



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6th Session

Day &+

12th Assembly

HANSARD

K 98B9G85M NOVEMBER - , 1994

Pagination reflects print edition

Speaker: The Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, 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

MADAM SPEAKER:

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 59-12(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good afternoon. Madam Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend constitutional consultation meetings in his constituency. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Minister's Statement 60-12(6): Resignations

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On October 31st I was asked a question by the honourable Member for Inuvik dealing with the resignation of two NWT directors from the International Committee of the Arctic Winter Games. The question was based on a news report that the members were forced to resign. I replied, "not to my knowledge."

On my return from Iqaluit, it was brought to my attention that a number of Members had a concern about my response to the question by Mr. Koe.

Madam Speaker, when the decision was announced to hold the games in Yellowknife, rather than Inuvik, the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs was instructed to examine a number of options on where we go from here.

Those options included having the deputy minister determine whether the directors were prepared to consider resigning their positions on the committee as a sign of protest against the manner in which Inuvik was disqualified as a host community, and the lack of procedures for the host jurisdiction to participate in making the final decision. I subsequently received a letter from Mr. Donald Cooper informing me of his decision to resign from the committee for personal reasons. In addition, Mr. Ian Legaree stated in a letter to the committee that his resignation was in protest of the decision.

Madam Speaker, I want to inform Mr. Koe and Members of this House that my response to his question was not adequate because it responded to the preamble of the question, rather than the question itself. I want to apologize for any misunderstandings my response may have created. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Re Remembrance Day

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today on each of the Members' desks, they will find a poppy. Many Members are wearing a red poppy on their lapels already. As most Members know, the red poppy is to symbolize the slogan, "lest we forget," lest we forget the millions of young men and women who, down through the years, have given their lives in the fight for the freedom we now enjoy.

The poppy, first introduced following the Second World War, comes from the poppy field of Flanders. The blood red poppy is to remind us of the blood shed on our behalf by Canadians continents away and, unfortunately, that is still occurring in such places as Bosnia, Africa and other places to this day.

We need not forget that World War I ended only 75 years ago, after four terrible years and next year will

mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We must not forget the thousands of Canadians still buried in the soil of Flanders and other unknown graves across Europe and in the sea.

This past summer I visited only a few of the many Canadian cemeteries in the Netherlands, Belgium and France, and was moved by the thousands and thousands of crosses of Canadian dead. I saw the endless list of names carved in the stones of memorials at Crosebeak, Vimy and Yeeps, the names of the known dead, but who have no known grave. Today we still hold parades, stand in moments of silence, pray and wear our poppies. We shake the hands of the older veterans and say thank you for their sacrifices, the sacrifice of blood, life and youth, the sacrifice of men and women, boys and girls, who have given their lives in these terrible wars. They deserve to be remembered this week and every week, lest we forget.

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Lest we forget the immortal words of John McCrae: "In Flanders fields the poppies grow, between the crosses, row on row." Let us not forget. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Reorganization Of MACA

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I still have a number of concerns about the recent reorganization of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. This is a department which had a long-standing reputation as a department which gets things done. Communities of all sizes in the Northwest Territories, from Yellowknife down to the smallest settlements, are regularly impressed by the way this government department works with them to help them solve their problems. But, I don't think any of them expected the events of this summer.

Almost immediately after a new deputy minister was appointed, a dramatic restructuring of the department took place. Now, if there had been recent problems with the department, such a shake up wouldn't be a

surprise, or if we had some suggestion from the Minister that some reorganization might take place to improve the department's effectiveness and efficiency, then it wouldn't have been a surprise. But, this restructuring came out of the blue.

Communities and departmental staff and Members of this House had no idea what was coming. Very little, if any, consultation took place. And now the Northwest Territories municipalities are concerned about the affect this restructuring will have on their relationship with the department.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the briefing provided by the Minister to Members explaining the reasons behind these changes, however, I'm still not satisfied with the explanation given. I feel there are still some legitimate concerns which have not yet been addressed and I will be raising these concerns later on during question period. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Canada/NWT Infrastructure Agreement

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I rise today to express my concerns about the Canada/Northwest Territories infrastructure agreement that was signed on August 24th of this year by the Minister of Finance.

It is a good agreement because it puts additional money into communities for the development of their infrastructure. Although, Madam Speaker, I am somewhat disappointed about there being a cap on the amount of money available to smaller communities, particularly when these are usually communities that need the most help in developing their infrastructure. I understand that these restrictions were a precondition of the federal, not the territorial government. I applaud the efforts of the Minister in attempting to have this money distributed in a fair and equitable manner. I believe the negotiations were done with the best intentions under the restrictions placed on the access to the money by the federal government.

Madam Speaker, I am also concerned that some bands and Metis locals will not be able to benefit from this agreement because they do not have the funds to

match the contribution from the federal and territorial governments.

I strongly urge this government to give as much leeway as possible to band councils and Metis locals, particularly those that have not signed a final land claims agreement, therefore do not have the accessible cash. This money should be distributed as fairly as possible, and among concerned stakeholders in each community.

Madam Speaker, my understanding of this agreement is that it is designed to improve the infrastructure in each community and to provide opportunities for training and employment for northerners. The agreement is being administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and I strongly urge each of the communities, the band councils and other aboriginal organizations to take advantage of this program to improve the quality of life in their home communities.

Madam Speaker, I will be monitoring progress of this agreement and will probably be asking questions in the future, perhaps even this afternoon. Mahsi cho.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Communities Operating Radios Without Licences

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a concern regarding SBX-11 radios in my constituency. This has been a concern and the concern is that even though people don't have a licence to operate the radios, they operate them anyway. I believe we could get charged if we don't have a licence because they are aware of other people who are operating radios without licences. Some people in their communities are saying that they don't have to renew their licence because other people don't. I wonder how this can be operated properly. I will be raising questions later. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Access Roads For Small Communities

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have listened with interest a few weeks ago to the statement made by the Minister of Transportation about the positive results achieved by his department in running the community access road program. Madam Speaker, the community access road program is a good program. It is a good example of the government program meeting the needs of the people it is supposed to serve. I might drop a hint to my

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constituents that the money from this program could be obtained to improve access to our traditional hunting grounds up around the Horn River.

Unfortunately, for my friend across the way, Madam Speaker, I do have a problem with one of his department's programs. I see in his budget that the Department of Transportation has budgeted money to improve the access roads into the larger communities on the highway system. We just have to look at the road that goes past this Assembly to see the results of this program; nice wide shoulders, turning lanes to speed up the flow of traffic, truly a modern transportation engineering...

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, if only the Queen visited us here every year, we would probably have paved roads to Coppermine and Inuvik by the year 2010.

Madam Speaker, I can agree with the principle of this program, however, they have forgotten someone. The road to the Hay River Reserve is very narrow. After or during a snowfall, no one driving can see the edge of the road. Madam Speaker, I have driven that stretch of the road from the highway to the reserve, a distance of only eight kilometres, and have seen the tracks of as many as four vehicles in the ditch after a snowfall. Madam Speaker, I am the first to admit that some of these mishaps may be the result of not driving on these road conditions often. But after darn near ending up in the rhubarb myself last year, I am of the belief that it is more the road's fault than the drivers'.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the Minister to also look at access roads in the smaller communities on our highway system, such as the Hay River Reserve, with a view of improving them also.

Madam Speaker, can I 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. We don't need pavement or turning lanes, but a few extra feet of shoulder on the road would go a long ways to improving driving conditions on the way to the Hay River Reserve before we have any tragic accidents. Mahsi cho.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Improper Analyses Of BIP

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I've been out of the House for a few days this week, therefore, I am taking the liberty of making a little longer statement than normal, I want to warn you...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Boo.

MR. PATTERSON:

...with the agreement of the House.

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased that the business incentive policy is being reviewed. Although it has done a lot of good over the years in supporting northern employment, my assessment of the BIP today is that it is dominated by a centralized bureaucracy who apply the letter of the policy in each case and who lack the knowledge of local situations to make good judgements about eligibility based on the spirit and intent of the policy.

The result is that today certain cheaters are taking the Northwest Territories and its government for a big, big ride. The easiest way for me to describe the problem is to cite the rent supp tenders for social housing in Iqaluit this summer. The winning firm, Nova

Construction, has not only northern but local preference, I understand. What actually happened in my constituency on this tender? Nova apparently won this tender on the basis of northern preference. The decision was made in Yellowknife. Nova was rated ahead of companies whose owners do live in the north, with significant assets, offices and resident managers. Who owns this company? Mike Mrdjenovich. He's a nice guy.

---Laughter

I have nothing against him personally. I see him occasionally in Iqaluit, but I understand that he lives on a ranch in Alberta. How does he rate northern preference? What did Nova contribute to the NWT or local economy with this job? I assume they were given the job on the basis of a promise to construct locally. They did subcontract construction to a local firm. However, that firm, in turn, subcontracted a big part of the construction work to Cedarcrest Homes of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Maybe all those employees of Cedarcrest Homes have been on a job somewhere in the NWT for three months and have an NWT health care card.

I would like to request permission to continue, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you. I would like to know if they have NWT health care cards. If they do, then they'll also get exempted from the NWT payroll tax. They live in Winnipeg. They are cited to justify northern employment to qualify for local preference. They get a rebate on NWT payroll tax because they have health care cards and they live in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. PATTERSON:

Now, that is not the only damage this company has done to the territorial economy. In the eastern Arctic, for government contracts, the GNWT requires the use of operation sealift, the government tendered sealift

operation, so that economies of scale can be preserved and sailings can be guaranteed.

Nova was required to use operation sealift. What did they do? Their construction materials were brought up on Rock

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Lessard's barge. This Quebec company was actively shopping around this summer in Iqaluit offering \$100 per ton less than the operation sealift rate. Reputable GNWT contractors and long time northern companies honoured their commitment to the Coast Guard sealift. Nova brought their materials up on the Rock Lessard barge. The result, the cancellation of this expected cargo, delayed an August sailing for one month and resulted in the complete cancellation of another sailing.

Many local firms lost a precious summer month due to this default by Nova and the increased costs will be passed on to everyone else so that this firm can violate a condition of the tender call and thumb its nose at the NWT Housing Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, this seemingly favoured company got about half of the rent supp contracts in the NWT this year. I want to ask questions of Mr. Morin about Nova. Does the Minister know that the owner of this company lives in the south? Is the Minister aware that Cedarcrest Homes is doing substantial work on this job for a company which the Housing Corporation gave northern and, apparently, local preference? If so, will there be punitive actions taken for Nova's apparent violation of tender call conditions? And, now that the BIP review is postponed, what is the Minister going to do to ensure that literal bureaucratic analysis of the provisions of the BIP do not any longer result in continuing rewards for cheaters? Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Success Of RCMP
Emergency Response Team

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, yesterday a potentially dangerous situation developed in my constituency. A troubled individual barricaded himself in a residence, threatened the police, threatened to kill himself and could have endangered the public. The RCMP emergency response team, under Inspector Al McIntyre, and a tactical team led by Staff Sergeant Grundy mobilized and were on site in 37 minutes. They secured the area, evacuated people who might be in danger, set up a communication line and started negotiations immediately. Negotiations were successful and the individual was taken into custody with no harm done to the public, the police or to the individual.

Madam Speaker, across the country and in the north, these types of incidents are becoming more common. It is becoming increasingly important that well-trained, well-equipped RCMP teams are available to respond to these types of situations. A well-trained police team, as was demonstrated yesterday, is able to protect the public, minimize risk to themselves, and are able to take the time to negotiate a peaceful solution to dangerous problems posed by such troubled individuals.

These incidence don't only happen in large communities, they can happen in any community in the Northwest Territories. We have to ensure that the police have adequate manpower, training and equipment to the job we've entrusted to them. I offer our congratulations to the RCMP emergency response team who handled a potentially dangerous situation in a professional and efficient manner. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re Update On CDSC Process

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give Members of this House an update on the western Constitutional Development Steering Committee process. The committee is moving rapidly forward into the next stage in the western constitutional process. This week, the committee has started a tour of western communities and they are now in the Sahtu region meeting with community

councils, the public and starting a process of giving information about the work done by all member groups of the western Constitutional Development Steering Committee.

The purpose of these meetings is to tell people about the themes and issues which will be discussed at the constitutional conference scheduled for mid-January in 1995. People hear information about what work has been done by the member groups and have opportunities to ask questions about that work and about the upcoming conference. Members will also be passing out information on how the participants will be selected who will attend the conference. There is an application process. There is a formula worked out to try to balance the participants who come to this first conference. We're looking at a balance between political and quasi-political people and public representation. We want to get as much public information from as many areas as possible.

Today also, the Constitutional Development Steering Committee released two important background documents. One is a summary of the member group research reports, a summary of each of the reports produced by the founding members of the western constitutional process and there's a document called, "The Themes and Issues in the Constitutional Process for a New Western Territory."

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, later on today, I will be tabling copies of these documents in the House. The message I'm giving today is that the process is under way. We have commitments now from almost all the groups in the western territory. We've had interest from Treaty 8 groups, Deh Cho groups and they are participating in the conference. Hopefully, by the end of this week, we'll have some favourable announcements to make about their participation.

We are moving rapidly forward. January 18th is not far away, so I urge all Members who are involved in

the western constitutional process to assist in these meetings. I urge the

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public to come out and hear what the constitutional process is about, and hopefully participate in the conference. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Correspondence From Peggy Witte Re Support For Mining Industry

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On November 8th, I received a letter from Peggy Witte, chief executive officer of Royal Oak, in response to a Member's statement I made in the Legislative Assembly on October 24th. It is very clear that what we do and say in this Assembly is noted and, when appropriate, reacted to, even from such far away places as Vancouver.

She has pointed out in the press that her move of the Royal Oak head office from Vancouver to a suburb of Seattle will save her company \$1 million. This has been reported in the press, Madam Speaker.

The major concern though about what we do here is the rate increases by northern agencies, which dramatically affect her company. In her letter, she refers to the proposed 22 per cent low-water surcharge increase and the two per cent general rate increase for electricity.

In addition, she points out that the industry faces a 10 per cent increase in Workers' Compensation Board premiums. She also notes that there is an anticipated increase in municipal taxes by the city of Yellowknife. Although these rate increases are not under the control of our government, Ms. Witte points to a genuine problem, Madam Speaker. One increase in rates in one area may not appear significant. The accumulated affect of several rate increases in different areas, however, can be very significant. This point was raised in the recent discussions on proposed recovery costs to the Public Utilities Board from consumers. There was quite a bit of debate on that.

The tone of Ms. Witte's letter, Madam Speaker, I believe, is that she would like to see more support for the mining industry from myself and, I assume from the tone of her letter, other Members of our Assembly. I sent her a copy of parts of my reply to the Commissioner's address, which deals with mining development and my whole-hearted support for it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Congratulating News/North Re New Office In Keewatin

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, my honourable friend from Yellowknife Centre spoke about the opening of an office in Rankin Inlet by News/North. Madam Speaker, the reporter who has been assigned to the Keewatin beat is well-known to Members of this House. She has covered the Legislative Assembly for the News/North for the past several years and sits just above us in the press gallery during these sessions. Although I am sure

she will enjoy her new assignment in the Keewatin, I am sure she will be missed by all of us here at the Assembly.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Lewis spoke about how he was sure that a good investigative reporter -- which certainly describes our friend in the press gallery -- would have a great deal of news to report in Keewatin. However, as Mr. Lewis I am sure is aware, the news being created comes from the dynamic, aggressive and oppressive...

---Laughter

...I mean progressive...

---Laughter

...Keewatin. Politicians in the Keewatin take their marching orders from the people who elect them. If they don't, then we all know what happens at election time.

Madam Speaker, because I have lived in Nunavut and Keewatin for the past 30 years and knowing the nature of the people there, I can assure you that the

News/North will have no dearth of good stories to report on.

Madam Speaker, I cannot stress how important it is for newspapers to take a more proactive approach and cover more of our communities and regions. It is long overdue. I would like to commend the publishers of News/North for taking this bold initiative.

Finally, Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that the News/North will be publishing their Keewatin paper in both English and Inuktitut. I would like to congratulate them for recognizing the importance of language in the north and by publishing both languages, thereby ensuring that this service is available to all people in the Keewatin and eastern Arctic. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 347-12(6): Community Standards For Rating TV Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Lewis of Mr. Kakfwi on November 4, 1994. It concerned community standards for rating TV programs.

However, under the terms of the Motion Pictures Act, all films shown in the NWT must receive an audience classification by

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a provincial censor board. The classifications indicate the appropriate audience for a film, and no one under 18 years of age may attend a film classified as "restricted."

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Koe on October 31, 1994 of Mr. Kakfwi. It concerns the enforcement of land claims legislation by RCMP.

Madam Speaker, the answer to the general question of whether RCMP officers can enforce land claims is that they cannot.

Generally speaking, federal statutes that recognize and give effect to land claims do not create prohibitions nor do they contain any enforcement provisions. Thus, it is essential to recognize the limitations of the ratification legislation and the difference between such legislation and the land claims agreement.

Madam Speaker, land claims agreements identify the rights of the participants, provide for compensation as well as for the establishment of various administrative boards, including arbitration boards for dispute resolution, and prescribe the procedures that these various boards and the government are to follow in order to protect the rights of the beneficiaries. Thus, Madam Speaker, the enforcement of the collective and individual rights enshrined through claims requires actions of a primarily civil nature. As I indicated earlier in this House, recourse to arbitration boards is often mandatory when disputes over the enforcement of a land claim arise. It is, therefore, unlikely that the RCMP would be involved in any civil action to enforce the rights of land claims beneficiaries.

With regard to the honourable Member's supplementary question relating to trespass to private lands created through the settlement of claims, I again advise that RCMP would not be involved. There is no legislation in the Northwest Territories such as the Petty Trespass Acts found in other jurisdictions. In the absence of such legislation, there is therefore no offence created for trespassing on private land. It would then appear that a landowner's only remedy against a trespasser would be a civil action. The access and entry provisions of the various claims do apply to such situations but there are no enforceable provisions or offenses created through these land claims clauses which the RCMP would be called upon to enforce. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 382-12(6): Status Of Interpretive Centre, Prelude Lake

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have worked extremely hard to avoid taking questions as notice. Unfortunately, yesterday Mr. Lewis stumped me with respect to status of interpretive centre, Prelude Lake.

Madam Speaker, based upon the 1990 master plan, a significant amount of work has been done at the Prelude Lake Park. The 1995-96 season is the fifth year of a seven-year upgrading program. It should be noted that the park has not had a major renovation since it was established.

The park land is bisected by many cottages. To work effectively, the park needs to have its system of roads altered in order to separate the cottages from tourists. Doing this will allow for a larger campground which will take some of the pressure off facilities in the Fred Henne Park. In addition, safety will be improved as the campground will no longer be the main traffic route through the park.

To date, interpretive signs have been placed along the nature trail, walking trails established, a parking lot for trailers created for those using the boat launch, the playground has been refurbished, new signs put up, new conveniences established, new campsites created, fencing installed and a new picnic area built. Environmental restoration has also been undertaken.

In the remaining years of the program, we will see the expansion of the campground, a new day use area established and the road system realigned. The plan to redevelop the park does not include, nor has it ever included, the establishment of an interpretive centre, only interpretive signage.

Prelude Lake Park is the second most heavily used park in the North Slave region. Park use increased by 10 per cent between 1992 and 1993. The 1994 season shows a similar increase. Residents and tourists have had to be turned away. Expanded facilities are required.

Madam Speaker, it should be noted that 90 per cent to 100 per cent of the construction contracts have been awarded to NWT companies and most of the design work has been done by northern firms. All

design and construction work in the future will go to Northwest Territories companies. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 321-12(6): Inequities In Property Taxation System Re Delinquent Accounts

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ballantyne on November 2, 1994, concerning taxation system.

There is no loophole in current government legislation regarding provision for the recovery of outstanding property

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taxes; provision is contained in sections 95 and 96 of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act (PATA).

The court case being referred to is, I believe, the one heard in July 1989 dealing with a tax sale that occurred in Inuvik in August 1986. The previous legislation, the municipal ordinance, was in force at the time of the tax sale, but had already been repealed and replaced by the Property Assessment and Taxation Act in January 1988, prior to this case coming to court.

In his decision on the above case, the judge did not "strike down" the municipal ordinance. Although the judge found fault in the municipal ordinance in his decision, he did acknowledge it had already been repealed and replaced.

It is true that PATA provides for the recovery of outstanding taxes through the courts, whereas the old municipal ordinance allowed for sale of land by a municipality for tax arrears.

The department is aware of Yellowknife's concern with the current Property Assessment and Taxation Act provisions in this area and is reviewing with all the tax-based municipalities the effectiveness of these provisions for collection of property tax arrears. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In September of 1992, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs distributed this pamphlet entitled "Strengthening our Partnership" to departmental staff. This pamphlet also includes a mission statement, Madam Speaker, which concludes, and I quote, "We have an open and honest partnership with community governments built on a mutual trust and a desire to make a difference through teamwork and innovation."

On November 2, the Minister, in committee of the whole, reiterated that the department continues to rely on this mission statement. My question to the Minister is, can the Minister again confirm that the department's mission statement, as outlined in this particular document, is still in effect?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, it is.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The department, as everyone is aware, has gone through a significant reorganization over the summer. Can the Minister tell the House what efforts were made to consult with municipalities before this reorganization? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the Member is already aware, the municipalities were informed by letter from my deputy minister that reorganization was occurring in the department, and also the regional offices and the superintendents were actively involved in the final consultation of the reorganization of the department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the comments from the Minister. I understand that the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs wrote to the Northwest Territories mayors in June, I believe, and told them about the planned reorganization, but he did not actively seek their input. Can the Minister explain why, when the mission statement, as outlined in this document, talks about teamwork, her department does not actively seek the input of communities before proceeding with this significant reorganization? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I have already stated prior to the questions that were posed to me concerning the reorganization, if we were to be making policy changes that would affect the municipalities directly, they would have active participation in the way the policy should be changed. However, because this reorganization did not involve any policy changes, it only involved the restructuring

of headquarters, the communities were not consulted. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I just wanted to remind honourable Members that when you refer to a document, ensure that document has been tabled in the House before discussion is continued. Final supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

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Supplementary To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, this particular document was tabled by the former Municipal and Community Affairs Minister. He also made a Member's statement regarding that as well.

Madam Speaker, the mission statement, as outlined in this document, says that the staff would have an open and honest partnership with community governments built on mutual trust and desire to make a difference through teamwork. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if this reorganization has contradicted the mission statement that is supposed to be followed by her department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I just want to remind honourable Members, once a document is tabled during a session and once a session is completed, the document does not belong to the House. It dies on the order paper like everything else. Therefore, when you are going to refer to a document within a particular session, please ensure that the document has been tabled. Thank you. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 384-12(6): Status Of MACA's Mission Statement

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't believe my department contradicted the mission statement in this document. However, if we were changing the programs and our policies that affect the municipalities across the NWT, we would certainly have consulted with them. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Can the Minister tell us whether the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has examined the effects of its recent reorganization on the relationship between the department and the NWT municipalities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am sure that our department is continually monitoring this. But because we have not had any feedback from the communities, I cannot inform this House what the status of that is to date.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I understand that there is some confusion among the NWT municipalities. They are not sure who in the department is responsible for liaison with the NWT Association of Municipalities, especially with regard to resolutions made by the association. Can the Minister tell us who in the department has this responsibility? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the Member clarify the last sentence in his question, please?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question I would like the Minister to answer is, can the Minister tell us who, in the department, has the responsibility to liaise with the NWT Association of Municipalities, especially with regard to resolutions that this association has made? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that it is my deputy minister.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. Can the Minister commit to this House that the department will specify who has the responsibility to be the liaison with the NWT Association of Municipalities and inform this House immediately, once this has been done? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 385-12(6): Effect Of MACA Reorganization On Municipalities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 386-12(6): Reason For WCB Protestors

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, earlier this session, following the tabling of the WCB annual report, I asked the Minister several questions concerning the improvements that were supposed to be in this document. The last improvement to WCB would see the end of protestors on the Legislative Assembly steps. Well, Madam Speaker, today we all noticed that there is a group of people

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out there concerned about some things. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he knows why these people are there?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 386-12(6): Reason For WCB Protestors

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the honourable Member's concern and he has, on a number of occasions, tried to address the issue of injured workers who feel they are being neglected by the WCB. Contrary to what they might think, I have a great deal of empathy for this group and I understand they are organized as the injured and disabled workers group. The concerns raised by these groups are important, but I think it is important to understand, for everyone's benefit -- for the House's benefit anyway -- that I met with these injured workers several months ago.

Once and for all, I would like to say to this House, and assure this House and the honourable Member, that every effort is being made by the board, by the chairman and by myself to have this group specifically spell out their concerns to the board. To date, they have refused to do it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 386-12(6): Reason For WCB Protestors

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister for his reply. The Minister has assured this House a number of times that the board is ready to meet with these people who have concerns, and somewhere along the way, the message is not getting through. I would like to ask the Minister again, can he assure this House that the board will meet with the people who want to meet with it about their concerns? Will the board meet with them?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 386-12(6): Reason For WCB Protestors

HON. JOHN TODD:

Let me say, hopefully for the last time -- and I do appreciate the honourable Member's concern -- that the board, the chairman and this Minister have said to this group of people on a consistent basis to please meet with the board, spell out your specific concerns and we will try to address them. But, I think it is important also to say that 3,600 claims went through the WCB last year and there are bound to be people who are less satisfied than others. Every effort is being made to address their concerns, but some responsibility lies with the injured workers, besides protesting outside -- which is a legitimate right -- but they have to take some initiative to move forward and discuss it with the board.

So, in summary, Madam Speaker, we're ready. Are they ready? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 387-12(6): Competition Process For Positions In MACA

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. During the current reorganization of the department, I

understand that a number of directors' positions were eliminated. Naturally, that meant that a number of these people, ex-directors, would be competing for a reduced number of directors' positions. My question is, can the Minister tell this House how this reduced number of directors' positions were filled; specifically what competition process took place?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 387-12(6): Competition Process For Positions In MACA

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the Member knows already, the effected workers, as a result of the reorganization, underwent internal competition so as to avoid lay-offs and surpluses. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 387-12(6): Competition Process For Positions In MACA

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. To clarify a statement made by the Minister, I don't know what the situation is, or I wouldn't be asking the question. My supplementary to the Minister is, can the Minister tell this House how many staff members have left the department since the reorganization began?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 387-12(6): Competition Process For Positions In MACA

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Madam Speaker, to my understanding, approximately three have taken up jobs elsewhere. One went to NTI and another went to the Nunavut Caucus. I'm sorry, two. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 387-12(6): Competition Process For Positions In MACA

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I also understand that one former director was not given an opportunity to compete for a new director's

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position, despite this individual having 14 years of senior management experience. This former director has since left the department. Can the Minister explain why this former employee was not given the opportunity to compete, as the Minister said, through the internal competition process?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As everyone is aware, when a department is undergoing reorganization, it usually means the reduction of positions. I don't have any knowledge about who this director is and whether or not he was able to compete through internal competitions. Since I do not know the answer at hand, I will take his question as notice and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development. The government has always emphasized the importance of the renewable resource sector of the economy. As most of us said before, the north is capable, with the right facilities, of producing significant quantities of wild meat for sale in the NWT and outside markets. An important part of this is determining what facilities are needed and what locations to have the most efficient production. Is it part of the Development Corporation's mandate to support communities in looking at these options? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, the responsibility for looking at these options lies clearly with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The responsibility, once these issues have been identified in conjunction with Renewable Resources, is then to do the value-added, packaging, et cetera. But the responsibility for identifying the species and a business plan to develop the enhancement of renewable resources lies with the department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you. Since the responsibility to assist these people to come up with the facilities lies with Economic Development, would the Minister tell me which communities in the NWT currently have meat processing plants? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I can just clarify, what I was saying to the honourable Member was that the Department of Economic Development is responsible for the identification of the business venture or the need for this. The actual development of plants after the plan has been in place with Economic Development and Renewable Resources, is the

responsibility of the NWT Development Corporation. It's clear what the two responsibilities are.

At the current time, there is a fish and meat plant out of Iqaluktuutiat, Cambridge Bay. I understand there's going to be an enhancement of that project this coming summer. The other area, of course, is in Keewatin, in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The key to operating meat processing plants is a high quality consistent supply of meat. Can the Minister identify where there are abattoirs in the NWT?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

HON. JOHN TODD:

If my memory serves me correctly, at one time there was an abattoir in the Banks Island, Sachs Harbour area, that was done by the Inuvialuit and the harvesting of the muskox. I believe last year there was an experimental abattoir in Coral Harbour. At this time, I think those are the two places, if my memory serves me correctly. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. How many of these abattoirs and meat processing plants in the NWT are

funded in whole, or in part, by Economic Development and Tourism? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 388-12(6): Mandate Of Development Corporation Re Renewable Resource Markets

HON. JOHN TODD:

Was that in whole or was that in part? Both? Is that what the honourable Member said? The NWT

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Development Corporation, I believe, is now the proud owner of the Iqaluktuutiat Meat and Fish Plant; an arrangement that they made with the cooperative there last year. The current one in Rankin Inlet is owned by the NWT Development Corporation. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, as he said there is currently a meat processing process plant in Iqaluktuutiat and plant operations also in Rankin Inlet. Is this plant supported right now...Madam Speaker, I'm not talking about capital, how it was built. But is it being supported right now by this government?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

HON. JOHN TODD:

I believe that both plants, as well as every other project of the NWT Development Corporation, are

provided, in accordance with policy, with some subsidization in relationship to employees and jobs. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am told that from the regional superintendent of Renewable Resources in Keewatin that there will be no commercial harvesting of caribou in Coral Harbour this fall. Can the Minister tell where the Rankin Inlet plant now gets its meat for processing?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good question. We're working very, very closely with the Department of Renewable Resources to develop a harvesting strategy with respect to caribou and, in particular, with respect to the Coral Harbour area because of the size of the caribou herd there. The assessments that are being done indicates that it isn't too big, too large, et cetera. It's my understanding that there will be a spring harvest this spring, and that EDA funds have been assigned, I believe, as well as departmental funds through Renewable Resources in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

MR. ARVALUK:

Madam Speaker, the Minister did not answer my question. I asked the Minister, because there is no fall harvesting, I understand they are planning to have

one in the spring. Right now, I believe the Rankin Inlet processing plant is still in operation, but where are they getting their meat now for processing today?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

HON. JOHN TODD:

It's my understanding, Madam Speaker, there is sufficient caribou in storage to meet the demand we currently have. If there is a requirement for some additional caribou, then we would probably ask -- where it's less expensive -- Baker Lake, Arviat and the smaller communities to assist as they did last year with 50 to 75 caribou carcasses. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wonder, Madam Speaker, then how is it Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake or Arviat will qualify whereas Coral Harbour will not qualify? Is the Minister saying it's strictly under the cost? I believe that these caribou are flown from Baker Lake and Arviat, possibly Whale Cove or Chesterfield. Is the Minister stating that only up to there, there was a comparison made, and to get caribou from Coral Harbour for \$1.25 a pound is that much more expensive than the other communities?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 389-12(6): Status Of GNWT Support To Meat And Fish Plants

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Madam Speaker, I think it is important to point out that the hunt in Coral Harbour is an organized, sophisticated hunt with an abattoir and there are significant dollars involved. There was \$250,000 put

into Coral Harbour last year for the development of this hunt. I believe, and I stand to be corrected, that we are trying to get 3,000 carcasses. All I am suggesting is that if there is an insufficient stock of carcasses, then we will be able to acquire 50 here, and 25 there, based upon the traditional way of hunting caribou. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, I have further questions for the honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Rebecca Mike, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I still have a lot of concerns about her reorganization, Madam Speaker. I know that consultation didn't take place. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has done very little consultation, particularly with departmental senior management staff, community leaders, Members of this House and other interested parties. I am concerned, because I understand, Madam Speaker, that the new deputy minister has no previous experience with the department or with local government in the Northwest Territories.

My question to the Minister is, can the Minister explain why the reorganization took place so fast with so little consultation? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the Member knows, the reason why there was no consultation with the communities is because there were no program or policy changes. However, if the policies and programs of the department were affected as a result of the reorganization, the MLAs, and the communities, especially the community councils and band councils,

would have been informed and asked for their input in the reorganization. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I'm also concerned that the haste of this reorganization may have led to a reduction in morale and effectiveness of the department. Can the Minister give this House her opinion of the effect this reorganization has had on departmental staff?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Whether it is the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs or it is Social Services, when you reorganize a department, there are always some hiccoughs. Social Services went through them and it took about three months before everyone in the department was able to effectively work and address some of the problems that were occurring. So, I expect the same thing will happen with this department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is obvious that morale is going to be down, as the Minister indicated, because of this reorganization. Some have expressed concerns that this reorganization may adversely affect the relationship between the department and the municipalities of the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister assure this House that she will carefully monitor the effect of the

reorganization of the department and the department's relationship with communities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 390-12(6): Reason Behind MACA's Hasty Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly will do that, and I had intended to monitor that. But, let's not forget that the department was reorganized to more effectively address the business carried out at the regional level down to the community level. Hopefully, after a given time, things will run more smoothly, if there are problems, as was indicated in this House by concerned Members. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs on the recent reorganization. Madam Speaker, that reorganization took place quite soon after the appointment of a new deputy minister. Can the Minister tell this House who first came up with the idea to restructuring the department?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I have already indicated in my response to one of the Member's questions some time ago, it was the deputy minister of MACA and it was based on the Strength at Two Levels report. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think it has already been pointed out that the deputy minister was new to this department and the area of local government. The department had a number of experienced staff in senior management positions when the new deputy minister took over, some of them with 14 to 15 years continuous experience in the field. My question is, Madam

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Speaker, were the senior management team consulted for their advice regarding the nature and timing of the reorganization? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I don't have knowledge about whether they had or not. But, I do know all the senior staff were involved in the finalization of the reorganization when the senior staff met in Baker Lake in the middle of June. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I heard the Minister say earlier today that she expects that the reorganization will not result in program and policy changes. But, I understand that part of the reorganization of the department is to combine community works with municipal operations. Madam Speaker, the municipal operations unit was not only responsible for inspections and monitoring financial

health, but also for providing proactive, constructive support to communities in trouble.

I guess I would like to ask the Minister, now that this municipal operations function is going into community works, headed by an engineer and dominated by finance officers and bean counter types, does this change reflect the shift of MACA away from the soft mandate it had for community development and community support, in favour of financial and technical functions? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I just want to remind honourable Members to attempt to keep their preamble as short as possible on a supplementary question. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Minister responsible for MACA, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This reorganization shouldn't change the way MACA has operated because everything has just been streamlined as a result of reorganization. In fact, we should be able to address some of the needs of our communities more effectively if this reorganization is going to work. So we will continue to provide technical staff to the communities and to the regions when the requests comes to our department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I believe that many Members have stated in this House that the Department of Municipal Affairs has had, to date, one of the best reputations if not the best reputation among GNWT departments in terms of their ability to get things done. There is an old expression: if it ain't broke, why fix it? I guess I would like to ask the Minister, what was so wrong in this much praised department that needed to be fixed that required this major reorganization? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 391-12(6): Origin Of MACA Reorganization

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am informed that over time the airports used to be part of the responsibility of MACA. When they were transferred to Transportation, I think the PYs existed. To answer the Member, why fix the machine that is already operating, I know from my own dad every time he has been out hunting he would check and fix his machine regardless of whether it was broken or not so it would run good. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, I asked the Minister a question about his department which was about an issue that has been ongoing for many years. But today's question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Madam Speaker, is probably at least as fresh as yesterday's bread.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Oh, oh.

MR. LEWIS:

In the November 8, 1994 edition of the Globe and Mail there was a front page story with a picture of our Premier. This was about the signing of approximately \$1 billion in economic development trade agreements between Canada and China. As Members are aware, Premier Cournoyea is part of the Canadian delegation of First Ministers to promote and protect our interests. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism if he could advise this House if any of the agreements reached on that day would specifically benefit the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

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Return To Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

HON. JOHN TODD:

I won't take that one as notice, Madam Speaker.

---Laughter

No, I don't believe that there were any agreements reached between the Northwest Territories and Premier Li Peng. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

MR. LEWIS:

Since this is a trade mission, Madam Speaker, and the Premier will be involved in many, many signings, many, many agreements over the period of the visit to Asia, I would like to ask the Minister since there are other agreements that have to be signed, would any of these agreements -- since he will have been briefed on this trip no doubt -- affect the people of the Northwest Territories so that they will benefit from this visit of our Premier to that part of the world?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, no, there are no agreements that were present before the Premier went to China. The intent of the Premier going there along with, I believe, Mr. Clark from Clark Bowler is for us to initiate some discussions as to possible potential utilization of our renewable resources, east and west. And also, at the present time, my understanding is that Clark Bowler is currently in China doing some building and we're

looking towards, hopefully, expanding that area which would help us with some of our building supplies like Igloo Building Supplies in Hay River and other places.

So we're on an excursion, Madam Speaker, towards a courtship, looking towards an eventual marriage. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

MR. LEWIS:

For the record, Madam Speaker, will the Minister confirm then that none of the agreements that are, in fact, being signed on this visit to that part of the world will benefit the people of the Northwest Territories? Will he confirm that for this House?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 392-12(6): Benefit Of Agreements Made On Premier's Asian Trip

HON. JOHN TODD:

Anything, Madam Speaker, that benefits Canada benefits the Northwest Territories.

---Laughter

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 393-12(6): Updated Data For Tourism Marketing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Earlier this year, the department produced and released Northwest Territories tourism marketing strategy, and that strategy goes from now until 1999. Earlier in this session, I commended the department and the Minister for that initiative. But, in reviewing

the documents and the information in those documents, I noted that the data on the Northwest Territories non-resident tourism market that was used in the strategy was quite out of date and failed to reflect the current trends and current market statistics. Can the Minister tell me what current data is being gathered and made available to update this tourism marketing strategy?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 393-12(6): Updated Data For Tourism Marketing Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with the honourable Member that the data, perhaps, isn't as up to date as we would like it to be. However, based upon some historical statistics we have, we clearly recognize where tourism is a success and where it's less a success.

The collection of data is an ongoing exercise. But I think the honourable Member will agree with me, I hope anyway, that what we've indicated in that report is reflective of where we believe the tourism development should go, and I believe some of the statistics we've had historically, however weak, have assisted us in determining an appropriate course of action. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 393-12(6): Updated Data For Tourism Marketing Strategy

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Will a revised strategy be developed using more current statistics?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Further Return To Question 393-12(6): Update Data For Tourism Marketing Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Frankly, Madam Speaker, somebody asked me what the definition of a consultant is, and I think a consultant puts on paper what we already know. What I'm looking for now is to move forward in an implementation plan. I think it's in place. I'm hoping that the industry will support it along with the honourable Members out there. I made it clear in the House a week ago, in my speech, about the direction I want to take with respect to EDA which has a significant impact on marketing dollars. And I would hope that we could just get on with it rather than doing any more studies.

I will say, as I've said in answer to the previous question, that we're going to continue to gather data in an aggressive manner that can accurately reflect the return on investment that's frequently being asked for by the Standing Committee on Finance. I think this study, and I prefer to call it an implementation plan, reflects the needs, in particular, of the area that the honourable Member is talking about. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is again to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. It has to do with Committee Report 5-12(6), the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report on Other Matters. In that report, there is a reference that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism were acquiring assets in relation to an out-of-court settlement and it was further noted that one of the assets was being sold at its appraised value. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism if that sale has, in fact, taken place. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, would the honourable Member be referring to the acquisition of assets in Gjoa Haven, if I could have some clarification?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng, please clarify your question.

Thank you.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, could the honourable Member...

---Laughter

I notice a conspiracy, Madam Speaker, for me to take these questions as notice, and I'm not going to do it.

---Laughter

Thank you. Could the honourable Member repeat the question, Madam Speaker. I have a slight deafness in my left year...

---Laughter

...and my right ear, I believe, is selective.

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng, the honourable Minister is asking you to repeat your question due to selective hearing.

Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

MR. NG:

Thank you. I hope he can read fairly quickly. I would like to ask the Minister if the sale of the asset referred to in the out-of-court settlement in Gjoa Haven has, in fact, taken place? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

HON. JOHN TODD:

My apologies to my honourable colleague from Kitikmeot. I would have liked to answer the question, I just needed further clarification. The assets the honourable Member refers to was a mall building with a garage and some heavy equipment. It is my understanding that the mall building has been sold to the local cooperative and they are renovating it into a hotel, and that the heavy equipment is under examination, as to who in that community may wish to purchase it at this time. That's what I understand.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if the appraised value of the assets were received on the sale of the assets? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

MR. NG:

Thank you. Could I ask the Minister, then, if he could advise this House of what the actual sale value was of these assets? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

The total assets, Madam Speaker, does that include the equipment as well as the mall, or was that just the mall? Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd, you can't question the Speaker about that...

---Laughter

But you can obtain clarification from the Member, if the Member wishes to clarify his question. Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was asking about all the assets, and if he could give us a breakdown of what the sale prices were on those assets. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

HON. JOHN TODD:

In political life, we all stand to be corrected. However, Madam Speaker, I believe that the total assets were valued at somewhere around \$330,000. It is my understanding that an arrangement was reached with the local cooperative that it would purchase the mall for approximately \$250,000. There was an additional loan given by the Business Credit Corporation to allow them to turn this mall into a hotel because the facility they had in that area was one that dated back to the 1960s and 1970s. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister, when did the sale transaction close on this deal? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 394-12(6): Sale Of Assets In Gjoa Haven

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, it must have been in the range of two months ago, because I know they are currently renovating the local mall for, I believe, the Kekertak Co-op. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 395-12(6): Support To Small Businesses In Diamond Exploration Field

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Madam Speaker, for the past few years we have all been well aware of the extent to which the diamond exploration rush has affected the northern economy. Given that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is mandated to support northern business and development, I would like to ask the Minister, how much of their small business development funding has been provided to small scale northern firms engaged in diamond exploration?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 395-12(6): Support To Small Businesses In Diamond Exploration Field

HON. JOHN TODD:

Excuse me. Pardon me, Madam Speaker, I don't have that information available. I am prepared to provide it to the honourable Member in detail at this time. We recognize that diamond exploration is an important initiative. I'm told that somewhere around

\$75 million to \$100 million has been spent, but I don't have the actual details, company-by-company, in my head at this time. I would be only too happy to provide it to the Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 396-12(6): Cost Of ED&T's Participation In Trade Show

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On October 28th and 29th, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce hosted the business to business trade show in Yellowknife. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism was a participant in this venture, which was a promotional effort to support Small Business Week across Canada.

I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, what was the total cost of the department's participation in this trade show?

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, and honourable Members, I want to remind you that some of the detailed questions you are requesting of the Minister are not allowed under our rules. Your question would be more appropriate as a written question. Mr. Gargan, will you attempt to rephrase your question?

MR. GARGAN:

It is as plain as it will come.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions.

---Ruled Out Of Order

The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 397-12(6): Status Of Study For Rankin Inlet Access Road

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. I won't bother the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism, but I'm going to question the Minister of Transportation.

---Laughter

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Madam Speaker, we've heard about the discovery of gold near Meliadine Lake, I think it is, near Rankin Inlet. It is my understanding that the Department of Transportation has been asked by the community to fund a feasibility study for the construction of an access road to the exploration property. I would like to ask the Minister, could the Minister advise me of the status of such a study? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 397-12(6): Status Of Study For Rankin Inlet Access Road

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I advised the community that it would be inappropriate at this time to expend funds to do that feasibility study. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 398-12(6): Time Frame For PUB's Decision On Low-Water Surcharge

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board. The Public Utilities Board recently completed its hearings into the NWT Power Corporation's application for a 22 per cent low-water surcharge for customers in the North Slave area. First, the board said their decision would be released last Friday and then we heard it might be Monday or Tuesday but, as of this moment, we don't know exactly when the board will render its decision. Can the Minister tell this House when the board will release its decision on this important matter?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 398-12(6): Time Frame For PUB's Decision On Low-Water Surcharge

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I spoke an hour and a half ago to the chairman of the Public Utilities Board in Hay River, Mr. Hill, and asked him that very question. It is my understanding that there is some legal writing to be done and the announcement should be made, hopefully, very, very shortly, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 399-132(6): Policy Re Information Necessary For General Rate Applications

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Also to the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board. Madam Speaker, I understand that the general rate application of the NWT Power Corporation is very detailed and complicated. I was very surprised to learn how voluminous the application and the response to information requests by the Public Utilities Board actually are. I'm told the binders make a stack almost half a metre high. I think that's almost two feet.

I'm not sure how many hundreds or thousands of pages are included, but I can imagine the hundreds of hours spent by the Power Corporation staff preparing and analysing those documents. My question is, can the Minister responsible for the PUB tell us whether the board has any guidelines or policies regulating the detail necessary for such applications? But, Madam Speaker, before he answers, could I request consent to extend question period?

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period is extended. Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 399-132(6): Policy Re
Information Necessary For General Rate Applications

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, this is a highly technical role that the Public Utilities Board plays, as it relates to the cost of power and the way in which the Power Corporation acts. It is my understanding that it does require that kind of detail for debate and argument to take place. With respect to policies, I don't know off the top of my head whether we have such policies in place. But, we have some history of the PUB and in discussions with the chairman, I've asked the same question, whether this is so technical that the community at large cannot make submissions, et cetera.

I've been assured by the chairman that it is necessary for this work to take place and, yes, it does require voluminous, was it, amounts of paper. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 400-12(6): Location Of PUB Hearings
Outside Of Yellowknife

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board. On October 12, 1994, the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board was asked in this House why the board had not scheduled public hearings in Nunavut, or for that matter, anywhere else outside of Yellowknife regarding the NWT Power Corporation's general rate application.

Since this application would have a significant effect on all communities in the Northwest Territories, Members were quite surprised that no hearings were scheduled in communities other than Yellowknife. The Minister said, "quite frankly, I'm quite surprised myself," and promised to "take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the Public Utilities Board will meet in those regions affected." Can the Minister tell us when and where these other public hearings are due to take place? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 400-12(6): Location Of PUB
Hearings Outside Of Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I did say at the time that I was equally as surprised as the Members

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were. I have spoken to the chairman since that time, and in defence of the Public Utilities Board, their concern was cost because they are trying to keep this board lean and mean so it doesn't cost the government and, ultimately, everybody in the territories a lot of money.

I have got the chairman of the board's assurances that, in future, and when this hearing concludes, there will be hearings in the territories with respect to this issue and future hearings of this magnitude. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 400-12(6): Location Of
PUB Hearings Outside Of Yellowknife

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is good that we hear this, because we were quite interested in my area to have this type of hearing in the communities because it is going to affect everybody who pays power bills. Can the Minister commit to consulting again with the chairman of the Public Utilities Board and immediately return to this House with a schedule for further public hearings on the Power Corporation's application? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 400-12(6): Location Of
PUB Hearings Outside Of Yellowknife

HON. JOHN TODD:

Maybe I should say that it is my understanding, in talking to the chairman of the PUB, that hearings will be held -- if that's the right term -- in the areas immediately affected with this particular issue. I

believe in Inuvik, Iqaluit, et cetera. But, I know that the chairman of the board and the committee recognize now that there is clearly a need when we are dealing with issues that affect us all, that they must move out of the centre, in Yellowknife, and let the people be heard. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 401-12(6): Process For Appealing Vehicle Licensing Applications

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Transportation. Madam Speaker, following the general directions of that great document, Strength at Two Levels, otherwise known as the Beatty report, some boards were to be remodelled, others to be replaced, some to be removed. The Highway Transportation Board was one example of a board that was removed. I understand that, with the elimination of the Highway Transportation Board, a new system was to be implemented for hearing appeals of Transportation Department decisions regarding vehicle licensing. I believe the department planned to use justices of the peace as arbitrators when such cases came up.

Could the Minister of Transportation confirm whether this plan has, indeed, been implemented?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 401-12(6): Process For Appealing Vehicle Licensing Applications

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, if I'm correct, it is difficult to implement something when the legislation hasn't been passed, Madam Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

It passed.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Has it?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. In Coral Harbour, as I told the Minister before, the caribou are a source of excellent quality meat. The communities specifically request Coral Harbour caribou. The commercial harvest quota is 4,000 heads. However, the community has not been using this quota because it has not been economical, as the current rate of \$1.25 per pound offered by the NWT Development Corporation, gives little to no profit for the hunters. Why is the rate set only at \$1.25 per pound?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

HON. JOHN TODD:

We're in a kind of dichotomy here. We're in a situation where the NWT Development Corporation is trying its hardest to be less dependent on subsidies and it has to be cost-effective, particularly with meat, and comparative to conventional cows, sheep, pigs and chickens. So, they have set a rate they are prepared to pay the hunters and trappers of Coral Harbour because of the requirement for them to be competitive.

I think it is important, too, to point out that, even with that rate, there's a significant subsidy in EDA money. So, it is a very difficult situation. We would like to be able to pay the hunters and trappers more but, at the same time, we've got to try to accommodate the Development Corporation's need to be more competitive in the market place. We are working towards that end with the development of a gourmet product to get more return for our investment. However, at this time, I believe the \$1.25 rate is set. But, we will certainly look at trying to improve the return to the hunters and trappers who are the first line in this issue. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister, himself, has been in the Keewatin for years and has been told

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over, and over again that this quality of meat is tops in the whole NWT, as far as caribou meat is concerned. Is the Minister saying, considering these qualities, that \$1.25 a pound is a fair rate for caribou the quality of Coral Harbour caribou?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, we've only had one year of a commercial hunt through Coral Harbour, so it's very much in its infant stage. We're currently trying to get the meat federally inspected. If we get the meat federally inspected, then we can look for markets outside of the Northwest Territories. If we find markets outside of the Northwest Territories, that will bring us a better return for our investment on value-added caribou, then we will be able to provide the hunters and trappers with more return for the commercial hunt. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary. Impacting on the rates that can be paid for caribou are the other expenses which eat into the revenue, I know that. Would the processing cost be lower if more of the butchering and processing could be done close to where the caribou are caught?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What we're attempting to do in the development of this caribou hunt is to spread the rewards and benefits across the region. At the present time, we spend a significant amount of money in the commercial hunt, in the abattoir, et cetera, in Coral Harbour. It is not our intention to put another meat processing plant in any other community outside of Rankin Inlet at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

MR. ARVALUK:

Madam Speaker, thank you. I asked a line of questioning to the Minister of Renewable Resources during committee of the whole. I said to him that the scientific facts stated that there will need to be at least 6,000 to 8,000 caribou harvested in Southampton Island, otherwise the population is in trouble because there's a danger of over population. The people of Coral Harbour believe that more profit could be had if they could have a processing plant in their community. They also believe that 4,000 head a year would keep such a plant busy. They have been trying to have talks with the Development Corporation on this issue, but the meetings and discussions have not been fruitful to date. Can the Minister explain why, when there appears to be potential for a viable economic opportunity, the Minister is flatly stating that there will be none in Coral Harbour?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 402-12(6): Price Paid For The Purchase Of Wild Meat

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, there is not "flatly none," we spent \$225,000 last year...(inaudible)...on the commercial harvest. The responsibility for investment in fish plants, meat plants, arts and crafts facilities, et cetera, lies with the NWT Development Corporation. It does not lie with the Department of Economic Development. I applaud the Member for the effort that's going on in Coral Harbour for that commercial hunt. It's my understanding, from talking to the chairman of the board at this time, there is no intention to add an additional meat plant in Coral Harbour, but there is the intention of the Department of Economic Development and Renewable Resources to work closely with the hunters and trappers in the community to enhance the economic component of the commercial hunt. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 403-12(6): Radio Licensing Requirements In Outpost Camps

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. If I'm not mistaken, like I stated during my Member's statement about the radios that have been creating problems in my constituency, this has been a problem for the people using those radios because they are used by people who don't have a licence and we all know that if you don't have a licence for a radio, you could be brought to court or you could be fined. The people in my constituency have no knowledge of acquiring a licence for those radios, or business licences for that matter. Today my constituents are thinking that even though I don't have a licence for this certain type of radio, it will be okay for me, I'm not breaking the law. That's the way they think at this time. Is there legislation, regulations or a body that looks into those people who don't have a licence to find out or to tell them that they should acquire a licence? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question from the honourable Member, Mr. Pudlat...This is not the responsibility of Renewable

Resources. It is the responsibility of the federal government. The question he is asking, I will take as notice and ask the federal government to respond to it, then I will respond to the honourable Member. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, yesterday when session was finished, when I checked my mail and I received a letter from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. This letter is date stamped November 8, 1994, and the letter was addressed to all MLAs. The Minister is asking for nominations to establish a six-member Ministers' forum on social reform. I appreciate the Minister's initiatives but I'm very concerned about the process and the urgency shown by the Minister. As I mentioned, the letter is dated November 8th. I received my copy about 6:10 on November 8th, and the deadline in the Minister's letter is November 10th. Basically, the Minister has given us two days to respond.

This is a major initiative being undertaken by the Minister. So I would like to ask the Minister why has he only given us two days to solicit nominations for this important task?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just so that it's clear, I did make a statement in this House, almost two weeks ago, indicating to Members of this House that I would be establishing that particular committee. I would like to indicate to the honourable Member that in some cases Members have already given me names of individuals who they feel could be sitting on the committee. If the honourable Member wishes to

indicate that there is further time to be given, I'm prepared to consider that. However, it's not my intention to wait too long, the honourable Member should be aware.

I also indicated that November 21st is the federal Standing Committee on Human Resources that's going to be holding hearings across the country, including Yellowknife and Iqaluit, so we have to get ourselves organized as quickly as possible.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

MR. KOE:

I definitely would like some time to consult. When calls for nominations to committees come from Ministers for different agencies, boards or commissions or special task groups, I, in particular, like to consult with various groups in my constituency. I consult with the town, the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, chamber of commerce, native women's group and other interested organizations that are impacted. They, in turn, have to consult with their membership to solicit nominations. So I would like to ask the Minister if he agrees that, since this is such a major initiative, he should give us more time to find suitable candidates to serve on this task group?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I indicated, if the honourable Member wishes more time, the fact is, he has not given me notice of that fact. I would be prepared to seriously consider the recommendation of the honourable Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

MR. KOE:

The reason I didn't give him notice is I just got notice, as I mentioned, yesterday evening. I asked the Minister in my question if he would give us more time, because I do like to consult and solicit nominations from the groups that I mentioned. The Minister has already received nominations from Members. Do I have to waste my time soliciting other nominations now that the six Members already made theirs?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take seriously the idea of people making recommendations to me. I am not going to ignore the advice of honourable Members. However, I think the honourable Member should be aware that we are also consulting with the Status of Women, with the Native Women's Association and with other aboriginal organizations and we're also considering consulting with labour organizations throughout the Northwest Territories because this is an important issue and I would not, in any way, want to undermine the importance of it, and the effect on the people of the Northwest Territories. So, I don't have a problem with considering recommendations. The only issue of concern to me, Madam Speaker, is the length of time we required. That's the only concern.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. So, is the Minister saying that he will extend the time frame that he put in his call letter yesterday?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 404-12(6): Ministerial Task Force On Social Security Reform

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am prepared to consider an extension to Monday of next week, so I can review the recommendations on Tuesday. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. I guess he heard my complaints today in my Member's statement and I was going to give him a little time to prepare to answer, but I'll see what he knows today. My first question, Madam Speaker, is, does the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation know where the owner of Nova Construction ordinarily lives? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services and Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think he lives in Yellowknife or some farm in the south. It is either place, I'm not too sure.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I think that contractors are becoming ingenious at finding clever ways of getting around the spirit and intent of the BIP. I expect that Mr. Mrdjnovich may keep an apartment here, but he is not listed in the Yellowknife phone book and I'm told he lives on a ranch in Alberta. If he does ordinarily live on a ranch in Alberta, I would like to ask the Minister, how can it be that his company has been given northern preference under the BIP? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Nova Construction does get northern preference and the reason for that is they have a company in the Northwest Territories, they have an office in the Northwest Territories, they hire people from the Northwest Territories and it is my understanding that the owner lives in the Northwest Territories. I have heard rumours that he has a farm in southern Canada. I will follow up on that issue. If he is an owner from southern Canada and the benefits are flown to southern Canada, we can possibly deal with that issue. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do appreciate that answer. Madam Speaker, related to the issues that arose from the Iqaluit rent supp contract this year, I understand that the materials for Nova for the Iqaluit rent supp job came up on the Rock Lessard barge, not operation sealift Coast Guard vessels, contrary to the tender specifications. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, is he aware of this problem and will action be taken? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for Public Works and Housing, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Nova Construction Limited listed in their original documents, Frobuild, a northern business incentive policy registered contractor from Iqaluit, as the supplier of the building materials required for this project. Therefore, Nova is not responsible for the methods of transportation used by Frobuild. We are having discussions at the present time with Frobuild regarding the transportation of the NWT Housing Corporation materials into Iqaluit. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, again, I think the Minister's response gives me an opportunity to point out that corporations are successfully finding ways around the intent of the tendering specifications of the Housing Corporation. Madam Speaker, it's a small world. We all should know that Frobuild doesn't have the necessary assets on hand to build such a large rent supp job. And, we all should know that Frobuild brought a significant supply of materials up on the Rock Lessard barge this summer, just about enough to supply the Nova job.

I guess I would like to ask the Minister, if he and his officials become aware that the ruse of purchasing the materials from a local supplier was really a way of getting around the requirement to use the Coast Guard sealift, is the Minister prepared to take some punitive action against Nova, because the savings on the materials, using the pirate marine supplier, gave that company a competitive advantage over other northern firms that were willing to play by the rules and use the Coast Guard sealift? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 405-12(6): Qualifications Of Nova Construction Under BIP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with the Member that we have contractors out there who do

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take advantage of this government and the rules this government uses to monitor our contracts. Every time we make a rule, they find ways around them. That's the problem with making the business incentive policy too simple. If it's simple, then it's easy for those contractors who have lawyers, accountants and professional people to find loopholes in the policy.

That is why we are moving to change the policy. Right now, we are going out to all the regions for consultation on that policy and we will tighten it up so we will come down with a hammer on contractors who abuse the system and take advantage of this government. As well as suppliers; suppliers for this specific contract have local preference because they are a local supplier. And that was what we were supposed to have done when we set up the business incentive policy. But, once again, we find as a government that we're getting the short end of the stick. And other contractors, legitimate northern contractors, are losing tenders to fly-by-night outfits because of the way the policy is today. So we are making moves to tighten it up, and I would like that better than to yank contracts from contractors who we know are abusing the policies. But I cannot put this government in jeopardy of paying out cheques to contractors for not having done the work when they can sue and win. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. New question, Mr. Patterson.

Question 406-12(6): Contract For The Construction Of Rent Supp Homes

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on the Iqaluit rent supp job, I understand that a Winnipeg firm called Cedarcrest Homes has been subcontracted to do the framing on the job, I believe, representing quite a good part of the construction job. Nova won this job based on northern preference and local labour, I understand. I would like to ask the Minister if he's aware if the employees of Cedarcrest Homes were considered local labour when the Nova bid was evaluated? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 406-12(6): Contract For The Construction Of Rent Supp Homes

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. With this contract with Nova Construction in Iqaluit, they subcontracted the entire project out to a local firm in Iqaluit that's called Webster Belleau Limited Mikim Contracting, who are local contractors. It is my understanding that there were concerns raised that these local contracts, in turn, sublet to a Winnipeg company. So we're getting shafted by our own local contractors in northern businesses, as well as from Nova and from some others, I guess.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

HON. DON MORIN:

But we will make moves to fix it and try to address it and bring these things under control. But we're going to have to do them in such a way that we don't leave ourselves open so that we can be sued by either Nova, Webster or Belleau or whatever they call themselves, so that we end up paying them a big cheque for doing nothing.

I had to pay out a \$1.9 million lawsuit on behalf of this government to another contractor for doing nothing, and I don't want to get into the same situation again. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 406-12(6): Contract For The Construction Of Rent Supp Homes

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's response. I would like to ask him this, though. While we're waiting for the BIP to be remodelled and redesigned and go out to regional consultations, tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars of GNWT capital projects are going to be awarded. The budget is soon to be finally approved in this House, I am sure. I would like to ask the Minister, without a revised BIP, what guarantees can he provide Members of this House that no more of the same evasion of the policy,

if not cheating on the policy, takes place at the expense of northern businesses and northern opportunities while we're waiting for a new policy to be developed? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 406-12(6): Contract For The Construction Of Rent Supp Homes

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have made this House aware already that we are doing a new business incentive policy with full consultation to the regional people and the business people. It's a few irresponsible contractors who are working in the Northwest Territories that give a bad name to a lot of other good contractors.

Even these so-called northern contractors who continually bring in Newfoundlanders and other people from southern Canada to do the work and call them northerners, we're going to have to make moves to stop them. I've already said that not only the health card that anybody and their dog can get after they've been here three months, but a driver's licence, a T-2222, an income tax form as well as a statutory declaration for their address has to be supplied to us. It's up to the contractor to confirm to us that their people are northern or local.

We also are going to build in amendments to the contracts where if you do not uphold to your northern and local content, you will lose your business incentive policy, but you may lose your contract. I can do those things now for next year so that we can come down with a heavy hammer and I can deal with these people. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

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ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 28-12(6): Results Of All Water Quality Studies In The Mackenzie River Basin

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Renewable Resources.

Would the Minister of Renewable Resources undertake to provide me with a brief summary, in layman's terms, of the latest results of all water quality studies, including fish and sediment sampling, recently completed or currently being conducted in the Mackenzie River Basin area of the Northwest Territories?

The summaries should include any information regarding the presence of contaminants and the nature and concentration and determinable origin of any such contaminants.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 20-12(6): Annual Costs Since Implementation Of The Business Incentive Policy

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, Return to Written Question 20-12(6) asked by Mr. Whitford to the Minister of Public Works and Services, concerning the annual costs since implementation of the business incentive policy.

The business incentive policy is applied on all GNWT contracts and provides a 15 per cent or 20 per cent adjustment for NWT or local content respectively. In most cases, an award is made to the low bidder. In some cases, an award is made to a company that is not the lowest bidder. This would happen when the company has greater NWT or local content and therefore receives a larger BIP adjustment. The extra cost to award to this company equals the difference between the amount of the award and the amount of the lowest bid. This extra cost is referred to as the BIP premium.

The Department of Public Works and Services maintains records on construction, maintenance and services contracts awarded based on the BIP and the applicable BIP premium. during the past four years, for which information is readily available, the BIP premium has been as follows:

1994-95: total number of awards made based on BIP, five; total BIP premium, \$327,402; total value of awards made based on BIP, \$10,115,617; total BIP premium, 3.4 per cent; percentage of all awards made to NWT firms by value, 92 per cent.

1993-94: total number of awards made based on BIP, three; total BIP premium, \$454,371; total value of awards made based on BIP, \$6,813,839; total BIP premium, 7.2 per cent; percentage of all awards made to NWT firms by value, 89 per cent.

1992-93: total number of awards made based on BIP, seven; total BIP premium, \$168,315; total value of awards made based on BIP, \$2,803,308; total BIP premium, 6.4 per cent; percentage of all awards made to NWT firms by value, 84 per cent.

1991-92: total number of awards made based on BIP, nine; total BIP premium, \$631,080; total value of awards made based on BIP, \$14,107,254; total BIP premium, 4.7 per cent; percentage of all awards made to NWT firms by value, 82 per cent.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The House will recess for 15 minutes. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

---Applause

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wasn't going to make a reply, but a number of things that I have been reading about in the country over the last few weeks have really concerned me. I just wanted to express some of my feelings to the House. What's happening to our country?

As we, in the Northwest Territories, attempt to deal with increasing violence and problems with our youth and social problems across the territories, I think we have to keep in mind that we're part of Canada; and something that's happening in Canada should

concern us all. I really see a breakdown of the values that Canadians have been so proud of for so long. The things I'm about to say are not meant as criticism to the judges here in the territories or to the police here, to the prosecutors or to the government. I think everybody here is doing the best they can with the roles and the limitations they have to work within.

But a number of things have happened recently. I was reading here on the front page of the paper, the American concept of violence is coming north, is coming north very, very quickly; that a pro-choice doctor was shot in Vancouver. That was an unheard-of concept five years ago. Those sorts of things didn't happen in Canada.

I was reading about the feelings of Canadians, about what has happened with the Charter of Rights and how the Charter of Rights is seen by many Canadians only as a protection for people accused of serious crimes, and of criminals; and that balance in our society seems to be lacking.

I was reading, recently, of a woman who purchased pepper spray for use in protecting herself from attack and was charged for possession of a prohibited weapon when she was attacked, and charges against her attacker were stayed. So what the prosecution has said is it's legal for a woman to use pepper spray to defend herself against a vicious dog; however, it is illegal to use the same spray to defend herself against attack from a would-be rapist.

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We've talked here about the Supreme Court decision on drunkenness and the use of drunkenness as a defence, and the recent case in Alberta. Members will remember the Askov case where accused persons have the right, under the Charter of Rights, for a trial within a reasonable period of time. People will recall that as a result of this Supreme Court decision in Askov, thousands and thousands of cases were thrown out of court for what was termed unreasonable pretrial delay. So while the right of the accused to a trial within a reasonable period of time is of significant importance, I can't help but feel that society's right to ensure that criminals are prosecuted was ignored in this decision.

Madam Speaker, the former government had promised to bring in anti-stalking laws. People have heard about these laws in the United States. There have been many cases of women who had been stalked by former boyfriends, by former husbands,

have reported it to the police, there have been restraint orders established by courts, and a still alarming number of women have been murdered. And, under our system, you can't do anything about it. The police have to tell a person who is being stalked time and time again, until somebody actually does something to you there's nothing we can do. I understand that our present government, because of the Charter of Rights, is not going to proceed with anti-stalking laws.

The case of sexual predators...It is a fact that we're now able, in many cases to reasonably predict that some individuals, once they are out of jail, will sexually attack kids again. We have unbelievable cases where parole reports even say that that individual could kill if they were released; and did kill. So, again, the Charter of Rights says that we can't keep somebody in prison longer than their sentence, even if we know, with reasonable certainty, that if we let them out, an innocent victim will be badly hurt. Again, I understand that there's not a lot being done about this because of the Charter of Rights.

I was reading in the Globe and Mail that they're having a major symposium in Toronto about international crime. And I'll quote, Madam Speaker, "Some of the top crime fighters in the world are at the symposium." They say there are at least 10 organized crime syndicates, including the so-called Russian mafia, two Italian mafia, two Columbian drug cartels, Chinese triads and Japanese gangsters operating in Canada, drawn by its generous immigration policies, lack of currency regulation and lenient judicial system.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

The panel, which includes one of Italy's top Mafioso fighting prosecutors says naivety about the threat of organized crime, preoccupation with personal rights make Canada a virtual free market for the underworld. Again, I have some real concerns about where we are heading in Canada.

When the Young Offenders Act was brought in, we had a vision in Canada of innocent young people who, through situations that were out of their control, got into some trouble. And, quite rightly, society said let's treat them differently than we treat other criminals. But times have changed in the last 12

years. Now some of our young people are hardened thugs. For 10 years now, the Ministers of Justice across the country have tried to bring changes to the Young Offenders Act, and for whatever reason, changes are delayed time and time again. Again, with our preoccupation with rights of one segment of society, we're forgetting about the rights of the vast majority of Canadians.

Society has changed dramatically over the past 12 years since the Canadian Charter of Rights was introduced with great fanfare. I feel that, as a society and as a legal system, we're incredibly naive as to the type and numbers of dangerously sick and hardened individuals who increasingly prey upon innocent victims in our society. It seems to many Canadians that the Charter of Rights is being abused by an increasing number of dangerous Canadians who know that our legal system will go to almost any lengths to protect their rights.

A case in point -- and I brought it up here in the House -- was the Charles Ng case; a brutal accused murderer from California where there were actual graphic tapes of the torture and murder of victims. He came to Canada -- again because Canada has a pretty lenient system -- and was arrested here. Again, I think of an unjustifiable preoccupation with rights, we cannot without tremendous difficulty extradite somebody, even to the United States, if they can face the death penalty. Now if anybody deserves to face the death penalty it's Charles Ng. Four years and approximately \$4 million later, the Justice Minister actually got him out in the middle of the night and sent him to California, for which was harshly criticized. Where is the justice?

In the Homolka/Teale case, it seems like our society is going to inordinate lengths to ensure that the very best defence is available to the accused. Again, when the facts of that case are made public, it will chill everybody in this room. The facts are unbelievably ugly and somehow or other we are still living in a world that can't respond properly.

So I ask what has happened to the Charter in the last 12 years? What's happened to the Charter's responsibility to protect the rights of victims, of defenceless children who are being preyed upon by sick and bizarre psychopaths?

We've abolished capital punishment in this country because we feel it's immoral for society to take a life. I'll give you the case of Clifford Olsen. Again, a string of brutal murders. And I would almost guarantee that

if anybody in this room could have been a witness to one of those tortures and murders, they would have no hesitation whatsoever in agreeing to capital punishment. This man to whom we have offered the full rights of our legal system, has written letters to the families of victims and victimized the families again. This man has taken our penitentiary system to court on numerous occasions. Finally, a judge said it's a nuisance but we've afforded him on dozens of occasions the luxury of taking our system to court because he wasn't able to read books or because certain of his rights he thought were being contravened.

Something is obviously wrong here. I think we have to understand that here in Canada, we don't have a justice system, what we have is a legal system. It is a legal system where the pursuit of justice is becoming increasingly sporadic.

But, we can't blame the justice system for all our ills because the justice system is a product of our society. To me, the major culprit is the naive, trustful nature of the Canadian

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psyche. It is like we're living in a dream world, as our world is slowly crumbling around us. We're pretending we're still living in the 1960s. What can we do, people ask. There are two diametrically opposed concepts. One is the right-wing approach, which is more police, harsher penalties and bring back the death penalty. The other one is more left-wing approach, and that is, let's treat the young people, let's intervene aggressively and treat at-risk youth. Unfortunately, the debate has become such that you have to be one or the other. I think we need a combination of both of these approaches.

The charter has to be modernized. It is very difficult to do it constitutionally and we can only hope that judicial interpretations of the charter will give it more equality in its treatments of victims as well as the accused. Even though the charter was put there for the rights of individuals, I don't think we can forget the rights of society. The charter has to reflect modern reality and it must protect all Canadians, not just the criminals and those accused of violent crimes.

I, for one, think that the people who have been convicted of violent crimes should be punished severely. I've heard the argument that jail sentences are not deterrents and they eventually get out, et cetera. That is true but, on the other hand, we have

to give a strong message that our society will not condone that sort of behaviour. I think the sort of thing we're trying here is to mobilize communities against crime and violence. It is key and all of Canadian society has to do that. We've talked about resources for police and there is the same call across the country: police need the tools to do the job. I agree with the Justice Minister that more police and more judges aren't the complete answer, but they are part of the answer and there has to be better cooperation and support from the community for the police and better interaction of the police with the community.

I think that governments must intervene massively and aggressively with young people right across the country. We are now able to identify troubled youngsters. We can predict, with a certain amount of certainty, that they are going to get themselves into serious trouble. I think we have to start spending the money and intervene early. People have to recognize that in the area of human resources, you can't do everything. So, it means, in one sense, that you're not going to be able to spend the resources on the present generation. In one sense, you have to almost warehouse them, do what you have to do, but put new money to save the next generation.

You have to protect the future, otherwise I see that what is happening in the inner core of major cities in the United States where you can't live, is going to happen here. They're out of control; there is anarchy. There is no respect for law and order, there is no respect for life. Gangs have taken over southern Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago and New York. You can tell from the last election there that politicians are held in the lowest regard. I don't know where it all goes. As you saw, the last political campaign in the United States was totally negative; everything about it was negative. Ultimately, that negative attitude permeates society and people believe that there is no way out of the mess. We are not there yet in Canada, but I think we have a responsibility to make sure we do get there. I think victims must be supported in a major way.

I heard a report that Doug French, who is the father of one of the young girls brutally murdered in Ontario, appeared before a parliamentary committee and said victims have no rights, I have no rights. He said, here is a man whose life has been changed irrevocably and he's an example of many. When someone is brutally murdered, their families will never recover and their friends will never recover. It doesn't just affect one person; there are probably hundreds of people

affected by each one of these crimes. What about their rights? It is fine to say that Homolka/Teale has rights, but what about the rights of the families whose lives have been totally shattered?

I feel that here in the Northwest Territories, our government is giving some good examples to the rest of the country and I applaud them for that. But, I think we have to act quickly and very decisively or we will face a breakdown of law and order and the violence that we see in the United States. Canadians take so much for granted. There is no doubt in my mind that the world, in the 1990s, is a nasty place. There is a lot of violence and there are a lot of very nasty people out there. That reality is hitting our country very, very quickly. I think that we may wake up one day and discover a Canada we don't recognize or like. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

Mr. Whitford's Reply

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to reply. It has been quite a while now since the opening address was delivered in this House and a lot of things have happened in this House during that item. I had a copy of it so I could read and respond to it specifically, but I seemed to have misplaced it among all the other papers that we accumulate here during a session.

A lot of things have happened and one of the things that I wanted to take this opportunity to do was to say a few words of thank you to former Commissioner Norris. I was in the former Legislature that selected Mr. Norris to be the first aboriginal Commissioner and was really pleased when he did get that nomination. I think I was pretty outspoken in insisting that Commissioners do come from the Northwest Territories. Charles Camsell was born in the Northwest Territories prior to Commissioner Norris' appointment, but that shouldn't have been the end of it. We had many good Commissioners after it and Commissioner Norris takes his place in history for the things he has done.

I think he made a valuable contribution to the Northwest Territories and I wish him well in the pursuits he will be undertaking. I wrote him a letter to say these things to him and to tell him that I wished him well in whatever ventures he pursues. Not only that, I look forward to working with him in other areas as our paths cross.

A couple of things I was involved with on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, not necessarily just Yellowknife and the people I represent -- and what is good for us is

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sometimes not always good for others and what is good for others doesn't always benefit us directly -- including my visits to Europe this past summer to assist the now Minister of Renewable Resources, the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq in the lobby of the European parliament with relationship to their stand on Canadian furs and methods of trapping.

They had points, but not always well-informed points, as we found out when we were in places like Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Those countries, as an example, Madam Speaker, depend quite a lot on fur. In the Netherlands, for example, 15,000 jobs are associated with fur, with the raising of fur in the Netherlands. And that comes from an unusual source. A lot of the monies that are associated are subsidiaries to the fur industry. One of those is the fishermen. We are well aware that the Netherlands is on the coast and depends quite a lot on the ocean for the exportation of fish. They catch a lot of fish and they process these fish. Not all the fish they catch are top quality -- tails, heads, fins, scales, and stuff are all sold to the fur industry to provide food for foxes and mink. Their reply to that when I asked what about the 15,000 people, fishermen for whom it's an extra income? They said they'll just have to find something else to do.

How asinine can an attitude be. That's a proper word; it's in the dictionary. Sorry, I won't use it again. How silly can they be, Madam Speaker, to fight Canadians by cutting off the importation of furs because of humaneness and they don't worry about how it affects our economy. They don't even worry about how it affects their economy. When you try to point these things out to them, they say well that's different. They kill half a million muskrats a year; we've pointed this out to them. What do they do with them? They burn them out of their dens, they drown them, they beat them with clubs, they use leghold traps.

But that's different, Madam Speaker, because over in the Netherlands, muskrats are pests. Over here they're not pests you know. They feel we treat our muskrats a little more humanely but, because the muskrat over there is a pest, they think they can do anything they want with the poor little critter. I explained to them that we eat muskrats, we eat beaver. They said oh, you can't possibly do that. Yes, we do. You see how ill-informed they are. The point I was trying to make is that European parliament is ill-informed with it comes to this particular issue of the fur lobby.

I understand that we have another Member going over shortly to continue this lobby and I hope that he comes back with information that yes, they've been able to reconsider their position. On the leghold traps, we pointed out to them that we are moving with great strides to a more humane method of trapping. For many years Canadians have been leaders in trying to develop a trap that was more humane. Connibear, for example, in the 30's was already developing the famous Connibear trap which is quick kill. If we draw the line between humaneness and the fact that we do have to take an animal's life in order to benefit from you know that we try to do that as humanely as possible. We've always done that but we make no bones about the fact that we do hunt, we do trap and we do this as part of our economy.

The economy of the north benefits some \$12 million from the fur industry, as I started to say earlier on. Although it doesn't affect us directly in my riding, it did in the past. When I was growing up in Fort Smith, I recall the lifestyle that people had related to trapping. They would go out in the fall and stay there for many months catching furs and processing meat and stuff like that. A lot of pride went into that. That's gone now, Madam Speaker, in some parts and it's unfortunate because it's a lost way of life, it's a lost set of values, and it's contributing to some of the social problems that we do face here today. Life has changed greatly and those are some of the contributing factors to it. We try to point this out to the Europeans and they don't seem to want to listen.

Mining is the lifeblood of Yellowknife and it's nice to see over the past two years the upsurge in exploration in the mining industry that has put a lot of dollars back into our economy here; much-needed dollars. Mining dollars are new money. Money that's coming fresh and is circulated around the north through jobs and through the purchase of supplies, services, and equipment. The diamond industry, for example, here in Yellowknife has been quite

beneficial to us in many ways. The lumber yards are preparing, just as an example, Madam Speaker, boxes to put core samples in to. I've seen truckloads and truckloads of those going out to the airport to be sent to the exploration areas; that all translates into jobs.

New gold discoveries have been made in the last few months here that are exciting. Miramar Con Mine, for example, has done some more exploration work in areas that they previously thought were unproductive. They have found good reserves there that would put a few more years to the life of that mine. Royal Oak has shown a profit this year, up substantially from previous years. It's good to see that Discovery Mine at Giauque, a little bit northeast of us here, a mine that was in operation in the 1950s and early 1960s, shut down because the cost of gold recovery was more than the value of the gold, \$32 an ounce. It's gone up considerably now, Madam Speaker, so there's new works taking place there. It's good to see that that's going back into production.

The pursuit of those precious base metals still continues and that's good to see because, as I said, it's good for business and that's what keeps our economy going. As a result of it, the population of our city has increased dramatically and I'm proud to say that the riding that I represent has almost doubled in its size since the last boundaries review. Now it's time to look at that again to redistribute some of the population within the constituencies in the city. People have moved up here, built homes, moved their families here. It's put a strain on our schools. We have built a school in that area to take up the newcomers. It's almost filled to capacity already. New businesses have established themselves. Wal-Mart has moved in now to service the city and surrounding areas. I was there on Monday to the official opening of Wal-Mart and I said it was good to see that now Yellowknife has become the south where people always go to do their shopping. In the old days, people would get on a plane and fly south to Edmonton to do their shopping at some of the malls there. Well, I see now that some of the communities from the north are coming to the city here and not going as far as Edmonton any more. That's good for the north because the money stays here.

Sam Yurkiw, a well-known businessman in this community has expanded his business in our area. He's built an addition on to the car wash, a valuable part of our business. There's been

two little businesses associated with that; a small corner store run by a couple and the gas station that goes along with it. It's amazing to see the amount of growth in our area.

One of the things that I have been pursuing in this House over the past year, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Council for the Disabled and of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, has been the introduction of a donor card on the back of driver's licences. I've pursued this matter now for a couple of years from previous Ministers and had I stayed as Minister of Transportation, it may have been accomplished by this time. I want to say that this is an area that I want to continue to pursue. I think there are many misunderstandings about it. One of the things that I've found out is that it is a valuable and appreciated act by one human being to another. It's one way of saying that life is valuable and in the event that something happens to me, someone else can benefit from it. Eyes, for example, the operation is so easy to do. The operation that is required to remove the corneal lens can be done in this hospital contrary to what has been said. It is...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Go ahead.

MR. WHITFORD:

Sorry, Madam Speaker, the light went out and I took that to mean that my time had run out.

About the donor cards, it is so easy to do, it is voluntary, it is easy to administer and coordinate, there are no extra costs to this government, there is no liability to this government, there is no unnecessary expense to our hospital, there is no new technology required, it only needs the endorsement of the department or this government.

The argument against putting this on the back of drivers' licences is that we don't have the ability to do transplants here. Well, we're not asking for the ability to do transplants in the Northwest Territories or anywhere in the Northwest Territories. We are only asking for the addition, on the back of drivers' licences, of information. It could probably be done with another card, but the most common place that people who are involved in accidents will be looking is the driver's licence for identification. And, if on the back of a driver's licence, there is that information, it alerts medical people straight away of what to do. They don't pursue it any further, once they find out the

identity of victims. I've been told that by police: that is the simplest way of doing it. It is there.

The other thing that may be misunderstood is that it is not a compulsory thing. It is not that everybody has to do it. It is only those people who want to have it done. You have a choice, you can have the various regulations by coding on the back of drivers' licences. If you want to be a donor, you sign the back and carry it with you at all times. That is the place to do it. I certainly wish that people would understand that this isn't an imposition on anybody. It is a voluntary thing. When you go to renew your driver's licence, you can indicate your wishes, or the individual can request that be placed on the back, once they have signed and completed the document required.

Corneas can be removed here in the hospital, it has been done. They have a good transportation life. They can last from 36 to 48 hours, depending on conditions and Edmonton is only two and a half hours away. Edmonton has the capacity to do cornea transplants. It is so commonplace that it is done almost every day there. The only problem is they don't have enough organs for transplantation. There are people who have kidney problems who are waiting in hospitals on dialysis machines for proper kidneys. There are people who need marrow transplants. There is skin grafting for burn victims.

One of the toughest things to do is to see somebody who has been burned and scarred for life because they didn't have the right methods of treatment. The only thing that can treat skin burns is skin, itself, with a minimum of reaction. Most important, a lot of us travel and we travel to areas where there are facilities. And, when, God forbid, an accident does happen, at least people know that in the event of a tragedy, their wishes can be complied with, that life can go on and they can help others through a simple event such as a transplant because of the donor card they may be carrying.

Madam Speaker, we're winding down this session and there are a few things that have to happen today, so I won't take any more time. I wanted to get these points across and this is the forum where I was able to do this. I thank my colleagues for their patience while I was able to convey to them my point of view, which may be somewhat controversial. I have many times, supported the opinions and efforts of other Members who have put forward issues in order to benefit people in their ridings. I would ask only that this be thought about from a humane point of view, rather than something that is gruesome and grisly.

The fact is, life does terminate for some people rather prematurely and life can be extended for others through their generous contributions. I always like to take every opportunity to congratulate people and one of the groups that I would like to congratulate are the justices of the peace and the

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coroners, without whose service northern justice wouldn't quite be what it is. We have to be thankful that in each community there is a justice of the peace of aboriginal descent who know the ways of the community and is able to translate that into the administration of justice.

I recognize the fact that there are situations that may not be appealing to everybody, but I would also invite people to, rather than criticizing the justice of the peace system, put their names forward and take the training necessary to become good justices of the peace and coroners. Aboriginal coroners are sadly lacking, because it is sometimes seen to not be the aboriginal way of doing things. Yet, people die and coroners fulfil an important role. They go to a scene of an accident or death outside of a hospital and help to get the message across about what happened. They not only do that, but they are also able to counsel survivors of the family. They let them know what has happened, and that their loved ones have not died unnoticed and uncared for. To the coroners, we owe a great debt of gratitude for the fact that they do take on this sometimes unpleasant task.

And, to the justices of the peace, who do everything from first appearances in court and signing of documents -- some pretty mundane stuff, but at times, some pretty exciting stuff -- who are of great benefit to all people of the territories, I tip my hat and say, keep up the good work. If the Minister of Justice was here, I would encourage him to reinstate some of the things that used to be done by the justices of the peace and the coroners. I just learned the other day that a very important conference scheduled for the coroners was cancelled because they don't have enough money. Consequently, the training they receive is done long distance. It is done through letters, telephone calls and books. It doesn't have the same thoroughness of training sessions that used to be held here and in other major centres for coroners and justices of the peace.

There is another element, Madam Speaker, that is very important and that is the camaraderie, l'esprit de corps, that these members of our unofficial civil

service have with each other. There is a time when you meet, talk and share thoughts with each other. That's important, too. That comes with the training programs and conferences that have now been cancelled. Yes, it costs money, but I think the benefit that we get from them translates into a far better service than if we save money and do it another way. For the justices of the peace, it is the same thing.

I know that there's a good program in there. We lost our justice of the peace trainer, by the way and I don't think they've replaced that person. We do need that so we can keep up this lower level of the court system. The one that's the grass-roots level of service that people demand in the territories. We have people that feel much more comfortable appearing in front of a justice of the peace than they do in territorial court or supreme court.

I say to the justices of the peace, don't be afraid to deal with every aspect that they feel comfortable with of the judiciary because you cannot make a mistake as a justice of the peace. You can err, yes, but there's always a mechanism that's going to catch this and is going to regress it. That's why we have the Territorial Court. That's why we have the court of appeal. That's why we have the different levels of appeals court. That's why we have the Supreme Court. I point to them that when you go to a law library you see the hundreds and hundreds of volumes of books on cases that have been appealed at some point in time; and, from each appeal we learn.

I think that if learned people, people who have gone off to universities and taken law and studied law for many years and have different degrees in law, can make errors themselves, we shouldn't be ashamed at all of making an error from time to time. It only tests the system and it delivers that form of justice that only justices of the peace can deliver to the people that they serve.

With that, Madam Speaker, I will say in closing that it's been a very interesting year. A lot has happened. I don't think we'll ever see the likes of this again. The city of Yellowknife has come out of a very traumatic time over the past few years; has stood firm, has stood together, and has pulled together and we only look forward to the future. With anticipation, perhaps, but not with fear. We look forward to the rise in the economy that's been predicted. Our Premier is overseas right now and is negotiating on our behalf to see if there are some things that can be done in the Northwest Territories that the people in the Republic

of China would like. I was looking in the paper and I see that British Columbia is going to be selling salmon heads to the Chinese to make the special sauces that they make. I was wondering if they would ever look at char heads? That's an exotic part of the fish that maybe some people don't always use and there may be a little bit of a market there; Char tails and char fins, et cetera. What may be a product that's not of value to us can become valuable through the efforts of people who know how to process this and benefit greatly from it. If they benefit from it, we do too. Why? Because we get the money that would otherwise be wasted. I return now to my statement about the fur and what the Netherlands people are doing. They're saying scrap those fish, we don't need them. To heck with it because we're against fur so bad that we don't care what we do. Sometimes, though, if you do that, you cut your nose off to spite your face. Anyway, with that, Madam Speaker, thank you very much for this opportunity to return to the address. Thank you.

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. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bill 17

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3, and wish to report that the bill is now ready for committee of the whole. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) to allow Bill 17 to be placed in committee of the whole today.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) to allow Bill 17 to be placed in committee of the whole today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 17 will be on the order paper for committee of the whole today. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Report On Bill 20

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Finance has reviewed Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, and wishes to report that Bill 20 is now ready for committee of the whole. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) to allow Bill 20 to be placed in committee of the whole today. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 70(5) to allow Bill 20 to be placed in committee of the whole for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 20 will be placed in committee of the whole for today. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 13: TABELLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 59-12(6), the Northwest Territories

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Law Foundation 12th annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, according to rule 42(1), I wish to table Tabled Document 60-12(6), a response to petition 3-12(6), presented by Mr. Pudlat and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 14-12(6): Government Of Canada Disposal of Federally Owned Airports and Flight Support Services, Carried

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, through the national airports policy released by Transport Canada, plans to withdraw their participation in Canadian aviation by disposing of federally owned airports, including the nine Arctic A airports in the NWT, through transfer to territorial, regional, and municipal airport authorities;

AND WHEREAS, the national airports policy proposes a similar reduction in the federal delivery of air navigation systems by privatizing air navigation services and by implementing modernization plans which will eliminate all flight specialist personnel;

AND WHEREAS, the elimination of on-ground human personnel for flight support services may compromise the safety of aircraft operators and passengers to NWT destinations;

AND WHEREAS, all flight support services currently operated by Transport Canada provides valuable employment and income opportunities to communities and a valuable service to air carriers operating in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS, the NWT is unique in comparison to southern jurisdictions which have access to a fully developed road infrastructure system, in the fact that, for a large majority of communities, with the exception of an annual sealift, air transportation is the critical and, in some cases, the only means of transportation to the community for the entire year.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly urges the federal Minister of Transport, the Honourable Doug Young, to revisit and reconsider the reduction of air support services to the NWT by establishing an exception for not phasing out flight service specialist positions in the NWT or by establishing the Community Aerodrome Radio Station (CARS) in communities designated for closure of flight services stations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The federal government, through their national airports policy, has outlined their plans to downgrade their participation in aviation through the privatization and transfer of their current airports. Currently, the GNWT is undergoing negotiations for assuming responsibilities for Arctic A airports. I support the transfer to the GNWT, provided the adequate resources are provided. However, the concern with this motion is that the air navigation services also identified were downgraded by installing automated systems which will phase out flight service stations and eliminate all the staff.

I believe we must oppose these proposed closures and automation for the following reasons. Most significantly, the elimination of manned human support services which provide reliable, up-to-date ground conditions to cockpits of airliners may compromise the safety of airline operators and passengers. Even though automated systems can perform some specific functions, there is no comparison to human operators who can react and relay up-to-the-minute information on changing operating conditions. There is also a concern about what happens when automated equipment breaks down. Is there a human back-up system or is there no air service that will be provided upon equipment breaking down?

Secondly, there is a large majority of our communities which are totally dependent on air transportation, as the NWT doesn't have a fully developed road infrastructure system. Any service cutbacks affecting NWT airports will impact on our residents more so than those in other jurisdictions which don't have the same dependency our communities do on their airport infrastructure. Finally, the flight service station personnel provide employment opportunities and generate income within our communities where they are established. The loss of these jobs will have significant impact on our communities.

Madam Speaker, although Cambridge Bay, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Hay River are targeted for 1995 closure, I believe it is only a matter of time before all other communities will be affected by future cutbacks and closures, and that includes communities with existing CARS programs. So, I would like all Members to support this motion and raise the issue to the federal Minister of Transport. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I am seconding this motion because the Government of Canada plans to transfer airports, which are now operated by Transport Canada, to territorial, regional, and municipal airport authorities and it is presently being negotiated by the Department of Transportation, Government of the Northwest Territories. Further, the Government of Canada plans to reduce the delivery of the air navigation system by privatization and modernization, which will eventually eliminate positions in some of our communities, especially flight specialist personnel.

The plan of Transport Canada will eliminate these positions from the communities and the employment will no longer be there. Presently, Transport Canada gives employment and

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income to people who work there and the communities in which they live. My biggest concern, however, is the safety of the air carrier service in the Northwest Territories. The elimination of personnel and replacing them with automation raises major concerns. Presently, the air traffic controllers are very good in the communities in which they operate. They provide quality service now.

The Government of Canada, and especially the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Doug Young, must take into consideration the unique circumstances in which we live in the north. We are different from southern communities and many communities' only mode of transportation is the airways in the north. The climate, as well, is totally different. The conditions during different times of the year are very extreme in the north. Take my constituency, for example. In the spring and fall, the weather conditions make it very difficult to fly and that is the case in many communities in the north, as well.

To eliminate human-controlled air traffic services in the north will be very detrimental, I feel. Based on that, I am seconding this motion. Mahsi cho.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I, too, will be supporting this motion. As was indicated by my honourable colleague from Kitikmeot, the impacts may not only be felt in the next year in the smaller communities, but there is a good possibility that there will be negative impacts to services provided in the larger communities. If that is the case, I would be very concerned if they're going to downgrade or reduce services in my constituency of Inuvik.

From what I read in the motion and from what I understand in the program, it appears that this has a good likelihood of happening. For that reason, I will be supporting the motion. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I will also be supporting the motion. I think the mover and the seconder of the motion spoke about the safety of air carriers, but it goes beyond just air carriers, Madam Speaker. A lot of the communities and major centres depend on weather. It doesn't matter whether it is for aircraft or boats out in the sea, rivers and lakes, weather conditions are always a factor. People up here are all aboriginal people and it is a way of life for them to go out on the land. The stations in the larger centres indicate for them what the weather patterns are. If they lose that, then a lot of people will be taking chances. It is going to be the safety of aboriginal people, I believe, that is going to be placed in jeopardy.

The other thing is medevacs. I think for most of the communities, medevacs are part of life in the north and if conditions are bad in Yellowknife, they might have to go on to Edmonton or another destination. Before a medevac takes off from a community in the east or High Arctic, they have to know what the conditions are and whether the medevac should go ahead. Again, of all the reasons that were mentioned, I think the most important reasons are life-saving reasons. Whether it is for a hunter, trapper, a person who is ill, or passengers going from point A to point B, it affects everybody.

For that reason, I support Mr. Ng's motion and I also want to thank him for introducing the motion. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Recorded vote.

Recorded Vote

MADAM SPEAKER:

Question has been called and a recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour? Mr. Ng, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine.

All those opposed, please stand.

All those abstaining, please stand. Mr. Arngna'naaq, Ms. Mike, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Morin, Mr. Todd, Mr. Nerysoo.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The results are 14 yes, 6 abstentions, none against. Motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Motion 15-12(5): Amended Terms Of Reference For The Advisory Committee On Social Housing, Carried

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a motion to amend the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended to the Legislative Assembly that the annual reports and

other reports of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories be referred to and reviewed by that standing committee;

AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly, on November 4, 1994, adopted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions on this matter;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions be amended by adding the following as item (d) under the heading "The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions may on its own authority:

(d) Review the annual reports and any other reports of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories which shall be considered automatically referred to the

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Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions after tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Notwithstanding this formal process, the Speaker is authorized to provide these documents to the standing committee in advance of tabling to expedite the review by the committee. For further certainty, this review in advance of tabling may include public hearings and all other authorized activities of the standing committee.

Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

This motion is fairly straightforward. It's been accepted in the report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and I urge all Members to support this motion.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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 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; Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3; and, Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Good afternoon. The committee will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend to the committee that we consider, in the following order, Bill 17, Bill 20, Bill 19, and then if there's any time left, Committee Report 10-12(6) and Bill 1 together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree that we proceed in that order?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We will now turn to Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3. It's in the green binders under tab 17. I ask if the Minister responsible is prepared to introduce the bill. Mr. Pollard.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some brief comments by way of introduction to Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment is a result of a process that started with a formal motion that was adopted by the Assembly on December 8, 1993, which requested the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission to undertake a review of certain districts so that they may conform to the boundary to divide the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, the report of the commission was tabled in the House on October 5, 1994, and debated and concluded on November 8, 1994. Mr. Chairman, the bill puts into legislation the decisions of the House and will amend the electoral districts of High Arctic, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, North Slave and Kitikmeot. I will be pleased to try and answer any questions that may Members might have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation is prepared to make his comments on the bill. The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Legislation has completed its review of Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3. On December 8, 1993, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion that the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission review the electoral boundaries of the High Arctic, Kitikmeot, Kivallivik, Nunakput, Sahtu and Tu Nedhe in view of conforming to the division boundary.

The commission completed its review and made recommendations for the new electoral boundaries, however, the commission settled all the settled land claims areas when making their recommendation. This, of course, affected other electoral districts than those indicated in the motion for review.

Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3 amends schedule A of the act and redefines electoral districts of the High Arctic, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, North Slave and the Kitikmeot. Those districts have been amended to conform with the boundaries to divide the Northwest Territories. The bill also provides a definition of the Inuvialuit settlement area and the Nunavut settlement area for the purpose of the schedule.

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On November 8, 1993, a motion to redescribe the electoral district boundaries...

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll continue on. On November 8, 1994, a motion to redescribe...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Just one second. Are you okay, Mr. Gargan? The chair will now recognize Mr. Zoe who will continue the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 8, 1994, a motion to redescribe the electoral district boundaries of the High Arctic, Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhe, North Slave and Kitikmeot was carried in the House. The standing committee held a public hearing on this bill in November 1994. Mr. Pollard, in his capacity as Government House Leader, appeared before the committee to present the bill.

The committee feels that the proposed bill supports the wishes of the Legislative Assembly in so far as it addresses the request to redefine the electoral boundaries to conform with the boundaries for the division of the Northwest Territories.

Therefore, on November 9, 1994, the Standing Committee on Legislation passed a motion that Bill 17 was ready for debate in committee of the whole. Thank you. That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Minister, do you have any witnesses to assist you, or do you wish to deal with the matter from your seat?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I have a witness waiting, but I will not ask for that witness unless I get to the stage where I can't answer a question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. General comments.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause by clause has been called for. 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):

Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Do Members agree that this matter is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

That discussion is concluded, I meant. Does the committee agree that Bill 17 is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Thank you, Members. Now we'll move on to Bill 20.

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

Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. Is the Minister responsible for the bill, the Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo, ready to introduce the bill? Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Student Financial Assistance Act establishes the program for student financial assistance for residents of the Northwest Territories who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The program consists of various grants and loans which are available to the residents, depending on their eligibility.

The revolving student loan fund was established in 1982. The numbers of students requesting loans have increased steadily with one of the larger increases occurring from 1992-1993 to 1993-94. The numbers increased from 707 students in 1992-93 to

1,018 students in 1993-94. These increases occurred in all loans: primary loans, secondary loans, needs-assessed loans, and particularly post-secondary incentive loans.

Over the years, the working capital required in the revolving fund had to continue to be increased because the number of students receiving loans, and thus the value of loans issued each year, continued to exceed the value of loans repaid, remitted and written off every year.

If the number of students receiving loans had remained constant, the revolving fund would have matured in about 15 and a half years, and no further ceiling increases would have been necessary. However, as long as the number of students increases, the ceiling will have to be raised. The rate increase in student loans issued will determine how soon the ceiling will have to be raised again. With the current rate of student loan increases, the loan fund ceiling will have to be raised again in about two or three years. The cost to government in operating a student loan fund is the cost of remitting loans and writing off loans.

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Over 230 more students, compared to the same time period in 1993-94, are expected to access remissible loans in 1994-95. An increase in the statutory loan limit, set out in the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act, is necessary to allow us to make loans available to eligible students this year and in the future.

However, Mr. Chairman, I recognize that increasing demands on our resources are a problem. Increases in the demand for student loans and student grants, the changes anticipated across Canada in student financial assistance, and federal restraint require that we carry out a comprehensive review of our student financial assistance program by March 1995.

Mr. Chairman, I am now ready to proceed with the review of Bill 20.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance ready to present his opening comments on the bill? The chair recognizes the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, the Standing Committee on Finance reviewed this bill at its meeting this morning, November 9, 1994. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and his staff were available to answer questions at this morning's meeting.

Committee Members understand that this bill amends the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act to increase the maximum total amount of principal that may be outstanding for all loans under this act. The maximum total amount is currently \$13 million. This amendment would increase the amount to \$18 million.

Committee Members were informed that this increase is required for a number of reasons. There has been a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in post-secondary programs, and a corresponding increase in the number of students receiving loans. In addition, the number of students entering the assistance program exceeds the number exiting each year. Committee Members were informed that the cost to government of operating a student loan fund is the cost of remitting loans and writing off loans.

Recognizing the increasing demands on the resources of the department, the Minister has said that a comprehensive review of the student financial assistance program will be carried out by March 1995. Finance committee Members look forward to reviewing the results of this review.

During this morning's meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, committee Members agreed to refer this bill to the House for consideration. 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. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Is the Minister prepared to bring in his witnesses to assist him in this matter?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's necessary, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. General comments on Bill 20. Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Clause 1. Schedule, \$18 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Thank you. Bill as a whole. The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to talk a bit on the student loan fund, mainly because just during the last several months I've been dealing with a student who had a loan, a status Indian who had a loan. I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with what he's done, but I guess there are certain conditions in which loans are forgiven. That is, if the person passes his course, or if he takes 60 per cent of his course. If the individual didn't complete his course and he didn't get 60 per cent, I presume that, as in a lot of cases, the student, even though he took a program, didn't have the necessary grades in order for him to take the program in the first place. So he's in a position now where the government is asking him to pay up, with interest, his loan.

I just wanted to bring that up because I presume that in a lot of cases you will see aboriginal people are the ones who will be put in that kind of a position. When loans are given to aboriginal people, it should always be clear that if they don't pass their course or if they fail because of this 60 per cent margin, then they're going to be in trouble. They should realize that even before they sign on the dotted line to get that loan.

In a lot of cases, the programs that a lot of aboriginal people are in are not considered educational

programs, so their status doesn't really make a difference. In most cases, they pay for their education, but they don't pay for accommodation and meals. That's the part that students get loans for and that is the part that is quite a burden for them, even though it has nothing to do with their courses. It has more to do with accommodation and meals. I just wanted to make that point, Mr. Chairman, before we conclude this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Minister, did you wish to reply to that? Then, the chair will now recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a big problem with the bill we are discussing. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance has prioritized education as the first priority of this government and I definitely

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agree with that prioritization. With regard to the Minister's comments earlier, Mr. Chairman, he said that he will be undertaking a review by March 31, 1995 to take a look at the student financial assistance.

I know there are various types of loans given out by the department. Some are forgivable and some are not. I know that is going to be reviewed, to see how we can improve assistance for students. But I wonder if the department would also consider situations I ran into earlier this year, where part-time students were not receiving financial assistance from the government because they weren't enrolled as full-time students. I wonder if the department will also be considering part-time students. Currently, the way the regulations are in the act, assistance available only to full-time students going to post-secondary schools.

We do have a number of students who return, who may not have full credits to complete their course. They may require two or three credits, or maybe they are in their second term, and cannot go back until the following year and would like to pick up two or three credits during the year, maybe by attending evening classes say, for instance, at Arctic College. Currently, that opportunity is lost for them because the system we have in place doesn't allow for that. So, I wonder if, in this review, the department would look at the

overall impact of student assistance for part-time as well as full-time students. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be reviewing that as part of the component for student financial assistance, generally. What I also want to indicate to honourable Members is that it is not only a matter of reviewing the student financial assistance program; all components of the program will be reviewed an examination of what is there now and whether we need to be a little more generous in some areas. We can reprofile things to respond to the needs that the honourable Member is talking about. That is part of the review and it will be considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that Bill 20 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Bill 20 is now ready for third reading.

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

We will move to Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, under tab 19. Is the Minister responsible, Mr. Pollard, prepared to introduce the bill? Mr. Pollard.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$72.009 million. This supplementary appropriation consists of \$30.945 million in O and M and \$41.064 million in capital.

In operations and maintenance, Mr. Chairman, the most significant amounts are \$20 million for the additional costs of the 1994 forest fire suppression program; \$2.839 million for the increased requirements to the social assistance program; \$1.148 million for the increased requirements of the court services program; and, \$1.008 million for the increased requirements for the corrections program.

In capital, Mr. Chairman, the most significant amounts are \$17.430 million to provide funding for the 1994-95 social housing program to partially offset funding reductions imposed by the CMHC; \$16.484 million to finance the carry-over of funding from the 1993-94 fiscal year to the 1994-95 fiscal year to complete capital projects started during 1993-94, but not finished; \$1.080 million to provide funding for the implementation of the building and learning strategy in pilot communities; \$1 million to provide funding for the Canada/NWT infrastructure agreement; and, \$1 million to provide funding for modification to the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Terry Fox, to enable the vessel to deliver dry cargo and fuel products to Pelly Bay on an annual resupply basis.

Mr. Chairman, the combined effect of these supplementary appropriation requirements has been to change the fiscal projections for 1994-95 from a balanced budget to a deficit of \$35.6 million. Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to try to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation prepared to make comments to the bill? I'm sorry, I meant the Standing Committee on Finance. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Finance reviewed Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95, at its meeting on October 26th, November 2nd and this morning,

November 9, 1994. The chairman of the Financial Management Board and his staff were available to answer questions at the November 2, 1994 meeting.

Mr. Chairman, in total, this bill represents an additional appropriation request of more than \$72 million for the 1994-95 fiscal year. If this bill is passed, the total voted appropriations for the fiscal year 1994-95 will be approximately \$1.25 billion. During the November 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, committee Members agreed to refer this bill to the

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House for consideration. As has been the practice, I will speak to the major issues. Members of the committee will have additional comments when then we proceed to the detail of the bill.

The largest capital item in this appropriation bill is a special warrant of slightly more than \$17 million. This funding is required to partially offset the funding reduction for social housing imposed by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This appropriation also includes approximately \$16 million of capital funding, not previously authorized, to carry over funding from the 1993-94 fiscal year to the present year. This will provide funds to complete capital projects started but not finished between 1993-94.

Bill 19 includes two special warrants approved by the Financial Management Board for a total of \$20 million of operations and maintenance funding to cover 1994-95 forest fire suppression costs. Committee Members were informed that the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources will be consulting with communities to come up with a plan on how to contain these costs in the future.

Committee Members are concerned that during this time of fiscal restraint, this bill includes a number of requests for funding to support new person years. Funding is requested for a total of 33.5 person years, 14.5 of which are casual positions. Close to \$3 million is needed to support these person years.

Higher-than-anticipated costs with social assistance continue to appear as supplementary appropriation requests. Bill 19 includes costs close to \$3 million in funding not previously authorized to address a deficiency expected in the social assistance program. The projected deficiency is based on recent expenditure trends and amendments to social

assistance earned income allowance. The committee would like to see the Department of Social Services develop and implement more accurate forecasting techniques as soon as possible.

Bill 19 includes more than \$1.7 million for implementing the building and learning strategy in pilot communities. Due to the significant investment of public funds in this initiative, committee Members would like to see an assessment of value for money. Committee Members are concerned about a special warrant approved on May 3, 1994 to transfer \$500,000 of operations and maintenance funding out of the youth initiatives program and the Department of Social Services. Committee Members believe that the youth initiative program is a valuable one. Bill 19 indicates that this funding is being transferred to finance the Gwich'in work activity and Arctic College northern skills development pilot projects. These pilot projects are apparently being undertaken through the investing in people pilot initiative and the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment.

That concludes my remarks on the Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1994-95. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Minister Pollard, are you prepared to answer the questions from your seat or do you wish to bring in witnesses?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, my preference is to bring in a witness, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The Sergeant-at-Arms will assist you with fetching your witness. Mr. Minister, would you be so kind as to introduce Mr. Voytilla to the committee?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman I have with me is Mr. Lew Voytilla who is the secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the committee, Mr. Voytilla. General comments? The chair recognizes Mr. Koe.

General Comments

MR. KOE:

I have some general comments. The chairman of the standing committee mentioned that there was a significant amount of person years being requested in various departments. Can the Minister identify the number of additional person years that are being requested, where they are going, and what is the value of the dollars associated with these person years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are seven PYs in the Department of the Executive, that's for the Division Review Committee Secretariat. In Justice, there's one PY for the maintenance enforcement division. In Justice, there are 14.5 corrections positions and they're for the base deficiencies in the program. In Safety and Public Services, there is one PY which is a safety inspector for Keewatin region. There are two positions in Safety and Public Services that are for mine inspectors. There is one position in Safety and Public Services which is for a labour standards inspector. In Public Works and Services, there is one PY that deals with the Yellowknife office plan; it's a project officer. In Public Works and Services, there are two PYs with regards to the decentralization initiative and that is computer operators -- one in Rankin Inlet and one in Inuvik. In transportation, there's one PY and it's because the negotiations are going on right now with the Arctic A airports transfer. In Municipal and Community Affairs, there's one PY for the emergency measures program. In Health, there are two PYs to administer the non-insured health benefits program.

The direct salaries will probably be in the region of \$1.5 million, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. KOE:

Can I assume and maybe the Minister can correct me, are the majority of these PYs located in Yellowknife or outside Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Executive positions are in Yellowknife. The Justice position is in Yellowknife. The 14.5 corrections positions are spread around the Northwest Territories in the various centres. As I said, the safety inspector goes to Keewatin. The two mine inspectors, I believe, are in Yellowknife. Labour standards inspectors are in Yellowknife. The Yellowknife office plan project officer is in Yellowknife. There are two PYs, one in Rankin and one in Inuvik, for Public Works and Services computer operators. The Arctic A airports is a person based out of Yellowknife. MACA, I'm not quite sure about, Mr. Chairman, but I'll look at that. I believe Health is in headquarters, as well.

The casuals, to be more specific, are in Baffin, 3.2; Fort Smith, 5.7, and in Yellowknife, 5.6 PYs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I know we'll get into more specific detail when we go page by page, but generally some of the new PYs that you've identified seem to be for specific projects, specific issues that have been raised in this House. For example, the project officer for Yellowknife office planning. There's more mining inspection, we know there are more mines. The negotiator for Arctic A airport transfer. Some of these positions seem to have a specific purpose. Is there sunset clauses on these additional PYs? Are they only in here for one year or are they going to be on the books forever?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there's a sunset on the Executive, seven PYs. There's a sunset on the office plan person for Public Works and Services. Transportation, again, there's a sunset on that with the negotiation. MACA, emergency measures, there's

a sunset on that one. Health, the two PYs there, Mr. Chairman, are vote 4 and vote 5 money, although there are employees there paid for by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. KOE:

I assume the sunset is still March 31, 1995, this fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it depends on the program, like the seven PYs and division; it just depends how long it takes to put all that information together and whether it requires seven PYs next year or whether the workload decreases after they wade through the initial exercise. I don't know. With Public Works and Services, yes, there is a sunset on that. I don't believe it is 1995; it is 1996, I believe. And in Transportation, I'm told by the Minister that he anticipates this transfer will be taking place within the next couple of months, or things will be concluded by then. So, I would imagine that would be concluded next year, as well, Mr. Chairman.

For the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, I'm not quite sure about emergency measures. Let me just check. Public Works and Services is 1997, not 1996. It is a three-year term position, Mr. Chairman. And MACA is emergency measures funding from the federal government, so one might say it expires each time the agreement with them expires which probably is at the end of the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

It seems strange that you need a PY to do an office plan for Yellowknife for three years. Anyway, I'll address that later. In terms of overall movement of PYs, during the past several years, the Cabinet made great pronouncements about decentralizing

departments and activities from headquarter areas, to regional headquarters and to communities. The majority of the transfers are from the Yellowknife area to regional centres.

Over the past three years, then, since we've been here, can the Minister give me some idea of how many PYs have been moved out of Yellowknife and, subsequent to that, how many

new positions have been created in Yellowknife at the headquarters region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I have that information, but I don't have it with me. I don't think we're going to conclude this supp today, so I will have it with me tomorrow. But, I will tell the committee that the initial decentralization out of Yellowknife was more than recouped by the capital city the next fiscal year, just from forced growth in the community. I recall a growth in teachers and so on.

I will have that information available for the committee tomorrow, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on an item that Mr. Koe was talking about, about the PYs increase. I recognize that four of these PYs are in response to SCOF recommendations, but it just seems to be a tremendous number of positions to increase in times of fiscal restraint. I'm also going to question the allocation. I would like the Minister to advise me, do we have a social worker in every community now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Mr. Chairman, we don't.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, instead of some of these positions, could we not have perhaps put the money into ensuring that

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basic social services are supplied to the people in all the communities of the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I suppose we could have. But, I'm told repeatedly by Mr. Kakfwi that he doesn't have enough people in his correctional centres to take care of the problems that are there, that his staff are getting burned out, and that there is potential for problems in these centres. He convinced us that he needed those extra positions.

We know that in Safety and Public Services, there has been a call for more monitoring across the Northwest Territories, whether it is in safety or whether it is in mines. We know there is an increase in mining activity in the Northwest Territories. And, so, there are two new mining inspectors required.

I can't defend the Public Works and Services Yellowknife office plan, I mean it was a requirement that was felt to be needed by the department. Mr. Chairman, I can't say that is as important as the other ones.

With regard to Rankin Inlet and Inuvik computer operators, that is just an area that is growing; that is, the transmission of data from those centres to us or between themselves. There is a need for more operators because of increased activity.

In Transportation, with Arctic A airports, we felt we needed a designated person to be there to conclude what we term is a very important agreement with Canada. We wanted a dedicated person who was totally committed to working in this area and, as I say, that is going to fold as soon as negotiations are either completed satisfactorily or they fail.

And, as I said, on the other ones. The two in Health are from the federal government, vote 45, as is

Municipal and Community Affairs. The one I suppose we could have done without is the Public Works and Services project officer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is difficult when you are talking about positions to find room to change things around. But, knowing the layer of people in Public Works and Services, I'm not surprised to hear the Minister say he cannot defend that one.

Mr. Chairman, regarding the 14.5 PYs for corrections, which are coming from a base deficiency, I would like to point out that that program was recently transferred from Social Services. And I have no doubt it was short when it came over; Social Services has always been at the short end of the stick. I would also like to point out that perhaps, here, we are providing 14.5 PYs to deal with people after they have got into trouble, instead of providing the social workers to provide the counselling and assistance to try to help keep people out of trouble in the first place, which would, in the long run, be a heck of a lot more efficient.

I would like to ask the Minister, when are we going to deal with this critical shortage of social service workers in the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health and Social Services and myself have discussed this issue and she assures me that she is working on this particular issue. I would hope that we will have some word for the House the next time we sit in the budget session, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I appreciate the commitment and the Minister can be assured that I will be waiting with much anticipation to hear such an announcement. I have another question, Mr. Chairman, and because it relates to more than one area in the detail, I would like to get it out now if I could. It has to do with the building and learning strategy.

At SCOF, we had asked Mr. Pollard whether or not there was an evaluation of value for money with the building and learning strategy. Our chairman's opening comments allude to the concern that because there's a large amount of money being spent on this, we need to know that there is some evaluation.

The committee is coming from a position of support on the program. Our gut feeling is that this is a good program. But with any expenditure, there should be some evaluation as to whether or not there is good value being received. The Minister's response to SCOF doesn't indicate whether or not there is any evaluation taking place. I was wondering if the Minister could assure us that the program is being evaluated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education and myself had occasion to talk about this today. We will assure this House that there will be an evaluation done of this particular program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. General comments. Detail of the document. The chair recognizes the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask the Minister a question on the PYs, just following up on the comments. Looking at the situation that we have here, during these really tough times of fiscal restraint, we see an increase to the PYs. We did receive a response, but the larger question I would like a response to is why in these tough times there is a request for a significant increase in the PYs? Was it not possible to meet the needs from within the

existing appropriations, perhaps through secondment or transfer or some other means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would point out that over the last three or four years we've actually decreased the number of employees that we have working across the Northwest Territories. I will admit that they've moved around by community, and some departments have gone down more than others, some departments have gained. But in this particular instance, the seven PYs in the Executive were already existing, Mr. Chairman, they were there last year. They're not exactly brand new, they were there working last year. The feeling was that these PYs were justified. It wasn't as many as departments were asking for, believe me.

Could we have done it from within? Well, yes, I suppose we could have downsized some more from within, Mr. Chairman. We chose not to do that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister of Finance. The clock having sounded 6:00 pm, I shall rise and report to the Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister and Mr. Voytilla for assisting us in the matter before the committee. 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 bills 17, 20 and 19, and would like to report progress and that bills 17 and 20 are ready for third reading. Madam Speaker, I

move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion is in order. Secunder to the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis. to the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1993-94, be read for the third time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 4(1), to have the House sit tomorrow, Thursday, November 10th, at 10:00 am instead of 1:30 pm.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 4(1) to change the time for Thursday, November 10th. Are there any nays? There are no nays. 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, a meeting of the Special Joint Committee on Division immediately after adjournment. Meetings tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Thursday, November 10th.

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

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8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

- Tabled Document 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 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3

- Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 10th at 10:00 am.

---ADJOURNMENT