



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

6th Session

Day 20

12th Assembly

HANSARD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1994

Pagination reflects print edition

Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Thank you. Good afternoon. Before we start on Ministers' statements, I would like to take a few moments to publicly thank an elder, Christine Balsillie, from Fort Resolution for the hours, time and work she has spent in designing this cape. It is very traditional and I hope it is reflective of the traditions of many of the types of work that many of the aboriginal women do in the Northwest Territories. It would be very nice with regard to indicating to our people of the north the work that native women and all women do. It will be displayed, in the future, in the Legislative Assembly. It is something that all northern people should be proud of. I would like to publicly thank her. Thank you.

---Applause

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 44-12(6): RCMP Awards

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the Members of the Legislature of a number of awards which were recently made by the RCMP in honour of a number of residents in the Northwest Territories.

Commanding Officer Chief Superintendent Brian G. Watt of the RCMP "G" division presented long service awards, along with two commendation citations to 10 individuals on October 28, 1994. The awards

presentation occurred at approximately 3:00 pm in the great hall of the Legislative Assembly.

Three long service awards, for 25 years of service were presented to Staff Sergeant Rod O'Brien, Sergeant Jimm Barr and Corporal Brian Vanstone.

Five long service awards, for 20 years of service, were presented to Staff Sergeant Dave Grundy, Sergeant Rick McKillican, Corporal Glen Morash, Corporal Jon Forsythe-Erman and Corporal Ron Jones.

Charlie Thomassie of Resolute Bay was the recipient of the Commissioner's commendation to a civilian. The award was in recognition of the assistance given to the RCMP in the apprehension of an individual who was discharging a firearm in the community.

The commanding officer's commendation to an RCMP member went to Corporal Nolan Butts.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the Members of the Legislative Assembly will join with me in congratulating these individuals. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 45-12(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq will be absent from the House until Wednesday afternoon to attend a fisheries Ministers' meeting in Victoria. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 46-12(6): Nunavut Economic Conference

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, as Members are aware, I was absent from the House last week to attend the Nunavut economic summit in Rankin Inlet. This

conference was organized by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and brought together representatives of all the major economic, political and Inuit organizations in Nunavut.

The purpose of this conference was to begin the process of developing a strategy to deal with the economic issues facing Nunavut prior to and after division. Judging from the tremendous participation in this conference and the interesting discussions during the course of the week, this conference provided an important starting point in the development of such a strategy.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the organizers of the conference, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., for recognizing the need for this conference and for their hard work in making it a success.

Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of being the keynote speaker at the closing banquet of this conference. I had an opportunity at that time to announce a number of important organizational initiatives that the departments of Economic

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Development and Tourism and Transportation have recently initiated.

Anyone familiar with the tourism industry in the Northwest Territories is familiar with the frustration in trying to develop a territorial-wide tourism strategy. The simple fact of the matter is that tourism operators in the eastern and western Arctic face very different challenges and have very different needs, both in terms of marketing and business assistance.

In an effort to deal with these differences, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will soon initiate discussions with the private sector on the establishment of two separate tourism authorities for the western Arctic and Nunavut. These new organizations would be led by the private sector in partnership with government. They would be the primary agents responsible for the development of tourism in the east and west, for the delivery of tourism marketing programs presently being delivered by government and for the development of tourism strategies that better fit their region.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the department will soon begin negotiations on a new economic development agreement with the federal government. It is our intent to negotiate one formal agreement with two

sub-agreements for the western Arctic and Nunavut. These sub-agreements will recognize the different economic priorities of the two regions and serve as a model for the new economic development agreements for the two new territories.

Madam Speaker, as Members are aware, during the past 12 months, we have decentralized much of the decision-making and financial authority for both the departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Transportation from headquarters to the regional level. The next logical step in the process is to further reorganize these departments to ensure that there is one senior manager primarily responsible for the operational and planning decisions of the department in the western Arctic and in Nunavut.

I have instructed the deputy ministers of Economic Development and Tourism and Transportation to bring forward these recommendations prior to the end of the year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 47-12(6): Report On Council Of Ministers Of Education, Canada Meeting, September 26-27

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to honour my commitment to keep this Legislature informed about the national agenda in education and our participation in it.

The Ministers of Education from across this country met in Charlottetown a few weeks ago and made a joint declaration concerning the importance of partnership, excellence and accountability in education.

In late May 1994, the Council of Ministers of Education Canada facilitated the first ever national consultation on education where 495 delegates attended. An attempt was made to involve all sectors of Canadian society: students, educators, trustees, government and education agencies, business and labour, as well as 10 organizations representing the interests of groups such as native Canadians, women

and the disabled. The conference identified a number of broad areas for activity.

First, the participants agreed that a national report on education should be developed. People said this report should contain information on the state of education and provide a comparison to education in other countries. People across Canada recognize the challenges we all face in reforming and improving the present education system in this country.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the Ministers of Education agreed to continue with the school achievement indicators program. This program will become part of the national report on education. You will recall that in 1993, a math test was administered across Canada. Last spring, a reading and writing assessment took place, and we plan to administer a science assessment this spring. Detailed information on the reading and writing assessment should be available in December.

We anticipate that based on preliminary results, we will be close to the national average for writing, but lower in reading abilities. These assessments give us an indication of the performance of our system compared to our curriculum expectations and to the performance of students across the country. The results will help us to identify problem areas and plan for improvements in our systems to better serve our students. Members will recall that we are developing a numeracy and literacy strategy designed to help improve our students' performance in these critical areas.

Further, Madam Speaker, the declaration the Ministers of Education agreed and stated that "we jointly want to have the highest quality education based on shared and relevant goals, and to demonstrate accountability for achieving them." We realized that in order to achieve this goal and to make this part of our national report on education, we needed a solid base of information. As a result, a joint CMEC/Statistics Canada project was announced to develop better measurements of the performance of the education systems across the country. Specific suggestions regarding the content and format of a pan-Canadian education indicators program will be brought to the Ministers for consideration in the spring of 1995. Identified indicator areas would include academic achievement, accessibility, student flows, school to work transitions, citizenship and public satisfaction.

The third area Ministers agreed to was the need to further both research and planning in the area of distance education and open learning. The Ministers agreed to work on developing a basis for coordination and collaboration in this area. All Ministers see this as a way to increase access to education in a cost-effective manner. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Iqaluit Hunters Lost At Sea

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this weekend, residents of my constituency, friends and relatives from all across the territories have become increasingly alarmed about 10 hunters from Iqaluit who were apparently returning from a walrus hunt last week at the end of Frobisher Bay. They sent an urgent distress call from their 12-metre longliner, about 100 miles from Iqaluit. The call was received by a nearby outpost camp at Tongait, about 11:00 pm last Saturday night. The call came in the midst of very strong winds, snow and rain. The hunters reported that their vessel was without power, drifting and taking in water.

Because of the difficulty transmitting radio messages this time of year, the news of the distress call could not be relayed to Iqaluit from the outpost camp until early Sunday morning. As soon as the message was received, a massive search effort began. Thanks to the presence of Canadian Armed Forces aircraft in Iqaluit for a military exercise, the rescue coordination centre in Halifax was able to mount a very thorough air search as soon as the news was received. An armed forces Aurora aircraft with the best air-to-surface radio was searching continuously all night, until relieved by another search aircraft early this morning. A Hercules and two twin otter aircraft have also been involved.

About 1:00 this morning, a large local vessel with 10 local men aboard left to assist with the search in the area, and very early this morning a fast Department of

Fisheries and Oceans patrol vessel left to support on the water.

The latest news is that wreckage believed to be from a vessel has been seen from the air in the area where the boat is believed to have gone missing; about five miles south of Gabriel Island, and in the vicinity of Chase Island. The vessels at sea are now moving to that place and the air search will concentrate on the coast and islands in that area.

I'm grateful to have been kept fully informed by the Honourable Rebecca Mike and her officials in emergency measures. At this moment, the search goes on. We can only hope that the hunters have managed to somehow make it ashore, however, the situation is grave. All we can do now is pray for a miracle. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Need For Caution When Driving

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In more than 40 years, Madam Speaker, apart from parking tickets, I have had only one traffic violation, and that was in your home town, Madam Speaker.

In 1972 I moved to Fort Smith from the eastern Arctic, and I hadn't driven for several years. I suppose I had forgotten all the rules; at least some of them. Although I had stopped before a school bus drop-off zone, I proceeded before the bus was in motion again; therefore, I had broken the law.

On Friday around 3:00 pm, Madam Speaker, I attended the ceremonies honouring many members of the RCMP in our great hall, and then I drove home around 4:00 pm. I proceeded up Franklin Avenue very carefully, since we received our first snowfall on Thursday night. I had occasion to use my brakes several times since people changed lanes and it made me think about the quick adjustments we have to make in our driving habits when winter finally arrives.

Turning right on Matonabee Street, where I have lived for the past 18 years, I suddenly realized that the vehicle parked on the opposite side of the road

beyond the intersection was a school bus. In front of the bus was a mother and child waiting to cross the road. This mother, who I know, had already protested about the failure of motorists to honour the stop sign on the school bus. I admit to finding it difficult to apply my brakes in time to allow the lady to cross the road, although I did stop. Even when we know every speed zone and every traffic zone in our neighbourhood, bells should automatically ring when we see a large, yellow bus. It should be considered a moveable traffic sign.

People expect MLAs to set an example and to educate and make the public aware of many issues. So, tonight, Madam Speaker, on a related issue, when our streets will be full of eager, young trick or treating children, I urge Members and other members of the public to be extra careful and extra cautious. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation Of Honourable Don Morin

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am going to make a very, very short statement of appreciation. I'm sure my colleague, the Member for Amittuq, will share this with me. I would like to thank the honourable Minister, Don Morin, for keeping his commitment to me last session, March 25, 1994; for approving local status under BIP for us in Pond Inlet. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Importance Of Well Maintained Firefighting Equipment

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, during the last session, I raised a concern of inadequate fire alerting systems within many of our

communities as a result of aging, deteriorating systems which are proving to be difficult

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and expensive to repair, and as a result of the rapid growth of our communities.

During my questioning of the government on this issue, it was discovered that, while MACA provides the capital and O and M funding for firefighting and alerting equipment, Safety and Public Services has the responsibility to inspect and monitor the equipment to make sure that it is effective. I note that last spring, after I raised the issue of problems of fire alerting systems, a Safety and Public Services representative undertook inspections of fire alerting systems in my constituency. Although I'm not certain of the results of those inspections, I appreciate the fact that there was interest shown by the government.

Madam Speaker, the most recent problem identified in my constituency, in both Coppermine and Cambridge Bay, respecting the firefighting system, is the aging of the fire trucks, particularly the difficulty and length of time required to order and receive parts for the fire trucks. On different occasions over the past summer, the fire trucks in both communities were unusable for weeks as a result of waiting for parts. Needless to say, this is a very dangerous situation of having the most critical piece of firefighting equipment unavailable to the community should a fire break out.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inadequate Staffing Of Yellowknife RCMP Detachment

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it is appropriate today that the Minister of Justice gave credit to the RCMP. I was at the awards ceremony last week and I think all of us have to recognize that we have a tremendous police force here in the Northwest Territories. But, unless we get that police force adequate resources, they won't be able to do their job.

Today, I want to talk about policing in the capital city. We are very fortunate in the capital city to have an excellent police force. The RCMP, with their limited

resources, do a tremendous job. Staff Sergeant Grundy and the officers in the Yellowknife detachment are doing a lot with inadequate resources. But, the reality is, crime is increasing steadily. In Yellowknife, violent crimes are increasing at an alarming rate, drug crimes are up, and property damage is increasing. Even at the best of times, with the limited manpower here in Yellowknife, there are only five or six officers on duty.

I will give you an example. With holidays and sick time today, for instance, in the city of Yellowknife, there are only three officers protecting a city of 17,000. My understanding is that the detachment is understaffed by six to 10 people, which I find unacceptable. I brought this situation up to the Minister in the past. The Minister assured me at that time that something would be done. I gave the example of Donny Brooks in front of the Gold Range Cafe. At times 100 or 200 people are outside that bar, fights break out, and three or four officers can do nothing. They have to sit and watch it unfold.

The situation now is that shoplifting, bicycle thefts and minor traffic accidents have to be ignored by the RCMP because they don't have the resources to deal with those sorts of investigations. It would be impossible today to deal with a major incident in the city of Yellowknife. There are no resources to conduct ongoing investigations.

So, the situation here in Yellowknife is becoming more and more of an issue. I appreciate the fact that the Minister is looking at innovative solutions to policing across the territories.

Madam Speaker, I would like to 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. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also fully support any policing initiatives in small communities. It is important. But, the Minister has a responsibility to all communities. And, the situation that stands today is totally and absolutely unacceptable. I feel, and the people of my constituency and the people of this town feel, that the government has a responsibility to

ensure that 17,000 people feel secure in their own community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Lack Of Police Officers In Small Communities

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will also touch on the issue of policing. Madam Speaker, police officers assist us in many ways, not just in accidents and unfortunate situations. They are resource people for a lot of things in the communities. I haven't seen too many accidents in the communities, but we used to have two police officers in our community, and we don't have any at all at this time.

We used to have people replacing RCMP officers, although we didn't expect to have a lot happen in the community. I haven't seen too many problems, besides this summer, with not having police officers. We don't expect to have heavy caseloads for officers; but, we still have the right to have police officers in our communities just to feel safe. When police officers go on holidays, it must be ensured that there is someone replacing them while they are away, because accidents can happen anytime and residents need to feel secure. The topic of RCMP

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replacements while RCMP officers are on holidays should be considered more. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 230-12(6): TB Outbreak In Rae-Edzo

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Zoe on October 24, 1994, regarding TB outbreak in Rae-Edzo.

Madam Speaker, since 1988, the Mackenzie Regional Health Service has dedicated a nurse to TB control in Rae-Edzo. An additional term nurse was hired for Rae-Edzo in January 1994 to assist in contact tracing, direct therapy and the development of a TB control database.

The regional medical health officer for the Mackenzie Regional Health Service has been assigned to direct an enhanced program of TB control, which includes prescribing of TB control drugs. Madam Speaker, I have a further return.

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

Madam Speaker, speech therapy services for school-aged children are funded by the Department of Health and Social Services. This is outlined in the publicly distributed Health and Social Services brochure, Your Health Care Benefits, published in 1989.

- Out-of-territory speech therapy is funded as an insured service when there is a medical referral to the nearest approved hospital.

- There are no western Arctic children currently receiving speech therapy services outside of the Northwest Territories. However, this can change as needs arise.

- Any school-aged children who are referred and meet the criteria of the guidelines have their assessments funded.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Keewatin Centre, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 214-12(6): Funding For Credit Unions

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Alloo on October 21st, with respect for the time frame for funding proposals for credit unions.

The department has been actively seeking potential sources of funding which might be used to start a credit union.

As I have stated before, we have received a proposal requesting \$1 million in contribution funding from Arctic Cooperatives Ltd. It is our intention to table this funding request at the EDA Management Committee. Because this is under a new EDA funding program, it will be first reviewed at the Policy Committee level to determine its eligibility. We anticipate the Policy Committee will be meeting in late November. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. On today's radio newscast, we heard that the two Northwest Territories representatives on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee had resigned. In fact, the spokesperson for the International Committee, our friend, Mr. Gerry Thicke, blames this government as offering these two persons as scapegoats following a committee's decision to award the 1998 Arctic Winter Games to Yellowknife. Have the two Northwest Territories representatives on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee resigned?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am in receipt of a resignation letter from Mr. Cooper. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

MR. KOE:

Mr. Thicke, on the radio, indicated that both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Legaree had resigned. Has Mr. Legaree resigned?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My department informs me that over the weekend, when the meeting took place in Eagle River, Mr. Ian Legaree, in protest, handed in his resignation to the committee. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Did these two representatives offer any reasons as to why they were resigning?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not in receipt of a letter of resignation from Mr. Ian Legaree. However, I have a letter of resignation from Mr. Cooper dated October 26th, that his resignation would be effective October 31st. He outlines how many years he has

been involved in the Arctic Winter Games and lets me know he has been privileged to be representing the Northwest Territories. He feels that it is advisable, for personal reasons, to tender his resignation and does so effective October 31st. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

MR. KOE:

Also in the newscast, Mr. Thicke stated that these two representatives were forced to resign and blames the territorial government for forcing these two individuals to resign. Did you or your department ask for the resignations of Mr. Cooper or Mr. Legaree?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 286-12(6): Resignation Of AWG International Committee Representatives

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Not to my knowledge.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Madam Speaker, on a number of occasions, I have brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice the shortage of policing resources in the city of Yellowknife. The Minister of Justice has assured me he would evaluate the situation. What has the Minister done over the past few months to address the serious shortage of policing resources in the city of Yellowknife?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, there are a number of elements to be considered in addressing a request like this. As the Member knows, there are a number of small communities that are without the presence of RCMP officers. These communities are still waiting to hear when and if it will be possible to station RCMP officers in these communities.

The RCMP has been facing cutbacks and restraint for a number of years, at least through the last two governments. It is also a great financial strain on the RCMP to be caught in the middle of a billings dispute between the federal government and this government in relation to the \$2 million bill outstanding for additional RCMP being called in to handle the Giant Mine strike. That, after a year and a half, has seen no response from the federal government.

The RCMP are presently looking at the policing needs and the challenges posed to them to police the north in the face of division, and the upcoming financial predicament of the Government of Canada. So they are undergoing a study to look at policing across the Northwest Territories. The study is ongoing. They hope to have it done by early spring. This study will be looking at what they see as the political demands, the real demands of communities and to meet the demands of large urban centres such as Iqaluit with its own unique problems and need for additional police resources.

The needs of Yellowknife, as a growing metropolis, are also demanding additional RCMP resources, or at least policing resources. The RCMP is also looking at what is becoming a real concern about the over taxing of their present resources: that is, is it safe for the RCMP members to be stationed alone and to work under the present conditions that they do, and are the allocations done to the best use possible?

There is no specific response to the Member at this time, except to say that it is a larger picture that we're working with and trying to address. At some time or other, the Members of this Legislature, in fact, may do well to get an in-person presentation from the commanding officer of the RCMP, since none of us enjoy a panoramic view of what it means to police the Northwest Territories, a jurisdiction of 1.5 million square miles with 76 communities in it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I find the response quite unacceptable; it's exactly the same response I got seven months ago and nothing has happened in the interim. My supplementary question to the Minister is, could the Minister tell me exactly what is the shortfall in police officers in Yellowknife presently? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

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Further Return To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, sorry about that distraction. What the Member is drumming at is, is there going to be money so that we could do something additional for Yellowknife. That was a very nice roundabout way of telling him at this time that there isn't. But for the last couple of years, we have been trying to give additional resources to the RCMP. The Member knows that we're facing deficit situations with additional federal cutbacks looming in the next year. Certainly the message is fairly clear from the Minister of Finance, Paul Martin. I guess the question is have I quit trying; and, the answer is no. If there is some possible way to, for instance, bring the funding up to where it should be and should have been for the last few years, I will try to do that so at least the actual funding for the RCMP to carry out their contract to us is done at a level where they don't have to have vacancy holding patterns in order to meet the contract that they hold with us. All I can tell the Member is we keep trying to find the money. But, for instance, whatever additional money we can find, if we cannot get the federal government to agree to arbitration to settle the outstanding bill on the Giant Mine strike, that's a \$2 million potential loss if we don't get them to agree to arbitration. If we agree to arbitration I think we can expect most, if not all, of that back. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I asked the Minister a simple question and it was a very interesting biblical answer I received from the Minister. My understanding is that there's been a study on policing needs in Yellowknife. Could the Minister please inform this House exactly what is the shortfall of police officers in the city of Yellowknife as of today? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the opinion, I think, of most elected people across the Northwest Territories is that we are short of RCMP in every community across the Northwest Territories. I'm sure Yellowknife feels no different, and the elected people of Yellowknife feel no differently, and in the minds of RCMP members themselves, I'm sure they would like to have additional police officers stationed everywhere in the Northwest Territories. As I say, the best people to talk to it directly would be the RCMP. I think it's worth considering to invite them to speak directly to Members of this Legislature since it is a concern, not only to Yellowknife, but to every Member of this Legislature. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

MR. BALLANTYNE:

My final supplementary, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that the shortfall in the city of Yellowknife is between six and 10 police officers. I have gotten the same response back from the Minister on a number of occasions: there's the big picture, there's the global picture. The reality is that

obviously policing needs have to be dependent on statistics, population, crime rates. There are some very verifiable statistics on which one bases decisions; it's not all based on politics. So my question to the Minister is, the situation in Yellowknife is critical, the situation in Yellowknife stands on its own, will the Minister look at the situation in the city of Yellowknife with a view to addressing this particular situation? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 287-12(6): Status Of Police Shortage In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, about a year and a half ago, shortly after I had taken over the portfolio of Justice, I communicated with the commanding officer of the RCMP. At that time, I discussed the same issue as I did with the new commanding officer, Mr. Watt, who came into the job shortly after that: that it's my job, primarily, to pass on the needs of communities, as I see them, through the eyes and the voices of the Legislature and the Members in it. It's his job to meet the policing needs with the existing resources he has under the existing contract. Between the two of us, we should try to work together the best we can under the environment.

It's not this government that has been holding the RCMP to less than what they should have been funded for in the first place. But it's been this government's commitment to try to find the money to bring them back up to speed, so to speak, and that's what I've been trying to do. The RCMP have been assured that that's what I'm still trying to do. As recently as Saturday night, when I met with the Commissioner of the RCMP from Ottawa, the same message was given to him: that we would try to do that.

But all the policing needs of the communities across the north stand on their own, I agree with that. I agree that the policing needs of Yellowknife can stand on their own as well. But it is true, for instance, that the Giant Mine strike didn't happen in Iqaluit, and it didn't happen in Inuvik, and it didn't happen in Resolution; it happened right here in the capital of the Northwest Territories. There is a billing dispute of \$2 million. Now, that's a policing need of Yellowknife that's very specific. The jurisdiction falls under the

federal government. The federal government had the power to move into a strike that was starting to escalate and get very ugly. There were calls from everyone to do that; it wasn't done. The problem now, even at this date, is if we don't do anything to get the federal government to recognize it, the same thing can happen again. We would still be stuck with another bill that's unpaid. And the RCMP are the ones who are suffering from this dispute at this time. I raise it because it's a huge billing dispute that's unique to Yellowknife.

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We need to recognize that the funding shortfall here is starting to cost us. We've agreed with the Commissioner of the RCMP, Mr. Murray, that we should both try to get the federal government to recognize that, one way or the other, they have to do something. In this case, a specific policing need arising in the city of Yellowknife is going to have a big impact on the level of policing across the territories unless we come to some resolution fairly quickly on it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Question 288-12(6): Cabinet Policy For Ministerial Announcements During Session

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We heard a very interesting statement from the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism today, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader, since many of the announcements that we have heard today came from Mr. Todd about how economic development should proceed, what latitude do Ministers have in making public announcements about organization and policy of government while the House is sitting, where normally such statements are made?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I don't have the announcement right here so, Madam Speaker, I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 289-12(6): Speech Therapy Services For School Age Children

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Madam Speaker, the Minister has confirmed that the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for funding speech therapy services for school-aged children. It is my understanding that the two speech therapists serving the western Arctic and the Kitikmeot have had to limit their services to preschool-aged children because of workload.

Since Health and Social Services has now confirmed it is responsible, I would like the Minister to outline for us just how new school-aged children who are referred to speech therapists are going to be assessed and treated?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 289-12(6): Speech Therapy Services For School Age Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the Member is quite correct in saying that the speech therapists we presently have are tremendously over-burdened with their workload and not all students requiring speech therapy are able to be seen. I am attempting to address how we're going to solve that problem. But, I want the Member to know that we're quite aware that, among many other things, this area has been determined as a problematic impediment to children with learning disabilities.

Madam Speaker, I would like to confirm to the Member that we are doing everything we can to resolve that particular situation, with the acknowledgement that we know we are understaffed in that area. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 289-12(6): Speech Therapy Services For School Age Children

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Madam Speaker, to serve about the same population as the western Arctic and the Kitikmeot, the Yukon has six speech therapists working for their Department of Health, plus one in private practice who is often called upon by the department. I'm glad to hear the Minister is looking at increasing the number of staff in our department. Would she give us an outline of when she expects to have the staff increased in the speech therapy department?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 289-12(6): Speech Therapy Services For School Age Children

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I wish I could be more positive on exactly when we could do that, but the Member is very aware that it is not only the speech therapy area that we're trying to address. Madam Speaker, I will try to do it as quickly as possible, given the fact that the need is not only in Yellowknife and this region; it is spread out across the Northwest Territories. Just trying to reach those communities has been very difficult, even with the travel schedule. Madam Speaker, I will try my best to look at the resources we have during the next couple of months to see where resources can be deployed and where we can set priorities on areas of major concern.

Madam Speaker, I was just reading a report on new findings of the problems that students have in learning if they have a speech impediment. I believe that, with the new statistics that were out, whether they are in the Northwest Territories or across Canada, the numbers are much greater than previously thought. Madam Speaker, this is an area we will try to address as soon as possible. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 290-12(6): Departmental Plans In Preparation Of Division

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to Madam Premier. The Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Todd, has advised us that he is restructuring two of the departments he is responsible for in preparing for the future division of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask Madam Premier, are there any plans in any other departments similar to what the Minister of Economic Development is planning? Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 290-12(6): Departmental Plans In Preparation Of Division

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I believe that, for whatever we try to do in the Northwest Territories, we are trying to readjust our thinking to accommodate the new time line we have for 1999, and to plan in that direction no matter what we do, whether it is a readjustment of resources or decentralization. As we are moving ahead, we are trying to work, keeping in consideration that fact that Nunavut will be here in 1999.

Even in the thinking of government, we are trying to make decisions along those lines. I think that can be done from a central agency or by putting out people in the field. We are trying to make sure we are ahead of the game but, at the same time, not taking away from the fact that the federal government has clearly indicated that they would financially support the upgrading of requirements for two territories. At the same time, life has to go on, and we try to program our thinking with the realization that a decision has been made and our thought patterns have to reflect those decisions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 290-12(6): Departmental Plans In Preparation Of Division

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I recognize that Madam Premier is saying that there are processes in the department now for addressing issues in relation to division. But, I would like her to be more specific. I asked if there are plans currently under way in other departments for dividing up their responsibilities, in preparation for division. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 290-12(6): Departmental Plans In Preparation Of Division

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, in attempting to address this issue, I don't want to leave the impression that a magical division of powers is necessary at all times. There is an attitude of addressing issues as they come up. We have to begin to think about the time of division. Now, whether it is moving people around with the resources we have, or having a different way of doing things, we, as a government, are committed to trying to think in a forward fashion.

There is going to be division in 1999 and the fact is, we have to continue to support programs and services and cause the least amount of disruption possible. At this point in time, the process is to try to accommodate the fact that changes have to be made and accommodation has to be made to the differences in the level of program services and direction between two territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 291-12(6): Benefit Of Federal Tourism Program To The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development. Recently, the Prime Minister announced a \$50 million program to enhance tourism across the country. My question to the Minister of Economic Development, what will be the concrete benefit to the Northwest Territories of that announcement which was made with much fanfare across the country? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 291-12(6): Benefit Of Federal Tourism Program To The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I concur with the honourable Member; it was a good decision made by the Liberal government. The discussions are under way right now. The Prime Minister has appointed -- I don't remember the gentleman's name right now off the top of my head, but he will be in the Yukon, I believe, sometime in the next couple of weeks. My office is communicating with his office to come to Yellowknife to discuss where we may participate in this highly new, creative, innovative and exciting proposal.

So there will be discussions with respect to our involvement. At this time, we haven't sat down with the organizers. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 291-12(6): Benefit Of Federal Tourism Program To The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think we're all overwhelmed by the magnitude of this particular program; \$50 million in 1994 is an extraordinary amount of money. However, my understanding is that the federal government is looking at coordinating the tourism approaches of the federal government with the provinces. I wonder what discussions have taken place or are anticipated between our government and the federal government in order to coordinate our approaches to tourism.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 291-12(6): Benefit Of Federal Tourism Program To The NWT

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, there are always ongoing discussions with respect to our relationship with the federal government; whether it's tourism in the EDA program or just co-management of some of our marketing strategies. This is a very specific initiative announced by the federal government. It was only recently announced in the Globe and Mail; I believe a week or so ago. As I indicated earlier, we intend to sit down with the gentleman who has been appointed by the Prime Minister to see where we're going to participate in this important initiative. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. I have just received a press release from the Government of Canada announcing the signing of the formula financing implementation agreement for 1994-95. It states, in the voice of Mr. Irwin, the federal Minister responsible, that "formula financing has been instrumental in the evolution of responsible and accountable government in the north, and it will continue to provide stable funding to the territorial government."

The response doesn't say how long this stable funding will continue, Madam Speaker, but I suspect that it refers to the fiscal year 1994-95 which only has five months left in it. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, since we all hope that stable funding continues, when will we know the funding levels from the Government of Canada to the Northwest Territories for the coming fiscal year, 1995-96? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, there were some telephone conversations last week back and forth with Ottawa, both with ourselves and Yukon. I think each of us was stressing the fact that there needs to be some certainty as to how much money will be in the new formula for the next fiscal year as we are preparing budgets for next year. I think we now have got the point across to the federal government that there needs to be some certainty for us. So I would anticipate that sometime in the next three months we should get some certainty from Ottawa if we cannot get it faster than that, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Finance and his officials are well advanced in preparing the operations and maintenance estimates for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the new fiscal year. In fact, I believe that the Standing Committee on Finance is scheduled to review those main estimates in January of 1995. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, on what assumptions as far as the federal deficit grant is concerned has he and his officials prepared the O and M budget for 1995-96 for the GNWT? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, we have not yet concluded the O and M budget for next year, which I know the Standing Committee on Finance is anxious to see before Christmas. The assumptions that are always used when putting together budgets are trying to ascertain what the economy of Canada will be next year, trying to look at what the population increases or decreases might be. So it's just the normal kind of premise. Even though we will not have a signed agreement effective April 1st, we're using what we

would normally use in the existing formula to project revenues for next year, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

MR. PATTERSON:

I understand, Madam Speaker, that the budget will be prepared assuming the very best; that present funding levels will continue to be stable, as Mr. Irwin stated in his recent press release. I guess I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, if he expects to find out firm details within three months, could we receive news about the levels of funding to the Northwest Territories in the federal Minister of Finance's budget, to be brought down sometime in February, 1995? Is that when we might hear for sure where we stand? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 292-12(6): Time Frame For Announcement Of 1995-96 Funding Levels

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I would not anticipate that we would hear at that particular time. I would think that we would hear prior to being in the budget session next winter. So I would say it may happen before Christmas, but certainly I would see it happening before the session. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 293-12(6): Enforcement Of Land Claims Legislation By RCMP

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice, related to work done by RCMP. The RCMP are under contract to this government to enforce laws, and it's my understanding that they're empowered to enforce all federal legislation. We now have various land claims in the north and they're all

enacted by federal legislation, therefore it should follow that RCMP should be empowered to enforce land claims legislation. So my question to the Minister is, can the Minister confirm whether this is the case or not?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

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Return To Question 293-12(6): Enforcement Of Land Claims Legislation By RCMP

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, my understanding is that the land claims agreements are agreements between aboriginal people and the Government of Canada. If they are not being lived up to -- which you can say is generally the habit of governments -- but if they are not, the recourse is that one party takes the other to court, or at least to try to have some arbitration mechanism in the claim to resolve disputes. The role of the RCMP in this is not necessary. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 293-12(6): Enforcement Of Land Claims Legislation By RCMP

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I'm aware of the arbitration mechanisms in some of the claims. In the agreements, there are different categories of lands. A lot of it, depending on the category, is now private land. There are provisions within the claims for access; to access these private lands and use these lands. So, if someone trespasses on private land, who can the landowner call? Can they call the RCMP and ask them to enforce the trespassing provisions within the agreements?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I should take the question as notice, since the Member also commented that the RCMP are mandated to work with all federal legislation to

ensure they are enforced. I'm not certain that is the case, for instance, with drugs and narcotics, or the Food Administration Act. I'm not sure that the RCMP covers all of that under the policing agreement. So, I will answer the specific question you raised and also the general issue of what all the RCMP are presently responsible for enforcing. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

I understood the honourable Minister was taking the question as notice. Once Members take a question as notice, there is no need to give an explanation. Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I note in Mr. Todd's Minister's statement today about the Nunavut economic summit that he made a few very important announcements. One has to do with the establishment of two tourist boards, as well as the establishment of what really looks like two separate departments of Economic Development and Tourism and, possibly, the establishment of two offices to administer the economic development agreement.

Since these announcements represent pretty major changes in the way we administer government in the Northwest Territories, and since we have a special committee, a strong committee, for the division of assets, liabilities and so on, I would like to ask the Minister -- since he's a Member of that committee -- has he discussed these major changes with that committee?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First of all, I don't see them as major changes. I think they are part and parcel of an orderly transfer of what is going to happen in 1999 and, no, at this time, I haven't discussed this with the committee.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question of whether something is major or minor is obviously a question of judgement. I would like to ask the Minister, since he's responsible for other departments in addition to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and since this reflects the way he would like government to be administered, does he have plans to do the same thing with any of his other responsibilities?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

I think it is incumbent upon all departments and all services in government to prepare an orderly plan for the division of the territories in 1999. Thank you, Madam Premier.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Just to correct you, Mr. Todd. It is Madam Speaker. Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, Madam Speaker, since he's a member of the Special Joint Committee on Division and since he is there because he holds Cabinet rank and has responsibilities, if these are just minor things, then what kinds of things is he referring to that committee that we need to look at, in anticipation of division?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, I'm sorry, I don't understand the question. Maybe the honourable Member could assist me in clarifying it.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Lewis, do you want to try to rephrase your question?

Supplementary To Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, maybe it is the wrong interpretation of this document, but as I understand it, two senior level people are going to be established to look after

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economic development; one in the east and one in the west. Since this, in effect, creates two departments -- which I consider to be major and which Mr. Todd obviously doesn't -- would he give us an example of what major things are being referred to the Special Joint Committee on Division? Because, establishing two departments, or virtually two departments, I consider to be major.

Could he give us an example of the kinds of major things that he is referring to this committee, from his perspective as a Cabinet Minister, so that the issues of division can be properly dealt with in the committee, which we set up especially to deal with division issues?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 294-12(6): Minister's Liaison With Division Committee Re ED&T Initiatives

HON. JOHN TODD:

There seems to be some misinterpretation by the honourable Member, Madam Speaker. I'm not talking about creating two new positions, I'm merely talking about assigning current positions for the specific purposes of developing a strategy for the orderly transfer of those departments for 1999 in Nunavut. And, of course, any of the stuff that would come forward by these people would be vetted through the Special Joint Committee on Division. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, what is the current status of the economic development agreement between the Northwest Territories and Canada? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is good to be back. We are still under the current EDA agreement. Negotiations will be beginning very shortly with respect to a new agreement. As I indicated in my speech earlier, what I would like to see is an agreement that addresses the particular interests of each geographical location in the territories, but it would be negotiated as a whole. I think that's correct, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, along with Mr. Todd and other Members of the Assembly, I was at the Nunavut Tunngavik Search for Tomorrow conference on an economic strategy for the Inuit of Nunavut. I heard a lot of support at that conference for localized decision-making and for a reduction of red tape in programs to assist business. Delegates seemed especially convinced that the EDA agreement has become unduly centralized and bureaucratic.

So, my supplementary question to the Minister is, does the Minister agree with these concerns about an overly centralized and bureaucratic process acting as a barrier to businesses seeking assistance under the present EDA? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, the short answer, Madam Speaker, is yes. We are trying to streamline the EDA. I think anybody who has been involved in politics or out of politics knows, historically, how time consuming it is. I would like to point out that, hopefully, the new EDA, as it is negotiated, would bring about the kinds of changes that were not only identified at the economic summit in the Keewatin last week, but have been identified over the last three or four years by many Members of this House, and in particular by many people directly affected by it.

It is our intention, if it is at all possible in government, to try to streamline it and to make it a little more effective in its delivery. Certainly, we are trying to reach that accommodation with the federal government at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you. The Minister, in his answer, referred to more effective delivery. I would like to ask the Minister, does he believe that more effective delivery could be accomplished by more localized and regionalized decision-making on EDA applications for assistance? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think everybody in this House knows my position when it comes to decentralization and when it comes to improving authority. I believe I've demonstrated, certainly in my departments of Transportation and Economic Development, where we've improved and increased the spending authority at the regional

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level. I would hope we would be able to, in the new EDA agreement, do exactly that: bring the authority into the regions and hopefully we would be more responsive to the client needs. That's certainly our intention in this new agreement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, in referring to the uncertain fiscal climate of today, the Minister expressed his hope that a new EDA agreement would be negotiated. I would like to ask the Minister, is there any doubt that the federal government will renew the economic development agreement? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 295-12(6): Status Of Economic Development Agreement

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I can't speak for the federal government. From the discussions that we've had, the indication is that they're prepared to sit down and negotiate the new arrangement. However, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, is making an awful lot of decisions these days at the federal level. And, who knows; as far as I'm aware, right now the federal government is prepared to sit down at the table and try to negotiate a new EDA agreement that would

enhance and add to the economic activity that is required in this part of the country. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 296-12(6): Types Of Leases Being Used In Yellowknife

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. I have heard that there has been a change to the types of leases which are being called for in lease proposals from Yellowknife. I was wondering if the Minister could advise whether, in fact, in Yellowknife they were asking for all-inclusive gross leases as opposed to net leases.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 296-12(6): Types Of Leases Being Used In Yellowknife

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure whether or not our leases are asking for a wet lease or a dry lease, but I'll get a briefing on it and make that available to the Member. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 296-12(6): Types Of Leases Being Used In Yellowknife

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I was wondering if the Minister could confirm -- since he didn't take the question as notice -- if we are, in fact, or this government is now asking for gross lease rates in lease proposals. Can the Minister advise what are the terms allowing for fluctuations in those gross leases? Are they consumer price indexed based, or what is included?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services,
Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

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

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 297-12(6): Funding For Upgrading Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for airports. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Coming from Lake Harbour, there have been concerns for many years with the airport. We have problems with the airstrip being too short. Madam Speaker, for passengers who want to travel in and out of the community, especially for the ones who want to come home, there are problems with freight. Sometimes there isn't enough room on the airplane for passengers who might want to go home. My question to the Minister of Transportation -- and I'm aware that he has responded to this question -- with respect to airports, is there going to be a review of the funds that might go towards upgrading of the airstrip in our community?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 297-12(6): Funding For Upgrading Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The airstrip in Lake Harbour is one of the few airstrips left on Baffin Island that has limited ability for aircraft. We have had some preliminary engineering work done; a very, very expensive exercise to change that airstrip. I've indicated to the honourable Member on a number of occasions that we will try to build it into our capital estimates for building a road. But, in

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fairness to him, I think we would be looking at sometime after 1998-99. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 297-12(6): Funding For Upgrading Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the past, when we had BRC, this was also discussed during those meetings. When we brought this up in the past, we were often told that it would be in the 1997 capital estimates. I wonder when we would be able to get an airstrip or an upgrade for our airstrip. In the past, we had a response saying that it would be done in 1997.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 297-12(6): Funding For Upgrading Of Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. JOHN TODD:

I stand to be corrected, perhaps it is 1997. I know it's somewhere in that area of 1997, 1998. I would like to point out to the honourable Member, as I did in correspondence to the community, that we're looking at somewhere between an \$8 million to \$10 million expenditure at this time. We're optimistic that by 1997-98, most communities will have an airstrip and that some of them will be upgraded. We're doing the Deline, Nahanni Butte, hopefully Pangnirtung, Coppermine, et cetera. So it is in the plan, but at this time because we're low on the dollars and the traffic, we're looking at 1997-98. I would have to double check; I thought it was 1998 but it could well be 1997. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 298-12(6): Status Of Search And Rescue Training Program

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Last Friday, I made a statement in this House with regard to how pleased I was to hear the announcement made by the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs with regard to an NWT search and rescue training program that is going to be funded for two years. My statement indicated that if the planning for this training program is going to be done, I would like to make sure that people in the west, especially in the area I represent, are involved in this training, especially along the Mackenzie River system and the type of terrain that we live in. So I would like to ask the Minister responsible if the plan for this training program has been done, and if she could tell me if they are still working on it or if it has been completed. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 298-12(6): Status Of Search And Rescue Training Program

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The training money that I made an announcement on last week through a Minister's statement, is for a two-year period. It is intended to cover all the NWT regions. The department is working to identify how the training will be used within each region.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 298-12(6): Status Of Search And Rescue Training Program

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. This training program is a very important program and we have been asking for it in our area for quite a few years. As indicated by my honourable colleague for Iqaluit, we have 10 people missing and that happens all the time. We don't know when this is going to happen, but it does happen all over the north. It is important to have the proper training and equipment. Since the department is identifying how this is going to be done, I would like to ask if this department is talking to people in the communities who have been involved in this type of

situation to develop this program with the department? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 298-12(6): Status Of Search And Rescue Training Program

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. With emergency measures, we do have volunteer agencies in communities, either through HTAs or other bodies that are in place. Definitely, the communities will be involved, as well as the regional level. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 299-12(6): Halt In Construction Of Arctic Bay Arena

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of DPW. In Arctic Bay, there is an arena being built in that community which just started this fall. The construction is being halted at the moment and I wonder if you can tell me what they are stopping for.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 299-12(6): Halt In Construction Of Arctic Bay Arena

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is the first ever I heard about the construction being halted in Arctic Bay. I will look into the matter and get back to the Member by 5:00 today. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 299-12(6): Halt In Construction Of Arctic Bay Arena

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there is to be a reason given for stopping the construction, I

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would also like him to find out when they would be starting again. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 299-12(6): Halt In Construction Of Arctic Bay Arena

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will make that information available to him as well.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The time frame for oral questions has lapsed. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 26-12(6): Responsibility For Medium Sized Vessels In Ocean Waters Of The NWT

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether this written question is properly addressed to the Minister of Transportation, but I am addressing it to him.

Which agency or department of government is responsible in ocean waters of the NWT for:

- 1)inspection and certification of medium-sized vessels, so-called longliners and peterheads, operating in NWT marine waters;
- 2)enactment and enforcement of safety requirements on such vessels, including lighting and navigation aids, communication requirements, lifeboats and life-preservers?

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 2-12(6): Elders' Residences Operated By The GNWT

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, return to Written Question 2-12(6) asked by Mr. Ng to the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning elders' residences operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Ng requested information about the locations of elders' residences owned and operated by the GNWT and the levels of care provided in these residences. In addition, information was requested about bed spaces and vacancies. This information has taken some time to compile and is very comprehensive. It has been prepared in table form. I have written directly to the Member to provide the detailed information he requested.

Return To Written Question 12-12(6): Effect The 22 Per Cent Proposed Surcharge Will Have On The Costs Of Power To Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

Return to Written Question 12-12(6) asked by Mr. Ballantyne to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation concerning the effect the 22 per cent proposed surcharge will have on the costs of power to Royal Oak and Miramar Con mines.

Would the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources advise this House of the added cost to Royal Oak Mine and Miramar Con Mine of this proposed rate increase?

The corporation's proposal for a 22 per cent interim refundable rate rider, based on the total amount billed, applies to all customers of the Snare system, which include Royal Oak and Miramar Con Mines.

Return To Written Question 15-12(6): Percentage Of Women Receiving Mammography Screening In NWT

Return to Written Question 15-12(6) asked by Mr. Dent to the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the percentage of women receiving mammography.

The percentage of women in the age group 50 to 69 years who had mammograms done in the fiscal years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is as follows: 1990, 156 or 7.0 per cent; 1991, 192 or 8.7 per cent; 1992, 222 or 10.0 per cent; and, 1993, 196 or 8.9 per cent.

Although these may seem to be small numbers, they compare quite well with the actual percentages being achieved by the provinces. For example, in 1992, even though several provinces set screening targets at 70 to 80 per cent of their at-risk populations, in actual fact few of these came even close to those numbers: British Columbia, 13.3 per cent with a target of 70 per cent; Alberta, 16.9 per cent with a target of 80 per cent; Saskatchewan, 37.1 per cent with a target of 70 per cent; Ontario, 8.7 per cent with a target of 70 per cent; and, Nova Scotia, 5.7 per cent with a target of 70 per cent.

Statistics on the number of women in the age group 50 to 69 years who had mammograms in the south are not available at this time. If southern mammograms are considered, the NWT percentages probably are even a little higher than the nine to 10 per cent shown, and although that may not be outstanding, it is favourable compared to places like Ontario.

For 1994 in the NWT, numbers ought to reach 11 to 12 per cent of women in the 50 to 69 age group.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have Petition No. 4-12(6), signed by 16 constituents, which states, "We, the undersigned, do hereby declare that the government's proposed changes to the public sector pay and benefits will do

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nothing other than destroy the fragile economy of the Baffin. We strongly urge the government to reconsider." Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 15-12(6): Report On The Northwest Territories Arts Council

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a report from the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The report is on the Northwest Territories Arts Council.

Introduction

Early in the term of the 12th Assembly, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions selected the Northwest Territories Arts Council as one of the government agencies to be reviewed by the committee.

The standing committee supports the work done by the NWT Arts Council. By guiding the government in providing financial assistance to northern artists, they play an important role in the development of the arts in the Northwest Territories.

The standing committee considered this matter in meetings in Yellowknife from April 25 to 29, 1994. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, appeared before the committee on April 26th, and the chair of the NWT Arts Council, Ms. Susan Rose, appeared on April 25th.

The standing committee wishes to acknowledge the input of the witnesses and thank them for their appearance at the public hearings.

Control And Distribution Of Funding

Contributions to artists are actually made by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and are included in the budget of the department. The council does not distribute the funds themselves; rather, they make recommendations to the Minister, who distributes the funds. As well, all funds come from the government, and there is no provision, as there is in many other jurisdictions, for soliciting funds from third parties.

Committee Members are of the opinion that non-departmental agencies should generally be in an arm's-length relationship with the government. This is also true of the Northwest Territories Arts Council. While the Ministers responsible for this program have seldom overruled recommendations of the council, the possible advantages of an arm's length relationship should still be examined.

Since the committee's hearings, the committee has studied the issues of sources of funding for the arts council and control over the distribution of that funding. The committee considered a number of options and came to the following conclusions:

-The Department of Education, Culture and Employment should continue to provide administrative services to the NWT Arts Council. The additional cost of having a separate administrative structure would overwhelm the limited amount of money available for actual grants to artists;

-The present method of distributing government funds as appropriate. That is, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment should continue to have final authority to distribute government funds to artists, based on recommendations from the arts council.

-The NWT Arts Council should have the authority to solicit funds from third parties (such as corporations or foundations). The arts council should then have the final authority to distribute those funds.

Recommendation 1

Therefore, the committee makes the following recommendation. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the government grant the NWT Arts Council authority to establish a trust fund through which the council could solicit donations. These donations would then be distributed by the council according to their existing guidelines.

Policy Recommendations By The Council

The council also has a mandate to provide recommendations to the Minister "on issues and policies associated with the arts and artists." But members of the council have difficulty meeting this part of their mandate. Their current practice is to meet for about four days a year (two two-day sessions). This is usually only enough time to review the applications for grants. The council has been able to devote a small amount of time to policy

recommendations, but not as much as council members would like.

To allow the council to fulfil this part of its mandate, they would have to meet longer or more often; and this would result in additional exposure to the department. The department should seriously consider the trade-off between spending a little more to allow the council to meet longer or more often and the possible value of policy recommendations which may then be made by the council.

Council Membership

At present, the council has six members. Traditionally, three members have represented the eastern Arctic and three have represented the western Arctic. However, it has been suggested that the council's membership be increased to seven: one member representing Yellowknife, three from the rest of the western Arctic and three from the eastern Arctic. The standing committee agrees with the council and the Minister that this would provide improved regional representation on the council.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that the NWT Arts Council policy be

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amended to provide for a total membership of seven on the arts council.

Coordination With Other Agencies

The grants distributed by the Minister on the council's recommendations are not the only funds budgeted by the Government for the development of the arts. In 1993-94, over \$7 million was distributed on arts and crafts related programs through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the economic development agreement (EDA), and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation (Development Corporation). (Much of those funds, however, do not go to individual artists, but rather to businesses such as Ivalu Clothing or Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas.)

The standing committee appreciates that these bodies and the NWT Arts Council have different mandates: the arts council promotes the arts, while ED&T, the EDA and the Development Corporation promote economic development and employment.

The distinction between "art for art's sake" and "marketability" is a useful one; however, the result is that artists may be confused by the two separate sources of funding. Committee Members would like to see the arts council and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment work more closely with Economic Development and Tourism and the Development Corporation to ensure that eligible artists have every opportunity to access sources of funding.

There appears to be a lack of coordination and communication between the arts council, Economic Development and Tourism and northern artists. Committee Members feel that it is important for artists to be aware of all resources available to them. We suggest that the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Economic Development and Tourism find a way to coordinate their efforts in order to better inform artists about the various funds available to them to aid their development.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommends that, in accordance with rule 93(5), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to recommendations contained in this report within 120 days of the presentation of this report in the House.

Madam Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on its review of the NWT Arts Council.

Motion To Receive Committee Report 15-12(6) And Move To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report be received by the Assembly and moved into committee of the whole. Mahsi.

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? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bills 13 And 14

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act and Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Public Service Vehicles Act. I wish to report that bills 13 and 14 are now ready for committee of the whole.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Madam Premier.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 48-12(6), Northwest Territories Power Corporation Annual Report for the Year Ended March 31, 1994.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 49-12(6), NWT Housing Corporation Summary of Comments from the 1994 district consultation meetings on housing.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 50-12(6), Cape Dorset Community Transfer Agreement Update, September 1994.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 21: An Act To Amend The Fair Practices Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Fair Practices Act, be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

Bill 16: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2. be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94, be read for the second time. Madam Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year that ended March 31, 1994. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole.

Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters.

Speaker's Ruling

Prior to going into committee of the whole, I wish to provide my ruling on a point of privilege raised by the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson, on October 28th.

Mr. Patterson's point of privilege was based on remarks made by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi, during consideration in committee of the whole of Bill 3, Guardianship and Trusteeship Act.

Mr. Patterson indicated in raising his point of privilege, which is contained on page 1472 of unedited Hansard: "I raised some questions of principle on the general intent of the bill. I was told that I was too late, that I was frivolous, that I was lecturing and that I hadn't done my homework." Mr. Patterson went on to request that I determine whether his privilege as an ordinary Member to debate fully at this stage of the bill had been infringed by the remarks and the attitude of the Minister of Justice, who was co-sponsoring the bill.

To rule on this matter, I reviewed the remarks that Mr. Patterson alleges the Minister of Justice made that may have infringed on the Member for Iqaluit's privileges as a Member. I reviewed nine pages of debate between Mr. Patterson and the Minister, Mr. Kakfwi. The debate is contained on pages 1464 to 1472 of unedited Hansard.

This chair found that the Minister did indicate on a number of occasions the following, as it related to Mr. Patterson's understanding of the proposed legislation and his advanced review of the bill in question. I quote comments by Minister Kakfwi, as contained on page 1466: "Maybe Mr. Patterson didn't read all of the legislation." Also, on page 1470: "The Member admits that he hasn't read it, he hasn't looked at the entirety of this legislation, but he had concerns." In addition, on page 1471: "As I have said, if the Member reads the legislation and goes through it clause by clause, and he allows the proposed amendment also to be moved and dealt with, I think we will see that the concerns, as he has stated them, are already taken care of in this legislation. But, we can't convince him if he doesn't know and he hasn't read the legislation. That's why I make the suggestion if, at the end of the day, after doing his homework and reading this legislation..."

I could also relay comments made on the matter of lecturing and being frivolous, but it is my opinion that there is no need to expand further on Mr. Kakfwi's comments to rule on this point of privilege. On ruling on a point of privilege, the chair must determine firstly if there appears to be a prima facie breach of privilege and, secondly, that the matter has been raised at the earliest opportunity.

As Members are aware, a question of privilege is usually raised only when a very serious act or omission occurs which impedes or obstructs the House or its Members in the performance of their duties. Reflection on Members can be a point of privilege if the events are of such serious significance as to fall within the definition of privilege.

I find that Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 69 may be of assistance with this point and I would like to quote from Beauchesne: "The Speaker has reminded the House that it is very important to indicate that something can be inflammatory, can be disagreeable and even be offensive, but it may not be a question of privilege unless the comments actually impinge upon the ability of the Members to do their job properly."

As indicated in reviewing the debate between Mr. Patterson and Mr. Kakfwi, I find that the Member for Iqaluit's basic right

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to fully debate the issue before committee of the whole was not infringed upon, as the unedited Hansard clearly indicates the debate did take place. On these grounds, I find that the Member for Iqaluit does not have a point of privilege. However, I did find that certain comments made by the Minister of Justice were of a provocative nature that could have led to a point of order.

Once again, I must caution all Members to be conscientious of comments made in debate so as to ensure that another Member doesn't misunderstand their comments and intentions. All Members have the right to raise issues of concern, thus ensuring that all sides of an issue are debated in a manner that maintains the dignity of the House and respect for each Member's point of view.

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; 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; Committee Report 13-12(6), Report on the Elimination of the

Alcohol and Drug Board of Management; 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, Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will come to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee resume consideration of Committee Report 10-12(6), Report on the Review of the 1995-96 Capital Estimates and Bill 1, specifically to consider the capital budget of the NWT Power Corporation. And, on completion of the Power Corporation's budget, I would like to recommend that we consider Bill 7 and, if we conclude Bill 7, that we move back to the budget and consider the capital budget for Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree that we deal with the NWT Power Corporation, subsequent to that Bill 7 and then MACA?

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

Northwest Territories Power Corporation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Let's have a very, very short break and come back.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come back to order. Is the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation prepared to make opening comments?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Go ahead, Madam Premier.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the preliminary 1995-96 capital budget for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the budget calls for expenditures of about \$20 to \$24 million and reflects the corporation's objective of working with communities throughout the territories to improve electrical generating facilities and to develop alternate energy sources. Examples include the Dogrib power project, the potential of using natural gas to generate electricity in Inuvik, wind generation in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, and consideration of alternative electric sources in Lutsel K'e and an agreement with that community's band council.

Mr. Chairman, as mentioned during the Standing Committee on Finance review, the corporation's budget timetable is different from that of the government. The power utility's capital budget is scheduled to be reviewed by the corporation's board of directors at their November meeting. Because of this, the plan is still subject to change. A copy of the final budget will be provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly when it has been approved.

As Members know, the Power Corporation does not receive any funding from the government. Its capital projects and its O and M are independently financed by the corporation through the sale of electricity and heat and a combination of debt and equity financing. As a result, it is essential that the corporation continues to be financially sound and that it earns its full rate of return on a year-to-year basis in order to finance its required capital expenditures without creating an unmanageable debt load.

In 1993-94, Mr. Chairman, the corporation made a profit of \$9.36 million, which represents its full rate of return as established by the Public Utilities Board of

the Northwest Territories. From this profit, the corporation paid the government a dividend of \$3.48 million which was redistributed in the form of a power subsidy to northern consumers.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

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HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

The remaining \$5.88 million, along with long-term financing, was reinvested in new capital projects for the coming year.

However, the forecast for 1994-95 indicates that the corporation's profit will drop to \$4.8 million, nearly one-half of the full rate of return it is allowed to earn. After paying the annual dividend to the government, there will be little, if any, profit to reinvest in capital projects. This means that capital projects must be reduced or borrowing must be increased.

Mr. Chairman, reduced profits for 1994-95 are a direct result of the increased fuel costs in Yellowknife because of the low water in the Snare hydro system. Water levels in the Snare system are lower than at any time since the 1970s and, in order to meet the electrical power needs of its customers, the corporation has had to produce a greater proportion of the Yellowknife load by diesel generation.

This had added about \$4.8 million to the corporation's fuel costs and made it necessary for the corporation to request the Public Utilities Board for a temporary rider to recover the cost of the additional fuel. As you know, the utilities board conducted a hearing on this matter and is in the process of making a decision.

The utilities board is also reviewing a long-standing proposal by the corporation to implement a system of cost-based rates. The proposed system will not increase the total amount of revenue earned by the corporation, but it will affect individual customers by creating a more equitable rate structure throughout the territories. Both decisions will have a direct bearing on the financial viability and operation of the corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the first five years of government ownership have provided a solid operating base for the Power Corporation. So far, the utility has proven that it can be profitable and pay for the subsidy program if it is left to operate as a business, but that

doesn't mean the future is secure. The operation of an electrical utility is capital intensive and requires a high degree of organizational and operational stability. And it needs financial certainty in order to make sure that existing facilities are properly maintained and that inadequate facilities are replaced. I had hoped that the proposal to privatize the corporation would have addressed this matter.

Members will recall that the government tabled the two Abbott reports on privatization early on in its mandate, at a time when the economy was in better shape than it is now. The reports were prepared to satisfy a condition of the corporation's purchase agreement that required the government to examine privatization options. In addition, I tabled another document dealing with privatization of the Power Corporation at the conclusion of the last sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

All of these documents were widely circulated throughout the territories in order to provide the public with the information they requested and to provide the government with the feedback required to properly consider such an important policy issue.

Since releasing the various documents, the government has been working on draft legislation, which I will be making available later today. The government has also heard from many groups and individuals who went to a great deal of work to examine the privatization proposal, establish policy positions and provide the government with constructive feedback and suggestions.

For instance, I have been informed there is a common position developing among aboriginal organizations in the western territories with respect to privatization of the corporation. At a meeting last week, representatives agreed their support would be contingent on the following principles:

1. That the corporation be sold to a consortium of aboriginal groups and other northerners;
2. That the government guarantees the current power subsidy program stays in place;
3. That the corporation be sold at a fair market price; and,
4. That existing contractual arrangements will be honoured.

Mr. Chairman, Ministers and individual MLAs have also heard from interested residents concerning the

proposal to privatize the corporation. In addition, I met with a wide variety of organizations that expressed an interest in discussing a user-owned utility controlled by northern investors and regulated by a Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Chairman, the comments we received over the past several months were mixed, and the inability of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions to schedule hearings on the matter suggests that it will not be possible to reach a territorial consensus on the concept of privatization during the last year of our mandate.

In addition, the economic climate has changed, the federal Finance Minister has warned of tougher times to come, and the expected financial return on making the corporation a user-owned utility has softened. As a result, the government has come to the conclusion that it is not timely to proceed with the privatization initiative. Mr. Chairman, that doesn't mean that difficult issues can be put on the back shelf. If the corporation is to remain profitable and financially sound, the issues will have to be addressed.

For instance, the cost of the power subsidy is expected to increase by \$1 million to \$4.5 million this year. In 1995-96, the subsidy will cost about \$6.5 million and vigilance will be required to make sure that we do not fall into the trap of unmanageable debt being faced by other jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman, it is not difficult to find examples where crown corporations experience substantial financial losses that impact the owner government. Canadian National is a good example of a crown corporation providing a public service at a high cost. In Alberta, Novatel experienced huge financial losses at the government's expense and the media has been full of stories about the significant losses experienced by Ontario Hydro.

Obviously, the NWT Power Corporation will need the continued support and understanding of the government and the Legislative Assembly in order to balance the money it is

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allowed to earn on a yearly basis with the demand for additional and improved services. It needs to remain financially sound and be in a position to provide safe and reliable electrical power service without becoming a burden on our existing financial resources.

This can be accomplished by letting the corporation continue to be managed as a business. At the same time, the government must come to a determination on a number of matters, including the threat of competing utilities wanting to service profitable communities, leaving the Power Corporation with smaller centres that have high costs, no return on investment, and an inability to provide an annual dividend for the payment of a power subsidy.

In addition, changes to both the Power Corporation Act and the Public Utilities Board Act will be required in order for the corporation to continue operating in a financially sound and business-like manner, at arm's length from government. For example, it may be worthwhile examining how utility board decisions could be issued in a more timely manner, or we might want to consider providing the corporation with the exclusive right to generate and distribute electrical power in excess of three megawatts.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, power plants are costly and the Power Corporation cannot be expected to borrow funds for all of its capital requirements or else its debt load will grow to a point where it is a burden on ratepayers and a liability to government. The government does not want this to happen, and I know that Members of this House feel the same way. Thank you. I am prepared to answer any questions that Members might have, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance has a very short comment on the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. The committee wishes to repeat its comments of last year: that the Power Corporation should enhance their budget presentation by, "presenting consistent five-year plans that are comparable from year to year." As well, committee Members would like to see more detailed substantiation of larger projects, much as is included in the departmental project substantiations.

Those are all the comments from the Standing Committee on Finance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Before I open the floor for general comments, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if she would like to bring in her witnesses.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses please.

Thank you. For the record, Madam Premier, would you mind introducing your witnesses to the committee, please.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I have Mr. Jim Robertson, chairman of the Power Corporation and Mr. Courneya, vice-president of finance of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to take the opportunity to distribute the work that was done on the legislation for the privatization of the Power Corporation for Members' perusal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The document is being distributed. Thank you for the introduction of your witnesses. General comments from the committee. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of comments. First of all, I would like to offer positive comments. I would like to publicly congratulate the Power Corporation for the realization of the Dogrib power project. It took a lot of hard work and a lot of skill in working with a number of organizations. It was very difficult, but I think it bodes well for development in the western Arctic. It was a job well done and I congratulate the Power Corporation on that particular project.

My second comment is about the rate zones and cost-based rates. I, for one, support the principle. It is important that in every area of the Northwest Territories, people know exactly how much it is to supply power. I think that knowledge should be public

knowledge and, if there are to be subsidies, they should be outside the actual costs of delivering power. I agree with the principle. I will have some questions about the actual details of the zones and rates that are proposed, but I just want to indicate to the Power Corporation that I think they're definitely on the right track.

My third positive comment: I was, as I am sure other Members were, quite pleased to hear that the issue of privatization has at least been postponed. I have made a number of comments in this House, as have others, that I felt it was premature at this time, for a number of reasons, to consider the concept of privatization. I know for one thing that, at the appropriate time with the right financial conditions and the right political conditions -- perhaps not until after division -- there definitely should be a full debate on the pros and cons of privatization. I think it is an issue, as the Premier has said, that we should put aside for now because of timing, but it is one that, at the right time, merits a full debate. At that time, I think we can discuss it fully and make a decision for the right reasons.

Again, I want to congratulate the Minister for postponing it for now. There wasn't a consensus out there and, rather than having a debate which is counter-productive, I think this was a prudent decision. At the right time, I'm sure we'll reopen this particular debate.

I read also, Mr. Chairman, with some interest about possible changes to the Public Utilities Board. I, for one, am willing to look at those, but I really want to put it on the record that it is very important that the Public Utilities Board has public confidence and is acting as a regulator for power distribution for power companies in the Northwest Territories. There are

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ways to streamline and improve the process, but I wouldn't like to see anything done which takes away from the ability of the Public Utilities Board to protect the interests of the consumers in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I have been on record in the last three weeks indicating my concern about the process which lead the Power Corporation to ask for a 22 per cent increase as a surcharge because of low water in Yellowknife. I have put my concerns on the record. We will wait to see what the PUB has to say about

that situation, but once that decision comes down, I will sum up my concerns about this process.

Suffice it to say now, I do have some concerns about the decision-making process for that sort of a decision such as: as the power of the Cabinet and the Minister; the interaction between the Power Corporation and the Minister; and, the involvement or lack of involvement of MLAs. It is an area that bears some scrutiny in the future.

I have always agreed with the premise that the Power Corporation should be run as a business and 95 per cent of the time, that works. But for something as unusual as the low-water situation in the Snare system and for something that has such a profound impact on a relatively small number of consumers, I think perhaps we should look at a better approach to deal with that situation. At the appropriate time, I will have some more to say on this situation.

Generally, I don't have a problem with the capital budget of the Power Corporation. I think that they are attempting to deal with needs in the communities throughout the Northwest Territories. I hope, in the future, for some of the more difficult and controversial decisions that the Power Corporation will have to make, that they will find a better process of consultation and communication than they might have found in the past. With that, Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I will have two or three questions during the detail of the budget, but that is it for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably wind up repeating much of what Mr. Ballantyne just said. I, too, would like to congratulate the Power Corporation on what I consider to be a much improved operation in the past few years. I think it has become much more business-like and successful in the past few years. I think that should be recognized. That doesn't mean there isn't room for further improvement in some areas. I am sure that we will get into that further.

I would also like to welcome the Premier's outline, in her opening comments, about alternative power sources, for instance, wind and gas power. It is important, in the long run, that we look at some of

these alternatives. It is very important that we explore more opportunities like the one the Power Corporation entered into with the Dogrib Power Corporation. As Mr. Ballantyne said, that was a tremendous opportunity. I was very happy to see it come to fruition and would hope that we would find opportunities across the Northwest Territories for other hydro projects that we could perhaps get into with other groups.

I am also glad to hear that privatization has been put on the back-burner. I agree that the timing was entirely wrong for considering privatization. I don't think that the time will be right before division takes place. At that time, we may want to revisit the issue.

I would like to take issue with one of the comments that the Premier made in her opening comments and that is that financial stability would have come from privatization. I find it hard to understand how a privatized corporation could expect to have this government guarantee their loans, although I know that was one of the proposals. I think that Members in this House would have been very concerned about that.

I would submit, at the present time, that government backing contributes much more to the financial security of the company in order to ensure that the existing facilities are properly maintained and that inadequate facilities can be replaced.

In the Premier's opening comments, she made some reference to the need to maintain a rate of return that is consistent on a year-to-year basis. I would point out that, in spite of the long-standing Standing Committee on Finance policy that this government have a balanced budget, we recently recommended that legislation be introduced to ensure that there is no deficit over the course of the next three years. Recognizing that on a year-to-year basis, there may be extenuating circumstances that you can't foresee, that cause you to not have, in the case of the Power Corporation, a rate of return or, in the case of the government, the revenue or extra expenditures that you hadn't forecast.

In a large operation like this, you need to take a look sometimes at an average, rather than a year-to-year basis. That is something that should perhaps be carried through in the policies when it comes to dealing with low water. My understanding is that seven of the last 24 years we have had low water in the Snare system. How many years have we had above-average water in the system? Has that

balanced out? If so, shouldn't there be a fund in place to cover the low-water situation we face right now?

Mr. Chairman, I think that those are issues that we will have to deal with later. I think that the corporation is, in general, being well-run and is doing a good job of contribution as a good corporate entity of this government to the bottom line and would hope that we can look forward to that continuing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik, Mr. Dent. General comments. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have too many comments to raise. I want to raise some issues along what the two Members have already raised. I, too, am very thankful to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. We have seen a big improvement. I understood that it has not always been operating that well. One of the comments I want to make is I don't want to see this privatized as yet. As the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation stated, the privatization of the Power Corporation is deferred. I am in support of this. If the privatization of the Power Corporation is going to be deferred and if we are going to wait until 1999, I would be in support of that. I have worked closely

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with my constituents, especially in 1994, with regard to this issue. We all understand that the Members of the Legislative

Assembly understand and are in support of the way the Power Corporation is being operated now.

I also understand that in the near future, after the Power Corporation is privatized, we might see increases to our power rates. When this happens, we will have to look for solutions. If the Power Corporation continues to owe more money, we will have to look for solutions to this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik, Mr. Pudlat. Any further general comments? We are reviewing the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments that I would like to make. It is regarding the statement the Minister made. Much of the budget for this year hasn't been approved by the board and it won't be until November. A lot of the decision is based on whether the Public Utilities Board will approve their application or not. Many things are still up in the air. From the figures in this document, it states that in 1993-94, the corporation made a profit of \$9.363 million. From this profit, the corporation paid the government a dividend of \$3.48 million, which was redistributed in the form of a power subsidy to the northern consumers. I will have a question about this later on. The remaining \$5.88 million went to new capital projects. However, the forecast for this year, 1994-95, indicates that the profit is going to be forecast at \$4.8 million, which is about 50 per cent less than what was earned last year. As a result of that, if you take the -- I don't know whether the government is going to get a dividend this year or not -- \$3.48 million off the profit, which was given last year, that leaves only \$1.32 million for new capital projects.

Up front, the Minister is saying that the budget calls for an expenditure of \$20 million to \$24 million. I take it that a lot of that will be in the O and M part of the budget. In the 1993-94 statement, with a profit of \$9.36 million, it will be interesting to know what the total operating costs of the corporation were, to realize a profit of this amount.

The other thing is, if this current year's profit is going to be \$4.8 million, would the corporation still pay the government a dividend from that and how much would it be? Would that dividend be applied to the power subsidy for northern consumers? Would that dividend be enough to cover all the power subsidy that is offered to northern consumers? Is the \$3.4 million the total amount for power subsidy to northern consumers? Could the Minister answer those questions, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, there are many questions that have been made in general comments and we will try to keep a running tab of them. For the specific question that Mr. Antoine made in terms of dividends and the

breakdown of the expense, we indicated that the budget calls for expenditures of about \$20 million to \$24 million. That is all-inclusive on capital.

Some of the capital expenses are paid for by loans or debt financing, so it is not totally reflected in the profit margin that we are allowed to make. In terms of the dividend, the Government of the Northwest Territories can request any amount. The bigger the request is, the less there is to make on expenditures on other things, such as upgrades and plants. So the subsidy amount is generally the one that is requested from the Power Corporation.

If there is anything else, perhaps Mr. Robertson can elaborate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Robertson, would you like to take it from here?

MR. ROBERTSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are just a few questions that are outstanding. The amount of the dividend that was requested, as far as we know, covers 100 per cent of the subsidy. The \$3.4 million that was paid last year, again, as far as we know, covered off all the subsidy payments required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

One question that wasn't covered was this presentation states that the budget calls for an expenditure of \$20 to \$24 million for this year, 1994-95. This will make the profits drop by \$4.8 million. I wanted to know what the total operating costs were from 1993-94 to realize a profit of \$9.360 million for that year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, we did table the financial statement for the Power Corporation. I will have Mr. Courneya answer the detail of the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Courneya.

MR. COURNEYA:

The information the Member is looking for would be contained in the income statement in the annual report, which would give the total operating costs for 1993-94. The estimated capital expenditures for 1994-95 do not directly impact on our expected net income for the 1994-95 year, as the capital expenditure program is not directly related to the O and M expenses or the net income of the corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

The tabled document that they refer to was tabled and it would be good if I could get a copy of that. Members don't receive tabled documents unless they ask for them, so I am asking for it now.

I'm satisfied with the answers for now. I will look at the document when I get it, Mr. Chairman. I just want to carry on with my general comments on the Power Corporation. A lot of the capital expenditures are still outstanding, as I said, because of a lot of outstanding issues. The board hasn't approved the capital; they expect to do it in November. Plus, there are two proposals before the Public Utilities Board that will probably determine changes in the financial picture of the Power Corporation.

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One of the items that the Standing Committee on Finance requested is information on projects that are \$250,000 and over. The corporation knows that we requested this; I just wanted to remind them that we are still looking forward to that.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that the only time people at the community level deal with the Power Corporation is when they pay their bills. There are still outstanding problems in the communities I represent, especially in Fort Simpson. This past year, there were some problems with the management of that operation. The Minister said they were there to work with the communities and I'm glad to hear that because the manager of the station in Fort Simpson took an early retirement because he was having a lot of problems with headquarters.

This man spent 33 years of his life working with this corporation, and to finish working for them that way is not a good way to work with people in the community. Everybody in the community knows this person and the feeling is that he wasn't treated very well. I don't know what the president or the Minister said to him, but usually when somebody retires, there is usually some sort of celebration or award. Certainly, when someone dedicates 33 years of his life to a corporation, he deserves something other than taking an early retirement because of the stress headquarters is putting him under.

I just wanted to tell the corporation that they are going to have to start working a lot better with the people in the communities and start treating people in the communities who are working for the corporation a lot better than they have. That is the experience we have had in Fort Simpson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the individual issue, the Member is correct in saying that the person is having his own problems. However, he is still working for us. He's still on the job. When his retirement takes place, he will be treated like every other employee. I would like to say very clearly that the Power Corporation does have retirement parties and long-service awards, even more than this government has.

Many past employees, when they worked for the federal Crown, were basically left in the interior and not taken any notice of, and were given very little compensation for their services. The Power Corporation has a very good reputation for recognizing its employees and trying to do the right thing by them, whether they are carry-over employees or whether it is looking after the families when there is a grey area. This individual will be recognized for his service, just like we do for others.

I know the chairman of the board and the new president, in view of their past work with employees, have a very good record. I just want to assure the Member that once a retirement takes place, there will be proper recognition of the service that the individual provided. He is still at work, so we will do that at the appropriate time. This corporation, to my knowledge, goes a long way in trying to say thank you when thank you is due.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. We have Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Koe. Mr. Koe, I have you on the list first.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of comments on the statement the Minister made. I take exception to the comments made on page 6 about the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions and their inability to schedule hearings. The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, which I chair, will take criticism where it is rightfully due. In this case, I think the comments are a bit unwarranted, in the sense that meetings were set up, but it is an issue that concerns all Members of the Assembly and there are other standing committees that made suggestions that hearings be rescheduled. For various reasons, they didn't proceed.

I would just like to state that it wasn't solely because of the inability of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions that we did not have the hearing. I'm not sure what the qualification at the end means: "...the consensus territorial-wide..." You are the one who travelled the north and talked to different people. I believe you probably have a better sense than I would on what the consensus was, but through my contacts, I know there wasn't consensus in the north on the concept of privatization. But, it is not because we couldn't schedule our hearings that that consensus wasn't reached. And it wasn't because of our inability to schedule hearings that we didn't receive consensus in this House.

On other issues, I have some concerns about some of the policies used by the Power Corporation, and these aren't new. There are two basic concerns, the buy north and hire north policies. I still hear in my travels across the north about the Power Corporation not using as many northern goods and services as they should. I don't have any concrete evidence to say that they are or they aren't, but you hear it from suppliers and on the street. I want the Minister, if she can, to confirm that the buy north, hire north policies, and the BIP are used by the Power Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Premier, do you have any response?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

First of all, on the comments the Member takes exception to, you would have to read two paragraphs together. As he indicated, I have probably met with a greater variety of organizations and people who have expressed varying degrees of interest. I believe the second paragraph, which reads: "The inability of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions to schedule hearings suggested it would not be possible to reach a territorial consensus on the concept of privatization..." is saying exactly what the Member has said.

The issue is, although the information was circulated, there wasn't really a total acceptance of any model. Certainly, in this House, dealing with privatization didn't have total consensus either. This is just to acknowledge that. It isn't to make a criticism of anyone. I think what the standing committee and I found is the same thing. It was a situation where people had different models and different ideas about how it should be done. It varied from individual communities who felt they could take it over on a regional level to one model where everything

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stayed together. It wasn't there to provide criticism, but to tie the two things together.

In terms of hiring and buying for the Power Corporation, a lot of equipment and what is needed is really not provided in the Northwest Territories. It is a specialty group that buys the types of equipment, power generating plants, et cetera, that aren't made in the Northwest Territories. And, I believe, it probably wouldn't be feasible or economically sound for someone to go into the business of selling the generators required and so on. A large part of what the corporation buys, which I've been tracking, are things that couldn't really go to a second agency housed in the Northwest Territories.

The Power Corporation does buy north and hire north. One of the first things, in terms of hire north, was to try to adjust the compensation paid to a lot of workers who were out in the interior carrying out duties and functions. We tried to stabilize that and look at that, making that real for the people who are doing the bulk of the work in the communities. I hope that we will be able to have people trained to take on some of the more complex jobs, particularly in the engineering area where it is difficult to get people who are qualified.

Given the new government's thrust for education, training and employment, we should try, as much as possible, to encourage people to take on those more complex jobs. Sometimes, it is just impossible to hire north because people are not available. But, I believe the corporation has done an excellent job of trying to meet those two mandates. They do have a policy governing their expenditures and also on hiring north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. In terms of hiring people, I assume the corporation is just like any other business where, if they don't have staff, they use contractors, especially for small maintenance jobs. I assume it is one of their policies to use, say a local sandblasting outfit, as compared to flying somebody in from the south, where people are available. I know companies are not available in every region, but somewhere in the north there is usually a company that can provide a service. That is what I was getting at.

In terms of staffing and hiring, the corporation used to have a lot of trainees in different trades. Do they still do a lot of the apprenticeship training?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Robertson.

MR. ROBERTSON:

Mr. Chairman, the answer to the question with respect to apprenticeship programs is yes. We are in the process right now of hiring a number of people in each of the regions and we are hoping to see through the four or five-year apprenticeship program for mechanics, linemen and electrical operators. We are working closely with Arctic College and the Department of Education, Government of the Northwest Territories, with respect to bringing people through the system in the apprenticeship program.

As far as the other question on the use of outside firms to do work. As much as possible, we try to use companies within the Northwest Territories. There is, however, a price factor involved. The policy we have allows a differential for territorial companies, but, a differential is not an example of 50 per cent more. But, as much as possible, we are trying to use local corporations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. I have Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, I was going to raise a question. I don't know how this question relates to what we are talking about, but in the community I live in we have a brand new power plant and there is also a back-up system. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation Minister has seen our new power plant.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps a couple of weeks ago, there was a problem with power outages. One of the outages went overnight. It was a concern as the power plant is quite new. I don't know exactly what happened. There have been problems with outages already. My question is on that topic. I am very happy and proud that we have an employee who is a young Inuit, who is working and training on the job as an apprentice. He has worked with other employees from the region also, as the employee before had resigned. I don't know as to what extent the present employee is trained. He is a locally hired employee, however, I think they should have more supervision when they are learning on the job. This is not to say that I don't trust the employee, but we have to be aware that they have adequate supervision when they are learning on the job. I don't know if the problems we have had with outages are due to the fact that he has been alone. We have to be proud and praise our young Inuit, who are willing to take on these jobs. There are always problems when new things come about.

It is probably expensive to maintain these power plants, especially with freight and maintenance costs. Has it been considered to have adequate supervision for our young people who we are quite proud of and who are in an apprenticeship?

As I told you, we have a brand new power plant and there is a back-up system. I don't know why the back-up system didn't come into place when the main power went out. So have there been considerations as to how much supervision these new employees are given when they are new on the job? Has it been considered, is it in place or are there plans to have this in place in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Robertson.

MR. ROBERTSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member's remarks are quite accurate and, unfortunately, I am not in the position to say because I do not know why the power was out for such a long period in Lake Harbour two weeks ago. This is currently being looked into and we will advise the honourable Member as soon as we are aware of the reasons.

He is correct in saying the operator who looks after our plant in Lake Harbour is new to the corporation. There has been a series of training modules put together for the operator and we do not think the outage was caused in any way by the operator's lack of training. At the same time, we acknowledge the amount of training the operator has will have to be

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continued and upgraded over the next few years. Again, as soon as we find out and determine the reason for the outage, we will advise the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you for the response. I will repeat part of my question. As I said, I was very proud of aboriginal people being put on the job. Can they be given adequate supervision, especially when they are new to the job? Or, is it impossible because of a shortage of funds? Are there any plans to have supervision for these new employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Robertson.

MR. ROBERTSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The supervision the plant operators get during the first few years of their employment, takes place initially quite intensively and as the employee shows some ability to operate the plant on their own, the supervision is relaxed. It is quite evident from the experience in Lake Harbour that we are going to have to revisit the amount of supervision given to that particular plant and plant operator, as well as others.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some general comments and pose a few questions. The Minister's opening remarks have caused me to reflect back on the time since the Government of the Northwest Territories purchased NCP. I think we have seen quite a lot of change and progress. We have seen headquarters move north. We have seen new blood brought into management, the latest being a new CEO.

I want to say that although members have been critical and I myself have been critical of the Power Corporation from time to time, especially during the spate of power outages in Iqaluit last year, I do want to say that, by and large, quite a good job has been done by the corporation, recognizing that it has had two sometimes conflicting mandates: one is to operate in a business-like fashion and generate a profit and the other is to be accountable to the government owners and shareholders, and Members of this Assembly to make progress in areas like affirmative action, apprenticeship and provide services to small communities that really don't generate much revenue.

So it has probably been quite a tough challenge that we have put on the Minister and the board running the Power Corporation. I do want to take a moment to say one constant throughout this has been Mr. Jim Robertson as the CEO and chairman of the board. I do want to thank him for the commitment that he has put into the corporation. I know that he has given it a lot of his personal attention and no one doubts who has been in charge and everyone who works for the corporation knows who has been chairing the board. I think he has made I think he has made a significant effort to take an interest in each and every community and plant and has done a lot, actually, to improve the morale of the employees.

I think, as well, although there are undoubtedly problems here and there, that, generally, morale has improved since the dark days when the federal government was trying to get rid of the corporation but was still running it. I think those were very dark days and discouraging times when there was no money being put into it and, it seemed, no attention being paid to the Power Corporation. Casting my mind back to those days, I think a lot has changed. I think, of course, that there is a lot of room for improvement and affirmative action and apprenticeship is a

continual challenge, for which we will always expect progress.

I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, that on the issue of privatization, all we were required to do when the Power Corporation was sold to our government was examine the issue of privatization. Some people have not been clear on the directions that were provided by the federal government, but the condition was that we take a serious look at it. I think that's been done. I think the Minister has taken this obligation quite seriously. I also believe that the correct conclusion has been reached about the fact that this initiative is not doable in the current political climate.

As I understand it, one of the objectives of privatization was to create a strong company, independent of political influences which had organizational and operational stability. Now that privatization is off, at least for a short term, I would still expect that the organizational and operational stability which is desirable could be assured by continuing the government's attitude of not meddling with the day-to-day administrative operation of the corporation. I think it is important that the corporation be free to operate without undue political interference in its day-to-day affairs.

I also believe, although I am obviously concerned about the possible impact in my constituency, as would other Members, once the proposal to implement a new system of cost-based rates has been considered by the Public Utilities Board -- and, hopefully, fairly considered by them -- it will also provide more stability in that it would replace the present patchwork of very disparate, illogical rate structures. I think the corporation has done the right thing in promoting the rationalization of rates, even though it will mean changes and could mean increases in some communities, hopefully not my own.

I guess what I am most interested in is the reference in the Minister's opening remarks to the concern that the corporation may be vulnerable to competing southern utilities which want to cream off the profits in the Northwest Territories; and I'm using my own term. But, it seems to me that it is suggested in the Minister's opening remarks that companies may want to come in and exploit the profitable communities, leaving the government-owned utility with the burden of operating a corporation in the less profitable communities without the economies of scale that would result from an integrated system.

I note that the Minister suggests that one way of avoiding this problem would be to legislate protection, in effect, for the Power Corporation. I would urge the Minister to pursue this option and report back to the House on her conclusions about that option. I know that, at the time the corporation was sold, the Cabinet of the day -- which I was a Member of -- was very clear about rejecting partnership with a southern utility. I think the thinking at the time was, although it was offered to us very clearly, that we should have the ability to use the corporation

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as an instrument of public policy and, perhaps, as an instrument of economic development. That may be harder in the current climate, but I still believe, in principle, that is the way to go.

Mr. Chairman, the question I would like to ask the Minister is about that issue. She notes that there is a possibility of competition moving into the profitable communities. I would like to ask her, is there anything today in our legislation, other than the usual environmental processes that the Power Corporation, itself, would have to go through, to prevent a southern utility from moving into the Northwest Territories and building a dam on one of the prime hydro sources in the Northwest Territories?

Of course, I'm not suggesting that aboriginal rights might not have an influence, and there might not be objections on that ground, but does a southern company have the same opportunity to develop hydro as the Northwest Territories Power Corporation has right now? That's my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to remind Members and the Minister that, if you want to discuss some matters, there is a Member's lounge back there. Be quiet please. Thank you. Madam Premier.

---Applause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

On the question of another developer coming in, subject to the normal approval, as the Member has indicated, for environmental and other processes, there is nothing that would stop another developer from coming in and putting in, say, a large hydro development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Just a final comment. In that event, Mr. Chairman, I guess I would also like to recommend that, in looking at the possibility of legislating to give the Power Corporation the exclusive rate to generate and distribute electrical power in the larger communities, the Minister responsible for the corporation may also want to look at legislation to protect the exploitation of our hydro resources by competitors.

I think, as we go to more difficult financial circumstances -- as referred to in the opening comments -- we are going to want to protect the economies of scale and the natural resources we have in the Northwest Territories, and protect them in favour of our publicly-owned utility. So, I would suggest that, even though privatization was off -- and I understand it was partly motivated by the desire to create a corporation that would have sufficient strength and muscle to fend off competitors -- and it is off the agenda, that some of these legislative safeguards should still, nonetheless, be pursued. Because, otherwise, we may be subject to competition that could further erode the financial viability of our corporation. That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. On my list I have Mr. Ng. General comments.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to apologize for being a little bit late getting back. I was at the airport. I missed the Minister's opening comments, but I had a chance to read the notes that came forward. I just wanted to clarify one thing. It is in relation to the major concern I had about privatization. There have been comments made on this.

Secondly, on page 6, she has indicated that the government has come to the conclusion that it is not timely to proceed with the privatization initiative. I just want to clarify something. Does that mean the Minister has shelved this for the duration of this government's term? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, the Member is right. It was a requirement on the turnover from the federal Crown to the GNWT, that we would explore the options for privatization. In doing that, the two reports, the Abbott reports, were commissioned to take a look at the option of privatization and what the best way of doing it is.

The privatization option that came forward was to keep the Power Corporation in one part, not to split it up, which would make the best sense to balance and stabilize the customer base. That is what we looked at.

Now as we proceed and go forward -- and the Member is quite right, he was not here when I tried to answer that question before -- there isn't a consensus out there. There is a lot of interest, particularly from aboriginal groups, but there isn't a consensus on how we go about it. As well, in this Legislature, there is no consensus on that. As all the Members know, we have a very heavy legislative timetable for other areas we have to look at. I have circulated the work that was done on the legislation according to the Abbott report on the one unit.

So these are the areas that were explored and were put forward. Every now and then you have to measure how much work can be put on the legislative timetable. As all Members know, in order to do that, there has to be some type of consensus if we are going to talk about one unit. At this point, I believe it is just not there. There are many people who are interested. Some communities are talking about taking over their own power corporation. Other regional groups are saying take over the regional distribution area and are suggesting that the territorial government turns it over for one dollar and then they operate it.

Part of this whole issue is that at the time the studies were done, this corporation's estimated value was \$80 million. I don't know, given the circumstances, whether the \$80 million is still the figure. There is much work to be done in terms of understanding this whole thing. There is a lot of concern about the subsidy and that if it is privatized, the territorial government could not put their hands into the coffers of the Power Corporation and demand that a dividend be paid whether there is a profit or not. So these things are not really understood.

For example, we have a number of utilities, in the marginal communities where the territorial government has paid 75 per cent of the cost with Northland Utilities, that don't pay a subsidy. These are issues that aren't clear enough to the interested groups. I don't believe we have the time, given that the mandate of this Legislature is a year from today, to satisfy the concerns and issues out there. That is what I meant by this statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to note something, to clear up any misconceptions. At the beginning, there were some comments made and I want to clear them up for the record. On the privatization of the Power Corporation, to have the government guarantee future loans, in terms of the proposals we had on the table, there was no request for a guarantee for the future loans on the privatization.

In terms of the comments on its stability, it is very difficult for the Power Corporation to say what is a good year, what is a bad year and how it will break out. These are the questions out there. When we took over the Power Corporation from the federal Crown, what I remember most is trying to get the records from the Edmonton office. Part of the reason those records weren't available, we were told, is because they would move on occasion and the Power Corporation was split and part of it went to the Yukon. So we really couldn't get a lot of those records, so when we took it over, we had to do the best we could with the information we had to make sure we had enough in place and got the Power Corporation for such a price, that we could make up for some of the environmental concerns and some of the records that weren't there.

I would like to say, on record, that I give a great deal of respect and confidence to the board of directors of the Power Corporation, to their very dedicated time they had to spend to make sure even though there were unknowns out there, they were able to tie it together and still be a good corporate citizen to the many communities, whether they are small or large, and respond to needs.

I really have to say, even in the privatization, I felt very sincerely that we had to put something on the table to start discussions, consider options and

people can have input. We do have a lot of aboriginal businesses out there who need some good business deals in the Northwest Territories. There aren't very many and I have said that time and time again. It needs to move forward in such a way that it is northern owned. The NWT residents own the corporation. If the time is not right now, it can be explored further in the next Legislature. I believe that enough work has been done and the data has been prepared, so the next Assembly can weigh that information. I hope that we have done an adequate job, so in the next round people will have the information. They can ask what is a good deal and what are some of the perils and outstanding issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to a comment the Premier just made, I was referring, when I made my comments, to current loans. I'm sorry, but I don't understand why, if the government is going to sell something, it would continue to guarantee current loans. Would we do that for any other business in the north? If a private business person wanted to start up a business, this government doesn't guarantee their loans, unless you are getting money through something like the Development Corporation, I suppose. I was under no misapprehension that the proposal was to guarantee future loans. I still think it's wrong to even carry on, under privatization, with personal loans being guaranteed by this government.

In terms of the balanced budget from year to year or getting a rate of return from year to year, I think some of the Premier's comments when she was responding to my comments just now, actually go to support the argument that, because you don't know all of the history and all of what might happen in one year in terms of expenses and revenues, it is very difficult to insist that, on a year-to-year basis, you always have exactly the right rate of return. That's why, sometimes, it might make some sense to average things out over a number of years.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to respond to the Premier's comments about privatization. It almost sounded as if the campaign was back on for privatization. I would like to point out that all residents of the Northwest Territories own the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. So, when you talk

about privatizing it, you are talking about taking something that everybody, whether they have any money right now or not, owns a piece of and benefits from that ownership.

When you take an essential public service like that and put it in private hands, you restrict that ownership and the benefits that come from it. To be honest with you, I see privatization, as it was proposed, as basically giving something away that we all own right now. I'm very happy it is off the table and if the next Legislature wishes to take a look at it, I guess it will be up to the Legislature of that day. I know if I'm here, I certainly will be pushing for it to be delayed until after division because I think it is too important and essential a service for this government not to own it; to ensure it can perform the way it should for all the people in the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to get into a philosophical debate. I think the only purpose is to at least give all our owners the opportunity to have as much information as possible and to live up to the commitments we made. I believe we have done that, and it will probably be up to a future Legislature to deal with. I'm quite happy to put that in their hands, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Any further general comments? If not, do we agree to the detailed information on the preliminary 1995-96 capital budget of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation? The amount is \$224.429 million. Do you agree that this is concluded? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Just one very quick question, Mr. Chairman. I was intrigued with the reference to wind

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generation potential in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. I would like to know how far along that work is at this point. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Robertson.

MR. ROBERTSON:

As I understand, there is a company by the name of Dutch Industries that is presently installing a group of wind-generating turbines in Iqaluit. The Power Corporation is working with Dutch Industries and has agreed to purchase any power they are able to produce from these generators. At the same time, the Power Corporation is taking a keen interest in the technology that is being employed by this company in Iqaluit.

As the Member is probably well aware, we've tried wind turbines elsewhere in the Arctic and, so far, we've had very mixed results. So, we are watching this experiment in Iqaluit with great interest and, in fact, are helping finance part of it by buying the power from the generation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much, Mr. Robertson. If there are no further comments, do we agree that the preliminary 1995-96 capital budget is concluded for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Just one question in the area of alternate energy. Over the years, we've done a fair amount of work with wind generation. I wonder if the Minister can tell us what has been a success and what really is the long-term potential of this particular source of energy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I think that pretty well everyone knows that there hasn't been a great deal of success with the projects that have been put in place. Much of that has been attributed to the extreme cold weather and the high winds. They haven't been able to modify the equipment to deal with those two environmental factors. Up to this point in time, I would say that the experiments that have been in place haven't met with a high degree of success. But, that doesn't mean that the corporation will not continue to look for more effective ways to make it feasible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Any further general comments? Do we agree, then, that this matter is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, very much. I would like to thank the Premier, Mr. Courneya and Mr. Robertson for appearing before the committee. Thank you very much.

Do we agree that we deal with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7: An Act to Amend The Arctic College Act

Is Minister Nerysoo prepared to make opening comments on this, and are you prepared to bring in the witnesses?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I would just like to bring in the witnesses, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Please bring in the witnesses now.

Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the record, would you please introduce the witness to the committee.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. On my left is Ms. Carol Whitehouse, who is legal counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The last time we were dealing with this matter, we were in general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We will go clause by clause. We are dealing with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 42-12(5): To Delete Clause 5 From Bill 7, Carried

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 7 be amended by deleting clause 5 and by substituting the following:

5. Section 2 is repealed and the following is substituted:

2.(1) In this section "Nunavut settlement area" means that portion of the Northwest Territories described in section 3.1.1 of the land claims agreement between

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the Inuit of the Nunavut settlement area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, signed on May 25, 1993 and tabled in the House of Commons on May 26, 1993.

(2) A college is established to serve the Nunavut settlement area.

(3) A college is established to serve that part of the Northwest Territories west of the western boundary of the Nunavut settlement area.

(4) The Minister shall, by order, on the recommendation of the board of governors of a college, name the college.

(5) A college established under this section is a corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

---Carried

Clause 5, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Has the Minister determined a name for the college to be created in the Nunavut settlement area? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Patterson College? Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recommendation that had been made was Nunavut Arctic College. However, I did indicate to the honourable Members that I would be bringing that issue, both in terms of the naming of the Nunavut college and the western Arctic College, to the Assembly with a motion for approval by all Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Where am I? We did 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 19. Mr. Minister.

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Committee Motion 43-12(6): To Delete Clause 19 Of Bill 7

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 7 be amended by deleting clause 19(c) and by substituting the following:

(c) adding the following after subsection (1):

(2) A board may, by resolution, delegate the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties to a Science Advisory Council and shall specify in the resolution which of its powers and duties are delegated.

(3) The Legislative Assembly may request advice on any matter within the scope of the powers and duties of the Science Advisory Council and may specify to whom and the manner in which the advice is to be provided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Merci, monsieur. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

Committee Motion To Delete Proposed Subsection (3) From Bill 7

MR. LEWIS:

I don't know whether this is in order, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to move that the motion be amended by deleting proposed subsection (3) and substituting the following:

Marginal note: Direction from Legislative Assembly.

(3)The Legislative Assembly may, from time to time, direct the Science Advisory Council to conduct research or to review the matter within the scope of the powers and duties of the Science Advisory Council and may specify to whom and the manner in which the advice is to be provided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We need a copy of the motion, so we will take a few minutes in order for the motion to be translated. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to call this committee back to order. We have a slight delay in the process in the amending motion from Mr. Lewis. What is the wish of the committee? I have Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion to report progress is not debatable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Boo. Boo.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Can I have order, please? All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress on your behalf to the Speaker. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Mr. Ningark, item 20, report of committee of the whole.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 7, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder for this motion? I recognize Mr. Antoine as the seconder of this motion. Point of order, Mr. Allooloo.

Point Of Order

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you. My point of order, Mr. Chairman. My friend from the Kitikmeot seems to have a drink, other than water, on his table. Thank you.

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, shame.

MR. SPEAKER:

From what I can see, that item would not be considered consumable foodstuff, so I can't recognize it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ohh.

MR. SPEAKER:

From what I see, there isn't any foodstuff, so I'm afraid I'll have to deny your point of order, Mr. Allooloo.

Okay, there is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the full Caucus at 9:00 am tomorrow morning and of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 10:30 am.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 1st.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

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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

- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2

- Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Fair Practices Act

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

- Committee Report 13-12(6), Report on the Elimination of the Alcohol and Drug Board of Management

- Committee Report 15-12(6), Report on the Northwest Territories Arts Council

- 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

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 1st at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT