

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1994**

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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. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):**

Good afternoon. Before we go to Ministers' statements, I would like to take the time to recognize in the Speaker's gallery the former Member of the House of Commons for High River, Alberta, former Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Joe Clark.

---Applause

Welcome to our Assembly. Also seated in the Speaker's gallery are members of the NWT Conflict of Interest Commission: Joel Fournier, Chief Commissioner...

---Applause

...Anne Crawford, Commissioner; the Honourable Greg Evans, Commissioner; the Honourable Ted Hughes, Commissioner; and, the Honourable Jim Bourque, Commissioner.

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:**

Madam Speaker, I wish to report on the situation in Iqaluit. Madam Speaker, floating debris found yesterday afternoon has been positively identified as from the missing vessel. These items included a cabin door; roof of wheel-house; wooden box for portable generator; sliding door; flashlight; and,

plywood from the side of the cabin which showed heavy impact marks.

There was, at that time, no trace of the 16-foot canoe which was carried by the missing vessel and no other traces had been found of the 10 people aboard or any other personal belongings.

A continued massive air search has been under way since early this morning Iqaluit time, involving an RCMP twin otter searching the western shore, a Sikorsky helicopter chartered by DND searching the other side of the Bay and a Hercules and Aurora aircraft searching over open water. Two vessels in the area have been searching islands and the shore in the vicinity of Gold Cove and Chase Island.

I have just been informed, Madam Speaker, that two people from the missing vessel have been picked up early this afternoon on Gabriel Island. They are extremely weak and very cold. They are, at this moment, being rushed by boat to Gold Cove. From there, they will be transported by helicopter to Iqaluit later this afternoon. This search vessel also found the shattered canoe and the remainder of the missing vessel. There is no other information on any other missing men.

Madam Speaker, this tragedy involves the immediate families of at least 100 people in Iqaluit and Clyde River, and many more relatives and friends. People in the community throughout the region are suffering with the terrible anxiety of waiting and fearing the worst. They will need all of our support and prayers. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on October 18, 1994 regarding interpreter services for patients travelling south.

Madam Speaker, the medical travel policy does not provide escorts for unilingual escorts escorting children. Interpretation services are available at all centres defined as the "nearest centre."

Larga Limited in Edmonton offers Inuktitut, Slavey and Dogrib interpreter services. In Winnipeg, the J. Hilde Medical Unit offers Inuktitut interpreter services. The Churchill Health Centre offers Inuktitut and Cree interpreter services. Baffin House in Montreal offers Inuktitut, French and English interpreter services.

In cases where a unilingual mother accompanies her child on scheduled flights, interpretation services are arranged at the treatment destination. Prior to departure, the community health nurse or patient referral officer provides the patient and/or escort with an information card developed by the region. This card provides details on who to contact if problems occur during travel.

When the mother and child must change aircraft, the community health nurse or patient referral officer notifies the patient referral officer in communities where the stopover occurs with information on arrival time, departure time and

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other requirements such as interpretation services. The patient referral officer then makes arrangements for the necessary services.

Madam Speaker, I have two further returns to oral questions.

Return To Question 228-12(6): Extra Revenues Generated By High Water Levels

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, this is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ballantyne on October 24th regarding extra revenues generated by high water levels. Madam Speaker, during the period of high water levels, the corporation slowly increased its rates to recover the full cost of providing power to their customers. In minimizing rate increases during this period, the corporation's earnings fell short of their approved target by \$20 to \$25 million. The high water levels during the last five years contributed to the corporation's ability to minimize rate increases to all of its customers.

Madam Speaker, the corporation informed me that there was a rationale for recovering the \$4.8 million from all customers in the Northwest Territories. The rationale for the corporations' decision to apply to only recover these costs from customers of the Snare system is included in evidence currently before the Public Utilities Board.

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

Madam Speaker, I have a further reply to a question asked by Mr. Antoine on October 25th. Madam Speaker, this refers to the rationale for power rate schedule and Public Utilities Board hearings. Madam Speaker, the hearings scheduled by the NWT Public Utilities Board to consider the corporation's application concerning the setting of its rates concluded on October 12, 1994.

These hearings, scheduled by the Public Utilities Board, offered an opportunity for interested parties to express their views on the corporation's application. Madam Speaker, the public review process to consider applications by the corporation is determined by the Public Utilities Board. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. PUDLUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to recognize in the gallery Simon Awa, executive director of the NIC.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Currently there is a review of the business incentive policy under way. I understand that the department has put

out a call for proposals to hire consultants to do this review and facilitate meetings in reviewing the business incentive policy. My question to the Minister is, what is the status of the call for proposals to hire these consultants?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Public Works and Services has advertised to hire facilitators for every region in the Northwest Territories to facilitate the public meetings on the draft business incentive policy and get public feedback. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The process is, as I understand it, that a part of it will be what you call a public process and part of it will be private meetings. Can the Minister advise this House about how he intends to carry out the public process of reviewing the business incentive policy?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The process used by the facilitators in all regions...We are using private facilitators, with the back-up of staff from DPW for information purposes for the facilitators and the businesses that will be attending the meetings. The private meetings may be public as well. It is simply up to the land claim groups how they want to deal with this issue.

As a government, we were required by the claims to consult with the land claim groups, whether they be the Gwich'in, the Sahtu or the new claimant groups. We have to consult with them whenever we change a policy. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**MR. KOE:**

There are some concerns, Madam Speaker, that this process may not be as public as people would like. I would like to ask the Minister if he believes the process should

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be as open as possible and involve as many people as possible in the review of this policy?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The process will be as open as possible, we will involve as many people as possible, but we also have to address the concerns of land claim groups and we will do that in the best way possible. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. What time frame is the Minister looking at for the completion of this review? When do you expect to have the exercise finished?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 300-12(6): Status Of Proposal Call For Review Of BIP

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are hoping to have the exercise finished and the consultations done by the end of the December. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Madam Speaker, last spring there was considerable controversy over student summer employment here in Yellowknife. I was wondering if the Minister could advise what he is doing to try to make sure that a similar situation doesn't develop next spring.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would just like to indicate to the honourable Member that discussions are now taking place with the Financial Management Board Secretariat, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and, I believe, Personnel on first, reviewing the whole issue of the affirmative action policy. The other matter is dealing with the whole question of summer student employment so that the issues that were raised in the past year can hopefully be addressed.

We are not at a stage, at this particular time, to say whether or not we are prepared to come back with recommendations, but that matter is being discussed.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Minister has considered an information program. I believe that at one of the seminars offered to students after the problems became apparent last spring, the Minister suggested that it might be a good idea to perhaps have a seminar at Christmas, so that students will understand what sorts of jobs might be available and what the terms and conditions might be.

Could the Minister advise whether or not he is, in fact, planning that kind of seminar during the Christmas break this year?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can indicate to the honourable Member that we are planning an appropriate communication with the students. The suggestion I made last year was to have a seminar. That is our intention. The issue is whether or not it is going to be held here in Yellowknife or held on campuses or at various locations across the country. There are a number of students, for instance, at the University of Alberta and colleges in Edmonton. There are quite a few in Calgary and quite a few in Saskatoon. And, there are some in the eastern part of Canada. We need to determine the best approach to providing information to our students.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Would the Minister consider a program or making a recommendation in the review of

the program which would see summer jobs used as rewards or incentives for good academic performance?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 301-12(6): Plans For Student Summer Employment In 1995

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. I will certainly take that into consideration and provide that suggestion to those staff members dealing with this particular matter.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

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Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's with regard to her response on October 20th to a written question regarding a number of physicians' positions in the NWT. Her response says that there are 34 total positions for physicians throughout the NWT, and one of these positions is based in Cambridge Bay serving the eastern part of the Kitikmeot region. I would like to ask the Minister which physician would service the western part of the region, primarily Coppermine and Holman. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, as the Member is probably aware, the health board works that arrangement out, either out of Yellowknife...a physician out of Yellowknife. I don't know the exact contractual arrangements that are made. I would assume that this is where the contractual arrangement is made from. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister then, the health board, from my understanding, has requested that there be a physician position established for the western part of the Kitikmeot in Coppermine. I would like to ask the Minister if she is aware of that request.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, on many occasions, there have been requests for establishing physicians in various regions and communities. The Coppermine request is just one of the many, and I am aware of that particular position that is being put forward by the Kitikmeot Health Board.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister will she be assessing that request in preparation of the 1995-96 OPPLAN for the department?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 302-12(6): Physician Positions Serving Western Kitikmeot

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, on an ongoing basis, the Department of Health deals with the regional health board on the needs and requirements for their region. It's not necessarily tied to the 1995-96 budget arrangements; sometimes these arrangements are done in assessing what types of services are made available out there, the cost and the evaluation of whether the cost is more economical and better to be served in the community rather than on an arrangement where the contractual services come in. So it's not necessary that a physician position year is established in the budget, but more in the continuing negotiations with the health boards and the changing health needs that communities have. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 303-12(6): Assistance For Communities In Developing Manufacturing Capabilities

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. Last week, during committee of the whole when we were dealing with the Department of Public Works and Services, the question of manufacturing goods in the Northwest Territories came up. During the debate, I was asking the Minister of Public Works and Services about manufactured goods that are currently being purchased by the government. I told the Minister that in my constituency we have a lot of trees and a lot of forests, and that people there have developed resource management committees to try to identify the resources that we have and what to do with these resources. There is direction now to start logging and getting into sawmills, perhaps, and eventually into manufacturing. We could do a lot of manufacturing in that area.

Upon questioning the Minister of Public Works and Services, he indicated that my area should work with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to see how to maximize benefits with regard to contracts and capital in the communities. So I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism if there are any plans in the works to help communities develop manufacturing abilities to provide supplies to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 303-12(6): Assistance For Communities In Developing Manufacturing Capabilities

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. At this time, we've been working very closely with some of the manufacturing companies in Hay River and Yellowknife. It's certainly the goal of this government and certainly the Minister of Public Works and myself that we want to increase the northern content and involvement, particularly in our construction business. If there's any way that we can enhance that activity, we're prepared to do it. So we would sit down with the honourable Member, particularly in his area where

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logging is taking place. With the current attractive price of lumber, et cetera, there are some significant opportunities for us. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 303-12(6): Assistance For Communities In Developing Manufacturing Capabilities

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's been quite a long time since manufacturing was asked for in the north. We've been buying all our supplies for the north from the south, and we have a lot of raw material in the north to provide for the types of materials that the government is currently purchasing to build in the north. In my constituency, people are now becoming interested in developing our resources there. The Minister mentioned that they're working very hard with manufacturing in Hay River and Yellowknife, and it seems to me that only the bigger centres seem to have this opportunity. I know that in Fort Simpson, the band wanted to get into starting small with building roof trusses, but they were outbid by a bigger and better company from a bigger centre.

How are the manufacturing agreements reached with these companies that the government is currently

working with in the larger centres? Is it on a proposal call, or is it on a bid, or does the manufacturing company come forward with a good proposal? How does that work? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 303-12(6): Assistance For Communities In Developing Manufacturing Capabilities

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It happens in a variety of ways. There is the private sector where, I believe, the sewage tanks, for example, are manufactured here in Yellowknife. They are used in our public housing and our access houses across the territories. If they come into the Department of Economic Development, we work with them to develop a business plan, and to provide them with some economic incentives to do that.

With respect to Mr. Antoine's riding, if there is something specific that a particular group or individual wants to get involved in, we'd be only too happy to sit down with them and try to coordinate a business plan that incorporates some of the Minister of Public Works' initiatives and policies and enhances the economic opportunities for the people in that area. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 304-12(6): Rationale For Recovering Subsidy Costs From All Customers

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation regarding a return to an oral question. Madam Speaker, I'm quite pleased that the Power Corporation acknowledges that the high water levels during the last five years contributed to the corporation's ability to minimize rate increases to all of its customers. So everybody in the north benefitted from the high water. The Minister goes on to say that the corporation informed me that there is a rationale for recovering the \$4.8 million from all the customers

in the Northwest Territories, which again makes sense. I wonder if the Minister would provide that rationale to this House.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 304-12(6): Rationale For Recovering Subsidy Costs From All Customers

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, yes, I'll provide that.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. There have been lots of reviews and lots of assessments on services provided by physicians in the Northwest Territories. There are issues where there are private medical clinics providing a service to a community, versus services provided by staff physicians hired by the health board. My question to the Minister is, what is the policy of the Department of Health as to when you hire or contract a physician? Is there a policy in place covering that?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, as the Member is aware, throughout the Northwest Territories there are health boards established, other than just in the southern Mackenzie where some communities do not have a health board, but do have services provided through an established facility such as Stanton, Hay River or Fort Smith.

The health boards themselves go through a continuation of analysis of health priorities that they have to set according to an established needs

assessment. They need to look at what type of resources are required to take care of the very specific needs that they have. It would be looked at on an economic basis according to the service area that you are responsible for. So what makes common sense and the best way of delivering the specific services that are required would be based on the needs as well as cost-effectiveness. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**MR. KOE:**

In the north, there have been ongoing concerns about the tenure of physicians in communities. For example, in Inuvik there has been a medical clinic and they have been

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providing physicians for a few years. Before that, many years ago, the doctors or physicians used to be hired by the health board or the hospital at that time, and, in many cases, they didn't stay very long. It was very difficult to build up a doctor/patient relationship because every time you went to the clinic, there was a new doctor there. My concern is what is being done to prevent this sort of thing and to entice physicians to stay in the north longer?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the department attempts to work with the health boards to see what is the best venue that would provide the programs and services for the health needs of the individual regions and communities.

As for the retention of physicians, particularly for the Inuvik region, on a number of occasions they have asked us to help them get special commendation, so they could bring in doctors from overseas and then to

sponsor physicians from the appropriate region compatible to Canada in terms of the requirements. There have been a number of people established at the Inuvik clinic, who have been supported by this government. We see if these physicians are more inclined to live in the remoter regions of Canada. The problem with a lot of physicians educated in Canada is they prefer the more modern, urban communities where they have all the amenities of life they have become accustomed to. It doesn't matter whether it is a physician or a nurse practitioner for the health centres or a teacher or any group of people we recruit from southern Canada. They are accustomed to certain things and many of them don't have a long-term commitment to the north, although when they do come here, it is an experience for them. I believe in the long term, our special emphasis on education, training and employment would see us having our own nurses, doctors and teachers who are used to the environment of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. It is hard to argue with the statements the Minister makes because I think that is the way to go. In the interim, we still have to use trained physicians from wherever we can get them. The issue is to keep them in the north to service the people in the communities. Communities are now expecting certain levels of service. Are the wage and benefit packages which the health boards are now using similar to those used by private clinics?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the terms and conditions of what the Government of the Northwest Territories can pay on a fee schedule to doctors are established throughout the Northwest Territories. These rates are set and are well-known to the medical society in the NWT.



When we set the fee schedules, the Medical Association is informed of what the parameters of those fee schedules are. It is done in conjunction with the federal government in consideration with what they feel is a reasonable rate of return for services provided. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. One of our only carrots to keep doctors or other health professions is our salaries and benefits. There have been various questions over the past years on the salaries and benefits of nurses and dental technicians. Are the salaries and benefits for physicians under review by the department?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 305-12(6): Rationale For Hiring Versus Contracting Of Physicians

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I believe that the Northwest Territories has more to offer than money and benefits. By and large, many of the physicians and medical practitioners, nurses or educators, do come to the Northwest Territories for an experience. Unfortunately, many of them don't stay a long time because they come from another part of the country where their families are. We have the same problem when we try to relocate our own people in another region of the Northwest Territories. They want to stay close to home. It is no less important to people who come from southern Canada. At this point in time, there is no adjustment or an active look at the fees and fee schedules. I believe we did it not too long ago, so they have been set and the amounts and parameters of what those are, are available for public consumption. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have another question for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Madam Speaker, you have said many times in this House that if a Member has a question to ask of a Minister that is not within the direct knowledge of that Minister, to use a written question. I did. I asked what I thought was a fairly straightforward question: what would the effect of a 22 per cent surcharge be in the cost of power to Royal Oak and Miramar mines? It seems like a simple question. The answer being Miramar, \$1 million and Royal Oak, \$800,000, or

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whatever it may be. But, the answer wasn't that. The answer was, "The corporation's proposal of a 22 per cent interim refundable rate rider, based on the total amount billed, applies to the customers of the Snare system which include Royal Oak and Miramar Con Mines."

So, my question to the Minister is, what was the question that the Minister was answering with this particular response?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, that everyone was treated equally. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Well, that's nice to know. I didn't ask that question, but in case I would have to ask it in the future, I now know that everybody is treated equally. I will ask again if the Minister can tell me what will be the effect of a 22 per cent increase surcharge on the cost of power to Royal Oak and Miramar Con Mines. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, those calculations are presently before the Public Utilities Board.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

I'll try it a different way then, Madam Speaker. Could the Minister make available to this House the present costs of power to Royal Oak and Miramar Con Mines and then add 22 per cent to that figure and give that figure to the House? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, those two figures are presently in front of the Public Utilities Board.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Final supplementary, Madam Speaker. Could the Minister make available to this House present costs to Miramar Con Mines and Royal Oak mines and I'll add the 22 per cent calculation.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 306-12(6): Effect Of NWTPC's Proposed Surcharge On Royal Oak And Miramar Con Mines

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, to my knowledge presently, today, I don't have that knowledge. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 307-12(6): Secondary Industries Resulting From Diamond Mining

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Madam Speaker, it appears there may be a good possibility of a diamond mine opening in the not-too-distant future in the Northwest Territories. Historically, there has been little value added to the product of mines in the Northwest Territories, whether they be gold or iron ore. But I know, though, that in many countries that produce diamonds, new secondary industries have been developed; industries like sorting, grading, cutting and setting of diamonds, and that these industries can add significant value to the economy.

My question to the Minister is, what efforts has the Minister taken to ensure we get some of those secondary industries, should a diamond mine open up in the Northwest Territories?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources,  
Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 307-12(6): Secondary Industry  
Resulting From Diamond Mining

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is my favourite subject. Well, first of all, we have to find the diamonds. At the current time, the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is undergoing a number of studies with consultants with respect to polishing, cutting and a whole variety of spin-offs with respect to the diamond industry.

I believe we've recruited some of the top intelligence in the world in the diamond field. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we'll have some options so that, should diamond mines come about, we will be able to present something to the companies and the territories which would improve the economic well-being of communities like Yellowknife and other areas. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

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Supplementary To Question 307-12(6): Secondary  
Industries Resulting From Diamond Mining

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Minister advises that the department is actively looking at this. Could the Minister advise us whether or not his department is also considering introducing legislation to ensure that some sort of secondary processing does take place?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources,  
Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 307-12(6): Secondary  
Industries Resulting From Diamond Mining

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Madam Speaker, hopefully, if we manage to reach an agreement on the accord with the people of the territories and the federal government, that would give

us the legislative authority to do the kinds of things the honourable Member is talking about.

However, being a man of not one option, we are currently looking at other options, like legislation, that may be necessary, should we not reach a satisfactory deal with the federal government, to ensure that these diamond companies do demonstrate and bring about significant benefits to northerners. Otherwise, they should just leave the diamonds in the ground. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of  
Physicians In Nahendeh Region

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. As you know, in my constituency we don't have a health board, but we do have an administration body called the Mackenzie Regional Health Board. But, there are no representatives from the communities who sit on the board, just appointees from the government. I would like to ask the Minister of Health a question about physicians. I would like to know how the doctors who work in my community of Fort Simpson are hired by the Mackenzie Regional Health Board? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 308-12(6): Process For  
Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh Region

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the Mackenzie Health Board follows procedures by advertising in certain papers. They also consult with physicians' medical associations across Canada to see if there are any available physicians who would be interested in working in the Northwest Territories, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh Region

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you. Madam Speaker, I was listening with interest when the Minister was replying to my honourable colleague from Inuvik's question when she stated that doctors come up north because we have more to offer than just their salaries, and they come for the experience. I'm sure a lot of them do. I would like to know what kind of experience they are getting in the communities.

In my constituency, we have two doctors who alternate and they work fairly well with the community but, just recently, one of them left and went to Rankin Inlet. Upon his leaving, I asked him and he said there seem to be some problems he is experiencing with the Mackenzie Regional Health Board. I, personally, and people I know have no problems dealing with him. However, I guess the experience has not been very good for him, so he's leaving.

I would like to ask the Minister, how can people in the communities be involved in keeping a doctor there or hiring a doctor if this task is left up to an administration that is appointed by the government? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, when I referred to issues other than salaries and wages, there are a lot of people who want to see all parts of Canada, to see the living conditions and work with people they have heard a lot about but really haven't had the opportunity to go and work in different locations. It is like everything else, people like to travel and work with various people and groupings of people. They like that experience; it is all very fulfilling for an individual. This particular instance that the honourable Member refers to, I can't express an opinion on because it's specific. I believe that many of the doctors from years ago who used to work in the Inuvik area used to stay a longer period of time because it was remote and they enjoyed working with the people for the period of time they were there. Mind you, it wasn't a long time. But there are some

people who are better suited to work in smaller communities and work with different groups of people, than others.

Sometimes people could find that something happens, and they feel that it's in their own best interest to move on. So I believe that the daily working relationship that a physician or any other professional has, in their experience with community groups, would entice them to stay on if they like people. Even if they like people -- I guess I shouldn't qualify it that way -- but if they liked the area they worked in and they didn't have any other aspirations, you would get them to stay longer. But it's very difficult for anyone to determine how long a person will stay in a certain area, and there are many factors that would have to be judged in deciding that.

Certainly, if the intent of the question was perhaps there should be a way since there is not a health board established to involve people, I can look at perhaps setting up some kind of

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a process where a represented group of people are involved, particularly in the area where there isn't a health board. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The situation in Simpson is quite bad, I think, because the people who go for appointments with the doctors, even though this community has only a population of 1,000, are asked to wait for a week or even more before their appointment is confirmed with the doctor. The problem here is that I think the doctor has too much to do alone. So there might be a reason here to have more than one doctor in the community. I think this has been relayed to the department, through the doctors. However, the health board members, who are appointed by the government, are not responding to the requests from the people of the communities for the physicians, because there are no community people involved. I think the problem there is with your health administration, rather than with the people and the doctors. I would like to ask the Minister if she

would look into this situation with the administration of the Mackenzie Regional Health Board. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I can look at the administration of the Mackenzie regional administration zone. But I would ask, maybe not right now, that maybe the honourable Member will share a little more specifically what he feels the concern is. If he feels the concern is that there's going to be a contemplation of placing another doctor in Fort Simpson when there is one there already, I would say that would be highly unlikely given all the other communities that have about the same population and don't have a doctor. So if it's not just a matter of providing another doctor, but if there are some areas where the Member feels that we can do better, then I would be pleased to work with the Member to see how we can accomplish that. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as the Members of the House know, I've spoken many times in this House with regard to the hospital in Fort Simpson. We've had this hospital in Fort Simpson for many, many years. Now, with the move towards having more of the services done in Yellowknife, a lot of my constituents have to travel a long distance by charter and then on a sched to come here, and be boarded here for days on end. And that costs quite a bit of money, especially if women have to give birth to a child here. The last time, a woman stayed here for over six weeks and she had children at home. So we have a lot of problems. So if you're looking at a financial way of dealing with this situation of providing medical services in Simpson, I would like to ask the Minister if she could look into seeing if we could provide more services in Simpson and have better equipment so that we could do more of the work in

Simpson rather than having to spend all this money bringing people into Yellowknife; flying them in here and putting them up while they wait for an appointment. Mahsi.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 308-12(6): Process For Recruitment Of Physicians In Nahendeh

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the feasibility of the Simpson hospital, the Hay River hospital, the Fort Smith hospital, all these evaluations have pretty well been completed. What we do with the shortfall and the cost-effectiveness of where the services are provided and what can be done in providing these services in a hospital setting are certainly some of the questions. So this is a continuing issue and I hope that in the next few months we will be able to address it. Maybe some of the findings will not be very popular, but I think we should be looking at those very expensive analyses that have been done, sit down and see if we really want to do something about it or not. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, we heard from Mr. Todd how he was proposing to reorganize the government and begin pushing things into other parts of the territories. In light of the fact that a year ago the Prime Minister, as one of his first official duties, was to come here and address us -- he made the promise that he would devolve to this government the powers that we needed at a timetable and a pace chosen by us -- I would like to ask the Premier what initiatives has she taken in light of all the demands for devolution and so on to, in fact, take the Prime Minister up on his offer?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the continuing negotiations with the federal government have taken up a lot of time for myself and other Ministers responsible for various areas on the issues or the outstanding programs that presently rest with the federal government which could be handled by the territorial government. This has been an ongoing, continuous dialogue between the federal government and ourselves, and then, subsequently, the officials' level. So there isn't a week that goes by that we aren't trying to reconcile how we can move in getting those devolution programs implemented.

As the Member is probably aware, this is a very frustrating exercise. Even though the Prime Minister of Canada made a

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very strong and direct message, and gave that very direct message, there are still a lot of processes that work against a quick and efficient evolution in trying to get that process in place, and trying to get the multitude of people from various departments who have a vested interest in Ottawa to start to make some positive moves rather than finding out all the reasons why they cannot do something.

So it's been a continuing process. I've discussed this at various times with the Prime Minister. I intend to discuss it again while we're on the trip to China. And, at the same time, we are trying to live up to some of the commitments or the criteria and guidelines that Minister Irwin has put down, that we have to try, as best as possible -- particularly in oil and gas and mining -- to have a working arrangement with all the aboriginal groups of the Northwest Territories so that we can take the next step. We're trying very hard to do that, as well. This is an ongoing dialogue and we are trying to pursue it as effectively as we can, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**MR. LEWIS:**

I worked for the federal government over 30 years ago. The plan was that the federal government was going to gradually withdraw from the scene. From what I can see, the federal government is just as strong, powerful and all-pervasive as it was then. On the issue of duplication, our federal government has indicated that they wish to talk to every single provincial and territorial jurisdiction in order to avoid duplicating services provided by those orders of government. Where are we at with the one issue of duplication of services?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, on the issue of duplication, I have certainly discussed this matter at the Premiers' conferences, as well as with Minister Masse as recently as late this summer. I have asked the Minister of Finance to take on the ongoing discussions. I would like to concur with the Member, Mr. Lewis. It seems in one sense the statements on the principles of devolution are very strong at certain levels, but the ongoing commitment of getting the job done is very thin, in terms of dedication and purpose to devolution. Mr. Pollard is responsible for the duplication, overlap and the ongoing detail. If the honourable Member wishes, I can defer to Mr. Pollard.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask a final question to the Premier. I have learned in life that you achieve something if you make a priority out of it. Would she give us an indication of what would be the number one, two and three priorities to get the Prime Minister of

Canada to fulfil the commitment he made a year ago about devolution of powers to this government?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 309-12(6): Initiatives For Transfer Of Federal Government Programs

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the ability to create a self-sufficient Northwest Territories government. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo.

Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not sure who to direct my question to. It is about government parking spaces; maybe to the Minister of DPW. I understand that there is a long waiting list of government employees who are looking for a parking space. Some of them have been waiting for over two years. Is that true, Madam Speaker?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Where have they been waiting for two years for parking spaces? Thank you.

---Laughter

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I should have said in Yellowknife. Is my information correct? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know there was a shortage of parking in Yellowknife because people have raised that issue with me before. I will be pleased to provide the availability of private parking in Yellowknife to the Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is it also true that since the government charges ridiculously low rates to government employees -- something to the effect of \$26 per

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month, whereas in the private sector, the parking charges are in excess of \$150 per month -- this has created employees not being able to find their own government parking spaces? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 310-12(6): Parking Spaces For GNWT Employees

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will take that advice from the Member seriously and I will look at increasing the parking prices for government up to the market rate as soon as possible.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance, who is responsible also for the Financial Management Board. This government has various guidelines for purchasing goods and services. I presume that all these rules and guidelines have to be complied with and adhered to by the various agencies, boards and commissions that are funded by this government. The policy is that agencies, boards and commissions have to buy and hire north and they have special incentives to buy locally. Do all government agencies, boards and commissions follow the guidelines to buy and hire northern goods and services?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, I don't know for sure. It is only when items are brought to my attention that we can do something about it, but I would venture to suggest to this House, Madam Speaker, that they do not all conform to those rules, regulations and guidelines out there. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. If that is the case, why is this allowed to happen? If the rules and regulations are in place, why are not all agencies, boards and commissions made to follow these rules and guidelines that are in place?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Madam Speaker, I did say that I venture to suggest. I am not in receipt of concrete information that boards aren't following all the rules and regulations. I don't have enough manpower to go out there and start reviewing those things, unless they come up in an audit that is being done on a regular basis, Madam Speaker. But if there are some specific boards or instances that the Member knows about and draws to my attention, I will make sure that someone investigates it and bring the answer back to the Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**MR. KOE:**

Years ago, when these policies were being reviewed and developed, they were developed so that opportunities were given for local businesses to be able to set up storefront operations to supply goods and services to all government departments, agencies, boards and commissions. This then saved the government money because they didn't have to provide the warehousing and the inventory of the stock. So how can he, as Minister of Finance and the Financial Management Board, and other Ministers, ensure that the agencies, boards and commissions, and the departments under their respective jurisdictions, comply with all the rules that are in place to buy and hire northern goods and services?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Madam Speaker, I know there is more than one Minister who has been frustrated in the past year with some of these issues with boards and agencies. One



was with Stanton hospital and it had to do with the purchase of fish caught in the Northwest Territories. I think Mr. Todd was the one who was extremely disappointed with the answer to his question.

It is being drawn to my attention again by Mr. Koe. What I will do is make sure this is discussed at the next Financial Management Board meeting and I will be suggesting to Ministers who participate that I issue a directive to all boards, agencies and commissions and ask them to comply with these particular rules and regulations, or to advise me why they cannot comply with these particular rules and regulations. If I get support from the Financial Management Board, I will do that immediately, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, just for the record then, when will you be presenting that to the board and when can we expect this sort of directive to come out, which I think is an action that is required. Mahsi.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 311-12(6): GNWT Agencies Complying With Guidelines For Purchase Of Northern Goods And Services

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Madam Speaker, the board meets Thursday. I will make sure it is on the agenda and I will issue the letter on Monday if the board approves it. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Madam Speaker, Return To Written Question 3-12(6), asked by Mr. Koe to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism concerning registered businesses in the western Arctic.

**Return To Written Question 3-12(6): Registered Businesses In The Western Arctic**

A total of 5,680 corporations, co-operatives, limited partnerships and partnerships are registered in the Northwest Territories. As of September 30, 1994, 2,290 of the corporations and cooperatives were registered as extraterritorial companies. The Companies Act requires the registration of corporations, the Co-operative Associations Act the registration of cooperatives and the Partnership Act the registration of partnerships. The Department of Justice registers corporations and cooperatives to allow for the creation of legal entities and the rules that govern those entities. The reason for registration of partnerships is to identify those who are partners carrying on business in a specific partnership. For the purposes of the legislation, it is not generally relevant where, in the Northwest Territories, corporations, partnerships and sole proprietorships carry on business, nor is the identify and ethnic origin of the owners and shareholders.

Because of the registration process and the purpose of registration, it is not possible to use business registration information to respond to the Member's question.

Staff in the Department of Public Works and Services who administer the business incentive policy have started to request and tabulate information on ethnicity of owners of businesses registering. At the current time, collection is not complete nor has the system been organized to issue reports on this basis.

The number of businesses in the western Arctic registered under the business incentive policy (BIP) is known. As of October 3, 1994, there were 1,406 businesses registered under

BIP in the communities of the western Arctic. The breakdown is as follows:

Deh Cho: Fort Liard, 10; Fort Simpson, 51; Jean Marie River, one; Trout Lake, two; Wrigley, three; total, 67.

North Slave: Lac La Martre, five; Lutsel K'e, three; Rae Lakes, three; Rae-Edzo, 25; Snare Lake, three; Yellowknife 676; total, 715.

South Slave: Enterprise, two; Fort Providence, 14; Fort Resolution, 12; Fort Smith, 129; Hay River, 177; Kakisa Lake, one; total, 335.

Inuvik: Aklavik, nine; Colville Lake, one; Deline, four; Fort Good Hope, 11, Fort McPherson, 11; Fort Norman, 12; Holman, three; Inuvik, 174; Norman Wells, 38; Paulatuk, two; Sachs Harbour, five; Tsiigehtchic, three; Tuktoyaktuk, 16; total, 289.

Return To Written Question 16-12(6): Number of GNWT Employees Eligible For Hardship Allowance

I also have a Return to Written Question 16-12(6) asked by Mr. Patterson to the Minister of Personnel on the number of Government of the Northwest Territories employees eligible for hardship allowance.

Employees who occupy GNWT staff accommodation may apply for shelter assistance when their basic housing costs exceed 30 per cent of gross household income.

As of October 25, 1994, 24 employees were receiving shelter assistance. They are located in the following regions: Inuvik, 1; Kitikmeot, 5; Keewatin, 7; Baffin, 11; total, 24.

This represents two per cent of the 1,165 employees/tenants in GNWT staff housing.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. 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 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 second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to permit a Member to request advice from the Chief Commissioner of the Conflict of Interest Commission in respect of the Member's obligations under the act. A Member or former Member may also apply to the Chief

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Commissioner for permission to accept a contract with government that would otherwise be prohibited under the act, subject to the conditions imposed by the Chief Commissioner. The Commissioner is required to describe each such contract and identify the interests of the Member in his annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

The bill also specifies that the annual reports must identify any Member who fails to file or is late in filing disclosure statements required by the act. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

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 second time.

This bill amends the Fair Practices Act to expand the powers of fair practices officers for investigations, hearings and disputes. The bill also provides for the registration of the order of a fair practices officer with the territorial court. The bill also creates a separate offence for disobeying an order or a decision of a fair

practices officer, and sets fines for those offences.  
Thank you.

**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 16 and Bill 21 have had second reading and, accordingly, the bills stand referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wonder if I can seek unanimous consent to go back to tabling of documents. I was in error when you called it out.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 13, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Todd.

REVERT TO ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, honourable Members. Madam Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 51-12(6), Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation 1993-94 Annual Report.

I also wish to table Tabled Document 52-12(6), The Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories 1993 Annual Report. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Honourable Members, there is a rule in the House that you shouldn't be eating any items. I have observed that rule is being defied at this time.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Shame, shame.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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; 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; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2; and, Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Fair Practices 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 back to order. Yesterday, we were dealing with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that we continue consideration of Bill 7 and, should we complete that bill, that we resume consideration of Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1, specifically to consider the capital budget of the Department of Justice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Do we agree then that we continue with Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act and, if we are able to conclude this particular bill, that we deal with Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1, the review of the 1995-96 capital estimates? Do we agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Arctic College Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. When we concluded yesterday, we were dealing with Bill 7, as I stated earlier and we were on clause 19. I understand Mr. Lewis has a motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will recall that we broke so that the legal people could examine this motion. There were some technical problems, so I would like to withdraw my motion and introduce another one.

---Withdrawn

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Do you have another motion that you would like to introduce now?

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a new amendment to the proposed amendment. It is translated into the required languages.

Committee Motion To Amend Clause 19 Of Bill 7,  
Defeated

I move that the motion to amend clause 19(c) of Bill 7 be amended by deleting proposed subsection (3) and substituting the following:

Marginal note: Direction from Legislation Assembly.

(3)The Legislative Assembly may, from time to time, direct the Science Advisory Council to conduct research or to review a 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 results of the research or review are to be provided.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The motion is in order. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I would like to speak to my proposed amendment, Mr. Chairman. When the Standing Committee on Legislation examined this piece of legislation, what was being proposed was a rationalization of the structure of several parts of government. There was obviously a deep requirement that the Arctic College be constituted into two separate colleges. It seemed convenient at that time, since the decision had already been made to devolve the Science Institute, that a good place to put it would be one half in the east and one half in the west.

The problem that some of us had with this proposal was that at that time, it doesn't seem as if a decision was anything more than an administrative convenience simply to rationalize a decision that hadn't been carefully thought through.

The other issue was that when the Science Institute had been originally established, there was a strong feeling at the time that as we emerged politically, we needed some place, as an Assembly, where we could put some trust and faith in getting objective information about issues that emerged from time to time. The theme was so strong at that time that we saw fit to provide money and resources, so that we could establish a Science Institute with its own act.

There is no such justification in the proposed reorganization of the Science Institute. It is very difficult for some Members to even justify the money for it because it seems to have lost its focus. So the purpose of my amendment is to provide at least some way in which the original spirit and intent of establishing a Science Institute in the Northwest Territories, in a rapidly changing part of the world and where there is tremendous political activity, that we would still have some way in which we could get independent information on issues that matter to us.

I am the first to concede that this has not been an institute which has been boiling over with issues that we have referred to it over the years. But I remind

Members that the Science Institute has in the past considered the issue of post-secondary education. It has examined the issue of alternative energy, during that time of crisis where we weren't quite sure about our self-sufficiency or supply. It has examined the issue of uranium mining and that is the one that stands out in my mind as the occasion when the Members really felt gratified and grateful that we had people who could help us to understand a very complicated issue. There was some work related to the trapping industry and I remember, more recently, the issue of preparing skins to make into leather for the leather trade.

Those are just a few examples; there are others that we referred to the Science Institute because we wanted to have this kind of objective information. The purpose of this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is to provide at least some comfort that this Legislature, that asked for this institute to help it many years ago, could still from time to time have the institute respond to requests to have something done. Since we would no longer have an act or control, I felt that the wording in the proposed government amendment wasn't strong enough. Because if it really isn't a creature of your own Legislature, then a request or some question doesn't have the same weight.

I compare this, to some degree, with the powers that we have retained, even though the agency is at arm's length from government. We have a Power Corporation, for example, that has its own board and its independence; however, the Minister still maintains the right to be able to tell that corporation what to do. I don't think that this particular clause goes beyond what we have got in some legislation that already exists to give us some comfort if we want something done.

I have never been too concerned about structure or how things are going to be organized, but I really believe that it is important, when the time comes, that we can ask that some work be undertaken and undertaken in an objective fashion and isn't science for hire. We all heard from our days with the Mackenzie Valley pipeline inquiry how science really was for hire. You had people arguing both sides of the case. I never had much faith that we were getting a good picture of what that impact would be because the pipeline isn't built, it is there, and many of the predictions never came to happen.

So that is the purpose of the amendment, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it is a harmful one. It just means that this Legislature that saw fit to establish

this institute, for very good reasons some time ago, should at least have some way in which it can ask it to do something, even in 1994. The wording the Minister has provided from the other act isn't strong enough, given the new administrative arrangements that he proposed to put into place. If this amendment fails, Mr.

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Chairman, I have no further amendments. I have no further work that I would ask other Members to examine. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The motion before you is to amend the amendment to clause 19. Mr. Koe, to the motion.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I am going to have to oppose the amendment as proposed by Mr. Lewis. The amendment, as I read it, is changing the whole intention and giving new powers to this Assembly; powers that I believe we didn't have before. If my understanding of the existing Science Institute Act is correct, this Legislature never did have the authority to direct the Science Institute. We did have the authority to refer issues to the Science Institute for consideration and advice. So the original amendment is just that. "The Legislative Assembly may request advice on any matter within the scope and powers of the Science Advisory Council." I believe that covers a lot of the concerns. If we have issues and concerns, we refer them to the appropriate authorities and they deal with them as they wish. From my understanding of the existing legislation, that is what we have now. I believe that the proposed amendment goes a step further and you are asking to direct the Science Advisory Council on what to do. At this stage, I can't support the amendment. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. To the amendment. Mr. Ballantyne.

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

I have a couple of comments on it. First of all, I think I'm a little bit concerned about what seems to be a recent trend here in the Legislative Assembly. We have set up quite a sophisticated, all-inclusive legislative process where public hearings are held;

the Legislation committee has opportunity to discuss and to debate all our bills; and, any Member who is not part of that committee can go in front of the committee. Members have an opportunity, if they have concerns, to bring them forth many times during the process.

I'm a little bit concerned, it seems that we are starting to have last-minute amendments now. I respect that every Member has a right to do that, and I'm not taking away that right, but Members have to recognize, though, that if they bring forward last-minute amendments, they have to respect that other Members may not be 100 per cent sure of all the ramifications of that amendment and what it is going to do to the overall bill.

I'm concerned because legislation is a finely tuned process and if one component doesn't fit in with the rest, all of the legislation can be off. I have always been very hesitant to deal with last-minute amendments and try to anticipate all the ramifications involved. I think that, in this particular case, the government has gone a long way to accommodate the concerns of Members and Mr. Lewis. But I think essentially what the government has proposed is pretty well what we can do right now.

I am a little concerned because the reality is the Science Institute, when it's under the umbrella of Arctic College, is a different institution than it was when it was independent. My concern is that if the Legislative Assembly can direct them to do something, that can be in total conflict with what is happening in Arctic College. It seems to me that they will be there to serve that particular group more than the general group, and I can see a conflict.

If I were the chair of the board of the Science Institute and the Legislative Assembly tells me to do one thing and Arctic College tells me to do something else, I would be caught. The way it is now, if the Legislative Assembly has a legitimate request, it will be handled, and there is a whole political process so that it will be possible to deal with the government of the day, if they don't handle it. So, I think the government has gone a long way, there has been a lot of work done with this particular bill and I'm happy with the compromise that the government has offered.

So, with reluctance, Mr. Lewis, because I respect your strongly-held views, I won't be able to support your amendment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a chance, although it was a very short time, to think about the amendment to the amendment. I also, very briefly, had a chance to look at the old act. I would like to ask our legal counsel, in the existing act under section 12(1) and section 12(2), it seems that the Legislative Assembly, at the present moment, has the authority to ask the institute to investigate and report to the Assembly. I wonder if that is, in fact true.

Reading the amendment that the government is putting forward, it seems that the Assembly may request that of the Science Institute; but if, in their wisdom, they choose not to do what the Legislative Assembly is asking, they don't have to do it. It seems that way to me. I don't know, maybe I'm not reading it right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Ms. MacPherson.

**LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the existing Science Institute Act, the Legislative Assembly may refer to the institute, for its consideration and advice, such matters as this Assembly sees fit and the institute then shall investigate and report. So, the institute has no discretion in terms of dealing with the matter. They shall investigate and report.

That act, of course, will be repealed by the bill before Members and the Minister has moved a motion, that is in front of Members, which provides that the Legislative Assembly may request advice on any matter within the scope and powers of the council and Mr. Lewis has moved a motion to provide that this body has the power to give direction to the council. I hope that clarifies the matter for the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Chairman, my concern is that this Legislature had the services of the Science Institute before in terms of providing scientific information that was requested, namely for uranium mining. They have reported to the Legislative Assembly in the past on this and also

other things. The Legislature was able to get information from the Science

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Institute and the Science Institute was obligated to give a report to the Legislative Assembly.

I don't know who I'm asking, Mr. Chairman, but under the government amendment, if Mr. Lewis' motion doesn't go through, would the Legislative Assembly's wishes be adhered to, or could the Science Institute say, no, we don't want to do it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Minister, perhaps you could try to clarify this for Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I thought our legal advisor was going to provide us with the interpretation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Okay. Ms. MacPherson.

**LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the government's motion, this Assembly has the power to request advice on any matter and to specify to whom and the manner in which the advice is to be provided. There is no express provision within the proposed section which would mandate that the council respond to the Legislature, although I, quite frankly, would find it difficult to believe that a council would not respond to this Assembly.

The government's motion says that this body has the power to request advice and when it requests advice, it will specify how it wants to receive that advice. There is no corollary saying "the council shall respond" contained within the motion, although as I indicated, that is a practical matter. The Minister may want to address that issue.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

I'm wavering between supporting the amendment that Mr. Lewis is putting forward because the existing act under section 12(2) says "the institute shall

investigate." They have to investigate and report back to the Legislative Assembly. We are losing part of that. Maybe somehow we could get the power the Legislature has back into the act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to respond to a few comments about process and the process we went through in dealing with this act. I'm a Member of that committee, Mr. Chairman, and, in fact, the committee did not support this act. In fact, it is black and white -- we have already read it into the record -- that the committee found some difficulty in supporting it.

The reason for that was largely due to some lack of detail about how the colleges were going to be established, but also a lack of real definition of what the new Science Advisory Council was going to be like. But, the main concern was the one I raised, which is the one relating to the ability of this legislation to get some responsible body that would be responsive to it in time of need. It was never expected that there would be an ongoing relationship between the Assembly and the institute.

It is very much like the Power Corporation, where the Minister, from time to time -- even though it has a board and has independence -- in days of need or emergency, has somewhere to turn to get something done. Those issues were listened to by our committee and that is why, as I've said, the committee didn't support this act. The Minister has gone some way, and I give him credit for trying to rectify some of the concerns of the committee.

But, on analysis of his proposed amendment, it doesn't go far enough in giving the Assembly some kind of entry into getting something done on an emergency basis, when it has got nowhere else to turn that it feels confident in. That's the only purpose of this amendment: to give some certainty that when it asks for something, it will get it, rather than asking for something and finding that there are other priorities that can't be set aside and that it had better look elsewhere.

I agree with our Law Clerk who says it is likely that anytime this very important body asks for something to be done, it would be done. But, we, as legislators,

always want to find some way of making sure that there is some certainty and that it isn't left to the politics of the day. We would like to have something a bit more definite and certain than is proposed by the Minister's amendment to his act. But, I do give him credit for trying. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the proposed amendment to the amendment. Mr. Nerysoo.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. It is always difficult when you try to listen to the interpretations given by legal advisors or people who might give the impression of being legal advisors. But, I do want to say this. I have had a chance, Mr. Chairman, to go back and read -- and I do this quite often -- some of the debates and the man who led the debate about the Science Institute was a man by the name of Mr. Tom Butters.

His debate centred around the fact that the Assembly had no influence or very little influence on the issue of science activity in the Northwest Territories, as far back as 1971. His intention was that the Assembly Members and people of the north could influence the direction of science, engineering and technology. Even in his day, it was never his intention that the process would reflect, or that he anticipated, in his day anyway, ministerial government. In those times, it wasn't a matter on the agenda. But, it has happened.

I know Mr. Lewis has been a very strong proponent of ministerial accountability in this Assembly and ministerial government and I do believe that, no matter what happens, all Ministers have to be accountable to their colleagues in this Legislature. I think that what I have been trying to propose is a very significant change, but not so significant as to disallow the Members recommending and requesting that information be provided. In fact, it is no less than what has been proposed in section 12(1) of the old Science Institute of the Northwest Territories Act, which the honourable Member for Amittuq read out. There was not the authority to direct, but rather the authority to refer. So, that must be clear.

The other issue is simply that it would be very difficult for any Minister, upon the advice and request of this Assembly, to ever

-- depending on whether or not the circumstances change -- not respond to Members of this Assembly. That would be very difficult.

The other point that was made, and the honourable Member raised it, was that initially there was concern. What I have tried to do is respond by establishing the delegation of authority and also respond to the ideas of 12(1) and 12(2) of the old act. That is what I have been trying to do.

What concerns me about the amendment to the amendment, Mr. Chairman, is that the concept of this Assembly directing an advisory council goes far beyond normal causes of directing authority. It goes beyond directing the Arctic College Board. It goes beyond directing the Minister who is, in the final analysis, accountable. I think it sets a very significant and dangerous precedent in how we, as an Assembly, set policy direction. I have difficulty with the amendment only, I think, on that basis.

On the matter of responding to the Assembly, I have heard the arguments that have been made by my colleagues and I have gone, in my view, a way to respond and to be fair in terms of recognizing what was in the existing legislation and to respond as favourably as possible, without diminishing the development of accountable and responsible ministerial authority.

I understand the arguments that have been made by Mr. Lewis, but I find it very difficult and will not, obviously, be supporting the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Question has been called. I think we are going to bring some Members in. We don't have a quorum here.

Thank you. For clarification, we have a motion on the floor, a motion to amend the amendment to the original motion. Bill 7, clause 19 is where we are. There is a motion on the floor, Mr. Lewis' motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is defeated.



---Defeated

We are now dealing with the original motion by the honourable Minister, Richard Nerysoo. To the original motion to amend clause 19(3). We are now dealing with the original motion to amend clause 19. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:**

I would like to thank Members for going through that brief discussion of the purpose of this overall amendment: to at least give the Assembly some way of getting its requests listened to. It will now become a matter of record and in future, if requests are made, it will be taken as a matter of priority. As the Minister has pointed out, given the importance that we attach to ministerial government, we will still have people who listen very carefully and seriously to any requests we make. So I will be supporting the amendment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned before, in the existing act it says, "The institute shall investigate and report back to the Legislative Assembly." We are losing that ability. I understand because of the amendment to this act, there will not be any more Science Institute. There is going to be a Science Advisory Council, rather than the institute. I wonder if there is any way that we, as a Legislative Assembly, could retain the ability to -- "direct" is the wrong word - - obligate the Science Advisory Council to investigate, as it is set out in the existing act. I wonder why the government wanted to lessen the ability of the Legislature to force the Science Advisory Council to investigate and report to the Legislative Assembly. That is directed to the Minister. Why was that done? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Minister.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

I indicated earlier, Mr. Chairman, as has been the case previously, the Assembly does have the authority to request advice. There are two accountabilities here. One is the Minister because most normal requests that have been made, historically, have been through motions of this House.

That is how the direction is received. So any Minister who is responsible, has to deal with accounting on those motions.

What is clear also is that the responsibility of science, technology and engineering is not only going to rest with the Science Advisory Council, but also with the Nunavut Arctic College board and the western Arctic College board. The direction can still be given by Members through the Minister on those issues.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. 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 19, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 20.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 21.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 22.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 23.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 24.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 25.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 26.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Qujannamiik, merci. Clause 27.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause 28.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 29.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Clause 30.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause 31.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Merci. Clause 32.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause 33. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 44-12(6): To Amend Clause 33 Of Bill 7, Carried

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 7 be amended by deleting clause 33 and by substituting the following:

33. Section 34 is repealed and the following is substituted:

34. The Commissioner in Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Minister, may make regulations

(a) prescribing the remuneration that shall be paid to the members of a board and the expenses for which a member shall be reimbursed;

(b) prescribing regions for the purposes of section 9;

(3) prescribing the duties of and the qualifications for membership in a student association;

(4) prescribing the duties of, powers of and the method for selection of a student council;

(e) prescribing the method for the appointment of members to a Science Advisory Council; and

(4) for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. I believe those brackets were (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). To the motion. The motion is in order. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

A point of clarification, when the Minister was reading, he was using letters and numbers. It was confusing. So maybe just clarify it for the record.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you clarify, for the record, what you are reading.

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe I read the legislation correctly. It is section 34(a),(b),(3),(d),(e),(f). If you will recall, the problem may be 34(b), "prescribing regions for the purposes of section 9." That deals with another portion of the legislation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. The motion I have deals with 34(a),(b),(c),(d),(e) and (f). There are no numbers in brackets. Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

I am ready to vote.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

There was a question on the floor. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 33, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause 34. Mr. Nerysoo

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Committee Motion 45-12(6): To Amend Clause 34 Of Bill 7, Carried

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 7 be amended by repealing clause 34 and the heading immediately preceding clause 34 and by substituting the following:

Consequential Amendments

34.(1) The Evidence Act is amended by this section.

(2) Paragraph (j) of the definition "health care professional" in section 13 is repealed and the following is substituted:

(j) has successfully completed a Community Health Representative course offered by a public college established under the Public Colleges Act.

34.1.(1) The Financial Administration Act is amended by this section.

(2) Section 1 of Schedule B is repealed and the following is substituted:

1. A public college established under the Public Colleges Act.

34.2.(1) The Public Service Act is amended by this section.

(2) Paragraph (a) of Schedule A is repealed and the following is substituted:

(a) a public college, established under the Public Colleges Act, except with respect to individuals employed under subsection 23(1) of that Act;

(3) Paragraph (a) of Schedule B is repealed and the following is substituted:

(a) a public college, established under the Public Colleges Act, where such employees are employed under subsection 23(1) of that Act;

34.3. The Science Institute of the Northwest Territories Act is repealed."

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Clause 34, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Clause 35.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that Bill 7, as amended, is ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Bill 7 is now ready for third reading, as amended. We will take a short break. Is that agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

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

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

Department Of Justice

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

I would like to call the committee to order. We are on the Department of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice for his opening remarks.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance recommended that a capital budget for the Department of Justice be

presented to this Legislative Assembly that would include a new capital plan for corrections initiatives. Mr. Pollard announced in his budget address that the Financial Management Board had authorized the Department of Justice to develop a corrections construction plan with a funding target of \$3 million for 1995-96, rising to \$4 million for 1996-97 and \$5 million for 1997-98. The detail of the five-year capital plan is being developed now. The first year of the plan will include such things as an emphasis on community-based correctional centres, a young offenders' treatment centre and a women's correctional facility in Nunavut.

There will be a need for increased operational resources to run these new facilities. During the consultation process with the communities, appropriate means of delivering the service will

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also be explored. There will be very little offset available from resources in existing facilities to redirect for the new initiatives.

I have been directed by FMB to return with more detail on statistics and criteria for the various projects. Once that has been done, I plan to take the entire plan back to the Standing Committee on Finance and return to the Legislature with a supplementary estimate in February. Communities interested in community correctional projects will therefore have time to prepare to become involved.

In the meantime, in the capital plan you have before you, we have identified some rather modest requirements. These requirements are the absolute minimum that we need to maintain the justice system as it is.

Court services and registries have requested funding to secure an area at the Yellowknife Courthouse for the loading and unloading of prisoners. This area is necessary for the safety of the prisoners, RCMP and court staff.

The corrections division budget requirements for 1995-96 address such areas as:

- providing a second vehicle at the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in Fort Smith;
- providing a vehicle for the Inuvik open custody young offenders' facility;

- installing proper ventilation in the craft room at the young offenders' facility in Iqaluit;

- upgrading the surveillance equipment at Yellowknife Correctional Centre by installing time-lapse VCR recorders;

- renovating a private interview area for high-security inmates at Yellowknife Correctional Centre; and,

- replacing existing glass windows with security glazing at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

As I said earlier, the 1995-96 capital estimates before you are only addressing projects necessary to maintain basic and reasonable operational/safety needs.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to answer any questions that you, the Members, may have. Could I have my staff come in to assist me? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Yes, at the appropriate time, Mr. Kakfwi, we will invite you to take the witness table. First, I would like to turn to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is from the review of the 1995-96 capital estimates. The committee was, again, dismayed during our review to find that the Department of Justice had not prepared a five-year capital plan to lay out spending plans for corrections and other areas. While the Minister told the committee what targets had been laid out for the next five years by the FMB, committee Members cannot properly address this area without knowing what the department's spending priorities will be.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the capital budget for the Department of Justice be presented to the House as part of consideration of the overall 1995-96 capital estimates.

It is also crucial that the Minister and the department develop a strategy for addressing correctional and other needs. This is an important part of government expenditures and should not be addressed in a haphazard manner. The committee looks forward to

seeing what the department has planned in the way of strategy development.

Following the Minister's appearance, committee Members concluded that the following recommendations should be made to the department.

#### Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice establish pilot projects in community-based corrections in their 1995-96 capital budget.

#### Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice include a facility for violent young offenders in its five-year capital plan.

#### Recommendation 8

The Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice include a second women's correctional facility, preferably in Nunavut, in its five-year capital plan.

Committee Members also noted the Minister's discussion with the federal government regarding the establishment of a correctional facility for violent offenders, who would otherwise be incarcerated in southern institutions. The committee encourages the Minister to continue discussions with the federal government in this area.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 46-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

#### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the capital budget for the Department of Justice be presented to the House as part of consideration of the overall 1995-96 capital estimates.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Antoine, your motion is in order. To the motion.

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#### **AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

Committee Motion 47-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

#### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice establish pilot projects in community-based corrections in the 1995-96 capital budget.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. To the motion.

#### **AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 48-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

#### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice include a facility for violent young offenders in its five-year capital plan.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

#### **AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 49-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 8, Carried

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Justice include a second women's correctional facility, preferably in Nunavut, in its five-year capital plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Do you have something to say, Madam Premier?

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the Standing Committee on Finance report from the review of the 1995-96 capital estimates for the Department of Justice. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The Minister requests the House to allow him to bring in witnesses. How do you feel about that?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Kakfwi, you may bring your witnesses into the House and seat them at the table.

For the record, please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

On my left, Mr. Chairman, is the deputy minister of Justice, Don Avison. On my right is the director of financial and management services for the Department of Justice, Louise Dundas-Matthews.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Do Members have any general comments, questions or statements about this department? Mr. Ng.

General Comments

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister with respect to his introductory remarks, on the detail of the five-year capital plan that is being developed. What kind of time frame is the Minister looking at for finalizing this plan?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, some time around the middle of January.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Any general comments? Are you ready to go into detail? Mr. Pudluk.

**MR. PUDLUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief question before we get into details of the budget. We have inmates being sent out to institutions and are sometimes sent to penitentiaries in the south. I have been asked by a resident in one of my communities concerning an inmate from a penitentiary in the south who is a northerner. The request was, was there a chance of having him relocated to the north. What is the process when you receive requests like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Chairman, the advice I would give to the Member is, if he gets a request, to write a letter to me about it and we will see what we can do to respond. The intent in federal legislation and in ours, in both the operating principles with correctional Services Canada and ourselves, is inmates, as a general rule, should be kept as close to home as possible. That is the way we try to operate. We have been

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dealing with these requests on a case-by-case basis, which is probably the way to keep going. That would be my advice.

Registries And Court Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments. Are you ready to go into the detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Registries And Court Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

We are on the detail of capital, 06-9. Building and works, headquarters, total region, \$20,000. Total building and works, \$20,000. Total activity, \$20,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Justice And Corrections

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Page 06-11. We are under community justice and corrections and we are on page 06-11. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$79,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$79,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Sorry, that should be Fort Smith, total region, \$7,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$86,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, equipment acquisition, total region, \$24,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$24,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$48,000.



**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$134,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

We will go back to page 06-7, department summary.  
Capital expenditures, \$154,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

That concludes the Department of Justice. Do  
Members agree that we have concluded this item?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Kakfwi, and your  
witnesses. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would recommend that  
we continue on with consideration of Committee  
Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1, in particular, with the  
Department of Transportation's capital budget.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Are Members agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Minister, do you have any opening comments?

Department Of Transportation

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have some opening  
comments. Mr. Chairman, and Members of the  
Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to put before you,  
the Department of Transportation's proposed capital  
budget for 1995-96.

I am encouraged by several positive statements  
Members have made about some of the Department  
of Transportation's major capital projects this year:  
the highway reconstruction and paving program;  
airport improvements under the strategic  
transportation infrastructure agreement; community  
access roads; and, the Mackenzie Highway extension  
to Wrigley.

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I want to thank the Members for their kind comments.  
It's nice to hear that we can get things right once in a  
while. More than that, I want to return the compliment  
and thank the Members for their helpful assistance  
and cooperation -- let me stress, cooperation -- both  
inside and outside the House. As the Minister of  
Transportation, I have received a lot of advice and  
support from the Members in making our  
transportation programs work well.

At \$36.3 million, the budget before you today  
proposed to spend \$1 million less in 1995-96 than we  
are spending this year.

With a smaller budget, we have had to consider each  
and every capital project to decide on those which  
should go forward and those which we have to defer.  
These are difficult decisions to make but, in view of  
our financial position, they are decisions which have  
to be made.

As we go through the capital programs, I hope the  
Members will see that we have applied our limited  
capital dollars to achieve the greatest advantage in  
pursuing our economic objectives.

The 2,200 kilometre highway in the Northwest Territories is our largest asset in the transportation system. With proposed expenditures in 1995-96 of \$19.8 million, highway construction accounts for the largest portion of the department's capital budget.

The highway reconstruction program has made substantial progress over the last several years in improving the main corridor between the Alberta border and Yellowknife.

Including this past year's reconstruction program, now almost two-thirds of the 526 kilometre route has a paved, asphalt surface.

For 1995-96, the department plans to continue with the reconstruction of Highway 3 between Fort Providence and Rae-Edzo. Consultations with the North Slave communities will take place on the planning and alignment of the remaining section between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. The proposed expenditures in 1995-96 on Highway 3 amount to \$7.7 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Boo.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Excuse me? The department will continue the reconstruction, widening and improved drainage of the Dempster Highway near Fort McPherson at a cost of \$2.3 million. The budget also schedules \$1.4 million to place an asphalt surface on a 20-kilometre section of Highway 5 west of Fort Smith.

The Department of Transportation will put a permanent bridge over the Poplar River on Highway 7 south of Fort Simpson at a cost of \$2.2 million. Bravo.

More than half the people in the Northwest Territories live in small communities that are not on the all-weather highway system. For these communities, air services are the main transportation link. Most of the people in the Northwest Territories would consider the Department of Transportation's

airport program as the most important program the department delivers.

The 1995-96 capital budget includes \$10 million for new airport development and airport improvements. The Department of Transportation has negotiated two cost-sharing capital construction agreements with the

federal government, which have enabled the department to pursue an ambitious multi-year airport construction program. In 1995-96, the new airports at Fort Good Hope and Snare Lake will be in their final stage of completion while the major earthworks will begin at Deline. This budget will also complete major upgrading at Coppermine and Pelly Bay.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

The 1995-96 budget allots a total of \$4.6 million for improved airport electrical and lighting systems, mobile maintenance equipment, equipment garages and air terminal buildings.

Most prominent is \$3.4 million for new air terminal buildings at Cape Dorset and Rankin Inlet along with terminal renovations and enhancements scheduled at Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Repulse Bay, Sachs Harbour and Sanikiluaq.

One of my primary goals as the Minister of Transportation is to develop more local transportation infrastructure in the communities. Last year, we increased the community access road budget from \$300,000 to \$650,000. The community transportation facilities contributions policy has been successful in involving communities in the design and construction of local access roads. Work on local road projects proceeded this year in Jean Marie River, Baker Lake, Arviat, Igloodik, Pelly Bay, Taloyoak, Broughton Island, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay. The 1995-96 budget proposes to increase the community access road program again to \$750,000. This will support continued work on the projects under way this year and contribute to the proposals the department has received from Gjoa Haven and Whale Cove.

The community access road program has generated growing community interest. With the participation of more communities, I am confident that the program will achieve the target I set for it of delivering \$1 million worth of local roads by 1996-97. I am similarly pleased with the progress made under the community wharfs program in building local marine infrastructure. The breakwaters, wharfs and landings the program delivers involve modest capital expenditures compared to most infrastructure projects, but they achieve marked improvements in the safety and security conditions for local small craft.

The budget allocates \$2.3 million to the community wharfs program in 1995-96. The program will continue in the third of a four-year project to build a breakwater and harbour in Pangnirtung. Work will be completed on the new landing areas and wharfs in Pelly Bay, Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. 1995-96 will begin the first of a three-year project of harbour improvements in Coral Harbour.

In summary, these are the highlights of the Department of Transportation's 1995-96 capital budget. On the whole, I believe the budget presents a balanced program of capital

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initiatives in highways, airports, community roads and wharfs. As I mentioned at the beginning, it is a reduced budget from 1994-95. Nonetheless, the projects included in the budget represent substantive improvements and further progress in the development of our transportation infrastructure. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Ohh.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. People seem very pleased, Mr. Todd. Can we hear from the deputy chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Ng.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most important aspects of this department's presentation to the committee were briefings on the planned transfer of Arctic A airports from the federal government to the GNWT, and on marine resupply options for the eastern Arctic.

Arctic A Airport Transfer

The GNWT has already negotiated the transfer of responsibility for smaller B and C airports from the federal government, and is now concluding negotiations to transfer the larger A airports. These are the nine largest airports in the NWT: Cambridge Bay, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Iqaluit, Norman Wells, Resolute and Yellowknife.

When this transfer is complete, every airport in the NWT will be owned and operated by the territorial government.

The standing committee supports the principle of transferring responsibility for airports in the NWT from the federal government. Some concern was expressed, though, regarding the details of negotiations. The federal government appears to be trying to save money by devolving responsibility for all airports in Canada, other than the profitable ones, to other authorities. Committee Members urge the government to ensure that the final transfer agreement includes adequate resources to permit the continued operation of NWT airports at acceptable levels of service.

Eastern Arctic Resupply

In the committee's review of the 1994-95 capital estimates, serious concern was expressed about a proposal to build a marine resupply terminal in Rankin Inlet. At that time, committee Members refused to accept the project until such time as all available options had been explored. The \$50,000 budgeted for the project for 1994-95 was eventually directed towards a full study of the issue.

The department presented its case for the terminal in a briefing to the committee. While resupply issues relating to the Baffin and Kitikmeot were also discussed, the committee's attention was focused on the Keewatin issue. Of the four options presented to the committee for Keewatin resupply, the department still recommended the original option of having dry goods continue to be shipped through Churchill, but with petroleum products now being shipped directly to Rankin Inlet and then redistributed by barge from there.

The presentation suggested that the direct resupply option would involve the lowest annual costs. The department explained that this option was not acceptable for a number of reasons. However, the committee did not feel that the explanation was adequate. Specifically, the briefing did not include any numbers supporting those reasons. Committee Members have asked the department for a more detailed report on the numbers surrounding the department's reasons for not choosing the direct resupply option.

The committee was also curious as to the division of responsibilities in the eastern Arctic resupply issue. It appears that the Minister of Transportation has taken

responsibility for the Keewatin resupply issue, while the Minister of Public Works and Services has responsibility for resupply options in the Baffin and Kitikmeot regions. The committee's recommendation on this issue can be found earlier under capital expenditure issues.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the Standing Committee on Finance review of the 1995-96 capital estimates for the Department of Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Minister, would you like to invite your witnesses in?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I would, Mr. Chairman. May I?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Is the committee happy with that prospect?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd, please take the stand and bring your helpers in.

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Perhaps for the record, you could introduce your witness please.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Gamble, who is the deputy minister of Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Do Members have any general comments or general questions about the Department of Transportation? Are you ready to go into detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Marine Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay, the detail begins on page 09-9. Marine services, buildings and works, Fort Smith, total region, \$1.38 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$1.38 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Equipment acquisition, Fort Smith, \$20,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$50,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$70,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$1.45 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

Highway Operations

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Highway operations, page 09-11. Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$441,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$196,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$637,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$1.084 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$1.084 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$1.721 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic Airports

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Page 09-13, Arctic airports, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$11,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$1.45 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$1.75 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Baffin, total region, \$1.764 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Keewatin, total region, \$1.73 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$2.425 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$9.13 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$90,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$19,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$301,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Baffin, total region, \$250,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Keewatin, total region, \$107,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total equipment acquisition, \$767,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$9.897 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation Planning

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Turn to page 09-19, transportation planning.  
Buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$1.43 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$17.036 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Antoine, sorry. I missed you.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mr. Chairman, under transportation planning for Fort Smith, this is the area where the highway is getting reconstructed and paved. I just wanted to make a comment with regard to that. The work that this department is doing in my area is going along fairly well. We have major infrastructure, specifically on the bridge to Wrigley, as well as the access road built in Jean Marie River. This current summer, there was work done.

I made a statement in the House when the Minister wasn't here last week with regard to the great progress that has been made in building this access road in Jean Marie River. I don't know if the Minister was aware of it, but I did make a statement that the work was complete beyond what was anticipated this summer. There is money in the budget for this coming year and I appreciate that.

This past summer, the people who were working on it ran out of money and the season was still very good. With the type of work they were doing, if there was more money put in at that time, perhaps they could have done more. But there is only so much per year that is put in there. I think the Minister knows what I am talking about. The equipment wasn't up to par, though. If they had had the proper equipment, they could have done more. I was wondering if it was possible for next year, if this budget is approved and if they are working very well and run out of money before the end of the year, to help this community out by putting additional money in there? I see future years anticipated at \$1.6 million in there. Is it at all possible to use some of that in advance?

The purpose is the work is going very well and then they run out of money. There is still a lot of good season left, but they have to shut down their operation. I am just saying if they are working very well and they run out of money, is it possible to have more funds put in place? That is the concern I have in this particular area, for the Jean Marie River access road. That is the comment I have. Could the Minister reply to that, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$350,000 in the budget for this coming year. There was roughly about \$433,000 spent in previous years. We are committed to this project to a total of about \$2.4 million. We have allocated these dollars based upon what we think is a fair allocation of dollars. This is a major road facility compared to some of the other ones we are doing in Pelly Bay or places like that.

I would commit to the Member this: this access road program has taken off and I am very pleased with the way it has gone. If you remember, Mr. Ningark from Pelly Bay was a strong advocate of this program. Should some of the projects that we have under way for next year not fulfil their fiscal commitment, if the project was going well in Jean Marie River, I would commit to reallocating some of that money if it wasn't spent. Do you understand? If we have X amount of dollars in the budget for X community and for whatever reason it doesn't get done, we are flexible enough to be prepared to do that. As a matter of fact, we did that in a very small way this year for Baker Lake. It was not much money, but we did it. There is no new money, but there may be a reallocation of money if the work doesn't get completed in the other access road programs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this section, transportation planning, there is nothing in the budget for what I am talking about. We need to do something to improve the road immediately out of Fort Simpson towards the airport. It is

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about 14 kilometres, perhaps more. It is probably more like 18 or 19 kilometres if you take it right from where the ferry comes off at the Liard River, right into the community of Fort Simpson. It is a well-travelled road, especially to the airport. It has to be repaired constantly throughout the summer because it is a gravel road. They have treated it with calcium and every time it rains, it turns to soup. The heavy trucks pound the road and it is very hard for people to keep their vehicles. Many people have moved out of the community to another part of the community called

"Wild Rose Acreage" and the vehicles are taking a pounding.

The request has been made to the department a number of times to see if we could put some asphalt there. There is nothing in the budget for it, but I wanted to ask the Minister if it is at all possible to do some preliminary studies and evaluation to determine what would be required to get the road so that it could be paved or have an asphalt surface? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the honourable Member did draw this to my attention some time ago. I did commit to take a look at it in terms of whether it was possible. Unfortunately, there is \$1 million less in the budget because of general restraint that everyone is working under, not just myself. I did commit and I will commit publicly that we will do some engineering work on that to determine the cost and see if we can fit it into the budget somewhere. We will certainly make every effort to do that. We just weren't able to do that this year because of the limitations that we are all working under. I am working, as some of you know, with the federal government and provincial counterparts in trying to put together a joint national highway program.

Should we be fortunate enough to be able to secure something there, we may be able to do some of these things similar to what we did when we did the strategic transportation initiative. When we got that money from the federal government, it moved a lot of things up, some of the air strips in Mr. Antoine's riding and others. So I would commit that we would do some preliminary cost-analysis of this project and hopefully be able to work it into the budget somewhere in the next little while. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Antoine.

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that could be done, I would appreciate it. Certainly, I would be willing to work with the Minister and his department with the community of Fort Simpson to do that and follow through with his commitment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. We are on Inuvik, total region, \$2.3 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question on the Fort Smith region. It was in reference to the project on Highway 2, kilometre zero to 44. Could we get some information about what that project is about, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one for \$800,000? Is that the one Mr. Dent is referring to?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the project to which I am referring. I was under the impression that this had been paved already and was wondering why the extra expenditure?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Dent is correct. In 1992, Highway 2 did receive an asphalt pavement overlay. Recent inspections by the department staff reveal that the overlay is deteriorating prematurely. This premature deterioration was caused by improper asphalt overlay mix. The department, with the legal division, is evaluating options for recourse with the contractor



and site engineers. We need to do this to prevent further deterioration, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could we find out if the department is pursuing legal options to try to recover the money that was spent initially on paving this, if in fact there was a problem with the way the work was done.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Chairman, that is correct. We are trying to recover the cost of this unfortunate project. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Anyone else? For the record, I believe I finished Fort Smith, total region, \$17.036 million. I believe we passed it, but for the record, total region, Fort Smith, \$17.036 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$2.3 million. Baffin, total region, \$700,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Keewatin, total region, \$1.15 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$350,000. Mr. Ng.

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**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister how his department prioritizes community needs as far as harbour improvements. I noticed that the Baffin has one major one and the Keewatin has three communities with a major development, yet the Kitikmeot only has one small one with a Pelly Bay harbour enhancement. Is there a plan out there that the department is utilizing or is it based on demand from communities or from his regional departments and how do they designate funding for harbour enhancements? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We do have a plan. Just to correct Mr. Ng's comments, in the Kitikmeot, we have done a significant amount of work in Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Pelly Bay. So there is a plan in place based upon the fiscal resources we have. They are somewhat limited. There is a slightly unique situation in some of the places in the west where the Coast Guard has been involved, historically. We have a plan in place and it is based upon the requests coming in from the community, the need established by the department, priorities established by the municipalities and the fiscal resources that we have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister clarify what involvement the Coast Guard would have in the communities in the western part of the region, primarily Coppermine and Cambridge Bay? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We work very closely with the Canadian Coast Guard. I will ask Mr. Gamble, he has been dealing with them far longer than I have, if I may, to clarify for Mr. Ng the relationship and the role of the Coast Guard, and the development of wharfs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Gamble.

**MR. GAMBLE:**

The Coast Guard is broken into several regions and the Coast Guard in the western region did have some capital dollars available for facilities in the Mackenzie River and western Arctic, including Kitikmeot. In the last several years, they have made that funding available to us for upgrades at communities such as Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Paulatuk as well, using Coast Guard funding, which were not as successful in the eastern regions. They don't seem to have a capital fund there. We are also doing work in some of the Mackenzie valley communities to support the barge resupply landing improvements each year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Gamble. Total region, \$350,000. Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

I would like to ask Mr. Gamble, regarding the Coast Guard funding, is it an annual amount that is designated to the department or is that a yearly negotiated amount? How does it affect the department's capital planning as far as harbour enhancements? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Is it all right, Mr. Todd, if Mr. Gamble answers that question?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Gamble.

**MR. GAMBLE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In previous years, the Coast Guard had a capital allocation, but they were working through the federal Public Works and really

weren't spending any of it. In our developing relationship with Coast Guard in that region, we initially offered to do some work at Taloyoak. Since that time, they have allocated their capital funding which runs between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year. Each year, we nominate projects in that region for improvement and generally they have simply been approving that and providing the contribution through us to manage the work. It is largely done in support of the resupply.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Total region, \$350,000. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had one question about resupply particularly in the Keewatin, but in the eastern Arctic generally. As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, the department is examining the option of supplying petroleum products through Rankin Inlet while supplying dry cargo through Churchill. The standing committee will recommend that it makes sense to have the POL supply in the Baffin and the transportation of cargo in the Baffin, but particularly the POL which is now under review because of transfers from MOT brought under one department so as to achieve the maximum economies of scale.

I also understand that the department is even looking beyond eastern Arctic requirements, and is considering whether we might possibly profitably collaborate with Greenland on resupply in some of these items, which would make an even bigger potential economy of scale. I'm all in favour of this, Mr. Chairman.

We also know that the department has done analysis which shows that putting aside the issue of local benefits -- and I don't mean that they're not important -- but looking solely at the issue of cost, the direct resupply of fuel and cargo from Montreal would be the cheapest option for resupplying Keewatin, and that's of course the way it's done in Baffin now. I guess I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, assuming that the government will decide to act on the SCOF's recommendation and roll the Baffin POL requirements and the whole resupply issue in Baffin under the authority of the Minister of Transportation so that there can be perhaps better links between Baffin and Keewatin, would this change mean that the Department of Transportation would be looking at new and larger options for resupply in Keewatin? I guess, Mr. Chairman, I'm wanting to know how final

this conclusion is about using Rankin to supply petroleum products for the Keewatin and using Churchill to supply dry cargo, in light of other options that may emerge with Baffin and/or with Greenland. So I'm just wondering, is there still analysis yet to be undertaken before the final plan is concluded? Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Perhaps a very broad and very general question, but we're back in Keewatin to do a resupply. Mr. Todd, it's up to you.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Chairman, the recommendation of the standing committee hasn't been discussed at Cabinet, with respect to transferring responsibility over to the Department of Transportation.

You're always under review, you're constantly in a review mode. We believe that this thing has to be staged, and I did illustrate that, hopefully, to the Standing Committee on Finance. We know there will be some significant savings based upon this capital budget, once we get it all in place. Mr. Gamble and Mr. Clegg from Public Works are working together in trying to look at other ways in which we can save this government money so that we can do the kinds of things that are asked of us to do.

So nothing is final until it's final, I guess. But we're certainly moving on this initiative because we know there are significant savings.

The honourable Member is correct about the Greenland experience right now. Mr. Gamble and Mr. Clegg recently came back from discussions with the people over there to see if there is a possible linkage there where there would be some more savings. So it's kind of a moving policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, as I recall, the discussions in SCOF about this issue...The committee had asked for more details about the option of direct resupply of fuel and cargo from Montreal. I don't believe the committee has yet received this analysis, and I'm just wondering

if the committee is going to have the opportunity to review the Minister's complete data on this issue and review the options before any final decisions are taken, given that there's quite a sizeable capital expenditure that would be involved. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

(Microphone turned off)...be approved. I didn't get all the information necessary to SCOF, but I met with SCOF twice on this issue. I'm not asking for any further delays, I want approvals today based upon the fact that we can save \$1.6 million to this government.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Just so I understand it clearly, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that the government will go ahead and supply petroleum products through Rankin Inlet and dry cargo through Churchill, and that's a final decision, and approval of this budget will mean that no other short-term options will be considered? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

(Microphone turned off)...because I explained very clearly that this one had to be phased, that it's our intention to move ahead with this marine terminal to enhance the ability to deliver fuel oil into Rankin Inlet. Forty three per cent of the fuel oil stays in Rankin Inlet. We move it twice. It costs us money to move it twice. We merely want to move it once. We need to enhance the marine terminal facilities to do that. We will then look at other options, as everybody does in government, in looking at other areas where we can save, whether it's Greenland, whether it's the dry cargo, et cetera. But at this time, that's the phase that we're proceeding with.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. I would like to remind Members that we've had a lot of opportunity for general

questions, and we should be on the detail now, and we've already gone through the Keewatin. We're into the Kitikmeot and we were dealing with the total region, \$350,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$22.966 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Contributions, Baffin, total region, \$40,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Keewatin, total region, \$150,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$80,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total contributions, \$270,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$23.236 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

We'll go back to the summary on page 09-7. Capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$36.304 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

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---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Are we agreed that this department is concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Members, for your questions, and thank you very much, Mr. Todd and your witness, for your answers. Would you like to take a five-minute break because a few people were nodding to do that, but I would be guided by what you want to do. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that the committee continue on with consideration of the budget, and move into Economic Development and Tourism department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

I would have to ask Mr. Todd if he's ready to handle that. Mr. Todd, it's the wish of the committee to deal with Economic Development and Tourism. Are you ready for that today?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm ready.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay, then, proceed, Mr. Todd, with your opening comments.

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you can see from our budget estimates, we're proposing \$8.4 million in new investments for 1995-96. These investments involve a number of projects either directly related to the development of small community economies, or to the development of our tourist infrastructure.

There is \$4.9 million or close to 60 per cent earmarked for the community development of the NWT Development Corporation, while the remainder of \$3.5 million is targeted for tourism and parks development.

NWT Development Corporation

Mr. Chairman, the role of the NWT Development Corporation is to create jobs and opportunities where few exist. In the NWT, this means investing in smaller, less developed communities. Although there is room for improvement, the evidence shows that the corporation has been very effective at job creation. This year alone, the corporation will spend over \$12 million on NWT goods and services. It now has investments in 23 communities and makes regular purchases of meat, fish, crafts, artwork and other goods in another 10 communities. The benefits of these activities are significant. Based on the information collected this spring, every dollar the Development Corporation spends means \$4.25 in other direct and indirect benefits. Just in terms of direct employment, businesses owned by the Development Corporation directly employ about 200 aboriginal people. In addition, another 400 hunters, trappers and fishermen received a cheque from the Development Corporation businesses.

I am also satisfied by our improvements in efficiency. Our capital target for this year is down by \$1.1 million, or about 18 per cent. Subsidies have also been reduced by \$100,000 to \$2.2 million.

We are also moving to implement the committee's recommendation the corporation focus its efforts on smaller ventures and on a wider distribution of investments. Mr. Chairman, the investment plan of the Development Corporation reflects this direction. You will see that the six larger capital investments for 1995-96 are in the Deh Cho, Kitikmeot, North Slave, Baffin and Inuvik regions. The information we provided to the Standing Committee on Finance in October details the corporation's expenditure plans.

Some highlights of this investment plan include:

- \$816,000 to upgrade the Kitikmeot fish and meat plant;
- \$330,000 towards helping the people of Nahanni Butte build a new store, cafe and hotel; and,
- \$250,000 to assist the people of Pangnirtung to rebuild the print shop.

Other major investments are slated for Taloyoak, Aklavik and Rae-Edzo. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I believe the Development Corporation's plan for 1995-96 addresses the concerns raised by the committee, and provides a sound basis for building opportunities and incomes within all communities.

Parks And Visitor Services

Mr. Chairman, the balance of the department's capital budget involves development of parks and visitor centres. Unlike the NWT Development Corporation which is directly involved with sales and employment, parks and visitors' centres represent a service to residence and the travelling public. They are designed to make it more comfortable and enjoyable to travel in the NWT. The objective is to encourage people, residents and non-residents, to travel more and to stay longer. The end result is more people spending more money in the NWT, creating new jobs and opportunities for local residents.

In the past, the department has been criticized for not measuring the impact of programs. I agree, and have made performance measurement one of the department's top priorities. In my opinion, what gets measured, gets done. While our last major review of the tourism industry was undertaken in 1989, this year we have initiated four reviews:

1. Working with the Bureau of Statistics we have completed a cost-benefit and economic impact analysis of parks expenditures in the western NWT.

2. We have implemented an exit survey to assess the total impact of tourism and resident travel expenditures in the NWT. Unlike the previous survey in 1989, which cost well in excess of \$200,000 and was managed by a southern consultant, this survey was completed in-house using local community resources, for under \$80,000.

3. This year we introduced the concept of a travel diary to the NWT. Although we had a late start, we managed to hand over 600 diaries to tourists entering the NWT. Each day the tourist is asked to complete a daily log of their

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expenses and experiences, positive and negative. In this way we can identify the impacts of tourism on local economies. Although the final results are not in, our response rate has been very high, while the cost has been under \$8,000.

4. Finally, we have developed a licensing database which maintains detail information on each tourism facility. This allows us to accurately track capacity and investment at the community and regional levels.

Mr. Chairman, without going into the detail of our cost-benefit analysis, I'd like to review some key findings. First, we found that close to 95 per cent of tourists reported that our parks met or exceeded their expectations. Overall consumer or client satisfaction, the first measure of success in any business venture, was very high.

Last year we charged \$10 for staying one night in a campground and the total permit sales amounted to 175,000, an increase in attendance of 25 per cent since last year. Close to 90 per cent of the people surveyed felt the fees being charged were good value for money.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, these direct revenues are only a small portion of the total benefit. The overall objective is to have tourists spend more money in communities and on local goods and services. The Bureau of Statistics estimates that tourists using campgrounds between mid-June and early September contributed over \$2.6 million to the territorial economy. This number does not represent

the whole tourist season, nor does it include the impact of residential spending.

As Members of the Standing Committee on Finance are aware, we have developed a detailed cost-benefit model to assist in setting park development priorities. Staff are currently working on preparing a less technical version of the results -- which we all didn't understand -- which will be made available to Members of the standing committee.

Investment Priorities For 1995-96

Mr. Chairman, I would like to discuss the new parks and tourism investments planned for 1995-96. Over the past five years, our focus has been on modernizing and renovating older facilities. We will continue this work over the next few years, with the priority areas being in the Twin Falls and Hay

River parks, Happy Valley in Inuvik, Sylvia Grinnel Park in Baffin and the community campground in Fort Simpson.

We are also concerned about the eastern Arctic. Although our current year estimates are not final, there seems to be a decline in tourism activity over the past six years. We will be examining this development in greater detail over the current year, but in the interim we are developing plans for park development at Bloody Falls near Coppermine and Mallikjuaq Island near Cape Dorset.

New Parks Policy

We are also working on a new policy which will establish guidelines for parks development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, this year's capital plan is strengthened by work on several fronts: visitor research; policy development; cost-benefit analysis; and, improved systems planning.

I believe the capital plan before you will ensure the continued growth of our tourism industry. Furthermore, it will provide opportunities and jobs in those communities and regions where few options exist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Todd, for your opening remarks. I would like to turn to the Standing Committee on Finance. Mr. Antoine.

## Standing Committee On Finance Comments

### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance review of the 1995-96 capital estimates on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism start off with tourism and parks.

#### Tourism And Parks

The standing committee held its first week of hearings in Iqaluit. During that time, committee Members were able to see the NWT's newest territorial park, Katannilik Park, on southern Baffin Island. Not only did Members have a chance to see the park itself, and the facilities available to those using the park, they also met with the Lake Harbour hamlet council and tourism committee, and discussed the benefits expected by the community from the investment in the park.

This park is an example of how careful investment can result in greatly multiplied economic benefit to northerners. The tourist spending has greatly exceeded GNWT spending on the park, and the benefits in jobs and economic activity for the area are

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obvious. This objective was the basis of last year's recommendation to the department in the committee's review of the capital estimates.

Following last year's recommendation, the committee was pleased to see a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the department's tourism and parks program, and of specific projects. Not only that, but committee Members were especially impressed that conclusions from this initial analysis were indeed being used to guide the department's capital spending. Analysis of benefits from investment in Katannilik Park, in campgrounds in the western NWT, and in gateway visitor centres at the 60th parallel and in Dawson City, Yukon, have been used to guide and redirect departmental spending.

The sole complaint of the committee was that the analysis was very difficult to understand. While departmental officials may well find the analysis useful in its present form, committee Members and their staff found it hard to quickly digest and analyze the information as presented. Members look forward to seeing a more understandable version of the analysis, as promised by the Minister.

## Country Foods

Committee Members raised earlier comments about the use of country foods by NWT institutions. Members recognize that, for institutions such as Stanton Yellowknife Hospital or the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, buying caribou or char would be more expensive than buying beef or tuna. However, the government has to consider not only the economic benefit to northerners of encouraging and supporting the development of a country food sector, but also the social well-being of those confined to such institutions who would likely prefer to have access to food with which they are familiar.

#### Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Finance recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism take the lead in developing a policy that would encourage and enable government institutions such as hospitals and correctional centres to purchase and serve more northern foods.

#### NWT Development Corporation

The budget for the NWT Development Corporation was listed under this department. However, very little detail was provided. Committee Members would not only like to see details of planned investments and expenditures by the corporation, but also want to see the corporation's corporate plan. It is important that the committee have the opportunity to examine the corporation's activities and compare them to past results. The Minister promised to provide appropriate data as soon as it was available, and to table the corporate plan in the House. As such, Members will discuss issues related to the Development Corporation with the Minister in the House.

Mr. Chairman, I have a motion.

### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay, Mr. Antoine, proceed with your motion.

Committee Motion 50-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism take the lead in developing a policy that would encourage and enable government institutions such as hospitals and

correctional centres to purchase and serve more northern foods.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

Mr. Antoine.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Antoine):**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the standing committee's report for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Todd, would you like to invite your witnesses in and take your place at the witness table?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd would like to have his witnesses join him. Is that all right with Members of the committee?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd, everybody is happy with that proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Maybe you could introduce your witness then, for the record?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Roland Bailey, the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Bailey. General comments, statements or questions. This is the time to do the general stuff. Mr. Patterson.

General Comments

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Chairman, I think I've said this before in this House, but I just want to repeat it again. I think one of the other good things, with the able support of Mr. Bailey, that Mr. Todd has done, that was not referred to in the opening remarks, was to devolve decision-making authority to the regional superintendents.

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I would just like to say that, from my perception, a lot more problems are being solved a lot closer to home by this move. A lot of my constituents are still surprised that they don't have to go to Yellowknife to get answers to questions and to get approval for access to sizable amounts of money under various business assistance programs.

I know these changes take some adjustment and there were some pressures on superintendents and, perhaps, some problems with changing the authority of some of the headquarters staff. Now that the dust has settled, hopefully, on these changes, I would like to ask the Minister, what is his perception of how the department is working, following these changes? Is the Minister satisfied that this was a progressive move? How it is working out is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments that the honourable Member has made. From what I see, from a staff perspective, morale is up. I think we've been able to move the paper a little more quickly and a little more efficiently. However, there is always room for improvement. There are high expectations out there on the clients' part that we should be turning around decisions far more quickly



than we are. We are doing an analysis right now, I believe, with the superintendents to find out what they feel about it.

But, we're fairly confident we're on the right track when it comes to this department. The more authority we give at the regional level, the quicker things are going to happen, and hopefully the things that do happen will be more reflective of the needs of the clients. We are never satisfied, of course, in this game, myself included. But, I'm pleased with the way it is going so far.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd and Mr. Patterson. General comments. Are you ready to go into detail? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was one more item that I think is best discussed under general comments. I asked some questions in this House the other day about the new EDA agreement and the need to improve it.

I guess what I didn't get clear from the Minister's answers the other day was precisely how long the current EDA lasts. How much time do we have left before it expires? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. 1995-96 is the last year of the EDA and, as I indicated in the House earlier last week, we are trying to initiate discussion. Letters have gone out from myself to the appropriate Ministers, I believe. Well, they haven't gone yet, but we are trying to initiate discussions on incorporating a new EDA agreement. 1995-96 is the last year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment. Given that there is an election year in the Northwest Territories coming up and there won't be a new

Assembly in place until late into 1995, my advice to the Minister would be that, while he is firmly in office and while this House is in session, we should try to nail down the commitment to renew an EDA agreement and perhaps get as far as we can with the negotiations. I'm thinking, Mr. Chairman, of getting some reports from the Minister and getting a better understanding of where we are headed in the forthcoming session of the Legislature approving the 1995-96 main estimates.

I guess I'm just a little concerned that in the current fiscal climate, with the uncertainties that are in place, this vital program -- and I think it is vital, even if we have some criticisms about the method of delivery -- should be well in hand while this government is in power and this Legislature is alive and well, so that it doesn't slip between the cracks in the run-up and follow up to the election in the fall of 1995.

Just free advice to the Minister, and I'm sure he's on top of it, that this is a very important program and I would like to see things resolved early on in the final year of this Legislature, lest it get caught up in those funny things that happen around elections next fall. Thank you, very much.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. General comments. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

Just a couple of comments. I know the Minister has been given a lot of accolades today and a lot of bravos. I also want to say thank you to the Minister and his staff in the department for the work they have been doing. There has been a tremendous change in the past year. There are still areas, as we all know, for improvement, in terms of client services, the ability to respond to certain requests and the timing of responses. There are some outstanding projects, and you are well aware of them, in the Inuvik area and I know that the department and the people involved are trying to get them done.

I'm fully supportive, obviously, of the capital projects that are going on because, as was mentioned, especially in our area, tourism is becoming probably our only industry, other than government, that we can consider a growth industry and we require facilities to be able to cater to road traffic, especially. The work that is being done in terms of using local contractors is fairly good. The record is good. I just wanted to

make those comments. The Minister is aware -- and I notice in the departmental overview that the focus is on the Dempster Highway in terms of tourism development and the parks -- that the linkage between us and the rest of Canada for tourism is through the Dempster Highway, mainly, and we have to strengthen our relationships between the Yukon and this territory.

There were some initiatives made this past fall in that regard and I wanted to commend the Minister on those and hope that he takes the information and requests from the regions and continues to assist them in doing all we can to enhance and maintain some sort of economy in the western Arctic. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Koe. General comments. Mr. Antoine.

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**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make a couple of points about the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, first of all with regard to tourism. One of the biggest economic developments in my area is in tourism. A lot of tourists go into the Nahendeh region to go into the mountains, especially the Nahanni National Park.

Over the years, the department has developed very good parks along the highway, like Blackstone, and Saamba Deh Falls campgrounds. They are very good campgrounds. Touring the constituency this summer by road, I met a lot of tourists who commented very positively on the campgrounds the department has developed and continues to develop. The tourists who come by road come up different ways. They come up through the Hay River entry, but there is also another entry to the Northwest Territories through BC, into the western part of the Northwest Territories and into my constituency.

I've raised these issues when the honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard was Minister of ED&T in the beginning of this government. He was quite aware, as I'm sure the present Minister is, that we have to be able to do more in this area, perhaps even develop some sort of infrastructure in BC where the road turns north into the Northwest Territories. I know there was some work, with a sign being put there, which is good. In northern BC the Alaska highway has also been

developed over the last few years. It is a very nice highway now, if any of you have driven that way. They have widened it and developed it quite well.

A lot of the tourists that go up the Alaska highway see the sign and they turn north, and that is how we get them into the area. If we could develop infrastructure for the Northwest Territories such as where the Yukon has a building, a Dawson City tourist centre, why couldn't we have a small tourist centre in northern BC where the highway turns north into the Northwest Territories? There are a lot of travellers who use that highway because of the sign that was put there a few years ago. You could draw more tourists into the area by building infrastructure.

If this department could meet with the BC government to see if they could improve their section of the road that runs to the north, somehow, and upgrade it to a better standard, that would be good. There are tourists who travel onto our highway from that area. I just want to make the comment that we need to develop a tourist facility in that area.

With regard to the Development Corporation, it is good to see, from the Minister's opening address, that the corporation is going to be helping the community of Nahanni Butte to develop a store there and a little bit of a motel and coffee shop. This is the type of thing that should have been built there many years ago. Nahanni Butte is situated at the end of the Nahanni National Park and every year the park draws a lot of tourists who go down the south Nahanni River in canoes and rafts. Only in the past couple of years are they beginning to stop in Nahanni Butte. With this infrastructure being built, more would stop there and perhaps the community could benefit from that by providing store services, a hotel or a coffee shop service for them. I am glad this is happening.

The only problem I have with this is that when the department, especially the Development Corporation, hires people who are not from the community, they go into the communities for one or two years and they should be told to work along with the community, rather than creating problems. They should be instructed to work with the community and help the community. If they see that the community isn't working well, they should try to work with it, rather than against it. We have a bit of a problem there now, which I think could be solved. It is sometimes an unpleasant situation we find ourselves in when problems come up between people who are working there with people who make their homes there. I would appreciate the department looking at that.

The other thing I would like to raise is in my constituency, there has never been an economic development conference ever. It is about time we had one in our area. Each of the communities have gotten into a bit of business. The larger communities have more business. There is a real need to get everyone together in that region to look at the economic development opportunities that are there and work together to see how they could best take advantage of the opportunities that are there and work with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism personnel to see how to best work together to develop a healthy, sustainable economy. That is what everyone wants. They want to develop the economy in a very sustainable way, so it isn't a boom and bust situation.

This is the way to look at the north. We are talking about sustaining economic development and this is a very good example of it. Everyone who I talk to in my region is beginning to see things this way. If the department could work with the people in the Liard valley, as per the current economic development agreement, that is the direction that ED&T should go. These are some of the points I wanted to make, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Lots of suggestions for you, Mr. Todd. General comments. Are you ready to go into detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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Line By Line

Parks And Visitor Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Page 15-11, detail of capital. Parks and business services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$215,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Fort Smith, total region, \$1.537 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Inuvik, total region, \$570,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Baffin, total region, \$599,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Keewatin, total region, \$285,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Kitikmeot, total region, \$140,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total buildings and works, \$3.346 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$123,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$3.469 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Corporate And Technical Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Page 15-16, corporate and technical services, contributions, headquarters, total region, \$4.901 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total activity, \$4.901 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Total capital expenditure, \$8.37 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Are we agreed that we have concluded this department?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Bailey.

---Applause

Mr. Dent, what is your wish?

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we move to consider the capital budget of the Workers' Compensation Board.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Everyone agree with that?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Workers' Compensation Board

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay. Is the Minister ready to deal with this item?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Workers' Compensation Board? Absolutely, I am ready.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay. Mr. Todd, do you have any opening remarks for this committee?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Very briefly, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the proposed 1995-96 capital budget for the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT. In preparing this

budget, the board continues to act responsibly in using employers' money fairly and with good effect.

This budget totals \$91,200. It is the second capital budget presented by the WCB, which greatly reduces capital spending from the previous year.

You may recall that 1993 saw the consolidation of office space that, while reducing ongoing expenses, required extensive renovations. In 1993-94, the board completely revamped its computer systems. As the systems conversion project is expected to be completed by the end of 1994, the capital budget for computer equipment will be much lower in 1995.

The board expects to spend \$33,000 on computer equipment and about \$12,000 on software, including purchases or upgrades of various programs. Office equipment replacements and acquisitions are estimated to cost \$20,000. The board expects to spend \$14,500 on office furnishings and another \$12,000 on minor renovations to enclose work stations.

I believe the board has carefully considered the spending of each dollar. I commend them for the conscientious actions in preparing this budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Todd, for that brief report. The Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the Standing Committee on Finance review of the 1995-96 capital estimates on the Workers' Compensation Board.

Following large capital expenditures used to replace their computer system, the Workers' Compensation Board now presents a capital budget which merely provides for replacement of some older equipment and for some minor new acquisitions. The committee looks forward to seeing how the new computer systems purchased in previous year meets the needs of the board, and hopes that substantial replacement or upgrading will not be necessary in the immediate future. That is the report from the Standing Committee on Finance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Antoine, there are no motions. All Members have been circulated the detail in the capital expenditure plan as an information item. Are there any general comments, statements or questions? Mr. Patterson.

General Comments

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, along with other Members of this House, I'm sure we welcomed the statement earlier in this session that the financial situation of the WCB had turned around, that the WCB was going to be able to hold the line on rates, that the deficit that had been a subject of some concern earlier in the life of this Assembly was under control, and that the Minister, the chair and the board deserve commendations for this turnaround.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I could ask the Minister whether he has any comments on these challenges that have been circulated to MLAs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. You're quite happy to respond to these questions from your seat, Mr. Todd? Okay, Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'm not going to respond to innuendo in the News/North. I'm certainly not going to respond to something...((Microphone turned off).

---Recording difficulties

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I respond to Mr. Patterson's...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Your light is on, Mr. Todd. No it's not, mine is on now.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I will not respond to the complaints being registered by former members of the board. What I will say to the honourable Member, as I said in the House the week before last when I was asked the question, the \$13.4 million turnaround has been carefully documented; I expressed in the

House where it came from; Mr. Gilmour wrote a letter to the News/North showing where the turnaround had come from; and, we should accept that that's just good management, a good board of directors, a good chairman, and I like to think not a bad Minister. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Ohh.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you for those kind words, Mr. Todd. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the commendable attributes of the current Minister is that he had the wisdom to build on some of the progress made by previous Ministers responsible for the WCB...

---Applause

...who have been long forgotten.

---Laughter

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Do you need a minute to think about that one, Mr. Todd? Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I need a minute to think about that one, if I may. I would hate to give an inaccurate answer to that, Mr. Chairman, so I will take it as notice.

---Laughter

No, I know it has a public audit every year and whether it comes under the Auditor General, I would have to check with the chairman and report back to the honourable Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Or, it could be a Minister's statement or something like that. Thank you, Mr. Todd. We are still on the Workers' Compensation Board. Are there any other general comments for the Minister? Mr. Koe is next.

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. One of the issues over the last several years has been the use of office space for the Workers' Compensation Board. How many floors are they currently occupying in the building they are in now?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

There are four floors and we currently occupy three: floors two, three and four. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

So, what are the plans for the fourth floor, the one that is not occupied?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We have four floors. We sublet the main floor to Sport North and the other three floors are occupied by WCB and staff.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

With the alleged expansion of staff, is there a need for more space?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

We will accommodate it under the existing leased facilities we have.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Thank you, Mr. Koe. Next on my list is Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This might not be directly related to capital projects. As the Minister knows, a few of my constituents have applied for compensation because they have had accidents when they were out on their own, in traditional pursuits. I wonder if these things would be able to be looked after, since the changes with the Workers' Compensation Board have taken place.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

That is a question for question period. It is not related to capital, but I will answer it. I guess, yes, people who get injured apply for workers' compensation, the same as if a worker gets injured on a construction job. If the Member has specific concerns about specific injuries, I would be only too happy to deal with them.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Some advice for Mr. Allooloo. Thank you very much, Mr. Todd. Any other general comments, statements or questions? Well, there is no detail. The information has been given to you. It is \$91,000. Do you all agree that you have received that information?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Is this item now concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Todd. What is the wish of Members? What would you like to do? Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I move that we report progress. It has been a very productive day.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, Bill 7 and Committee Report 10-12(6), and would like to report progress with 8 motions being adopted; that Bill 7 is ready for third reading, as amended; and, Madam Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder for this motion? The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

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---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):**

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Special Joint Committee on Division immediately after adjournment today. There are meetings tomorrow at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 pm, again, of the Standing Committee on Finance.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 2nd.

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

- Tabled Document 14-12(6), "Open for Business" - Privatizing the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

- Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories

- Tabled Document 36-12(6), "Action Plan - Consolidation - Health and Social Services"

- Minister's Statement 11-12(6), Return to Session

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

- Committee Report 11-12(6), Report on the First Annual Report (1992-93) of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT

- 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 8, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act

- Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

- Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Public Service Vehicles Act

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

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act

22. Orders of the Day

**MADAM SPEAKER:**



Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 2, 1994, at 1:30 pm.

**---ADJOURNMENT**