes, foster care, or in some circumstances, where there are some innovative ideas such as outdoor treatment centres. It varies across the north but I have not pursued this right at this point in time, but I will make a commitment to see if the department and the consolidated department can address this program requirement alone and in concert with the other needs of the community and try to come back with some type of plan that would build that into community needs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Community development on 12-17, building and works, headquarters, total region, \$1.367 million. The chair recognizes the Member from Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Mr. Chairman, what is a psychiatric half-way home? I am not informed on this and would like to know what it is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Premier, psychiatric half-way house?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The requirement for a psychiatric half-way house was identified in 1985 -- that's a long way back -- in a review of the physically and/or mentally challenged persons conducted by health and social services. Additionally, a proposal to establish such a house was included in the model for mental health services tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 1987. The half-way house will fill the current gap in mental health services between programs available at the community level and programs available at the Stanton Hospital psychiatric unit. The original intent of the program was to provide supervision and counselling, with the aim of assisting patients to become self-supporting so that they may return to their communities and families. That's the explanation of a psychiatric half-way house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Fort Smith, total region, \$1.367 million. The chair recognizes Mr. Gargan, then Mr. Dent.

MR. GARGAN:

This decision was made in 1985 about this psychiatric half-way home. How did you determine Yellowknife to be the place that it should be built? Was it just because there are more people here that are that way or what?

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---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Ahem, right, thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the reason Yellowknife was considered was because the psychiatric program is in the Stanton Hospital here in Yellowknife and like anything else, when you step out of an intensive program and go back out there, you know you may have to come back in. I believe that was the rationale behind it; to have that flexibility so you don't send the person all the way home and if turns out it was too soon, they can easily come back into the main psychiatric program at the Stanton Hospital.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent then Mr. Ningark.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask, how is progress coming on the functional program for the psychiatric half-way home right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The status on the psychiatric half-way house is that the community development division held a meeting on June 14, 1994 with representatives from many community groups, to discuss the establishment of the psychiatric half-way house. A steering committee of government and community representatives was formed to oversee the development of the project. The steering committee has said that the first task will be to ensure a thorough needs assessment is undertaken to decide client needs. This steering committee will provide advice to the department on the terms of reference, to hire a contractor who will conduct the needs assessment and provide a report prior to the end of 1994. The completion of a role statement which is a description of need, and the functional program which is a description of the program and the facilities, will follow prior to March 31, 1995.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Have the O and M costs for this facility been identified on an annual basis? Do we have a ball park figure?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the draft needs assessment has just been received, and that the identified ongoing cost is approximately \$380,000 a year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair now recognizes the Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment, and I may follow with a question. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation for this home here in Yellowknife. I know there is a young person from Pelly Bay who lives here in Yellowknife. There is another person from Taloyoak who also lives in that home. But I know the guy from Taloyoak goes home from time to time, and he was home for the summer. I happened to be there and I talked to him.

The thing I've heard about the place is that for a unilingual person there is, indeed, a lack of interpretation or translation for a person. Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering, if in fact, there's any translation available in that home for a unilingual person from a small community who is not otherwise able to speak English. That's my question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Member if it's possible for me just to check it out. I really don't know exactly what kind of services are being provided and what the needs are in that particular instance. So if the Member allows me some time, I'll check it out and see what's happening.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Ningark, perhaps in question period tomorrow, you'll be able to get an answer. Total region, \$1.367 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Fort Smith, total region, \$1.325 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Inuvik, total region, \$403,000. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent, then Mr. Ng.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just a question about these elders' residences, especially the one in Fort Norman. This government recently completed an elders' residence in Deline. Could we find out from the Minister what the occupancy is of that residence, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the facility, right at the moment, is having some problems, so there isn't anyone presently in the building because of some kind of heating problem or facility problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you. I was under the impression that this had been opened a year ago. How long has it been since this facility was supposedly completed, and why is it taking so long to get it operating and with people in it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the facility opened in October of 1993. There was, in that winter, full occupancy throughout the winter. In the summer, there were two elders remaining. So that was the status of that facility.

In the way that the facility in built, the main facility is where presently the unit is not open. But on the five independent housing units that are...Sorry, we don't have any details of the other part. There are two parts to that facility.

I don't know all the details on why the unit has not been filled. I know there was some concern because part of the reason is the attitude towards the facility because some of the elders are feeling that it's a place that you go to die. Right at the very beginning, a person went in there and indeed that person did die. So there is some difficulty around that problem. That's as much as I can give you right now. If the Members wants more detailed analysis of why they're not, other than the problems or the systems in the facility, we can bring more information on that. But I don't have it right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate more detailed information on the facility and why it's not being used to capacity. I think it's telling that even before the heating problems became an issue, for instance this summer, the Minister just said that the occupancy was down to two persons. I know that it's not a popular stance, and we've heard a number of Members talking about this the past few days, but I think this points to the fact that these sorts of facilities are not the way to go when it comes to dealing with elderly people. In fact, I know that from our travels with the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, people in almost every single community we visited told us that they would rather be supported to stay in their own homes rather than go into facilities of any sort.

I guess a real concern is that we have this problem with the facility in Deline, and the Premier has mentioned that there are some concerns with people

in the community of Deline about whether or not the facility is, in fact, a good place to go when you're elderly, and perhaps it's only a place to go when you die. I would like to know how we're going to be assured that if we're spending money to put in a facility in a place like Fort Norman, we aren't going to end up with the same perception there. How can we make sure that the facility is going to be used?

Mr. Chairman, one other thing I would like to have answered is what are the typical O and M costs for one of these facilities, and how much home care could that O and M cost buy. Have these communities been told that this amount of money could be turned into salaries for local people to support elders in their own homes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that when the community needs assessment is done, at that time, the question is asked of the community elders how it is that they see a support system for themselves. And at that time there is an explanation of home care. I know the reason I suggest that has probably been done in other cases, because I know in the communities I represent, that is indeed part of the discussion when you're doing the community needs assessment.

I think that I can concur with Mr. Dent that, by and large, people want to stay in their own homes. What I would like to see, in this particular case, is that when the architectural design is being done, that it does reflect, not necessarily an institutional facility, but more elders' housing, with a component that is not necessarily as extensive as we have put in other communities, so that it does not become a facility that is too dramatic a move from the small units elders are used to.

I hope we can address that in the architectural design, so we don't overbuild, overextend and provide a facility that really isn't taking care of the needs of elders in a community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, could we get ballpark figures again for the operations and maintenance on an annual basis for elders' residences? For instance, the Fort Resolution one and the Fort Norman one, if those figures are readily available?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I know the ballpark figures range from \$350,000 to \$400,000, depending on the type of facility we are going to be providing. If we provide a facility that is an elders' facility with a small home care component and sitting room, it probably wouldn't be as extensive as some of the homes we are providing now, which are more long-term care programs that require a larger number of people to look after the facility. I will provide those figures, as we break them down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify, for the record, that elders' residences are just defined as that. The detail of care that is provided in these residences, as the Minister just spoke about, is not usually noted. There are different levels of care in elders' residences. I'm not sure about the one designated for Gjoa Haven, but the ones in Coppermine and Cambridge Bay that my elders have personally requested are ones that are more basic seniors' housing, where there is minimal, if any, extended care provided.

I said in my statement previously that home care is still something that is supported in these communities for elders and others who are debilitated and can't get out of their homes. I just wanted to clarify that, first.

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Secondly, for the record, when I first learned of the deletion of the Gjoa Haven residence -- which affected the Kitikmeot because there is no form of elders' support at all in the whole region -- I seriously considered putting forward a motion for deletion of the Fort Resolution and Fort Norman elders' residences. The way I perceived it, it was unfair of the

government. It may have been coincidence, but these are two Ministers' ridings and the needs of their constituents were being addressed while the needs of a have-not region, the Kitikmeot -- which has always been a have-not region -- were being neglected again.

I discussed the matter with my colleague, Mr. Ningark, who felt that his concern about the Gjoa Haven deletion was being addressed. He had met with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Housing and had been reassured that things would be addressed satisfactorily and that they would do all they could to try to reinstate this. Yesterday, during question period, Mr. Ningark again asked Madam Premier who, again, said she would make every effort to make a positive response to the needs of Gjoa Haven. That was one of the reasons.

The second, most important, reason I decided not to pursue a motion of deletion of these other items is that I didn't feel it would be proper for me to affect elders in Fort Resolution and Fort Norman, not knowing how elders there felt about these facilities. I can only relate to the people I talk to and represent in my constituency. That is the second reason I decided not to put forward a deletion motion.

But, for the record, since I haven't asked the Minister of Health and Social Services about this issue, I would like to ask her whether or not she is going to commit to addressing the need for elders' residences in the Kitikmeot as a priority, first in Gjoa Haven because of the deletion of the capital project in that constituency and, second, for the people in my constituency -- the western part of the Kitikmeot -- who have put forward requests. The Minister has acknowledged that she is aware of these requests, so I would like to ask her now whether she is going to commit to addressing these as a priority. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I believe I said that we would, on a couple of occasions. Again, we are fully committed to dealing with Gjoa Haven as a priority issue because it was in the capital budget and it was taken out. The information that is coming out of Gjoa Haven is the type of facility they want can be realized by readjusting some of the other program areas we have

already. I've committed to deal with that particular situation and, as well, to try to get some planning in place for the rest of the Kitikmeot. I've made that commitment already, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister for that. The second issue then, in the same category since we're dealing with it, deals with the alcohol and drug treatment centres that are in this capital plan. There is one in Inuvik and one in Rankin. Again, the Kitikmeot hasn't been addressed in the five-year plan that I've had the opportunity to see. I would like to ask what the plans are in relation to that area?

Is it planned that the region will continue to be serviced out of Yellowknife and other points further south; or, are there long-term plans for assessment of alcohol and drug treatment needs in our region? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, for some reason I don't know why there has been consistent omission of the Kitikmeot region's support program systems. It is an issue that hasn't been focused on during the last four or five years. Unfortunately, we didn't deal with them when there were federal funds available. That's when we should have been on the mark and running with cost-shared programs.

We'll look at that particular need. I know right now, in terms of alcohol and drug treatment centres, most of them are centred around the southern Mackenzie area. Part of the reason that happened is there were a lot more people actively pursuing funding when the dollars were available from the federal government. This wasn't done in the Kitikmeot area. I know we have to address the outstanding issues. How we deal with it, I had hoped we would be able to discuss items like that at the Kitikmeot regional health meetings coming up very soon; in November.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Sorry, Madam Premier. We have a point of order. Mr. Kakfwi.

Point Of Order

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the previous speaker, Mr. Ng, from where I was sitting, appeared to be imputing a motive that perhaps the Minister or this government were allocating capital money and prioritizing based on Ministers' ridings.

I raise it as a point of order for two things: one, it's imputing a motive and two, it's raising the issue that has done a disservice to my community of Fort Norman once already in the fall of 1991. It appears to be raising it's ugly head again, so I want to raise this as a point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. I will have to go back to Hansard and see what, in fact, was said. I will make a ruling on the point of order at the earliest opportunity. I would take this opportunity, as well, to caution Members to be mindful of the inferences that may come out in statements and things that they may make. We're honourable gentlemen here. The option I have is to continue on with this matter, but I'll review the Hansard and rule on the point of order at the earliest convenience. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I was just finishing off, Mr. Chairman. I think that the program areas for Kitikmeot have to be dealt with. We have to do that, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair now recognizes the Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the issue of a facility for elders versus home care. When we travel to different communities in the NWT, we hear elders talk about being subject to abuse financially by their own family members in some cases. Mr. Chairman, we also hear from the elders

that sometimes it's very difficult to go to places if you want to go shopping, go to church and so on, Mr. Chairman. In some cases, we hear that people are living in overcrowded homes. We also hear elders telling us that sometimes they are subjected to babysitting members of their family. Mr. Chairman, sometimes, in some cases, elders may be subjected to a member of the family drinking excessively. That was never brought up, but that was not to say it never happened. Mr. Chairman, some elders may be subjected to a lot of noise in their homes because they're living with family members.

I think having an elders' facility in the community whereby elders could stay together and live together; perhaps play cards together; go on picnics; and, if there is a way we could provide a vehicle for them, they could go to church together. By living with the other elders in the community, being active may, in fact, help them to live a better life. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I gather that would have been by way of comment. We were down to the Inuvik region, total region, \$403,000. The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I agree. I just want to raise some concerns on the adults' handicap group home. The project is supposed to be under construction now. Due to various incidents and planning, the project has been delayed. This is one that is sponsored by the department and turned over to Public Works who, I assume, had hired the designer, and things have since gone awry in the design. The current design of the facility is considerably over budget, from the numbers in the book here.

So I would just like to ask the Minister what is happening now in the planning and designing of this facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, certainly, as the department responsible for this facility, I apologize for whatever might have happened in terms of how we went about the project. For some reason, it appears that there was some miscommunication or some plan of trying

to put more into the building than was initially planned for. The design was very much over-budget, and we could not, as a department, take any more of our scarce dollars because someone had built more into the design than was needed.

So, really we're not off-schedule. I know there was a fear that it was a cancelled project, but it wasn't a cancelled project. So we're back down to the designing board again to see if we can get something within the scope of the program that was originally framed out or sketched out. So we're back to the drawing board, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

These types of projects are crucial to the survival of certain construction companies. This one, in particular, was scheduled so that most of the work would be done during the winter months when usually there is very little capital construction. The Minister of Finance, in his budget address, made reference to the small capital projects that provide economic energy or boosts to the small businesses. This one, in particular, was scheduled to cover those winter months when the majority of the companies that were successful or thought they were successful in getting work on this project would have worked through November, December and January. Now there's a delay. I guess my concern is how long do you foresee this delay and when do you foresee real construction starting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that it's going to take about two months to do the redesign on the building, according to the program needs or the initial program needs that were identified. So it will be two months before we can get the show on the road.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. Our time is running out, so I would like to move that we extend hours to conclude the budget of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion to extend the time until the item is concluded. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Inuvik area, total region, \$403,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Keewatin, total region, \$225,000. The chair recognizes the Member from Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The alcohol and drug treatment centre, under various Keewatin; there was a lot of discussion and letter-writing back and forth between the department of health and the regional health board from Keewatin over the past several years. The latest one has been from the speaker of the Keewatin regional council, Anthym Kadjuk. In his letter, he mentioned planning for the eventuality of repatriating services from Churchill back into the regional facility for Keewatin residents within the boundary of Nunavut.

In the second paragraph, the regional organization made it clear that we wish Rankin Inlet to be the location and that we wanted a multi-use facility. The last point I want to make from that letter is that movement to remove the alcohol and drug

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facility from the proposed multi-use plan is under way; apparently by department officials.

Now, my question is, what came about. An official explained to me that there is an economic survey or other research work being done on regional health board facilities there. But, looking at future years, with \$180,000 this year and \$2.892 million in the future years for alcohol treatment centres, is the plan

now to have a separate unit from the health centre or do you have an alcohol and drug treatment centre designed so that it will be part of, or connected to other health board facilities in Rankin Inlet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, at the time that the drug and alcohol treatment centre was put in the budget, health and social services were two separate departments. The 1995-96 estimates for \$180,000 are for the general planning and how it will finally work out. I think that what we can do is have discussions in the community to see how we can meet the desires of the region to have it in Rankin Inlet and part of the multi-purpose facility. It may be that if it's part of the multi-purpose facility, we would have to delay it until such a time that it can be coordinated. We haven't gone far enough to say that's the case. I believe that what we've suggested is that we do have a meeting with the KIA, KRC, the chairpersons of the community alcohol and drug committees and, at this point in time, I would suggest maybe with the health centre as well because we are combining them now. However, right at the point when this was put in the budget, there were two different departments. It may be that we can still realize the end goal where it's attached and part of multi-purpose facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Arvaluk has the floor, Mr. Gargan, unless you have point of order. Mr. Arvaluk? We had a motion to extend the period of time in order to complete this item and the motion was supported by majority, two voters against it; so, the Chairman took the direction from the committee to extend the clock until this item is completed. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just for clarification, this doesn't need to go to the Speaker in order for us to extend sitting hours in committee of the whole?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

No, Mr. Gargan, while we're in the committee of the whole, I believe we still have authority, with the concurrence of the committee, to continue on with this particular item. We can't go into anything else. We're

just dealing with the detail of capital, health and social services. We couldn't go on to another department or another item, we would have to just finish this up. We had the approval of the majority; it was not debatable. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to be really quick. The Minister is saying then that the letter from KRC's speaker stated that we were surprised to hear on the radio last month that your department officials had began a movement to remove the alcohol and drug facilities from the proposed multi-use plan. For the record, Mr. Chairman, this radio program and what they heard last month is not true, according to her previous answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The Premier is under no compulsion to respond to what the radio may or may not have said. I think if it was by way of comment, perhaps she's taking it under advisement. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will rephrase my question so that I will not put the Premier in that kind of situation. The department is not planning to -- or at least has not decided, according to the Premier's response -- have completely different facilities altogether, from the plan the department is talking about in the health board facilities. In other words, Mr. Chairman, maybe the best way to ask the Minister is how did you respond to this letter addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services dated October 17th, respecting that particular issue that she answered by stating that no, we have not decided completely to have a separate facility, we will still be talking to the region to see if we can join all these facilities together if it's feasible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I haven't answered the letter yet, but if I were to answer the letter I would answer the way the Member has put forward so he's drafted my letter for me.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Keewatin, total region, \$225,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total buildings and works, \$3.320 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Equipment acquisition, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

No, before we conclude buildings and works, Mr. Chairman. There is a senior citizens' home in Fort Resolution. I'm just wondering the difference between an elders' residence and a senior citizens' home. I know there are other communities who don't have anything. Is this a second facility for Fort Resolution? I just wanted to clear that up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. That is on page 12-17, under Fort Smith region. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, can I have Mr. Norwich answer that question? I know there are some grey areas; it depends on the architectural design and what type of program is in place. Perhaps there is a clearer definition.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Norwich, we have a grey area. Can you make it black or white?

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MR. NORWICH:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Grey is grey, black is black. The senior citizens' facility is similar in scope to an elders' facility. What is planned for Resolution is significantly more, in the sense that it does have the areas for care, it provides for independent living and it has multi-use space where people can congregate, have their meals and so forth. That is the current program for the type of facility we have envisaged.

However, in saying that, with regard to the standard within the facility, we don't foresee luxurious types of settings that people may perceive have existed before. We are talking about bare bones facilities that meet the needs of the elders and which the elders feel is home to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Norwich. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you done any kinds of needs assessment to determine if the need in Fort Resolution outweighs the need in Gjoa Haven?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I don't think we would know that until we sit down with Gjoa Haven and see what their needs are. I know the needs of Cambridge Bay and Coppermine are more of housing rather than program delivery in a unit. So, it really depends on what Gjoa Haven will scope out as their needs, and that has not been done yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

At one point, there was an allocation for Gjoa Haven. I presume it was based on an assessment that was done across the north. That was deleted this year. The deletion wasn't made in this House, so I would presume that the deletion freed up money for some other community. Which community got that money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware that that deletion freed up any dollars. I know, in terms of capital dollars, there isn't anything new that moved anywhere else. I'm not sure anyone got those capital dollars. I would have to check on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Gargan, and then Mr. Zoe.

MR. GARGAN:

Well, shouldn't we get that information before we finalize the budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I don't think that is necessary, mainly because what you see before you in the capital budget is what is there. What I did explain to the Kitikmeot representatives was that we would try to address the needs of Gjoa Haven mainly because of the particular circumstances they are in. It could be dealt with in the way of a supp, or, if it is a housing requirement, perhaps there is a way to do it by reassigning some of the housing units that are already going in there. We aren't talking about new money, and it depends on what the residents of Gjoa Haven are going to say their requirements are.

We would have to discuss that, and find out where it fits into the programs that are already available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, when this Assembly started out about three and a half years ago, there was a process put in place by the Premier for the needs of all the Members. What I'm hearing the Minister suggest is if there is a need in Gjoa Haven, they will try to do it through appropriations or through a senior citizens' contribution of some kind. I guess my argument is, I'm sure, before Gjoa Haven was even considered for a senior citizens' home, there was justification. I think the Premier alluded to that to try to convince Mr.

Pollard that if the need is there, he might get the support to do it.

But, the support was there before for this project in Gjoa Haven. I'm wondering if you have any supporting documents that, at one time, convinced the Executive Council to designate whatever the amount was for Gjoa Haven.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I guess where the issue would have been addressed would have been in the housing needs studies, where it would identify how many people are in a certain age category and some of the basic needs that are there, in terms of housing. It would have identified people according to age group and requirements of program delivery. But, it is only when we get down to deciding to do a program that we decide what type of structure it should be.

Up to this time, I think we have been over-designing, to a certain degree. Maybe these things that are important to people are a bit more modest than some of the elders' facilities that we have put up. So, we can say, yes, the needs are identified through the needs assessment and previously, that needs assessment identified Gjoa Haven. It was, at one time, in the capital plan. Then, there were a series of meetings with the community which we have been criticized about because Members went into the community and convinced the community that perhaps home care, alone, was a better way to go.

I believe at that time they thought if they were going to go the home care route, they would take the facility out. That is what happened. Subsequently, we have been severely criticized. It was felt that the right people weren't in the community and people were talked into a stand-alone program of home care without fully realizing that, indirectly, they were giving us the opportunity to take the capital project out of the plan. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

The needs assessment was done in 1992. I don't really know what the process is after the needs assessment has been done, but it seems to me that regardless of whether the need is there, if there is a change in plans then that will be considered. If you are suggesting that the change requires something else in Gjoa Haven, then are you placing the allocation of that need for a senior citizens' facility using a different way of doing it? You're saying that in 1992 there was a requirement for a senior citizens' home in Gjoa Haven. But for some reason, in 1994, the needs have changed or the requirement has changed, so you deleted that. But have you replaced it with maybe an access unit or 10 access units or whatever the case may be? The need is still there, is all I'm saying. So if you're going to take away by not building a seniors' facility, you must have replaced it with something to address the needs of the seniors. Have you done that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, on this particular circumstance, we had a project that was in place. As well as the housing needs study, there was also an aged and handicapped program study done, subsequently. The need was never taken away, or else a need was never determined as not to be a need any longer. What happened is that we went in there and talked to people because we didn't have as much money as we would have liked to have had, due to the fact that the federal government had cut back on housing. This was one area where the discussion took place with the Gjoa Haven people who were there, they were convinced that perhaps they could live with a home care program; maybe not fully realizing that in accepting a home care program, we took that to mean that perhaps this is one project that we can delay, put aside or take out because we didn't have as much money in the housing area as we had before the \$40 million cut.

So there wasn't anything to taking it out other than allowing us a better bottom line on our expenditures, but at the same time trying to give them something which was a home care program. Subsequently, they changed their mind and said they really didn't know when they had accepted the home care program, that inadvertently they were also agreeing to take the capital project out. So it could be termed as miscommunication or as not making sure that the

right people were there at the meeting in the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I guess the department didn't tell them that. The department didn't say that because you want the home care program, we'll just delete that senior citizens' allocation. If there was miscommunication, I would think that by your definition you thought it meant that the community didn't want that senior citizens' home. But you didn't clarify that, you didn't say that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that at the time the discussion took place, I believe the people there probably didn't quite understand. But I don't think it was hidden; it was just another program which was sold to the community as being a good program because you do hire local people, they do go to the homes, they do try to set a support system through home care. I think they thought it was a good idea. I don't think, even though the officials probably did tell them that this is probably better for you, it was heard because we were told the right people were not in the community at the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons I brought up this issue is that we do have two programs in Providence; we have the senior citizens' home and we have the home care program, too. So all I'm saying is that it's kind of unfair that Mr. Ningark's community, Gjoa Haven, has really been shafted by your department because of miscommunication. For that reason, I don't know how soon they're going to get that elders' residence in Gjoa Haven.

But it seems to me that not too much effort was put out on the part of the department to try to assist the

community in trying to have that project go ahead. Instead I think they're fools for letting it go. That's the way I read it, anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I believe that from time to time these things happen. You know that there's miscommunication. We're trying to handle a lot of different groups of people. I know that from time to time some of the advocates who are in the community are not always there whenever someone comes in. But I don't think there was any intention to dupe the people of Gjoa Haven in accepting one program over the other. It was just a reflection of trying to suggest to people that there is a home care which may work for them.

I believe that, in terms of care for the elders, it's like Providence. There should be a mix of the kinds of programs that are available, because some people will still want home care and some people, because of the state of their health, would need more care. So it's not an either/or. But particularly now that we're trying to put together a combined health and social service program, we should work to try to give a combination of services that complement each other, but not saying that you have this one or you don't have that one.

I know that certainly the work will be more coordinated from here on. I think because of miscommunication -- and we've done this before where we've made a mistake and overlooked something, and we've tried to correct it and that's all we're trying to do. We have a motion from the Standing Committee on Finance suggesting that we do that, to correct the error, and this is what I propose that we do. And I will be working with the Minister of Housing to see if we can work within the resources of providing some type of elders' facility for Gjoa Haven.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. The chair will now recognize Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Just a question, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask the Premier...I understand that there's an existing facility

in Resolution that houses elders; I believe there are eight units. Is this elders' residence

to replace the existing facility that's currently there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the deputy minister can reply to that question. I'm not totally familiar with how those two programs work together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Lovely, please.

MR. LOVELY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The existing facility in Fort Resolution is elders' housing. There are no facilities in the building for shared meals for the kind of gatherings that Mr. Ningark has suggested; to play cards and those sorts of things. In fact, I understand that the facility isn't being used at this point by seniors because of the fact that it's built in a location that isn't really all that accessible to elders. So, really, it's being used more as almost an apartment for younger members of the community.

The facility that's being planned for 1995-96 will more closely satisfy the needs of the elders and give them some of the central space that wasn't available in the old facility, and in a location that's more accessible to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lovely. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

So I assume all the elders living in the current facility will be moving to this new facility. So what are we going to do with that old facility then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that there aren't elders living in that facility at the present

time; that it's not being used. Even though it was originally built as an elders' facility, in fact the elders have drifted away from the facility over the years. So the occupants of the new facility will be primarily the people who will be living with extended families at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, the information on the substantiation sheet for this particular project indicates that the current existing facility is currently full. I assumed it was by elders, and now the department is saying it's not elders.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe, continue.

MR. ZOE:

Just to add to that, Mr. Chairman, I thought this residence that we're talking about in our schedule for 1995-96 was to house additional elders. I figured, based on the assessment, that the need was there; that there was a requirement above the eight units they have there. So there was a need for this additional facility. But now the department is saying differently, that it's not the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I know that I was not too long ago in this residence, and some of the people who are in there are not old, old, old, old, old.

---Laughter

But they're not young, young, young, young, young either. So we can give you the breakdown of what we have and let you know exactly who is there and what the plans are for that facility. I know it's not going to be one that's not utilized, but I would have to do a little bit more research and find out, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. In that case, Mr. Chairman, I would kindly request that I will be anxiously waiting for this information. Therefore, I will move that the chair reports progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable. The motion is in order. We have a point of order. Mr. Pudluk.

Point Of Order

MR. PUDLUK:

Earlier, there was a motion to complete this department, and now there is a motion to report progress. It should be out of order because we didn't finish this department yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. I understand from the Clerk, that according to parliamentary rules -- we were just looking it up -- that there's been an intermediate proceeding. Other business has taken place and so the motion to report progress supersedes the previous motion to continue. So the motion is in order, and the chairman will now request...Mr. Pollard.

Point Of Order

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, if I'm not mistaken, the motion was specific, to complete the Department of Health and Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Pollard, I'm afraid you don't have a point of order. My advice is that business has transpired and it supersedes the previous motion, according to the book. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. Now, you may defeat this motion if you so choose. There seems to be a quorum now. We have a motion on the floor to report progress.

Oh, I'm going to earn my money today. We have another point of order. This is the third one. Mr. Pudluk.

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Point Of Order

MR. PUDLUK:

I challenge your ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

My decision has been challenged by an honourable Member, and I shall now go to see the Speaker and ask for a ruling from the Speaker on this matter. So we shall take a break.

Thank you, witnesses. It's not a break. I shall rise and inform the Speaker that there's been a challenge.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, while you were away, your committee was discussing the Department of Health and Social Services capital budget. And, there was a motion to extend the sitting time to conclude the matter on the table at the time, the summary of capital expenditures. The motion was carried and the business proceeded. A considerable amount of business transpired, around 35 minutes of debate.

After a period of time, there was a motion by Mr. Zoe to report progress. I ruled that the motion to report progress was in order. My ruling was then challenged by the honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk, after which time I rose to seek your advice on the challenge.

Speaker's Ruling

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. In reviewing the ruling, I identified rule 6.1 in the rules of the Legislative Assembly's rule book regarding the sitting of the Assembly. I understand that prior to 6:00 pm, a Member proposed a motion without notice in the Assembly, to continue beyond sitting hours for the purpose of continuing consideration of a specified item of business subject to the following conditions.

However, when you look at rule 6.2 the motion was regarding the business then being considered. I recognize that the motion was made in order to

conclude the item of the day. However, if you look at our rules under committee of the whole, 84.1, it indicates that a motion that the chair of the committee of the whole leaves the chair to report progress shall always be in order, shall take precedent over any other motion and shall not be debatable.

Therefore, I move that your ruling was in order.
Thank you.

--Applause

I will allow you to go back into committee of the whole, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The committee will now come back to order. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? It is a tie.

--Laughter

The decision of the chair is that he is going to vote against the motion and we are going to continue where we left off. The motion is defeated. It gets complicated. The business at hand is still Health and Social Services. We were reviewing the details of capital on page 12-18. The Minister is again invited to bring her witnesses to the chair.

Thank you, Madam Minister. The witnesses are still Mr. Lovely and Mr. Norwich. Total building and works, \$3.320 million. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, we were discussing the issue of a senior citizens' residence in the community of Fort Resolution. The Minister agreed to provide additional information, which she doesn't have on hand. Therefore, I move that we defer the bill until the information is provided to the committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Zoe, the motion you made refers to a bill. We are not debating a bill, we are debating the details of the

capital budget. Do you wish to rephrase that? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I will rephrase that. I wasn't making reference to the bill, I meant the item under consideration, which is the Department of Health and Social Services' budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Let's have your motion, please.

Committee Motion 37-12(6): To Defer Department Of Health And Social Services, Carried

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Department of Health and Social Services be deferred.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion to defer the item until later. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

--Carried

Because the previous motion was to extend the hours and this motion to defer has been carried, I shall now rise and report to the Speaker.

I would like to thank the Minister for her assistance to the committee and thank the witnesses for their assistance to the committee. We look forward to seeing you again.

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

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ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in your absence, your committee has been considering Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1, and would like to report progress, with two motions being adopted and, Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk. 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 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at 9:00 am tomorrow morning, followed by a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 10:30 am, and of the Management Services Board at 12:00 noon.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 26, 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
 - Tabled Document 36-12(6), Action Plan - Consolidation - Health and Social Services
 - Minister's Statement 11-12(6), Return to Session
 - 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

- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly
and

Executive Council Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, October 26th, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT