



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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HANSARD

TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 8, 1994

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Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

Speaker's Ruling

MADAM SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. Before we go into proceedings of the day, as I indicated to the House yesterday, I wish to respond to Mr. Gargan's point of order. I've had an opportunity to review unedited Hansard, page 1885 and 1886 on the point of order raised by the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan, on comments made by the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable John Todd. The Member for Deh Cho's point of order was that the Minister misled the House with his understanding of the comments by the standing committee on its review of Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act.

The Member for Deh Cho also stated in his point of order that Members should feel free to fully debate all legislation in this House, aggressively if necessary. Members will recall that Mr. Gargan also requested an apology from the Minister, which the Minister, Mr. Todd, offered to the House and which I feel was accepted by the House.

I feel there isn't need to go further with this point of order, as the points raised are a matter of understanding the issue and the House received two points of views. However, as I have ruled before, this is not a point of order unless the point expressly infringes on the specific rule of the House. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 57-12(6): Meeting Of Fisheries Ministers

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Madam Speaker, last week, I attended the federal/provincial/territorial Fisheries Ministers' meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the federal government's plans to streamline, downsize and reduce the costs of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I assure you, Madam Speaker, the federal government is determined to reduce the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in overall budget and person years. In doing so, some responsibilities will be transferred to other federal departments and to the provincial and territorial governments.

I would like to explain some of the measures the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans plans which will impact the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has indicated that the responsibility for freshwater fisheries will be divested. The federal government intends to delegate responsibility for freshwater fisheries management to provinces and territories, and to transfer responsibility for fish habitat and fisheries water quality to the Department of the Environment or, possibly, to provinces or territories.

This transfer will not necessarily come with the full amount of resources necessary to manage the freshwater fisheries, as most jurisdictions would prefer. Failure to accept responsibility may result in poorer management of freshwater fisheries due to a split of responsibilities between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of the Environment. We must examine our options very carefully to manage the impact to the people of the Northwest Territories who rely on fish for subsistence and commercial benefits.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stated he is not intending to dismantle the Freshwater Fisheries Marketing Corporation, although, he is not adverse to a restructuring of the mandate and operations of the corporation to meet the changes of the 1990s and the needs of the fishermen who rely on the corporation for fish sales and marketing. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stated that the department would retain

responsibility for marine fisheries and refocus their responsibility for oceans. I emphasized to the Minister that I support the direction he is leading to, but land claims and aboriginal rights must be respected and aboriginal people must be consulted. I further reminded him that there is a third ocean in Canada, the Arctic Ocean...

---Applause

...which deserves recognition and attention similar to that given by the department to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in southern Canada. I recommended that a separate Arctic region be created in the restructuring of his department.

We have for too long had to accept very limited recognition of the Arctic Ocean and had to rely on the goodwill of southern regions for management and scientific assessment of Arctic Ocean resources and fisheries. I strongly believe this is an opportunity for the Northwest Territories to be established as a distinct region for oceans and marine fisheries management, as well as to take responsibility for freshwater fisheries, including Arctic char. A northern region and northern fisheries

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management can only benefit the people of the Northwest Territories who have had to rely on the management and permission from southern Canada to utilize their own fisheries resources in the Northwest Territories.

Other plans put forward by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans include a reduced, more efficient and practical science program; a coordinated enforcement and vessel utilization between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the departments of National Defence and Transport or Coast Guard; divestiture and privatization of harbour management; and, new revenue-generating options such as licence fees that are commensurate with the value of the public's fisheries resources which all Canadians, and people of the Northwest Territories in particular, depend on for subsistence, social, cultural and economic benefit.

Provincial/territorial Ministers presented the federal Minister with a consensus document, which I will provide to Members, outlining the concerns and positions of their respective jurisdictions.

Changes to the management of fisheries are necessary for effectiveness and efficiency and offer an opportunity for northern residents to benefit from. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will trim approximately 40 per cent from its expenditures of approximately \$800 million and 6,000 employees across Canada over the next five years. I intend to ensure that this reduction is not off-loaded onto the government and people of the Northwest Territories, and at the same time, work to ensure that the management of fisheries in both the freshwater and marine sectors of the Northwest Territories improves as responsibilities change for the benefit of our people.

Madam Speaker, within the next two or three weeks, deputy ministers of Fisheries from across Canada will meet on these issues. They will first examine the impact of changes in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for their own governments, and work out strategies to manage these changes. Our government will seek to realize the opportunities these changes will create for the benefit of the people of the Northwest Territories. It is my view, Madam Speaker, that we have the opportunity to control our own fisheries management and resources with the support of our people and for the benefit of our people in the north by our own government, if we choose. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 58-12(6): Building And Learning Strategy

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in the past, many northerners have had limited local access to high-skilled employment opportunities in the building construction occupations. To address this situation, the building and learning strategy was launched last year as a cooperative initiative by the NWT Housing Corporation, the Department of Public Works and Services and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The strategy provides northerners with training and employment opportunities in the building construction industry in their home communities on projects managed by the

Housing Corporation and Public Works and Services. I would like to bring Members of this Assembly up to date on the progress made on this initiative.

This fall, more than 95 northern residents are receiving training in a variety of occupations, from trades helpers to project managers. The strategy has been expanded from the original six communities of Gjoa Haven, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Aklavik, Fort Good Hope and Fort Simpson in 1993-94 to include Baker Lake, Igloodik, Snare Lake, Lac La Martre, Fort Providence and Coppermine in 1994-95. In each location, members of the community form a community training committee to identify long-term construction training goals and to plan, deliver and evaluate the training opportunities. Regional Housing Corporation and Public Works project staff provide technical expertise, while the regional staff of Education, Culture and Employment provide training advice and career counselling support to the communities.

Approximately 30 residents are receiving entry level training as trades helpers, while another 30 are continuing their training received on last year's projects in more specialized areas such as carpenter helpers, plumber helpers and painter helpers. Approximately 10 apprentices are receiving valuable construction experience in carpentry and plumbing. Some residents are receiving training on the job to become supervisors and project managers.

Specialized training opportunities in drywalling, asbestos removal, concrete preparation and energy efficient carpentry are also being offered. These programs will all lead to recognition of skills and experience through certification. In some communities, pre-apprenticeship upgrading will be offered through Arctic College following the construction season to provide access to further training opportunities in future years.

As part of the strategy, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is analysing the long-term construction training opportunities identified by communities and will be developing curriculum materials to support those needs.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I want to thank my honourable colleague, the Honourable Don Morin, for his support and advice in terms of ensuring the success of this particular program. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Memorial Service For Iqaluit Hunters

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from Iqaluit where I, along with several MLAs from the Baffin region, attended a memorial service for eight men who lost their lives in a tragic boating accident in Frobisher Bay last week.

Madam Speaker, it was a time of great sorrow as we joined with families and friends in mourning the loss of their individuals. As with any tragedy, Madam Speaker, there is also a brighter side that can be seen through the sadness and sense of loss. During this past week, the entire region was touched by an incredible sense of unity; as people searched together, played together, rejoiced together and mourned together.

This ability of Inuit to bind together in good times and in troubled times has been what has allowed us to survive as people for many generations. I hope this tradition continues well into the future. The ability to work together, especially to deal with difficult issues.

I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for their comfort and generosity during my stay. I would like to thank the people from all over the Baffin region who came to Iqaluit to support families and friends of eight hunters. I would also like to thank the people from Ivujivik, Northern Quebec, who came to help as well. I would also like to thank those who could not physically be there, but who offered their prayers and support.

Madam Speaker, although the search has ended and the memorial service is concluded, I would encourage the people of Nunavut, Ivujivik and the entire NWT to continue to support the families of those hunters, since the healing process has just begun. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Memorial Service For Iqaluit Hunters

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, will stand to talk about our visit to Iqaluit. There were many people who were lost; relatives and non-relatives. So we went over to Iqaluit to spend time with them. We managed to make it back safely here. Madam Speaker, although it was important for us to be here at the Assembly, it was also important for us to spend some time for these people who were in mourning. We were given a safe path to get there. It was an important excuse and reason for us to be here.

Like Titus Allooooloo just said -- and he expressed it well and there is not too much I can add -- people were very friendly towards us in Iqaluit and the families were well taken care of by people from all over the communities. We ran into and met with many different people who came to help out. We saw a lot of unity, despite racial differences, in that community.

It is difficult to predict what the future will be like, so we have to stay together. We also noticed that it was important for us to unite and stay close to one another because fatalities like that will occur unexpectedly. When we were in Iqaluit, we found many ways to help each other. Our prayers are with the families and friends of the lost hunters and we hope people will continue to help support one another. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Gratitude For Support For Families Of Deceased In Iqaluit

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, have just returned from a very moving, emotional visit to my constituency, following the tragedy we learned of earlier last week. Although I came to Iqaluit with the idea of comforting those who lost loved ones, I ended up being comforted by the strength and faith of those families. They all expressed their enormous gratitude

for the support they've received from all over the Northwest Territories, and Madam Speaker, that outpouring of support was overwhelming.

People came from Keewatin, from all over Baffin, from the south, and other parts of the territories to be there and offer support for those left behind. I want to especially convey my thanks to my fellow MLAs, Mr. Kenoayoak Pudlat from the neighbouring constituency of Baffin South, the Honourable Rebecca Mike, from the neighbouring constituency of Baffin Central, who also represented the Cabinet, and Mr. Titus Allooooloo, MLA for Amittuq, who was also representing the Nunavut Caucus. I know that their taking the time to come to Iqaluit while the Legislature was still in session meant a great deal to the families of the deceased. To all those who came and to all who sent messages, food and other contributions, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks on behalf of my constituents.

I would also like to make special mention of the incredible effort of the Baffin region emergency response committee and rescue coordination centre in Halifax. They spared no effort. Many people put in many long hours on an incredible search effort. For example, immediately following the distress call from down the bay, two vessels which had been winterized and were already beached, were fuelled, had their electronic gears installed again, stores were open for food, a welding crew was assembled to prepare a skid for launching in the rough water, bulldozers were donated, a fuel truck arrived, all so that the Rhonjalee could be launched by 1:00 am. Crew members on the rescue vessels in gale force winds also went through extremely difficult times. Their efforts were critical in saving the two young men.

Plans are already well under way to establish a memorial for those who have been lost and a fund has been established at the Royal Bank in Iqaluit to help the families.

I would request a few moments more to conclude my statement, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, the people of my community have had a very hard week. However, they, I know, were very inspired by the spirit of compassion and caring which they were shown by everyone. I only hope, as my colleagues have said already today, that we can continue this very strong spirit of caring for one another all year round. I think that would be a very fitting tribute to Simonie Alainga and the hunters and young people who set out with him in perilous waters to selflessly give to their community. Thank you. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Members' Statements On Illegal Activities Policy Of Cambridge Bay Housing Association

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today I'm going to speak about a new initiative undertaken by the Cambridge Bay Housing Association. On November 2nd, they adopted an illegal activities policy which deals with tenants who are aware of or carrying out illegal activities from public housing units. The basic goal of the policy is to make convicted bootleggers and drug traffickers and other tenants who allow these illegal activities in their residences unsuitable as tenants of the Housing Association operated units.

I commend the board of directors of the housing association for their bold and somewhat controversial initiative of the adoption of the illegal activities policy. Madam Speaker, the Housing Association has not recklessly adopted this policy, without any careful consideration and research of the matter. In fact, they have consulted legal counsel in preparation and adoption of the policy. I will table the policy later today. It cites various sections under NWT acts which tenants must be convicted of before action for eviction procedures will take place.

Madam Speaker, since its adoption, I have had the opportunity to discuss the policy with the secretary/manager and some of the directors of the Housing Association. Of course, my main concern about the policy was the possible infringement of individuals' constitutional rights. However, after discussions and review of the policy, I'm aware that in

order to be targeted for eviction, a tenant must firstly be convicted, secondly, be carrying out the illegal activity from the premises under the control of the association and, finally, the conviction must be for the purposes of profiting from the illegal activity.

This last issue was a critical factor of the policy as it is not intended to penalize tenants or individuals who choose to use illegal drugs for personal use and may be convicted of possession charges. It is clear in the preamble that applicants for social housing with convictions for bootlegging or trafficking in illicit drugs shall be considered unsuitable for tenancy.

Madam Speaker, the one concern I do have with the policy is section 3 which deals with applicants who, within six years previous to the date of application, were convicted of carrying out an illegal activity or issued an eviction order under the Residency Act. They shall be deemed as unsuitable for tenancy. I felt it may be unfair to penalize individuals for the past mistakes for that long of a time period. In responding to this concern, the Housing Association representatives advised me that there is an allowance for special needs by resolution of the board of director for individuals who have demonstrated sincere rehabilitation efforts.

Madam Speaker, with the alcohol and drug problems in our communities, we are all aware of the need to forcefully address this issue. Many of us are aware of known drug traffickers and bootleggers operating in our communities who flourish on the victims of their trade. The Housing Association, by adoption of this illegal activities policy, has taken the initiative and has raised the stakes for those tenants who choose to bootleg or traffic in drugs.

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable colleagues. Madam Speaker, it may only be a symbolic gesture, as we all know of the difficulty in carrying out convictions for these types of activities in smaller communities. Nevertheless, it clearly demonstrates the recognition of the problem and the desire of the

Cambridge Bay Housing Association to deter their tenants from pursuing or condoning bootlegging and drug trafficking.

Madam Speaker, our government also recognizes the rampant alcohol and drug abuse in our communities. I hope they will consider establishing and supporting the same type of illegal activity policy to deter individuals from participating in bootlegging or drug trafficking from any premises owned or controlled by the GNWT or its affiliated corporations. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Government's Misguided Priorities

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, during my last visit to Inuvik, one of my constituents raised an issue which made me think. The person was concerned about how government programs and services and policies are determined and where priorities are. I would like to set the scenario which was presented to me. In our society we say we respect enough to care for our elders. This government has programs and services in place to do some of that. When seniors are well and able to look after themselves, we provide them with housing which is provided with fuel, power and water, and they are charged minimal rents, from about \$32 to maybe \$67 per month. Now, when seniors are not so well and need personal care, whether in long-term care facilities or senior citizens' facilities, they are expected to contribute towards their room and board. Some of these facilities are run

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by societies which are usually underfunded and employees are not very well paid. Seniors in these categories -- and it depends on the need and their source of income -- can contribute anywhere from about \$378 a month to a maximum of \$909 per month. This money is taken from their pensions if they are of pensionable age.

On the other hand, we have a segment of our population which is quite contrasted. These are the people who are incarcerated and end up in our

prisons. These prisoners are kept in correctional centres which have lots of staff who earn good wages, and the centres usually have high O and M costs. Prisoners get three square meals a day plus a bed and some supervised programs, all paid for by government.

Madam Speaker, on top of that, the prisoners can earn wages. They receive a basic wage of \$2.60 a day. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. People who work outside of jails get \$5 a day; kitchen workers and tutors get \$6.80 a day; and, the good prisoners -- the ones who get to clean the office and control areas -- can earn up to \$10 a day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nay, nay.

MR. KOE:

So, Madam Speaker, not only do these people get free room and board, they also get a paycheque when they leave prison.

Madam Speaker, I thought I would make this statement just to make people think about where and how we spend our money, and how we set government priorities and deliver our programs and services. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise a number of points and concerns I have about the whole issue of custom adoption. Madam Speaker, I feel that over the last 20 years, the entire

concept of custom adoption has changed. Natives all across Canada have lost sight of the traditional reasons for the practice of custom adoption. Custom adoption, in the past, was for survival as a people. Children were adopted to ensure that they would live and grow strong. When people couldn't look after their children or they had too many children to feed or a parent died, the practice of custom adoption existed as an option for the well being of the children.

Madam Speaker, I feel that custom adoption is a collective right and not an individual one. When I say this, I mean that the practice of custom adoption has become a matter of convenience for a lot of people. It has become a way, in some cases, for people to circumvent taking responsibility for their actions. Teen pregnancies and unwed mothers are a fact of life in the Northwest Territories and, indeed, the rest of Canada. Where are the fathers of these children? Why do they not take responsibilities? I know why, Madam Speaker, it is because they know that someone in the family will take the child. I know of grandparents who believe in the traditional custom, living on a fixed income, who adopt their grandchildren's children. They might be fine when a child is an infant, when they are small and do not require as much room. But, Madam Speaker, children grow. They need room and invariably people age. The grandparents can keep up to an infant or toddler, but cannot keep up with a 10 year old.

I also have concerns, Madam Speaker, that when these children reach their teens that they sometimes end up being the prime care givers to their aging adoptive parents. This, I fear, is not...(Microphone turned off)...upon any teenagers.

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members. This, I fear, is an unfair responsibility to place upon any teenager. Where are all the other members of the family? Why don't they take responsibility for the elders of their own family? A teenager has enough problems growing up without those added responsibilities.

So, in essence, Madam Speaker, custom adoption has become, in some cases, a quick fix for the social ills that effect aboriginal people. Madam Speaker, this was not the reasoning that lead to the tradition of custom adoption, so how do we as a people and a government change this? As I said before, people have to take responsibility for their actions. We, as a government, must provide people with the infrastructure necessary to make changes and take charge of their lives.

Concerns have been raised in the past about the inappropriateness of some custom adoption placement. I agree, Madam Speaker, with the majority of the comments made recently on the radio by the president of the Pauktuutit Women's Association. However, I do not agree with her assertion that the government has a role in the placements of custom adoptions. I do believe there has to be a group that monitors those placements, but I am of firm belief that it should be done by the community itself.

Custom adoption has been recognized by the courts of Canada as a legitimate practice. Let us, as legislators, not over-regulate the process. The people most affected by this legislation must be able to contribute to the entire process of custom adoption. Mahsi cho.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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Member's Statement On Development Workshop For Carvers In Baker Lake

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to point out to the honourable Members of the House, the November 7th issue of News/North which has no less than five large photographs of the carvers from Baker Lake. Baker Lake has always been renowned for the creativity and skill of its artisans. When the artists started in the early 1960s, most of the Inuit in the area were still living on the land. A couple by the name of Jack and Sheila Butler, moved up to Baker Lake from London, Ontario. They worked with a number of Inuit who were creators of their own design; a people who are masters of their own crafts, with the abilities to

building their own mobility, their homes, their own unique style of living in a harsh environment.

In this group was a person with the ability to carve and to be able to work with some of the carvers. He has had the opportunity to exhibit his skills in places such as the United States, Japan and many times over within Canada. A gentleman by the name of Paul Toolooktook was just that person who, in the last year, was able to bring carvers together and form the Ujaraqatit Society. As the president of the society, he has been active in Baker Lake to acquire soapstone for the carvers and other such activities.

He recently succeeded in bringing a carver, one Mr. Iyaituk, for a two-week development workshop in Baker Lake. This workshop provided instruction on carving techniques with power tools. A number of the 19 course participants were first-time carvers. Workshops like this are invaluable in ensuring that the art making skills of Inuit are passed on to the next generation.

My congratulations and thanks to the sponsors of this workshop; the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Keewatin division, First Air and Air Inuit, who had the foresight to encourage the artisans of Baker Lake and I would like to add my own words of encouragement for the 19 carvers, who invested two weeks in improving their considerable artistic skills. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Member's Statement On Second Annual "Healing Our Spirits" Worldwide Conference

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today is the day that the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School performers leave the country on their way to the second healing our spirits worldwide conference in Sydney, Australia. Madam Speaker, the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School performers are a group of students accompanied by two elders and two supervisors from the community of Rae-Edzo. They will be attending the four-day conference as youth delegates and to perform as representatives of the Dogrib and the Northwest Territories. They will be meeting and talking with aboriginal youth from around the world about issues relevant to their own peer group.

Madam Speaker, the conference will address aboriginal health issues such as the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, with a focus on family and youth. Their performance includes traditional drumming and dancing, and a dramatic performance depicting the tradition and culture of the Dogrib people. Madam Speaker, I would just like to wish them all the best and look forward to talking with them about their experience when they return. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Reassignment Of News/North Reporter

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Northern News Services staff reporter, who has covered the Legislative Assembly beat for the last several years, is being assigned to another part of the Northwest Territories. She is the striking blond lady, who sits in the crowded press gallery. I hope I won't be accused of using politically incorrect words to describe her because we have such great crowds here sometimes that you really have to use words like that, so that you know exactly who I am talking about.

Madam Speaker, it isn't unknown that Rankin Inlet, in some ways, is the middle of the Nunavut empire and there are expectations about the creation of lots of news because of its geographical location. I would like to remind Members that this is also the home constituency of a man who is being called, by various Members of the press, the Minister of Everything. It is to be expected that if you are the Minister of Everything, there is going to be all kinds of news that you are going to be able to report on.

Also, Madam Speaker, if you were a very high-profile Minister and there is lots of activity, there is also lots of work to be done by a very productive investigative reporter. Although this assignment, as I understand it, is only until the end of the summer, if there is lots of work there and there are lots of things going on, maybe even Mr. Sigvaldason would let her stay there for a longer period of time.

However, Madam Speaker, the point of my statement today is although from time to time members of the press annoy us and sometimes the public, members of the press also annoy their employer. So you end up getting it from both directions. However, I have found the lady to be, for the most part, on most occasions, fair. I know that when she settles in Rankin Inlet, that she will have no axe to grind and that she will report fairly on all the activities in that part of the world.

I would like to wish her well because we don't have a press club here and we don't get to talk to people that often, except when things of a nasty nature arise. I do wish her well in her new assignment.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Allan Kingdon from Iqaluit. He is the shop steward for the Northwest Territories Power Commission, Baffin region.

---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 369-12(6): Response Re Appearance Of Minister Irwin

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the acting Premier. A motion was passed in this Assembly requesting that Minister Irwin from Indian and Northern Affairs come to the north to address

northerners through this Legislative Assembly. Has the Minister responded to our request to come to the north to speak to northerners?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 369-12(6): Response Re Appearance Of Minister Irwin

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, my understanding is that Mr. Irwin is unable to attend the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly because of time schedules and because he is fairly well booked, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(6): Response Re Appearance Of Minister Irwin

MR. KOE:

Thank you for that information. I was going to ask, other than his time schedule, did he give any other significant reason for not coming to speak to us in the north?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 369-12(6): Response Re Appearance Of Minister Irwin

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any other significant reasons that he would not attend the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 370-12(6): GNWT Acknowledgement Of Treaties

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the acting Premier. Madam Speaker, many aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the west, signed treaties with the federal government over the past 100 years. Does the government of the Northwest Territories acknowledge and recognize the treaties between the aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories and the federal government?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, yes, we are aware of those treaties. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Does the government take an active role in the interpretation of those treaties or does it leave that interpretation up to the aboriginal groups and the federal government to work out?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is not a participant in those treaties. Those treaties are between aboriginal people and the Crown. We respect the interpretations of those treaties by the federal government. If there are any negotiations on those treaties, we respect the outcome of those negotiations between aboriginal people and the federal government. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, there are occasions when the Government of the Northwest Territories requires an interpretation of a treaty to determine the application of a program. For some issues, there is an interpretation that both parties to the treaties agree with. However, for other unresolved issues, the federal government takes a very different interpretation than the aboriginal groups. In those cases, does the Government of the Northwest Territories adopt the federal interpretation or the aboriginal interpretation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, the question is broad. I would say that recently where there have been some disagreements on the interpretation of treaties, in some instances we have taken the federal government's interpretation of those treaties, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, a final supplementary again to the acting Premier. Would the acting Premier agree that, in taking one side's interpretation over the other, the government is, essentially, lending its support and becoming an active participant in the treaty issue?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Acting Premier, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 370-12(6): GNWT
Acknowledgement Of Treaties

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, as I said, the treaties cover a broad number of issues and our position might change depending on the issue at hand. For the purposes of some the acts we have, until such time as there has been a resolution of the problem between the aboriginal people and the Crown, or until the issue has been resolved in court, we have taken the lead from the federal government. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 371-12(6): Illegal Activities Policy Of
Cambridge Bay Housing Association

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, and it has to do with my Member's statement regarding the housing association of Cambridge Bay adopting an illegal activities policy. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of the adoption of that policy and, if he is, does he support their initiative? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 371-12(6): Illegal Activities Policy
Of Cambridge Bay Housing Association

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for making me aware of the policy. Once I see the policy and read it, I will inform the Member whether I support it or not. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 371-12(6): Illegal
Activities Policy Of Cambridge Bay Housing
Association

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, since the housing authority has cited the Residential Tenancy Act for their authority to evict tenants for illegal activities and that Tenancy Act is one which the Housing Corporation deals with on an ongoing basis, whether or not his Housing Corporation personnel has considered this type of policy in the past? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 371-12(6): Illegal
Activities Policy Of Cambridge Bay Housing
Association

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know whether the Housing Corporation considered this type of policy in the past or not. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 371-12(6): Illegal
Activities Policy Of Cambridge Bay Housing
Association

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think the intent of the policy is to deter potential bootleggers and drug traffickers from operating in our communities. I would like to ask the Minister, if his department deems that it is a legal policy that would be binding, would he ask his Housing Corporation staff to develop such a policy and to work with housing associations in the regions to implement this type of policy? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 371-12(6): Illegal
Activities Policy Of Cambridge Bay Housing
Association

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We always work with the housing associations in the communities and if this is what the Cambridge Bay Housing Association wants to do, I will try my best to support that. I will get legal interpretation and advice from the legal division about whether or not we can do this territorial-wide. It sounds like a good idea. We don't agree with bootlegging and drug trafficking happening out of our public units and if there is a way of stopping it, I would happy to work with the communities to do that. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education and I will warn you, I have a bit of a preamble leading up to this question. I will try to make it brief.

Madam Speaker, on October 19, 1994 during consideration of the main estimates of the Department of Education, in light of a recent call for proposals to study future directions of existing student residences in Iqaluit, Inuvik and Rankin Inlet, including terms of reference calling for a phase-out plan for residences, I asked the Minister if it was the department's intention to get out of the business of accommodating high school students in those three regional residences. I was told in reply, page 944 of Hansard, October 19th, that "we want to identify, first of all, if there is a requirement for us to get out of regional residences."

My question to the Minister, Madam Speaker, is, if the Minister has commissioned a study to determine, in his words in this

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House, "if there is a requirement to get out of regional residences," then why does the department's strategy laid out in Tabled Document 41-12(6), page 52, say, "we will move to close Grollier Hall, Kivalliq and Ukiivik?" Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just so the honourable Member gets the picture straight, I think you should read the beginning of the statement, "As a result of improved access, there will no longer be the same need for large student residences." Madam Speaker, this House has approved the direction of us establishing community high school programs. One of the components deals with the issue of closing Akaitcho Hall. The issue deals with Grollier Hall, Kivalliq and Ukiivik. There is a contract now out that is evaluating the present use of those residences and will be reporting back to the government and to myself at the end of December.

It will also consider the other alternative uses for those residences in light of us having to shut them down, if that is the direction that is given to me by the contractor.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I did read the previous statement in the department's strategy referring to improved access to high school programs, but I have to remind the Minister, Madam Speaker, that in the Baffin region, if you want to go to university and become a lawyer, doctor or engineer, you have to take the advanced diploma program. You don't have any access to that advanced diploma program in 11 out of 13 Baffin communities.

So, Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is, recognizing that outside of Iqaluit there is only one other community that gives students access to the advanced program, would the Minister agree that the continued operation of the Ukiivik residence is justified, to offer advanced high school diploma programs to students who can't get it in their home communities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Madam Speaker, no, I can't agree. The fact is, if the communities can improve the access for those programs for students in the communities, then we won't need the residence. If the report says it will take longer to do it and we need to retain the residence so that we allow the students to remain in Iqaluit, then we will have to adjust the issue of closing the residence. But, that information is not available at this juncture and I would suggest to the honourable Member that maybe one way is to improve better program access in the communities. But that is only one of many solutions.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I'm delighted to hear the Minister say that he is willing to await the results of the report to see what is determined by the report and to see if the report says it may take longer than we thought to develop full community high school programs. But I guess I would like to go back to the Minister and say, what good is this exercise and this consultant's work - and I know the Minister encouraged the consultant to talk to MLAs -- what good is all that if the department's tabled strategy already says on page 52, we will move to close these three residences? How can we have a meaningful consultant's process to examine all options for the future if the Minister's own tabled document has foreclosed all but one option which is closing the residences? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. At some juncture, Madam Speaker, there will be no need for communities providing access to all these programs

that are necessary. That is a fact. It occurred with Stringer Hall, and my honourable colleague was a part of the decision to demolish that building. It's a fact that in other communities, like Akaitcho where we don't need access; there are more residences in the Kitikmeot; there is more access to the high school program which the Member was a party to setting out that direction; and, I think it's a good direction and we should continue to work on it. What is clear is that eventually we will have to close the residences.

The fact is, Inuvik, right now, in my view, has too large a space for the number of students who are attending. The question is, what are the alternatives? Is it home boarding, is it a smaller residence? What is the use of the buildings once we make those decisions? The honourable Member could read the document as it was indicated, then it would be clear that the issue is through partnerships, it's not immediate closure. But we will get to a point where we'll have to make that decision to close those residences.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, the Minister is offering experience in Akaitcho Hall and other parts of the Northwest Territories to explain the stated intention. I would like to ask the Minister if he's examined the experience in Alaska where

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after the Hooch case, a class action case provided for the right of high school education to grade 12 in every community, after those high schools were established and after regional residences were closed some 10 years or so later, the Department of Education in Alaska realized that they were failing to meet needs of certain students and ended up reopening some of those residences so that certain students from certain small communities could still have access to high school programs. Is the Minister aware of that experience in Alaska? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 372-12(6): Closure Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. It's very interesting. I just had a discussion with some people from Alaska two days ago and they advised me of that issue, so I am aware of it.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. A very short preamble, Madam Speaker. I wrote a letter to the president of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation requesting confirmation regarding Foxe Basin Construction that has been terminated during mid-construction in Iqaluit. That is the same construction company that we had a problem with in Coral Harbour last year, and they have been awarded another contract to do construction work in Coral Harbour this coming spring. They have been awarded that already. The Minister, himself, had a tele-conference with the mayor, deputy mayor and myself, discussing that issue because Coral Harbour is very adamant about not having this construction company back again. My question, Madam Speaker, is since there was a termination during the construction season in Iqaluit of that same company, what is the plan of the Minister?

I would like to rephrase that question. Will he still honour that contract that is being designated for Coral Harbour?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to make it very clear to the Member that the Housing Corporation will honour all the contracts they have

with contractors until we have legal advice that we could renege on any contract and not be legally sued and lose. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will he be seeking legal advice to see if he can renege on the contract since that same construction contractor has been terminated in Iqaluit, presumably for lack of performance as he did in Coral Harbour?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm aware of the issue that the contractor has problems in the Member's riding. I have talked to his mayor and his council. We're trying to work with the community to make sure that the contractor abides by the local labour content that was put in this tender. We're watching this contractor, as well as all contractors, to ensure that contracts do benefit the communities. I made a commitment to the mayor and the council, as well as the Member, that we'll work on this issue with them and try to solve it, and I still stand by that commitment today. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't know how to phrase my second supplementary, but it's very important to me. The Minister assured me and the council of Coral Harbour that he will be watching this contractor very carefully. As I indicated, I was told that his contract has been terminated in Iqaluit. What

other proof or other incident does he require to tell the community of Coral Harbour, yes, I'm now convinced that we have grounds to renege from a contract award that we have issued for this coming spring?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 373-12(6): Contractors Adhering To Local Hire Provisions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The contract in Iqaluit is a separate issue. If the contract was terminated, then we do have proper grounds to terminate. But if I'm going to terminate the contract in the Member's riding, number one, I'm going to make sure I have proper grounds to do it so that the contractor cannot come back and sue this government and we'll be held responsible and have to write them a cheque for doing nothing. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 374-12(6): Update On Hydro Quebec's Plans To Construct Dam

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for environment. As we are aware, in northern Quebec, Hydro

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Quebec is interested in building a dam. I wonder if the Minister of the environment has received any updates on the progress with Hydro Quebec for their plans. In the Northwest Territories, as fellow Inuit and fellow aboriginal people, we are concerned about the environmental impact, Madam Speaker. Should the desire to build a dam go ahead in northern Quebec, this can cause an environmental hazard especially for the lifestyles of my constituents. So if they come to an agreement to build this dam, for those of us who live in the NWT as well as the northern Quebecers, this is an environmental hazard. In the future, they could easily look at us and say that we were responsible for ruining the land. We will be the ones who will be left holding the bag. Perhaps there has

been some further progress on this from the Minister of Environment. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. We don't have a Minister of Environment, but I believe the Minister of Renewable Resources is responsible for such issues. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 374-12(6): Update On Hydro Quebec's Plans To Construct Dam

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question posed by the Member for Baffin South is something that we, as a government, are trying to keep focusing on. In Quebec, people are working on reviewing the possible ways of improving what would be done. They were going to make a press release October 31st to the people who would be effected in the communities. They were going to visit the communities to do some consultations with those communities beginning in 1995. I think they will be ready to start soon. At this time, whether it has actually begun, I am not sure. There would have been a press release issued but, as of this date, I don't have anything in writing for the beginning of those consultations.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 374-12(6): Update On Hydro Quebec's Plans To Construct Dam

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the Minister of Renewable Resources, once the planning was in place, will you invite or update the MLAs who are connected to the Quebec plans? Will we be given updates as these things begin to progress in 1995? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 374-12(6): Update On Hydro Quebec's Plans To Construct Dam

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Currently there is a progress report being drafted. Once I receive that, I will hand them over to the Member for Baffin South and he will get to see those papers. I will give him further information on what is happening within the 1995 year. I will keep him updated as I get information on the progress. I will extend that information to other interested MLAs as well.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The request for proposals to study and make recommendations for future directions of existing student residences in Iqaluit, Inuvik and Rankin Inlet was let and a call for proposals closed on October 4, 1994. I would like to ask the Minister, to whom was the contract awarded to do this study?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I am unaware of who the contract was issued to, but I will get back to the honourable Member with the information.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. In the terms of reference and I quote, "Three regional residences; Grollier Hall in Inuvik; Kivalliq Hall in Rankin and Ukiivik in Iqaluit, still continue to operate and decisions on their future viability must be made." My question to the Minister is, has any

decision been made on the future uses of these three student residences?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the whole intent of the study is on the present use of Ukiivik residence, Grollier in Inuvik and Kivalliq Hall in Rankin. The study is intended to recommend future directions for use of these facilities when they are no longer required -- I want to reiterate "no longer required" -- as high school student residences, and will be prepared by the end of December.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. If that is the case, and I will refer to the comments made by the Member for Iqaluit in the strategy, it states that you will move to close Grollier Hall. To me, it almost seems that a decision has been made. Can the Minister confirm whether or not Grollier Hall in Inuvik will be closed as a student residence?

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In partnership, as is the case in the strategy, with the boards, not in the absence of the boards, we will consider the whole matter of closing down these residences or not, if that is the case.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Madam Speaker, the fact is, like everything else, you have to do the work based on the best information possible. Based on the information possible, we built a smaller residence in Iqaluit to respond to a smaller high school population. That is the result of the success of the high school program. The same situation is occurring in Inuvik with Grollier Hall. Because we have increased the high school programming in the region, there is a reduced need for the residence. In fact, Madam Speaker, Grollier Hall is also being used for a child care centre because we needed the space and the space was available.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Will the Minister confirm that Grollier Hall will not receive the same fate as Stringer Hall and be destroyed since this government has just recently spent over \$4 million in renovations to this building?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 375-12(6): Study On Future Directions Of Student Residences

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I stood in this House on a number of occasions indicating to Members that it is in our interest to reassess and reutilize the buildings that we have. After having spent over \$4 million on Grollier Hall, it is certainly not my intention to tear it down. My belief is that there are other uses to be considered. Arctic College is one opportunity. The resource centre in that region could be better utilized, and the matter of the board offices moving from their present location to that building has been discussed. So the alternatives

are there and the issue is that the report will determine and recommend all the options available.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question to direct to the Minister of Finance. One of the important reasons why the payroll tax was introduced was to capture tax revenues from those who work in fly-in/fly-out operations, and live outside the Northwest Territories. Has the payroll tax been successful in capturing this income?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Madam Speaker, it has. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. My supplementary to the Minister of Finance, Madam Speaker, is when the payroll tax was introduced there was an indication that there would be an increased cost in administration associated with this tax. A few weeks ago, we heard in this House about the tax loophole which allowed \$200,000 in potential revenues to disappear from the fly-in/fly-out employees. Has the government done an analysis of the revenue versus administration expenses on this tax?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I believe it's in the O and M budget of the Department of Finance, the expenses incurred in collecting the payroll tax. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I ask the Minister of Finance to give some indication of the additional income to the Government of the Northwest Territories resulting from the payroll tax after administration costs had been taken into account.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 376-12(6): Success Of Payroll Tax Re Fly-In/Fly-Out Workers

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I would be guessing, but I would say \$2 million. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. About three weeks ago, I asked by the Minister why his department couldn't replace the aging carpet in the single students' residence in Iqaluit this summer when the ships were coming in and when students were away. I think the Minister subsequently replied to me that a contract had been

tendered. I would like to ask the Minister if he can now report on any progress on replacing that very old, tattered, stained carpet. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That contract was tendered and Dual Contracting of Iqaluit won that contract. That's a northern outfit. It's \$14,275 to replace that carpet. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

MR. PATTERSON:

I thank the Minister for that answer. I would like to ask the Minister, is he aware whether the firms that bid on that job, which of course closed after the last ship left to the community, had the carpet on hand, in stock in Iqaluit to do that job or whether we're going to have to pay for the carpet to be flown in due to the late closure of the tenders? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The carpet is a speciality carpet, it is a commercial grade that no suppliers in Iqaluit hold in stock so it has to be flown in. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, would the Minister agree that if the department had tendered the project well in advance of the sealift, that specialized carpet could have been brought up by sealift rather than other more expensive means of transport? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased that the contract has been awarded. Could I ask the Minister when the department expects that the contract will be performed? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 377-12(6): Replacement Of Carpets In Iqaluit Student Residence

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The soonest time available to the contractor. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 378-12(6): Staff Housing Policy Re Illegal Activities

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services as his department administers the leases for staff housing units. It again deals with the issue of illegal activities of tenants. I would like to ask the Minister, does the GNWT have a policy in place that deals with tenants as far as carrying out the illegal activities in staff housing units? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 378-12(6): Staff Housing Policy Re Illegal Activities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not believe that the territorial government has that placement. We'll certainly explore that idea now that the Member has brought that good idea to the attention of this House. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. One of the reasons, Madam Speaker, why the payroll tax was supported in the first place was because of a rebate. I would like to ask the Minister, of the \$2 million, how much of that do northerners expect to get back as a rebate?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I may have unintentionally misled Mr. Gargan. The \$2 million to us was after we had paid out the cost of living tax credit to people of the Northwest Territories, so the net amount to the Government of the Northwest Territories was some \$2 million. The actual revenues, last year, of the payroll tax was almost \$8 million, Madam Speaker,

and we're forecasting \$11.746 million this year in money from the payroll tax. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, to the Minister of Finance, given the time and money going into the efforts to make the Dene Nation pay the payroll tax, the Minister must feel the financial return would be worth the effort. Can the Minister give an indication of the amount of money his department estimates will be collected as payroll tax from the Dene Nation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, officially I am not aware that the Dene Nation has any employees. We are merely asking the Dene Nation to register as an employer, which we believe they are, in the Northwest Territories. So I don't know how many employees or what the size of their payroll would be. I'm merely asking them to register, that's all. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, to the Minister of Finance. Maybe to get some clarification, are you merely asking them to register and pay tax, or just register?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 379-12(6): Payroll Tax Rebate

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, there's a requirement under the Payroll Tax Act for all employers in the Northwest Territories to register. As I say, we believe that the Dene Nation has employees and we have asked Chief Erasmus if he would register the Dene Nation and give us the information on his employees. So we're asking them to register under the Payroll Tax Act, as an employer in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. During the last few years, and probably since time immemorial, frauds have been occurring and it's come to a head in this government in the last several years when several charges have been laid. It's a major concern because fraud is usually a symptom of other problems. In previous sessions, you have stated that this is under review. My question to you is what has been done within the government to review and look at the issue of frauds?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, it is a problem that we're aware of. It's a problem that we don't like to deal with, but it is nevertheless there. So each year the government puts together an audit plan for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and it says the audits that it has to do and the audits that it should do. Then it calculates how many hours there would be available to do special audit; where we are called in at a moment's notice to investigate errors, omissions or

frauds. So, we do recognize that we are going to have to spend more time in that area.

The other aspect that we've been concentrating on is to sit down with departments and discuss with them areas where they are vulnerable, shall we say, where there is cash and where they should upgrade their procedures so they don't tempt people to abscond with funds where it doesn't look like it can be noticed. We're trying to tighten the procedures, work with the departments, ask them to make sure there are good paper trails, and that maybe someone handles the paper while someone else handles the money. Hopefully, Madam Speaker, as we increase our vigilance on those procedures, there will be less fraud in this organization. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Does the Minister have any idea of how many frauds were committed and are known to have been committed within the last two years?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I don't know how many were committed in the last couple of years because I'm sure there are some we don't know about, but I will provide a list to the Member about the ones we do know about, and their status. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

MR. KOE:

Along the lines of that, too, there have to be dollar amounts. Can the Minister provide us with the estimated amount of dollars lost to fraud in the last two years?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 380-12(6): Actions To Eliminate Fraud

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I'm not aware if I'll be able to table those documents in the House because there are things before the court and there is the issue of confidentiality. But, I will have the list prepared, it will have a dollar amount attached to it and I will provide it to Members. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services a question. In light of the problems this year, which he has admitted in the House, in implementing the devolution of project management to the regions and in light of the chronic high turnover of project managers, historically, and the inefficiencies that result from that, I would like to ask the Minister -- who I know is always looking for means to get better value for the public dollar and who has now been in the job for some years -- has he considered privatizing the construction operations of the Department of Public Works and Services? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The majority of the operations already have been privatized. We use private consultants and engineers. We have project officers on staff looking after the territorial government's interest. I have heard the Member's side of the story about the problems we have encountered in Iqaluit and now I will get the other side of the story and make a decision about what to do in Iqaluit. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, the Minister says that most of the functions of the department have been privatized and all they have is a few project officers. It is my understanding that those project officers are often architects or engineers. There is now, I believe, a thriving public practice of engineers and architects in the Northwest Territories, and not only in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister, is it really necessary for DPW to have its own architects and engineers in-house? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The way that the department has been moving during the past three years I've had it, is that people we are hiring aren't necessarily architects and engineers. They are project managers. They are supposed to have the ability to work with the communities to ensure the communities benefit from the projects, that communities are well-informed about the projects and have the ability to work with their clients as well. So, I agree with the Member, they don't necessarily have to be architects or engineers. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, has he ever done a comparison of the square foot costs of construction of similar facilities by the private sector and where a project is managed by his department in a particular community? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 381-12(6): Privatization Of Construction Management

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In some cases, a private building may exceed the Government of the Northwest Territories' per square foot price, but in other cases a government's building would exceed private enterprises' price. The Member must remember that all the standards and criteria for a building is driven by the client. They have standards and criteria. We have a senior management committee set up through FMB to look at all the standards and criteria. As well, some Members of Cabinet will be getting together fairly soon to look at how we can cut costs in capital. The key is to get our projects designed on time, to get client counselling done on time, community counselling done on time and also to have up-to-date standards and criteria that we build to. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 382-12(6): Status Of Interpretative Centre, Prelude Lake

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Five years ago when Mr. Wray was the Minister of Economic Development, he revealed a plan for a kind of a interpretive centre at Prelude Lake park. It was to be a major project with a lot of work to be done on it. I know that over the last five

years surveyors keep on going through the bush. Five years ago they used red to blaze the trail. The next year they used green. They have run out of colours this year, so I noticed that two weeks ago, they are now using little clumps of colours so you can differentiate between this year's survey, last year's survey, and the survey from three years before that. I would like to ask the Minister, where is this project going? There is \$240,000 in the capital estimates. Maybe he could explain to me where this project is at.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. LEWIS:

(Microphone turned off)

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Madam Speaker, I think everyone in the House is aware that over the past few months, I have been increasingly concerned about whether or not the resources of the RCMP are being stretched to the limit in the face of very rapidly increasing crime rates and crimes of violence in the Northwest Territories.

I know, Madam Speaker, that the Minister is working on some quite imaginative aspects of community policing and he is aware, as anybody, of the problems we face. We had a very good briefing this morning by the police, which reinforced my concerns. My question then to the Minister is, could the Minister give us a time line of when he will be able to deal with what is an ominous lack of resources for the RCMP? Will the Minister be able to deal with the situation between now and the budget session, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, for those who were in attendance at the briefing this morning, the message from the RCMP was that throwing money and more resources at the problem at this time is not the only answer, and that we have to look at other avenues to address why we need policing in the first place and the root causes of why we are called on to look at even more policing across the north at this time.

There is no time line, per se. We hope that the winter O and M budget will see a correction in the funding deficiency that the RCMP have been working under for the last few years, that we will finally resolve that. We hope that in the next month or two, we will be able to see the RCMP bill paid for the Giant Mine strike, which at this time the RCMP are having to absorb. It is becoming increasingly difficult for them to operate with that bill unpaid. And, there are surely other suggestions that are going to be made by communities on alternative policing mechanisms, and at this time they have not been made. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I was at the meeting and the Minister is right, the police said that throwing money at the situation is not the only part of the solution but there was doubt in my mind that they are going to need some money to deal with this problem. So my question is, to handle the vacancy problem, at the very least, that the police have talked about, will the Minister be able to, between now and the budget session, handle those parts of the problem that can be addressed by more manpower? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I am committed, as I said in the Legislature last week. I asked the RCMP, when I first started, to tell me, in no uncertain terms, that if they find that there are major problems in carrying out police services as a result of under-funding by this government and if they are unable to carry out their duties as outlined in the policing agreement with us, then I want to know. The RCMP have written to me and we have indicated to them that we are planning to address the deficiencies through the O and M budget. That has been communicated to the RCMP. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I will support any initiative that the Minister makes to improve the capability and capacity of the RCMP to deal with the Northwest Territories in the 1990s. As I said, I think there is going to be a need for some resources very quickly. But, on the other hand, the Minister is right, there are other, less costly approaches that also have to be considered, in concert with some direct resources. One of those is an auxiliary police force. I would like to ask the Minister, has the Minister looked into that option? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the RCMP are conducting a study, as I said last week, about the challenge of policing in the Northwest Territories, with division in 1999 and with continued cutbacks from the federal government. One of the concerns that was introduced to Members in Caucus this

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morning was the escalating concern of the RCMP in the Northwest Territories about the health and safety of their members. The number of violent incidents directed at members of the RCMP and their families in the north have escalated in the last few years and, as a result, the RCMP are conducting a study. The RCMP may find it imperative to suggest that there be no more one-man detachments if they find that they cannot ensure an adequate level of safety for their members, as a result of growing violence directed at members in the communities.

It is difficult to respond to specific suggestions like an auxiliary police force at this time, since there are no specific suggestions made by communities at this time. There are always associated costs and I'm not certain that it would be any more economical to do. But, having said that, there is no implication that such a suggestion, if made, will be ruled out. We are simply not looking at such a suggestion at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Final supplementary. I appreciate the steps the Minister is taking and I think the study is important. Unfortunately, I think the situation, as it stands right now, is quite serious and I really think the Minister should look at some short-term responses to a worsening situation and then wait for the big picture once he has the report from the RCMP. So, I would ask the Minister if he's prepared to sit down with the RCMP between now and the budget session and see what short-term solutions he is prepared to address to deal with the situation, stabilize the situation, until such time as we can address the larger picture. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 383-12(6): Time Frame To Address Lack of RCMP Resources

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, we have quite regular meetings with the RCMP. I told Members I was meeting with the RCMP Commissioner as late as just a week ago in Edmonton, to bring ourselves up to speed on our dealings with one another on the issue of policing, the concerns of the RCMP in the north about their job and their relationship with us. The meetings here with Chief Superintendent Brian Watt have always been good, productive meetings.

It was through suggestions made by the chief superintendent and myself that paved the way for his briefing of Members of Caucus this morning. I hope that such appearances can be made on a regular basis so Members are not only aware of the situation in their respective constituencies, but can get a panoramic snapshot of the situation that the police find themselves in right across the Northwest Territories. These updates ensure that all of us are aware, first-hand, of the challenges that the RCMP face on a daily basis across the Northwest Territories in our respective communities and also to hear, first-hand, about specific remedies they want to make, to which we could respond. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Time frame for oral questions has lapsed. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 11-12(6): Request For Housing Allocation Statistics

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, Return to Written Question 11-12(6), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation concerning request for housing allocation statistics.

On October 20, 1994, the honourable Member for Deh Cho asked a question regarding the allocations made by the Housing Corporation.

I have provided Mr. Gargan, and all MLAs, the following information under covering letter:

1. The number of social housing units allocated in the NWT -- both public housing units and rent supplement units -- on a community-by-community basis for the fiscal years 1990-91 to 1994-95.

2. The number of home ownership assistance program, HAP, units allocated in the NWT, on a community-by-community basis, for the fiscal years 1990-91 to 1992-93.

3. The number of home ownership units -- ACCESS -- allocated in the NWT, on a community-by-community basis, for the fiscal years 1993-94 to 1994-95.

Return To Written Question 22-12(6): Arrears Owed To The NWT Housing Corporation

Madam Speaker, Return to Written Question 22-12(6) asked by Mr. Koe to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, concerning arrears owed to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

On October 27, 1994, the honourable Member for Inuvik asked a question regarding the amount of arrears owed to the corporation on a community-by-community basis as of March 31, 1994.

Madam Speaker, the total arrears owed to the corporation as of March 31, 1994 were \$6,907,978. I have provided the Member the amount of arrears on a community-by-community basis under covering letter.

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. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 58-12(6), illegal activities policy passed by the Cambridge Bay Housing Association on November 2nd.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 14-12(6), "Open for Business" - Privatizing the Northwest Territories

Power Corporation; Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories; 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 16-12(6), Toward an Economic Development Strategy; Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2; Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94; and, Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I would like to call the committee to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee consider Tabled Document 23-12(6) first, then Bill 16, followed by Bill 18, and then perhaps Committee Report 16-12(6).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. I have found that Members have a lot of energy after they've had a 15 minute break and we make better progress, so I would like to call a 15 minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Dent, you gave us a list before the break beginning with Tabled Document 23-12(6). I presume that is the one you want to deal with first and that we follow the order you have given us?

MR. DENT:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Does everybody else agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Tabled Document 23-12(6): Report Of The 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay, we're on Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission. When we were last dealing with this item, there was an amendment on the floor. The problem I have is if you are going to vote on it, we need more Members. Please ring the bells.

Okay, we have a quorum. Mr. Antoine's amendment to the main motion was ruled in order. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

To the main motion, Mr. Pollard's main motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Defeated

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Pollard.

Committee Motion 75-12(6): To Adopt The Electoral District Boundaries Of High Arctic, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, North Slave And Kitikmeot, Carried

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the electoral district of High Arctic be redescribed by moving the west boundary at 141°00'W longitude to coincide with the boundary line to divide the territories (Inuvialuit settlement region and Nunavut land claims boundary.)

And further, Mr. Chairman, that the electoral district of Nunakput be redescribed by removing the north boundary at 74°00'N latitude, to extend the district of the north pole. Move the east boundaries of 115°00'W and 120°00'W to coincide with the boundary line to divide the territories (Inuvialuit settlement region and Nunavut land claim boundary), 110°00'W and 120°40'51"W respectively.

And furthermore that the electoral district of Sahtu be redescribed by moving the portion of the northeastern corner to coincide with the boundary line to divide the Northwest Territories (Nunavut land claim boundary.)

And furthermore that the electoral boundary of Tu Nedhe be redescribed by moving the north boundary of 65°00'N, and extending the west boundary line of 112°30'W, to coincide with the boundary line to divide the territories (Nunavut land claim boundary).

And furthermore that the electoral district of North Slave be redescribed by moving the eastern portion of the north boundary at 65°00'N to coincide with the boundary line to divide the territories (Nunavut land claim boundary.)

And furthermore that the electoral district of Kitikmeot be redescribed by moving the west boundaries of 115°00'W, 70°00'W, 120°00'W, 67°45'N, 116°00'W, and south boundary of 65°00'N, to coincide with the boundary line to divide the territories (Inuvialuit settlement region and Nunavut land claim boundary.)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

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MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I don't have a particular problem with the motion being put forward by the Member for Hay River. I realize that the electoral boundary is just for the purpose of elections and in no way does it affect claimant groups boundaries, so I am quite satisfied with the proposed motion we have in front of us.
Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I believe an issue arose out of Mr. Antoine's problem. Has that been addressed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard, this is your motion.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it has been addressed, perhaps not to the satisfaction of some Members of the House, but it has been addressed, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Are you satisfied, Mr. Gargan? Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this boundary is for electoral districts only and it is not for land claims use. As all Members know, Treaty 8, especially Lutsel K'e had an issue about the eastern boundary of Nunavut and the western Arctic. I would like to encourage, and always encourage, that that be dealt with strictly between the chiefs and leaders of the people, and that it not be dealt with in this House. That is something they have to deal with with the federal government and I would like to encourage the chief of Lutsel K'e as well as the leaders of Baker Lake to get together and have a meeting to discuss usage on each side of the boundary. There was talk about that type of meeting, and I would like to encourage them to meet so they can eventually sign a peace treaty between the Baker Lake and Lutsel K'e people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Members would, I think, all agree that had the original debate been limited just to taking issue with the commission going beyond their explicit terms of reference, then this would have been a non-issue. I agree that the commission made recommendations beyond what this Legislature appeared to have given them, at least explicitly, and therefore, we can rationalize that we should only make those changes that we originally explicitly mandated them to do, which would not have been a reason to set up the commission in the first

place. It would just have been a matter of passing a motion in this House. We didn't need a commission to do all that work in the first place.

But, what happened was the integrity of the Sahtu claim was brought into question. Whether or not people were on side of the Sahtu claim was dragged into the debate and I took strong objection to that. I want Members to know that I also recognize that when we have constituency boundaries drawn, they in no way have to conform, at this time, to the boundaries of the regional claims, as set out in the western territory by the Inuvialuit settlement boundary, by the Gwich'in settlement boundary and by the Sahtu settlement boundary.

But, it may be wise for us to keep in mind always that when we are talking about setting up a government in the western territory, if it is to be a single government for aboriginal and non-aboriginal people, and it is going to take form as an aboriginal public form of government, we may very well need, in the future, to show that the boundaries of the claimant groups will be reflected in the way we draw up constituencies. It may be a requirement by aboriginal groups that this is recognized in drawing up constituencies. That is the concern I have.

We cannot, for instance, argue that the north side line that divides east and west will be a claims boundary and then choose to disregard it as a potential benchmark for further development in the western part of the territory. I want Members to know that, although we appear to be suggesting that we will not make any more changes other than those that are minimally required to respect the boundary between the western territory and Nunavut, as far as I'm concerned, as a Member of this Legislature, I am prepared to respect the claims boundary of the Inuvialuit and the way it borders on the Sahtu. I am prepared to respect the boundary between the Sahtu and the Gwich'in regional claims. I am prepared to respect and recognize the boundary between the Dogrib people and the Sahtu, as they have negotiated it. The applies to the Deh Cho because, as I said, the boundaries of the Sahtu are set in legislation.

If Members choose not to do that, then I can respect that as well. I just want Members to know that it is not an issue with me at this time. If you want to stay with the minimal requirement for changing the constituencies, then that's fine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure there is no confusion about where this matter is of concern to those people I represent, and so people are clear that the Gwich'in leadership did in fact support the recommendations made in the electoral boundaries commission report, as had been proposed; mainly because it was the reflection of the agreement that had been reached between them and the federal government, and their agreement reached with the Sahtu. I think there was a respect for compromise and consideration for the use of land. But, even more than that, I think people should be aware that there is a jurisdictional issue related to those boundaries. In other words, there are a certain amount of law-making responsibilities there that would have made it much clearer in the eyes of the Gwich'in leadership and also in the case of the Sahtu, based on their land claims agreement; it would be very clear.

However, I don't want to create a situation where people feel compelled to argue about traditional lands. Mind you, as I said before, the debate about traditional lands is a debate between aboriginal people. It is not an issue that should be related to electoral boundaries because I think you must take into consideration factors other than simply voting. I listened to the debate that took place here the other day and, in my view, we were talking about matters that should be resolved between aboriginal peoples.

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I'm of the same opinion, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Kakfwi has stated. I am prepared to respect the agreements and boundaries that have been reached between the federal government and the Inuit. I'm prepared to respect the boundaries that outline the Inuvialuit settlement region, the Gwich'in and the Sahtu.

I think the irony of this particular debate is that we're debating something that is passed by this Legislature while we should also recognize that a higher law, in many respects, is the basis on which claims have been made; that is, the constitution of this country. If we're unable to recognize that, I think we're in deep trouble, not so much trouble between the aboriginal people and the federal government but trouble because we, as the second level of government, are not prepared to recognize constitutional agreements.

We are recognizing it with the Inuit in establishing division between Nunavut and the west. It would have been the same if we had done it for the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit and the Sahtu.

I just wanted to make those comments, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have just have one final comment before question is called. I support the electoral boundary, but when you have a situation where aboriginal organizations are negotiating with the federal government, third-party interests are not an issue. I think that is what happened in Jim Antoine's area. Even though he has been impacted by Sahtu claims, there is no avenue for him to express his concerns. The territorial government is aware of that, too.

I suppose it was Mr. Antoine who brought up the whole issue of the mandate of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. They only had the mandate to change the boundaries based on the political line, and nothing else. But, I think Mr. Antoine also brought up an issue that would never have been addressed if he hadn't, and that is even though he is being impacted by the Sahtu claim -- and I'm sure it is the same way with all the other claims -- it is a boundaries issue. The Deh Cho region is caught between the Dogrib claim and the Sahtu claim. We are not saying we are going to be pursuing claims, but we are certainly impacted by them and this is the only arena, I believe, where we have the opportunity to bring up that point.

But, I support the motion because the lines mean the same, and they don't go into areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To Mr. Pollard's motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I just want to comment on Mr. Gargan's remarks. It is a matter of record and policy that all claims boundaries are negotiated between the aboriginal peoples. This was done by the Gwich'in, and the negotiator for the Inuvialuit and the Sahtu,

and the conclusions were to the general satisfaction of all parties. The Sahtu negotiated a boundary to the general satisfaction of themselves and the Dogrib. However, they did not conclude the negotiations to the satisfaction of the Deh Cho.

There was a time line and a need to be realistic in negotiations. Neither the time line nor the expectations were within the realm of possibility for Deh Cho, and that is why the boundary was set, even though the Deh Cho were not in agreement with it. As Mr. Nerysoo points out, the claims are protected by the Constitution of Canada so you can take exception to it however you want, but you cannot say that the opportunity wasn't there to come to some sort of resolution. It was there; it was there for other groups. The only one not happy with the outcome was the Deh Cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. To Mr. Pollard's motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

I just have a question, I'm not debating anything here.

---Laughter

I thought the motion was about electoral boundaries. Can the person who made the motion make it clear to me? I read it, I looked at it, and it is about electoral boundaries. Why are we talking about land claims? Can I have that clarification before I put my hand up? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Pollard, once you are in your seat, there was a question from Mr. Arvaluk on your motion. Would you like to restate it please, Mr. Arvaluk?

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion states the electoral boundary of the High Arctic, et cetera...There are two pages of it describing the proposed electoral boundaries and the existing electoral districts of the Northwest Territories. When people were talking to the motion, they seemed to be talking about where land claims are in the North Slave and Sahtu areas which, I feel, has nothing to do with the motion. These will be dealt with when the time comes. Electoral boundaries could be changed

everyday if you want to. It has no bearing on anything that will be forthcoming in the future. I just want to know if we are talking about electoral boundaries or land claims?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I'm sorry, Mr. Arvaluk, we have had a motion and people are speaking for or against the motion now. You'll have to be guided by the motion that was presented to us by Mr. Pollard. Anybody else to the motion? All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Is the committee agreed then that Tabled Document 23-12(6), Report of the 1993-94 Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories of the Boundaries Commission, has been dealt with and has been concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We were given a list by Mr. Dent earlier on this afternoon, Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2 was next. I would like to ask the acting Premier, Mr. Pollard, if he has any opening comments on this act.

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

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in my capacity as Government House Leader, I would like to present the proposed amendments to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2. Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act falls under the responsibility of the whole Assembly and amendments to this act are usually triggered by either recommendations of Members, the Management and Services Board and in this case, by the interim and annual reports of the Conflict of Interest Commission.

Those documents are Tabled Document 63-12(4), tabled on December 9, 1993, and Tabled Document 44-12(5), tabled on March 17, 1994, respectively, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before you today which amends, as I indicated, part three of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act which deals with conflict of interest. This bill, in summary, intends to allow a Member to request advice from the Chief Commissioner regarding the Member's obligation under the act, allows a Member or former Member to ask the Chief Commissioner for permission to enter into a contract with the government that would otherwise be prohibited under the act. It directs that the Conflict of Interest Commission describe these contracts, to identify the relevant Members on it's annual report, and the annual report must identify Members who are late filing or fail to file disclosure statements as required by the act. Mr. Chairman, I'd be prepared to try and answer any questions that Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chairman of the standing committee on legislation, then, for a report on this bill.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on November 7, 1994, the standing committee held a public hearing to review Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2. The bill proposed to amend the present legislation in a number of ways. It would allow a Member to request advice from the Chief Commissioner of the Conflict of Interest Commission. It would allow Members and former Members to ask the Chief Commissioner for permission to enter into a contract with the government, and it changes the reporting requirements of the clerk of the Assembly and the Conflict of Interest Commission with respect to disclosure by Members. These amendments are proposed in response to a report of the Conflict of Interest Commission. In particular, the commission noted that the Chief Commissioner was unable to advise Members of the Legislative Assembly on their obligation under the act with respect to conflict of interest provision.

The Honourable John Pollard, as Government House Leader, appeared before the committee on November

7, 1994, to present the bill and respond to the committee's questions and concerns. In discussing the origin of the bill, it was noted that the act currently spells out conflict of interest in black and white terms. Either there is a conflict or there isn't. However, the north, with its small population and limited business community, may not be in the public's best interest to strictly prohibit some form of activity by Members of this Legislature. Some contracts may be innocent and in the public interest. In effect, the amendments generally relaxes the provision of the act to allow for interpretation of the grey areas and strikes a balance between protecting the public interest and allowing, in certain circumstances, Members and former Members to hold contracts with the government.

The committee discussed their concerns about urgent situations where the Chief Commissioner may be required to render a ruling or dispense advice immediately. It was noted that while requests for advice have to be in writing, requests for contract authorizations do not. Urgent matters of potential conflict respecting contracts could be dealt with most immediately. The committee was particularly concerned that some aspects of the proposed amendments are not found in other jurisdictions. In effect, the bill proposes to allow contractual activity between elected Members and the government. Generally speaking, other jurisdictions prohibit this kind of contractual activity between government and former Ministers. The committee feels that the Legislative Assembly must recognize that this bill would create a legal instrument -- not merely a code or guidelines -- that allows elected Members, former Members, and Ministers to do business with the government under specific circumstances. The committee urges the Assembly to ensure that the duty to the public interest remains first and foremost in the minds and actions of all Members.

During its review the committee passed motions to amend clause 6 and 8 of the bill. The amendment to clause 6 was made to include an exception to the confidentiality of the closure documents that was omitted in error. The amendment to clause 8 corrected an error in tense in the English version. Mr. Chairman, on Monday, November 7, 1994, the standing committee on legislation passed a motion that Bill 16 was ready for consideration in committee of the whole as amended and reprinted. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The Minister sponsoring the bill, would you like to bring in some witnesses to help you with this bill?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Members agree that Mr. Pollard can get some help?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring in the witnesses for us.

Mr. Pollard, perhaps you could introduce your witness for us, please.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Mark Aitken, legislative counsel,

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Department of Justice, Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. It's a familiar face. Welcome, Mr. Aitken. General comments from Members. Members have asked to go into detail of the act. Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the Languages Commissioner is not here to respond to the bill itself, since it was her recommendation to make amendments to this act.

I'm just wondering whether the government is aware of the circumstances that lead to these amendments being recommended.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the changes to this act spring from the annual report of the Conflict of Interest Commission, which was for the period December 17, 1992 to January 14, 1994, and there was an interim report also made by the Conflict of Interest Commission. Both documents have been tabled in the House, Mr. Chairman, and they recommended the changes to the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Are we ready to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause by clause, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 15.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I hear no nays on any of those issues. The bill as a whole. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

With regard to clause 15, the act comes into force on the first dissolution of the Legislative Assembly that occurs after the act receives assent. This is the first time that something like this has been written. Usually it comes into force after the Commissioner...There's usually a date there on the enforcement of it. So it comes into force, I guess on Friday.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I would like to ask our Law Clerk to explain what this clause means. Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This means that the act would come into force after this Assembly is dissolved by the Commissioner and an election is called. I believe this clause is the same as the conflict of interest amendments that were introduced by the 11th Assembly. They came into force to govern the operations of the 12th Assembly. So this isn't the first time that we've seen this type of coming into force clause.

I believe the rationale behind it was the desire to avoid legislating in this area, to govern yourselves it is fitting that this should be the type of amendment that would be introduced for Members of the 13th Assembly to take advantage of. As well, there may well be an administrative or procedural complexity of changing the rules as they were. So this act is intended, unless Members wish otherwise, to come into force after the 12th Assembly finishes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Are you satisfied with that explanation, Mr. Gargan? Okay. The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Does the committee agree that Bill 16 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Bill 16 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Thank you, Mr. Aitken.

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

We're on Bill 18, the third item on Mr. Dent's list, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94. Mr. Pollard, it's your bill. Do you have any introductory comments, please?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$22,799,968 for operations and maintenance.

This supplementary appropriation is required by the provisions of sections 35, 36 and 37 of the Financial Administration Act. These sections provide that when an appropriation is exceeded because of the recording of liabilities at the end of the fiscal year, the amount that the liability exceeds the appropriation is an interim appropriation for that fiscal year.

Further, the Financial Administration Act requires that the interim appropriation be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in the form of a supplementary appropriation bill. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, for 1993-94, the following are statutory interim appropriations: \$244,719 for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; \$15,441,249 for the Department of Executive, specifically the Financial Management Board Secretariat; \$5.389 million for the Department

of Health; and, \$1.725 million for the Department of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, I would be prepared to try and answer Members' questions with regard to this supplementary appropriation bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Dent, the Standing Committee on Finance report, please.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to present the comments from the Standing Committee on Finance on Bill 18.

The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94, at its meeting on October 19, 1994. Mr. Chairman, in total, this bill represents an additional appropriation of almost \$22.8 million for the 1993-94 fiscal year. If this bill is passed, the total voted appropriations for the fiscal year 1993-94 will be approximately \$1.26 billion.

Committee Members decided that it was not necessary for the Minister to appear before the Finance committee to respond to questions about this supplementary appropriation act, therefore, Members will pose their questions in committee of the whole.

During our meeting on October 19th, the committee referred this bill to the House for consideration. Members recognized that most of the items in this appropriation request are needed to conclude the budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year. The largest single item, for slightly more than \$13.8 million, is the government's revised estimate of the liability for employee ultimate removal benefits. The chairman of the Financial Management Board had previously informed committee Members that such adjustments are required to reflect more accurately the government's potential liability for paying ultimate removal benefits to their employees.

This bill also includes close to \$5.4 million in additional appropriations to provide for the potential liability in the health billings dispute with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada. The total 1993-94 adjustment to this doubtful account allowance was \$12 million.

Mr. Chairman, one item in this appropriation stands out, this is an additional appropriation for slightly more than \$1.7 million for the loss and refinancing of the municipality of Iqaluit's debenture loan. The total 1993-94 adjustment was more than \$1.8 million.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the comments of the Standing Committee on Finance. Committee Members will have questions for the Minister when we proceed to the detail of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Pollard, you may want to bring in some witnesses.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Is that all right with Members of the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you bring in the witnesses, please.

Mr. Pollard, for the record, would you like to introduce your witness to the committee?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Another familiar face. Welcome, Mr. Voytilla. General comments, statements or questions. Are Members ready to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Have all Members got the appropriate document? You will find it with Bill 18 in your legislative binder. Members, we all have the same document in front of us now.

Line By Line

Would you turn to page 6 of that document. Executive, operations and maintenance. Not previously authorized, human resource management, \$15,441,249 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get some explanation here. This is a major increase in what, to me, is bookkeeping. Over years, we know that employees accumulate leave, severance and retirement pay. It is all in the agreements. And for management, they are on Hay Plan. I'm wondering why now, all of a sudden, in 1994, we have to make a \$15 million book adjustment, and that's cash out of our accounts. Something is not making sense here. Can the Minister advise us why there is a major increase to this account?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we decided to look at what our liabilities were and when we came to look at leave, furlough, lieu time, retirement benefits, ultimate removal and resignation benefits, we found that perhaps we had been underestimating those numbers in previous years, so we did a study and came to the conclusion that we were, in fact, underestimating the liabilities. Consequently, you see the resulting supp before you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

That's nice, but again, this is a major, major hunk of money, \$15 million and \$13.8 million for ultimate removal. What has changed? Has the price for

planes gone up or is it because of poor bookkeeping up to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there might have been some methods used that might not have been as accurate as we would have liked in the past. There have also been changes that occurred as a result of collective agreement changes, staff turnover, and the change in status of some of those staff. There are a number of contributing factors to cause us to want to change this and reflect what we think is a more accurate liability in these particular areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The collective agreement is not new. It is two or three years old. I'm not satisfied with the answers about why the accounting for these liabilities all of a sudden changes. The other question is, is this a one-time adjustment or are there going to be further adjustments annually?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, by far the largest portion of this \$15 million is to reflect a different method of calculating ultimate removal and we think that different method more accurately reflects, at this point in time, the liability that the government has. It was a new method that was developed and we believe it is as close as we can get to being sure, to the penny, of what our liability might be. I know it is a large amount of money and I must say that when I agreed to look at this, I had no idea that we were going to come up with a liability of this magnitude.

But, once it was presented to me and once the new method of calculating was presented to me, I agreed that is the way it should be. I took it to FMB and also advised Public Accounts of this particular recalculation. I realize it is a large dollar amount, but

it reflects the new method of calculating ultimate removal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Mr. Koe, you still have the floor.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Something must have triggered the review of these accounts. Was there mass resignation or people threatening to resign and all going to leave the north at the same time, so that all of a sudden we have to fix the books to reflect this? There is something I can't get my finger on. I

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know it all stems to how you keep books. But if we didn't put \$15 million into this account, that is \$15 million for other expenditures, including housing and schools. I am just wondering why, all of a sudden, we need a major adjustment. Why couldn't we spread the \$15 million over five years and make a \$3 million adjustment each year? Something is not jibing here, and I guess that is why I'm questioning this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it might be that with the transfer of this responsibility from the Department of Personnel to the Financial Management Board that it came to our attention, how are we going to handle it, what is it sitting at at the present time, what are the methods used to calculate and so on. We couldn't, at least Mr. Voytilla couldn't, get the right answers for me when we were looking at what we were taking over.

Once we went back and looked at the issue, it was plain to us that we perhaps weren't doing it in the correct manner. We were accruing the liability based on how many people left in a particular year, instead of looking at what our liability was out there with regard to people who were staying longer and they were not being entered into the books as being an ultimate liability. We were just basing it on what the turnover would be in any particular year.

So, as I say, when this was brought to my attention I had no idea that the number was going to be this large. But I did agree that the method being used was not accurate and that we should find a better way

to do it. And, as I say, after some very, very detailed reviews of these particular areas, it was found that we were some \$15 million short in that account and it had to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The Department of Personnel has been around for a long time, and this liability and the benefits to our employees...We've been in existence since 1967. That's 27 years that nobody has picked up on this, and it strikes me as odd that all of a sudden, in 1994, just because you reshuffled some departments that somebody struck a match and, eureka, you found out we're not accounting properly.

I really question why we're doing it in one shot. I feel that if we're going to make the adjustments, we could have accrued it over maybe a couple of years. I know Public Accounts says we have to accrue all liabilities, and that's proper accounting, but it just seems like a big chunk of money in one shot.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

General comments. Thank you, Mr. Koe. Do you want to respond, Mr. Pollard?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as I said before -- and I agree with Mr. Koe -- it is a large sum of money. I don't want you to think that we were merely going to this particular area and saying are we doing it right, do we have our sums correct and is the formula correct. We were looking at the whole aspect of labour working for the Government of the Northwest Territories, whether it's in management, middle management or anybody who is working.

We were looking at the status of what our collective agreement said we should pay; what demands might be made of us in future years; what the make-up of our civil service was; how long they had been working for us; why was there certain turnover in certain areas, et cetera. It wasn't just pinpointing this particular area, we were looking at the whole labour area and this is one of the things that came to light.

So, Mr. Chairman, as I say, I recognize it's a large number. Why didn't we do it over two or three years? The fact of the matter is, is that once it came to the

Comptroller General's attention that we were short by this much in that account, he had to report it and, consequently, we decided to do it in one year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. This is an increase of \$15.4 million. What is the total liability to this government for ultimate removal benefits?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, based on the detailed analysis that we had done, our liability is \$21.903 million as of March 31, 1994. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I presume that \$21.903 million and whatever cents has all been calculated employee by employee. If the Minister can assure me of that I will support this particular item. If not, I won't.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we actually calculated the cost on a 20 per cent sample of the Government of the Northwest Territories employees and extended it from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Are you finished, Mr. Koe? I'll go now to Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I've been asking about this kind of accounting entry for many years. I still, even having listened to the learned debate of Mr. Koe and Mr.

Pollard, can't understand it. It seems to me that governments are downsizing all over the country and that we're less and less likely to see people in our public service retiring or fleeing because there's no longer any other alternatives in southern Canada. So I think that they're going to stay and they're going to probably be anxious to hold on to their jobs as the financial crunch worsens. So I'm tempted to ask Mr. Pollard what will happen if we refuse to approve this item, but I've asked this question before and I've been assured that I don't understand accounting principles, which I know is true. So, if Mr. Koe is satisfied, I'm satisfied, and I will make no further comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

General comments. Does anybody have any general comments, general statements or general

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questions? Okay then, human resource management, not previously authorized, \$15,441,249. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Total department, \$15,441,249. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Finance, operations and maintenance, revenue and asset management, not previously authorized, \$1.725 million. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I assume this is for lands. Municipalities borrow money to develop land or other infrastructure with a community. Is my assumption right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Koe is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The \$1.725 million, is that a part of the adjustment of \$1.86 million?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Koe, perhaps you could try that again so that Members can understand what you're getting at.

MR. KOE:

There's a sentence at the bottom of page 7 that says the total 1993-94 adjustment was \$1,860,524. Was that the total write-off or total adjustment on the debenture?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The total adjustment was \$1,860,524, Mr. Chairman, that's correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The difference between this not previously authorized amount of \$1.725 million and \$1,865,525 is \$140,000; is that being accumulated within the current budgets?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that was the residual that the department had at the end of the last fiscal year. So we took that money first and then asked for the difference in this supp. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I know for this municipality... I don't know for Iqaluit specifically but municipalities, in general, have been borrowing money from this government to develop lands. I know of other municipalities where we've had write-offs, Inuvik, for example, for developing lands. What kind of review is being done to look at how we finance development of lands in municipalities where there's not a booming market? We've had problems, Inuvik, Ptarmigan Hill, Iqaluit, wherever this one is, and I'm sure there's other municipalities where we've had to write off some debentures. What work is being done to assist municipalities in developing lands without getting them into huge debt and huge financing costs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, from memory, I think there's in excess of \$40 million in debentures out to tax-based municipalities in the Northwest Territories. Each time there's a debenture applied for, we do look at it through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I should say that Hay River had a problem some 15 years ago, Mr. Chairman, so it's not as if it's something that's just starting to occur right now. The latest one though, Finance and MACA have been looking at this thing and looking at what happens, how does it occur, what are the remedies, et cetera. I must say that the Department of Finance is paying much more attention to this issue now. There is a measure of whether or not the municipality can repay and can handle the development. I think we're being more vigilant right now and communicating a lot more with tax-based municipalities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I'll accept this if the SCOF members all accept it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, of course, as MLA for Iqaluit, I'm very grateful for this item having been approved. I would just like to echo Mr. Koe's comments that basically what we should have learned now from Iqaluit, Inuvik, and even casting my mind back to Hay River land developments is that in a fledgling private real estate market in a developing economy, the traditional methods of financing land development in municipalities doesn't seem to be working. I guess I'd like to ask the Minister if something has been learned from all this?

For example, the advisory committee of the town of Iqaluit decided this summer that the only way they were going to get further land developed was for cheap. With the help of Municipal and Community Affairs, they developed lots in a much more modest way. There's no underground pipe, all they give people is a basic driveway, no pad is built. Therefore, the developer is required to contribute some of the basic costs. The individual resident, the home owner, is going to have to provide some of the costs. Especially when you bury pipes in the north, you're aggravating the costs enormously.

I would like to ask Mr. Pollard, will the government profit from this experience and look at other ways of developing land where you have these risks of loss if the lots don't sell all at once, if they don't sell as fast, or if they don't sell at all? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think that Mr. Patterson was correct when he said that in some of these communities where there's an evolving housing market or land market, you're going to get some teething problems. I think in Hay River now the situation has resolved itself and people are buying houses and they're buying lots. They're not getting stuck with all those lots and no way to service the debt. As their land development fund grows, they are able to make those payments. The other thing that I've noticed in Hay River particularly, is that they used to buy a lot and then a couple of years later they'd ask do you want a sidewalk and then there was an additional tax and so on and so forth. I notice that there's more development of a lot and as Mr. Patterson says, there's not only a driveway in these lots, but there's

underground electricity, the lights are in, and the sidewalks are up and so on and so forth. You're buying something that is complete.

In Yellowknife, I know that here -- I saw your eyes light up, Mr. Chairman as I mentioned your home town -- developers take a chunk of property and develop the whole lot themselves and they carry the risk. I think that from the experiences that we've learned, once Finance and MACA have had a look at this situation, we will be perhaps making some recommendations to Cabinet as a whole on ways that these things can be handled in future years. I think we have to respect the fact though that, in Inuvik, in particular, with Ptarmigan Hills, the council of the day made a decision that they thought was correct. They felt that they could sell those lots. They were impacted by things that were beyond their control: the armed forces had left, oil and gas activity had been shutting down. They were left with some inventory on their hands that they really truly thought they would be able to sell if economic activity had continued. I think there are times when communities do get caught in the crunch, whereas if they had not made the decision to put some more lots on the market and there had been a boom, then they would have been up against the wall without enough space to put people. These things happen, we'll learn from the mistakes, and certainly when MACA and finance get done, we'll make some recommendations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Not previously authorized, \$1.725 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Page eight, health, operations and maintenance, territorial hospital insurance services, not previously authorized, \$5.398 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Total department, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I thought SCOF members would raise their hands. Can the Minister advise this House as to what the total estimated outstanding bill is for the Department of Health?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member from Inuvik. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

As of midnight, March 31, 1994, Mr. Chairman, we calculated it to be \$121.184 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair continues to recognize the Member from Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

That was \$121 million, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, \$121.184 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Some of this is still in litigation, I presume. I presume there's still a court case, I haven't heard too much. What's the status of that issue?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I believe the depositions were taken from witnesses this past week, Mr. Chairman. So the court case is ready to be put before a judge for a trial date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Over the past several years, has some of the outstanding bill been settled? Was there settlement of parts of the disputed amounts?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the physicians services agreement was signed and that took part of the problem away with our dealings with DIAND with regard to Health. We also received an interim payment -- I like to refer to it as an interim payment, Mr. Chairman, anyway -- of \$45.958 million for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94. That was paid to us by DIAND without prejudice, as they recognized they had some liability and we needed the money in our bank account. So, it was without prejudice, and that was the amount that was paid, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. So is the \$121 million outstanding being recorded in the books as accounts receivable?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have booked \$78.783 million in our books as receivable from Canada. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Inuvik.

MR. KOE:

So how is the remaining \$43 million recorded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it has been invoiced to the Government of Canada, but it is not recorded in our books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I missed that. If it has been invoiced, it must be a receivable. How else can it be recorded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We are dealing with an accountant here, Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is set up as a note. Mr. Chairman, it is based on the fact that we're billing according to population and when I became Finance Minister, Mr. Siddon said -- and I think Mr. Van Loon said to us in a letter -- that if we wanted to bill actuals, we could do that. So, once we calculated the actuals, the amount we felt the Government of Canada owed us spiralled up. We sent them the bills for the actuals, although we had recorded on our books, up to that time, an amount based on percentage of population.

It is recorded as a note, and not in our accounts receivable at the present time, although we do believe that Canada owes the Northwest Territories that money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Still, in the previous item we discussed, we are making a \$15 million adjustment as a bookkeeping adjustment and here, where there are actual invoices and, we assume, actual expenditures, we're not recording the actual accounts. They are considered as notes in financial statements. I'm curious about how bookkeeping is being done in this case. It doesn't strike me as being proper.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as I said, the method of calculating what was due from Canada changed as a result of the federal government saying bill actuals. Of course, once we started billing them actuals, they didn't like it and disputed that they owed us the \$121 million. So, what we did was record it in note 3, due from Canada, on page 20 of the interim public accounts of the Northwest Territories. But, it is not recorded in our accounts receivable simply because, depending on the outcome of negotiations and/or the court case with Canada, we may turn around and have to write the \$42 million off. I don't know that, Mr. Chairman.

You may accuse me of being conservative, but I feel it is realistic to record it and let everyone know that that is what we believe they owe us but, at the same time, not put it into accounts receivable because it may not be forthcoming, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I would never accuse you of being a conservative, Mr. Pollard.

---Laughter

What happens to the books now if we didn't receive any of the \$121 million that we claim is owed by this government? Where would that then put this government in terms of its budgeted deficit?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we've said that it is \$78.783 million on our books that is recorded. We say that the extra \$42.401 million is required from Canada, but it is not required in our books. It is only a note in our financial statements. If we were not to get anything from the federal government, we have already set up \$39 million as a doubtful account. We would have to record the other just a shade under \$40 million and write that \$40 million off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Just for clarification, in the note on page 8, the total 1993-94 adjustment to doubtful accounts was \$12 million. The Minister just mentioned that the doubtful account is now \$39 million. Which is the proper number?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the \$12 million is just the fiscal year we're dealing with and the \$39 million, which includes the \$12 million, is the total accumulated doubtful account for the time of the dispute. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. \$5.398 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total department, \$5.398 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Education, Culture and Employment, operations and maintenance. Directorate, not previously authorized, \$1,811. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can the Minister advise us what this item is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is for year end accruals, which resulted in the overexpenditure in certain areas of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The directorate, specifically, was \$238,000...Oh, I beg your pardon. The overexpenditure in directorate, \$1.811 million...Oh, sorry, \$1,811, Mr. Chairman. I'm still in the gear of health billings which deal with big numbers. I apologize.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. I know what you mean when we work with big money. I made the same mistake.

Okay, \$1,811.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Advanced education, \$142,384, not previously authorized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Not previously authorized, schools, \$50,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Not previously authorized, culture, \$50,524.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total department, not previously authorized. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

The Minister was rolling marbles around in his mouth, he never did answer my initial question so I'll ask for all four items; what the specific items were and what the amounts were for, specifically.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to culture, they had unanticipated expenditures in television and radio services due to an emergency realignment of satellite dishes across the Northwest Territories. I think it might have had something to do with one of the satellites going down, as we may recall in that particular year, Mr. Chairman.

With regard to advanced education, overexpenditures in student financial assistance due to student enrolments being higher than forecast and an increase in the community teacher education program.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to schools, the grants and contributions surplus results were a minor one-time cash flow adjustment between fiscal years, and while the surplus in other O and M results from cancellation of a subject advisory meeting for fine arts in kindergarten. So there were a number of issues that were going up in this particular regard, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Any further questions on that? Culture was \$50,524.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Total department, not previously authorized, \$244,719.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Is it agreed that we have completed this document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We will now proceed to the bill itself, Bill 18. It's in your binders under tab 18. Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Schedule, vote I, operations and maintenance, total supplementary appropriations, \$22,799,968.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that this matter is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. I would like to thank the Minister, on behalf of the committee, for assisting us in this matter. We had previously agreed to now move to Committee Report 16-12(6), Toward an Economic Development Strategy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 16-12(6): Toward An Economic Development Strategy

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll go to the specific areas that relate to the recommendations from the committee on Public Accounts.

Strategic Focus

With regard to the strategic focus section, many people agree, Mr. Chairman, that government support of one kind or another is needed to stimulate and sustain economic development in the north. With limited resources, the government must focus and coordinate its economic efforts. This requires a clear, central strategy, and all participants must understand their role in achieving the best results.

Although the department and corporations under review have primary responsibility for economic development, all government departments and agencies share this responsibility through initiatives such as the business incentive policy. Specific individual departments must be actively involved because of the direct link between economic development and other government initiatives such as

the income security reform initiative, commercial fish marketing strategy and the fur strategy.

Goals And Objectives

Committee Members were unable to determine the primary overall goal of economic development in the Northwest Territories. There are two overall goals that in practice can be contradictory. One goal focuses on creating jobs so that more citizens would be employed and feeling productive, and fewer people would be reliant on social assistance. Achieving this goal, however, usually requires continuous government funding.

A second goal directs the government to assist businesses to become viable and self-sufficient. Fewer businesses would rely on the government for survival. To achieve this goal, the government must make wise long-term investment decisions.

Both auditors and committee Members feel that the mandate for the department is based on some combination of both goals. We believe that it is not possible to develop coherent policies and programs with two different ideas of the organization's primary responsibility. In fact, this lack of clarity in the overall goal for developing the economy of the north underlies a number of the issues and problems identified by the audit and the committee review. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

Committee Motion 76-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories, under the direction of the Department of the Executive, develop and implement a comprehensive economic development strategy which encompasses all government departments and agencies. The strategy should highlight major government initiatives such as income security reform and should cover the period 1995 to 1999.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

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Planning Departmental And Corporation Activities

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, with regard to planning departmental and corporation activities, the committee Members noted during the review that the department and the corporation seems to be operating without the benefit of a long-term plan. Members agree that departmental managers should develop a territory-wide plan that clearly identifies opportunities, the strategies for developing opportunities and the associated costs of benefits. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation.

Committee Motion 77-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism develop a territory-wide plan for long-term economic development.

Further, the committee recommends that the plan should address division of the Northwest Territories in 1999.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Strategic Directions

Focus On Small Businesses

MR. ZOE:

With regard to focus on strategic directions and focus on small businesses, Mr. Chairman. One of the points made over and over again is the need to focus on small businesses and on entrepreneurs. Committee Members noted that the potential for significant returns flowing from small businesses is great. They related examples where investing small amounts of money created jobs and self-sufficiency for people.

If value for money is assessed, committee Members believe that these small investments would prove to be the most cost-beneficial. In spite of this observation, many programs, the Development Corporation in particular, have tended to fund big projects. Large projects create a relatively large number of jobs in a limited number of communities. While the strategy has been successful in some communities, committee Members believe that more could be gained by making smaller investments in a larger number of communities.

Committee Members feel it is important to investigate the relative advantages and disadvantages to Northwest Territories communities of small versus large-scale investment. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation.

Committee Motion 78-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories conduct a cost-benefit analysis to compare the value for money achieved from small, as opposed to large scale, investments. Further, the committee recommends that the government review and adjust its policies for issuing grants, loans and contributions, as required, based on the results of the analysis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize the Member for North Slave.

Marketing

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. The auditors noted that Economic Development and Tourism does not have an effective, overall marketing strategy that matches product to demand. They emphasized this need in their discussion of arts and crafts. They suggest that a marketing strategy should focus on maximizing benefits to the communities.

Committee Members feel that an essential element of the marketing strategy is collecting and distributing market information to people in the communities who need to be aware of the outside market. They need to know whether there will be buyers for the products that the community produces. The auditors noted that a marketing strategy is also required to govern the tourist industry.

In the summer of 1994, Economic Development and Tourism produced the Northwest Territories tourism marketing strategy, 1994-95 to 1998-99. The strategy is based on data that its author describes as failed. Further, they said, "we've had to make some educated guesses about the status of the industry's current customer base."

Given these qualifiers, committee Members question the utility of this strategy. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation:

Committee Motion 79-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism develop a comprehensive marketing strategy that focuses on the collection and distribution of reliable market information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

The Role Of Tourism

MR. ZOE:

Worldwide competition for tourist dollars is fierce. With shrinking resources, governments have to assess where they are to invest their money and human resources to obtain the best results. The central issue is the appropriate role for tourism. There has been a great deal of discussion about whether, in times of fiscal restraint, we should be spending money in the area of tourism and parks.

Is tourism an economic development activity? If it is, then we should have cost-benefit analyses that demonstrate that tourism is effective in developing the economy of the territories. This would encourage Members of the Legislative Assembly to support tourism and approve being spent in that area. If the aim of tourism and parks is to provide recreational opportunities for citizens of the Northwest Territories, then the issue is somewhat different, and the way decisions about expenditures are made will also be different.

Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation.

Committee Motion 80-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism develop a comprehensive strategy to guide the development of parks and the tourist industry in the Northwest Territories. The strategy should be based on clear goals and objectives and accompanied by cost-benefit analyses of various strategies considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Economic Development Policies

Financial Assistance Policies And Guidelines

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A key objective of the financial assistance program is that all together, they should meet the needs of Northwest Territories business people. Economic Development and Tourism managers informed the auditor that the department and corporations have a "seamless wall of programs," from contribution to equity investments. Having a "seamless wall of programs" implies that, from the client's point of view, there is one place to go for financial assistance and the entire range of services is available at that single location.

The auditors examined the idea of a "seamless wall of programs" and identified a number of problems. Committee Members are very concerned by the overlapping jurisdictions and inconsistent policies and guidelines governing the granting of financial assistance across programs in the department and the corporations. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation:

Committee Motion 81-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the government develop a rational plan for the delivery of economic development financial assistance programs across the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Repayable Contributions

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee Members noted a number of situations where clients who are potentially able to repay money granted are receiving assistance in the form of non-repayable grants and contributions. They also noted that other jurisdictions in Canada are reducing economic development funding and are investigating the idea of repayable contributions.

Committee Members feel that the Government of the Northwest Territories could benefit from exploring the idea of repayable contributions. Repayment could be required in all cases where it is determined to be possible. The funding could then be recycled -- used to help others who require funding assistance. Therefore, our committee makes the following recommendation.

Committee Motion 82-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the NWT Development Corporation examine ways to replace traditional non-repayable grants and contributions with repayable contributions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

They can't say we didn't give them an opportunity to oppose it. Thank you. Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

At this time I would like to turn over the balance of our report to my colleague, Mr. Koe.

Conflict Of Interest Guidelines

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Committee Members feel that there is greater potential in the area of economic development than in other areas of government for real or perceived conflict of interest to occur.

The auditors reviewed the various acts, policies and guidelines applicable to the boards, senior management, and staff of ED&T, and the Development Corporation. They were satisfied that Development Corporation has a good conflict of interest framework in place for all levels. The Conflict of Interest Act applies to BCC's board and manager. BCC is developing further guidelines for the board.

All ED&T and BCC employees are subject to a set of rules in the Public Service Act and regulations and the collective agreement. Provisions also include an oath of secrecy and prohibition of outside business or employment that conflicts with current duties. However, because employees have access to information that might benefit them personally, the auditors and committee Members all feel that it is necessary for the department to develop internal ED&T conflict of interest policies.

Committee Motion 83-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 8, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the department conduct a comprehensive review of all conflict of interest guidelines currently in place and develop appropriate internal conflict of interest policies that are separate and distinct from those in place for all public servants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Planned Transfer Of Parks

MR. KOE:

Some time ago, Cabinet directed the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to transfer responsibility for parks operations, planning and program development and related visitors' services to the Department of Renewable Resources. At the completion of the committee's review, this had not yet occurred. Although committee Members questioned the department on plans for this transfer, witnesses did not have answers.

Committee Motion 84-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 9, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that Cabinet review its direction to transfer the parks program to the Department of Renewable Resources, and provide a report on this review and an implementation plan, if required, to the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

NWT Business Credit Corporation

MR. KOE:

Committee Members feel that the main issue with the Business Credit Corporation is that while originally set up to be an arm's length corporation, it is not operating in that way. The corporation's general manager now reports to the deputy minister of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The committee was informed that there are plans to have the corporation's general manager report to an assistant deputy minister.

Committee Members feel strongly that a decision needs to be made about the desirability and feasibility of having the BCC independent of government operations.

Committee Motion 85-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 10, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the government and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism assess the feasibility of maintaining the Business Credit Corporation as a separate corporate entity. The review should consider bringing the loan function of the Business Credit Corporation back into the department. The findings should be reported to the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

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Committee Motion 86-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 11, Carried

MR. KOE:

Thank you. I move that this committee recommends that, in the interim, action be taken immediately to clarify the mandate and organization of the Business Credit Corporation and its relationship to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

Aftercare Services

MR. KOE:

Along with one window shopping, committee Members and presenters identified the need to develop more aftercare or follow-up services. Once funding assistance has been granted there seems to be, in many cases, no follow-up service from the economic development officer, the department or the corporations. Aftercare service is required because many clients, although very proficient in their work -- for example, producing arts and crafts products -- are not experienced in the administration and management of the business. Often, there is no follow-up until the business is in trouble and by then it is too late to rectify the problem areas.

Committee Members feel that if the economic development of communities is to be successful, business services must be available to clients after funding has been granted.

Committee Motion 87-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 12, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism identify client needs for follow-up services and develop a comprehensive aftercare program that meets these needs and protects the investment of government money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize Mr. Koe.

Affirmative Action Program

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism uses the affirmative action business and economic development education and employment program for training potential EDOs and other affirmative action candidates. Under this program, the department selects candidates for academic training, and helps to pay for their education. After graduation, candidates work on the job, under supervision, to see if they fit in and perform well in the program.

Committee Motion 88-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 13, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in consultation with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, assess the AABED program to determine where it might be enhanced or improved. I further move that, based on this assessment, the departments enhance the existing program or develop a new program to provide training for affirmative action candidates in economic development. The new or enhanced program should include an on-the-job training component. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion. The chair recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief comment on this. When the department created this program some time ago, it was doomed to fail because the department had no real experience in education. Furthermore, there were no adequate support systems in the department to help those students. I argued, unsuccessfully at the time, that that kind of training should be delivered through the Department of Education and through the college system.

But, the department was determined that they knew best how to deliver the program and nobody was going to tell them that they weren't capable of doing the training. In other words, Mr. Chairman, there was some argument about this. I know that this recommendation encourages the department to work in consultation with the Department of Education. Well, that was tried the last time and the Department of Economic Development ignored any advice that the department or the Minister of Education of the day had to give him.

So, I'm a little leery about suggesting that they review the program because, fundamentally, it is wrong. It should be delivered through our education system. It is not a skills, in-service type training; it is, rather, career training. And, if we allow all of our departments to set up their own little funny programs to train staff and their own little empires, the students are going to be neglected and the programs will not have successes, as we have seen here.

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I guess I would prefer a little stronger recommendation than just to assess whether the program might be enhanced or improved. It should be cancelled and the Department of Education and Arctic College should be used to deliver this program. That's my opinion. I will rest with placing my views on the record. Ten years ago, my views were not followed by the Minister of Economic Development of the day. I know this Minister will be more willing to look at a new approach. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

Communication

Committee Members feel strongly that EDOs should have a thorough knowledge of the community they are hired to serve. They must be familiar with its culture and language. EDOs must be able to communicate effectively with the people in the community they serve. Compulsory cross-cultural training for EDOs is one way to achieve this objective. We have made recommendation 14.

Committee Motion 89-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 14, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism establish a plan that provides an effective cross-cultural orientation and training program for newly-hired economic development officers. I further move that individual training plans within the performance review and planning process require cross-cultural awareness at least every fifth year. Further, I move that senior managers with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment provide a model for the economic development officers by each participating in a program of cross-cultural awareness. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

Visitors' Centres

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. The department has spent about \$10 million building visitors' centres. Committee Members have serious concerns about visitors' centres, based mainly on the cost per visitor analysis presented by the auditor on page 53 of his report. The auditors calculated that the cost per non-NWT visitor by dividing the estimated annual cost of operation by the number of visitors per year. The cost per non-NWT visitor, as calculated by the auditors, ranges from \$12 in Dawson City and \$13 at the 60th parallel to \$463 in Baker Lake and \$688 in Rankin Inlet.

Given all the questions about the cost-effectiveness of visitors' centres, committee Members believe that expenditure of capital funds on visitors' centres should be reviewed. So, we have recommendation 15.

Committee Motion 90-12(6): To Adopt Recommendation 15, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism assess the effectiveness of visitors' centres, explore alternative uses and develop a strategy to guide future development and modification to existing facilities and programs. Further, I move that this strategy be implemented before any additional capital funding is requested for visitors' centres.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair now recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Before I conclude the report of the standing committee, Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts expects that the government, and specifically the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the NWT Development Corporation and the NWT Business

Credit Corporation, respond to the recommendations contained in this report in a timely manner.

Committee Motion 91-12(6): That Government Provide Response To Committee Report 16-12(6) Within 120 Days

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that, in accordance with Rule 93(5), that the Executive Council table a comprehensive response within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

The chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

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MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the report "Toward an Economic Development Strategy" of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 16-12(6) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Thank you. The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We have a motion to report progress on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 23-12(6), Bill 5, Bill 16, Bill 18, and Committee Report 16-12(6), and would like to report progress with 17 motions being adopted, and that Tabled Document 23-12(6) and Committee Report 16-12(6) are concluded, and that bills 16 and 18 are ready for third reading. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. Secunder for the motion. Point of order, Mr. Koe.

Point Of Order

MR. KOE:

Madam Speaker, can the mover of the motion please clarify whether it was Bill 5 or Bill 16? I think there was an error in his report.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Whitford, could you clarify for Mr. Koe what bill you passed in committee of the whole? Mr. Whitford.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with your concurrence I'll read the report. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 23-12(6), bills 5, 16 and 18, and Committee Report 16-12(6) -- it says here 16-12(6) -- and would like to report progress...I'm sorry, Madam Speaker, I would like to correct something here. That looks like a "5" but it's an "s." Bills 16 and 18...

---Laughter

Hey, I don't write these, I just read them.

Madam Speaker, with your concurrence, Tabled Document 23-12(6), bills 16 and 18, and Committee Report 16-12(6), and would like to report progress with 17 motions being adopted, and that Tabled Document 23-12(6) and Committee Report 16-12(6) are concluded, and that bills 16 and 18 are ready for third reading. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. Secunder for the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River is asking for unanimous consent to return to item 15. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

REVERT TO ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 3

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Members. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 10, 1994, I shall move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Act, No. 3, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to return to item 17, first reading of bills. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 17, first reading of bills. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 17. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Pollard.

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REVERT TO ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 3

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive

Council Act, No. 3, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 18 on the order paper, second reading of bills. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 18, second reading of bills. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members. Madam Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading to Bill 17. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Pollard.

REVERT TO ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 3

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Once again, I thank Members and yourself, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the

honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3, be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, this bill amends the boundaries of the electoral districts of High Arctic, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, North Slave and Kitikmeot to conform with the boundary to divide the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Question has been called and a recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour?

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Pollard, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ng, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Arrngna'naaq and Ms. Mike.

MADAM SPEAKER:

All those opposed?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Koe.

MADAM SPEAKER:

All those abstaining?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Zoe, Mr. Pudluk.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The results of the recorded vote are 13 in favour, two voting against, two abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Bill 17 has had second reading. Accordingly, Bill 17 will be referred to a committee of the Legislature. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, meetings for tomorrow at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Legislation; of 9:00 am, also, of the Standing Committee on Finance; at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus; at 11:00 am of the Nunavut Caucus; and, at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board. Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 9th.

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

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13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

- Motion 14-12(5), Establishment of Special Joint

Committee on Division

- Motion 15-12(5), Amended Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee on Social Housing

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 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

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

- Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

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

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

22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 9th at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994