



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Hon. Rebecca Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Ng, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 8-12(5): European Fur Import Regulation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A European community regulation with regard to fur import has the potential to stop the import of any wild fur pelt or product into Europe after 1994. After my meetings with European politicians, bureaucrats and non-government organizations a few weeks ago, I came to the realization that Canada has probably not yet done enough to ensure maintaining the European market for wild fur.

Over 75 per cent of our wild fur is sold to Europe. If we lose this market, we will lose our wild fur industry since no alternative markets exist at this time. This will have a very serious consequence for our trappers, our economy and our northern society.

The Europeans I met knew little about the Northwest Territories and about how we live. I spent a great deal of time talking to people about our communities, our economic options and that we want to be able to make a living from the resources in our backyard. These are the same goals that Europeans have but they do not seem to see this. I also explained that we are as committed to humane trapping methods as they are, or as they think they are. I told them of our programs and our progress. But, the animal welfare groups and the animal activists are very influential, very well organized and they seem to be everywhere.

These groups were surprised with the progress we have made toward humane trapping and are now campaigning on several fronts to make the regulations even more strict.

In 1988, long before the European regulation was agreed to, the Canadian Ministers of Wildlife agreed to adopt 12 recommendations made by the Fur Institute of Canada to make trapping more humane. Since then, the Department of Renewable Resources and trappers in the Northwest Territories have been working to learn new ways of trapping that are humane. This has not been an easy change and there are still some who are not convinced that it is necessary. I believe, however, and must emphasize, that it is necessary if we wish to sell our furs in the future.

During this session, I will be tabling a draft Northwest Territories fur strategy. This strategy will show the tremendous opportunities we have to increase our fur industry and provide more benefits to our harvesters and our people who work with furs. I want to make sure that this door remains open.

After I returned from Europe, I immediately wrote to the federal Ministers of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Indian and Northern Affairs and International Trade. I also met with the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrews and have written to Mr. Jack Anawak. We have requested that the European fur import regulation become Canada's top trade issue since no other trade issue faces a total embargo. We have also requested that the Minister of Environment, the Honourable Sheila Copps, meet with European Environment Ministers, whose staff are involved in determining how the European fur import regulation will be interpreted.

We have also contacted our provincial counterparts, who are now equally concerned. Environment Canada and all wildlife agencies will be meeting in Ottawa on February 14 to discuss the next steps Canada must take and assess again what is left to do to meet the requirements of the European regulation.

I will keep this Legislative Assembly advised and I have also directed the Department of Renewable Resources to keep trappers and the public on the Northwest Territories advised as events unfold. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Yellowknife Inuit Association

MR. ALLOOLOO:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the last session, I informed this House that local Inuit were in the process of forming an Inuit association here in Yellowknife. At that time, I talked about the importance of unity to the Inuit people, and the need for networking amongst Inuit living in Yellowknife. Since then, a dedicated group of volunteers has been working hard behind the scenes to make this new association a reality. (Translation ends)

Madam Speaker, there is a general consensus that the Yellowknife Inuit Association should provide moral support and be the vehicle for social gatherings. The Yellowknife Inuit Association will also, on occasion, contribute to the political process for Nunavut and the NWT in the important years to come.

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There is also an agreement that it should not be a strictly ethnic organization, but open to non-Inuit family members on an associate membership basis.

(Translation) Madam Speaker, I would also like to say that I'm very happy to announce that next Tuesday, February 15, 1994, at 7:00 pm, the Inuit of Yellowknife will gather in the great hall of this building to launch the new association. This will be an opportunity for Inuit to register themselves and their families with the association, as well as to kick up their heels at the square dance. In addition, real food such as char, caribou, bannock and tea will be served.

Madam Speaker, I invite all Inuit living in Yellowknife, whether they are Inuvialuit or Inuinait or if you are just here for that day, along with your families and friends, to attend the joyous occasion and help celebrate the birth of the Yellowknife Inuit Association. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Non-Participation Of Treaty 8 Chiefs In Constitutional Discussions

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last night, Members had the distinct pleasure of listening to Treaty 8 chiefs in our Caucus room. It was a historic occasion to have native leaders visiting with us in this place of Assembly. However, Madam Speaker, because of the difficult times we are now going through in terms of constitutional development, many problems have been posed in recent weeks because of the position of Treaty 8 chiefs not to participate in further constitutional discussion for the creation of a new Northwest Territories Act or a replacement act to deal with the requirements of the people left over when Nunavut is created in 1999.

I promised my colleagues this morning that I would not make a statement of great substance on this issue today until we've had further discussion among ourselves and also with the people we represent. But it does pose very grave problems for further constitutional debate in the west if some players have decided that they don't want to take part in the process. It seems to me that we could be heading towards the same kind of difficulty that Canada has headed in the past, when it has decided to proceed with constitutional development with the exclusion of Quebec.

For that reason, Madam Speaker, it seems to me we have to take a good look at this process to make sure that whatever steps we take over the next few months are done in the best interests of all the people in the western Arctic. Thank you, very much.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On A Balanced Budget

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today, before we begin consideration of the budget on Monday, to bring to the Members' and Ministers' attention a number of concerns I have on the subject of a balanced budget. All of us, as Members of this Legislative Assembly,

are aware of the serious shortage of social housing in some of our communities. As all of you also know, this shortage, by the very nature of the problems encountered by the individuals and families affected, contributes to the high costs of social and medical programs. This is an old problem. It is not going to go away. We have to deal with it.

Madam Speaker, the need for adequate housing is not the only priority this government faces in allocating its funding. Along with the age-old problems, which I will not repeat here, we face other new demands upon our finances. Issues that will have to be dealt with in the coming years include shelters for abused women and children, possible restitution for children abused in residential schools, salaries for care givers, gender equality and job equity for government employees.

Madam Speaker, some of these issues, such as pay equity, cannot be avoided. Sooner or later, this government is going to have to pay the piper. Where will this money come from? What programs or services are going to suffer? Sometimes, Madam Speaker, spending money on specific problems is the only way to deal with the larger picture. If we spend, for example, money now on women's shelters and public housing, we would be saving money on social programs in the long run. By helping the victims of abuse now, we prevent their children from becoming abusers themselves.

The business incentive policy and the negotiated contracts are like this. We may pay a little extra to get the job done, but we are helping the unemployed pay their own way.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. GARGAN:

Which, in turn, saves the government money on social programs. We have difficult choices to make. There are too many programs and services we can no longer put off. For the sake of the next generation, we must take action.

Madam Speaker, the Standing Committee on Finance has given the government little alternative but to present a balanced budget. But, this is part of the latest trend in Canadian politics, which is placing a burden on the subsequent generation. Madam Speaker, right now, I'm more concerned about

whether there will be a subsequent generation. I will be tabling a report prepared for me by the research division, outlining budget initiatives in other Canadian jurisdictions. Deficit financing may be the only option. I ask that Members not dismiss this option out of hand. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Cigarette Taxation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about a current national issue and also, unfortunately, an issue that is going to impact the territories

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and has already impacted my constituency of Iqaluit. That has to do with the question of tobacco taxes. I would like to make a few comments. Firstly, I'm appalled at the way the federal government has politicized this problem and reacted to political pressures on a very delicate public policy issue.

Secondly, I'm surprised that so far our government hasn't fully indicated where it stands. There was indication -- although the Premier indicated she was not fully briefed on the matter -- the other day that prices wouldn't change. That same day prices did change. They were lowered in my constituency and, I believe, in Yellowknife. I think we have to face reality that wholesalers are advising their customers in Iqaluit that they can and should reduce the price of cigarettes by the amount of the lowered federal tax.

There is some confusion now about just what our government's position is on this issue. In Iqaluit, I'm told by one retailer, whose letter I tabled in the House yesterday, that French cab drivers will be depriving the GNWT of tax revenue in Iqaluit by selling cigarettes and perhaps selling them indiscriminately to minors. I'm advised that cigarettes will be smuggled in, in food orders, and that people will stop or reduce their purchases in my constituency.

Yet, there are other considerations. We have a smoking and lung cancer epidemic in the Northwest Territories. We know that high prices are a deterrent to smoking and have, up to now, in Canada, resulted in a reduction by 40 per cent of the consumption of

cigarettes over the last ten years. This is an important issue that should be debated as a matter of public policy and probably in this Legislature. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Community Development

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the communities in my constituency. The visits were not as long as I would have liked them to be, however, I felt the meetings and visits were very useful. Each community, like every place else in the north, is different from each other, each with its own unique characteristics. However, there are outstanding issues in each of these communities that I feel this government could and must help with.

My concern is with the development of small communities, especially small communities such as Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Nahanni Butte and Wrigley. There are other communities in the north as well, such as Kakisa Lake, Bay Chimo, Bathurst Inlet and other communities I may have missed.

The government must assist these communities with more funding and technical assistance. There must be a concerted effort by all the departments in that region to help people develop their communities into strong communities. The goal, Madam Speaker, is to have strong communities.

At the present time, this government assists these communities minimally. The funding we get from Ottawa is the funding formula for all citizens of the Northwest Territories. However, the type of funding these communities are assisted with is not the same as other communities because they do not comply with MACA's definition, which I think is very wrong.

The mandate of government departments specifically states that the government will help communities develop into strong communities. There must be equity and fairness in the allocation of funding. Because these communities have band councils as community governments, they do not receive the same treatment as other more developed communities, which is wrong. They must be assisted

in their efforts to become strong, economically sound communities. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Northern Fire Brigades

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This winter has seen some unusually severe weather conditions, not only here in the north, but across Canada. There has been some very cold weather for long periods of time. Perhaps, as a consequence, we have also experienced an unusually high number of fires across the north and with that, the loss of lives. In December in Rankin Inlet, a fire totally destroyed a staff house with the loss of two lives. Last week in Yellowknife, there was a house fire in my riding, about six houses away from mine, early in the morning. It totally destroyed the house and there was a tragic loss of one life.

Madam Speaker, on two occasions this winter, I have had the opportunity to observe the Yellowknife fire fighters in action, under perhaps the worst conditions imaginable. Let me tell you it takes a very special person to become a fire fighter. This winter has seen the best of people that are working in that profession. Water hoses and trucks have frozen to the ground. Spray turns to ice not long after it leaves the nozzles. Water appears to be ineffective against fires. It almost appears that it is a losing battle. The fire fighters look like they are operating in a suit of armour. The ice forms on their clothing, their mitts and face masks. I believe we owe a great deal of gratitude to full time and volunteer men and women in every community across the north, who every day, risk their safety and put their lives in danger to fight for and protect the public. To them, we owe a great deal of appreciation.

Madam Speaker, a few years ago, I raised this same subject. I said while praise is good, praise is not enough. We have to equip our fire people with the best equipment and training to do the job. I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue with his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, colleagues and Madam Speaker. As I said, praise is not enough. We must provide them with the best equipment to do the job. Most importantly, we must provide them with the best training possible. New construction

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materials, new building techniques and very cold conditions have created new fire hazards. New techniques must be learned. They are faced with higher heats, toxic fumes, extreme outdoor temperatures and a host of dangerous new chemicals which, when combined with heat and water, are deadly.

I believe NWT firemen and women still utilize southern fire training centres in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. Madam Speaker, spaces in those centres are very scarce and there is concern expressed by our fire fighters about the possibilities of the loss of training opportunities as resources become scarce in the provinces as well. I believe, Madam Speaker, that it is time we, in the Northwest Territories, look into the feasibility of establishing a fire training centre somewhere in the north where we can experience the northern conditions and train northern fire fighters with different techniques to fight northern fires. We owe it to the fire people to provide them with the best training possible, under our unique conditions.

With that, I extend a thank you to those men and women who make up our community fire brigades. Their dedication and hard work will not go unnoticed.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 34(5), to make a motion to move Minister's Statement 5-12(5) titled, Session Business, into committee of the whole.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 34(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Dent.

Motion To Move Minister's Statement 5-12(5): Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and Members. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Natilikmiot, that Minister's Statement 5-12(5) titled, Session Business, be moved into committee of the whole for today.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 3, Members' Statements. I want to advise Members that I have been very lenient in allowing Members to go beyond their allotted time for Members' statements. However, I would respectfully ask Members to attempt to adhere to our rules for the two and a half minutes allotted for Members' statements. In the event you feel the need to go beyond two and a half minutes, I would ask that you be conscientious of the time and ask for unanimous consent to proceed, without me having to cut you off from your statements. So for next week, I would like you to be conscientious of the comments I am making to you today. Thank you.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 34-12(5): Report On Sale Of Staff Housing

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Alloo on February 9, report on sale of staff housing.

To date, the GNWT has sold a total of 123 staff houses and sales of 70 other units are pending. The breakdown, by region, is as follows:

1. In the Yellowknife region, 35 houses have been sold and nine sales are still pending;

2. In the Fort Smith region, 25 units have been sold and another 16 sales are pending;

3. In the Inuvik region, 26 units have been sold and nine sales are pending;

4. In the Baffin region, ten units have been sold and 18 sales are pending;

5. In the Kitikmeot region, three houses have been sold and no sales are pending;

6. In the Keewatin region, 24 houses have been sold and another 18 sales are pending.

The GNWT has received \$6,240,456 in revenue from the sales of staff houses. I will distribute a report to MLAs which includes a community-by-community breakdown of sales. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 2-12(5): Consultation With Dene Re Hunting Ban On Ingraham Trail

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Antoine, on December 13, regarding consultation with Dene with regard to the hunting ban on the Ingraham Trail.

The regulations enacted by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs prohibit the discharge of firearms in two separate areas along the Ingraham Trail. The purpose of the regulations is to promote public safety, especially during those months when caribou are in the area.

A letter from the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to Metis locals 55 and 66, the Yellowknives Dene Band, Ndilo Band, Yellowknife Hunters' and Trappers' Association and the Ingraham Trail Residents' Association was sent on August 12, 1993. The letter outlined draft regulations, a map indicating the areas affected and a request for comments. The departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Renewable Resources did not receive any comments.

A meeting between Municipal and Community Affairs and Renewable Resources officials and the Yellowknife Hunters' and Trappers' Association, the Yellowknives Dene Band and Ndilo Dene Band representatives took place on October 5, 1993. The representatives raised concerns over the regulations at this meeting, however no alternatives to the regulations were suggested.

The regulations were enacted on November 26, 1993. There has been no further consultation since the October 5, 1993 meeting. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 54-12(5): By-Law Officer Training Program

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of MACA. The small communities have a by-law officer responsible for the community. We realize that a by-law officer's job is a difficult job because they have to follow the by-laws. Many times the by-law officers are not trained to become by-law officers. I will ask the Minister this question, is he aware of a training program that is responsible for training by-law officers? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of MACA, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 54-12(5): By-Law Officer Training Program

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not able to come up with your answer at the moment. I will look into this and get back to you. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 54-12(5): By-Law Officer Training Program

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to my question to the Minister of MACA. After he looks into the possibility of a training program that exists for the by-law officers, and if he finds out there is not one available, is he going to try to establish a training program for the by-law officers in the communities? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of MACA, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 54-12(5): By-Law Officer Training Program

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there is no training program for the by-law officers, I will try to find out what we can do about establishing some type of program for the all of the NWT communities.

After I look into this program, I will get back to you. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 55-12(5): Construction Date Of Cape Dorset Airport

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question I will be directing to the Minister of Transportation. I will be directing two questions to the Minister. Madam Speaker, the Cape Dorset airport construction is going to take place in 1994. I just wonder if this is true. I want to find out if the construction of the airport is deferred to 1995. I wonder if I can get an answer to this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central.

Return To Question 55-12(5): Construction Date Of Cape Dorset Airport

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There are actually two developments taking place in Cape Dorset. One is a requirement for the upgrading of the airstrip, some of the lighting and some of the runway improvements. It's my understanding that that will take place this coming summer. There is also, in the capital budget, I think about \$1.3 million or \$1.4 million for a new air terminal building. I want to assure the honourable Member that some of the technological work will be done this year. Subject to approval by the Legislative Assembly, the new air terminal building will be built in 1995. So in 1994, there is going to be work on the airstrip, and in 1995, a new terminal building. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 55-12(5): Construction Date Of Cape Dorset Airport

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the answer to my question. I wonder if the Minister of Transportation can provide this answer, in writing, to the community of Cape Dorset. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 55-12(5): Construction Date Of Cape Dorset Airport

HON. JOHN TODD:

I would only be too happy to provide the correspondence directly to the municipality, advising them of this and advising them that Mr. Pudlat has supported the position. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

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Question 56-12(5): Benefits For Alcohol And Drug Workers In Off-Highway Communities

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services, and it's with regard to a response to a question I asked about the benefits only being designated to Inuvik and Iqaluit. In the Minister's response, she said that Inuvik and Iqaluit are off the highway systems so their benefits are different. The benefits that are a package for Hay River are different from those communities. I would like to ask whether Inuvik is off the highway system.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Gargan, I know you asked your question to the Minister of Social Services, but I understood that you asked if Inuvik was off the highway system. The highway systems are the responsibility of the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd. So, I would ask you to either rephrase your question or ask that it be directed to Mr. Todd, the Minister of Transportation. Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Social Services made a statement with regard to benefits. The justification for those benefits is that those communities are off the highway system. That is what she said. I always thought Inuvik was part of the highway system. If it isn't, then I would like to hear from the Minister that it isn't.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister of Social Services, I believe the Member wishes clarification on the statement you made with respect to determining what is on or off the highway system. Just looking at the Hansard, I will allow the Minister of Social Services to reply to Mr. Gargan's question. The Minister of Social Services, go ahead.

Return To Question 56-12(5): Benefits For Alcohol And Drug Workers In Off-Highway Communities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Inuvik is considered off the highway system when it comes to benefits. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement today, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, the Honourable John Pollard, if the Government of the Northwest Territories has determined yet what position it will take in the NWT in response to the action taken by the Government of Canada this past week to lower cigarette taxes by reducing the federal tax by \$5 a carton? Has the GNWT determined its position? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, no, we have not decided what to do, other than I will not propose decreasing our taxes. Beyond that, I should inform the House that I met yesterday with the RCMP. I talked with the RCMP in Iqaluit yesterday and I will be talking either today, this weekend or Monday morning in a conference call with all the health board chairs. I will be talking to the chief on the Dene reserve in Hay River on Monday. Any decision we make -- and I say we, Madam Speaker, because if I wanted to change the price of tobacco in the NWT, it has to come before the House, it is in legislation -- will be a decision of this House.

Before I propose what to do to Cabinet and to this House, we have to sit back and watch what is going to happen across Canada. The Department of Finance is discussing this issue with the western provinces. We already know what Quebec is going to do. The Department of Health is discussing the packaging issue with the Departments of Health across Canada. We haven't made a decision yet. When we make a decision on what to propose, it will be a steady decision and hopefully, the right decision. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister of Finance is that since he has stated he will not be, at least immediately, proposing a decrease in taxes in the Northwest Territories, in taking this position, what account has the Minister of Finance taken of the well-established link between cigarette prices and the rates of smoking? Is that a factor in the position for not decreasing taxes? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, that is the prime reason, although I would be less than honest if I didn't say we're worried about erosion of tax dollars as well. But, primarily, it's related to health. As most of you know, I was at a Health Ministers' conference on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Everybody knows that when you increase the price of tobacco, consumption goes down. Ministers of Health were saying to the federal Minister of Health that by this action of the federal government, you are going to incur large health costs down the road for those people who start up smoking because it's cheaper.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, looking at the situation in Ontario and Quebec, where people are smuggling cigarettes already into Ontario from Quebec and comparing that situation to the territories, it seems that with direct air links to Montreal, the Baffin region -- and particularly Iqaluit -- may be vulnerable to widespread smuggling. This is predicted by at least one of my constituents who is in the retail business.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance -- and he's had some conversations with the RCMP in Iqaluit, he said -- is the intention that the Department of Finance and the government, through the RCMP, will be closely monitoring and taking steps to control the incidence of cigarette smuggling in the Baffin and particularly in Iqaluit? Is that the idea behind these consultations with the police? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is indeed a complex issue, Madam Speaker. It is not just a question of whether we lower our taxes, maintain our taxes or move into the federal tax room. We have to look at the packaging and we have to look at the age. The federal government shows 18, which I think is wrong. It should have been 19. It is much easier to identify a 19 year old because that is the age they can get into bars, et cetera. So, I think they have made an error and they may revisit that area.

Right now, any one of us could bring in 50 cartons of cigarettes from a southern province and we wouldn't have broken the law, as long as we say we are going to write to John and send him the tax dollars he should have received on it. That puts the RCMP in a difficult position because they could never say to someone you have too many packages of cigarettes, and we suspect you are going to sell them as contraband. A person would say I am going to remit the taxes to the Department of Finance.

Then it goes back to where these people who order shipments from -- I know about the barge situation -- those people from Iqaluit. We are checking to see if those companies, that were mentioned in Mr. Harper's letter, do have tobacco licences issued by this government. We are looking at packaging and possession. We are looking at what other jurisdictions are doing. The whole thing is being taken into consideration before we make a move. I don't want to make a knee-jerk reaction that doesn't encompass the whole situation.

I recognize the suppliers of the retail outlets of the Northwest Territories are going to be under some business pressure. I want to do what I can to protect

their business as well. I mentioned the Dene reserve in Hay River, Madam Speaker, simply because if we keep our taxes up or if we move into the federal tax room, there is going to be a lot of pressure put upon the people on the reserve. I want to discuss that with the

chief down there before we make a decision. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My final supplementary has to do with the prices of cigarettes today in the Northwest Territories. I take it from the Minister's response to my opening question that it is presently GNWT policy not to decrease taxes and, therefore, not to lower the price of cigarettes because it will be an inducement to increase levels of smoking.

However, Madam Speaker, I am informed by retailers in my riding that they have been advised by wholesalers in Quebec that because wholesalers in Quebec are no longer paying federal taxes, the retailers in the Northwest Territories can and should pass on the savings and lower the price of cigarettes sold in the Northwest Territories by the amount of that lowered federal tax. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he is aware that, despite the present policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories not to change taxes and, therefore, not to lower prices, prices have already been lowered by the action of the federal government and by instructions given by wholesalers to retailers in the Northwest Territories? Those retailers were urged to call their wholesalers by the officials in the Minister's Department of Finance, who gave them that advice. Is the Minister aware of that situation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 57-12(5): GNWT's Position On Cigarette Taxation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I am, Madam Speaker. What is happening is we have no control over the federal tax. The Prime Minister stated that he would cover people's inventories. So the federal government advised wholesalers that on a particular day, I think it was the night of the 9th, they would do inventory and be able to recoup those federal taxes from their wholesalers. They were able to drop the price as soon as they wanted on the federal side of the tax.

As far as our side of the taxation is concerned, I could not change this tax until the 1st of April so we are not losing any money at the present time because that is the way the legislation is set up. Each quarter, I review the tax and we look at the retail price of cigarettes in the Northwest Territories, less the federal tax. So, yes, I am aware that the federal tax has already dropped the price of cigarettes across the Northwest Territories. Yes, I am aware that it was on the inventory that was on storekeepers' shelves on that particular day. I have no jurisdiction over that issue, but we have not dropped our territorial tax, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 58-12(5): Difference In Benefits For Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. In her last response to me with regard to the benefits for treatment workers, she indicated that Inuvik is considered off the highway system for benefits purposes only. I am sure the Minister is aware of what the differences are in benefits between treatment centres that are on the highway systems and off the highway systems. What is the difference between the benefits for people who work on the highway system and off the highway system?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question 58-12(5): Difference In Benefits For Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The benefits I was talking about, off the highway system, are settlement allowances. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 59-12(5): Policy For Commercial Quotas And Utilization Of Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. It relates to the development of a policy for maximization of renewable resources, the commercial quotas. Has the Minister ascertained if there is a policy in place, at this time?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 59-12(5): Policy For Commercial Quotas And Utilization Of Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

Could he ask the question again? Could I get clarification? Was it commercial quotas or was it utilization of renewable resources?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 59-12(5): Policy For Commercial Quotas And Utilization Of Renewable Resources

MR. NG:

It is a combination of both, the utilization of the commercial quotas and renewable resources that we have.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 59-12(5): Policy For Commercial Quotas And Utilization Of Renewable Resources

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Ng asked this question in the last session. We are working at trying to fast-track a policy, through the policy committee of Economic Development, as to how we can encourage and insist that commercial institutions that this government runs, as well as others, make greater utilization of our natural resources when it comes to fish, wild game, et cetera. I am hoping that that policy will be complete fairly soon and then I will be able to provide it to Mr. Ng so we can seek his comments. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 60-12(5): Status Of Initiatives For Drug And Alcohol Program

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Social Services. Madam Chair, over a number of years, Members on this side of the House, and partially on that side of the House, have been asking questions in relation to our drug and alcohol program. There have been a number of issues raised pertaining to that particular program, such as salaries. Since the Minister has taken over that portfolio, what has the department done with regard to resolving all the issues pertaining to our drug and alcohol program. Are there any new initiatives the department is undertaking? Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Zoe, we're not in committee of the whole, so I'm not Madam Chair. Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 60-12(5): Status Of Initiatives For Drug And Alcohol Program

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. One of the first steps we tried to address are the alcohol and drug treatment centre counsellors, to increase their wage levels to the equivalent of a government worker. The

second step, is we are looking into the community projects, not only alcohol and drug workers, but also other non-government organizations that we fund. The department is the phase of planning, so I would say the plans would be completed by September of 1994. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 60-12(5): Status Of Initiatives For Drug And Alcohol Program

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I wonder if the Minister has also taken into consideration, when they are reviewing all the drug and alcohol programs, about developing a formula for the community-based drug and alcohol workers, something similar to a formula we have when we fund our municipalities. I think that would be more fair and equitable if we do develop some sort of formula. I wonder if the department has taken that into consideration when they are dealing with the strategy for the drug and alcohol program? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

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Further Return To Question 60-12(5): Status Of Initiatives For Drug And Alcohol Program

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. These are the kinds of things that the department will consider. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Question 61-12(5): Rights Of Non-Aboriginal People To Own Land Under Claims Negotiations

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I talked to one of the elders here who I've known for a long time. About a year ago, I began discussing with him the possibility of building a house out at Prelude Lake where I have

title to a lot. I've had it for a long time, but only squirrels and other little animals live in the shack I have there right now because it wasn't very well built. So, I want to build a decent one that my wife and I can stay in.

In light of the new developments in relation to land claims in the Yellowknife area, whereby instead of a negotiated land claim agreement, the Treaty 8 people want to have a clarification of what Treaty 8 really meant, and the fact that they claim they have not seeded the land, I would like to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs -- and I'm using this personal example because it applies to lots of other people who own land outside of Yellowknife, what form of protection I have. I have to decide whether I'm going to build a good, decent sized house that will cost money, or just a little one that I won't worry about. What form of protection will I have, or other people like me, to build on titled lots outside of municipal boundaries?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 61-12(5): Rights Of Non-Aboriginal People To Own Land Under Claims Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, it has been the policy of the federal government that all existing third-party interests in areas that are under negotiations are respected. I don't expect the federal government will be changing its position in these negotiations. The nature and the scope of the talks that Treaty 8 will have with the federal government with regard to their treaty land entitlement, is still not clear. The scope of those discussions has yet to be defined. It's my understanding that the federal government always insists that whatever third-party interests exist at the time negotiations get under way, are to be respected. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 61-12(5): Rights Of Non-Aboriginal People To Own Land Under Claims Negotiations

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to ask the Minister, since the negotiations that would take place between the Treaty 8 chiefs and the federal government would not be to get a new treaty, a new agreement or a new deal, but on the basis of a treaty that already exists, does that change the nature of negotiations from the one that the Minister is familiar with, whereby the federal government always honours such things as current ownership of title?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 61-12(5): Rights Of Non-Aboriginal People To Own Land Under Claims Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, it's my understanding that there are two different versions with regard to Treaty 8. There is the written version that the federal government has, then there is the Dene version, the oral version as held by the Dene chiefs and the elders of the Treaty 8 region. The intent of the talks will determine whose version is the correct version. Whether that's going to be done through the courts or through negotiations remains to be seen, but I would expect that the federal government would probably take a very restricted view in their interpretation of the treaties, and the Dene will take the view that they've long held through the years. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister who is responsible for the buy north policy. With regard to the community of Fort Liard, this policy is not very flexible and not very reasonable. It doesn't use common sense when you live in Fort Liard, because 20 miles away is the BC border and with a two-hour drive by highway, you're in the community of Fort Nelson where the prices are a lot cheaper. That's where the community of Fort Liard has been buying all their goods in the past. Since this buy north policy came into effect, they have been in a dilemma about where they're going to get their goods. It's causing a lot of problems for them. It was brought to

my attention and I would like to ask the Minister if this policy could be flexible enough to allow the community of Fort Liard to continue to buy their goods and supplies in Fort Nelson. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. People can buy their goods or food wherever they want, but if they're spending GNWT money on projects or business, then our policy will apply. There will be a percentage applied to their tenders. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

MR. ANTOINE:

Specifically, the problem is that government-funded operations like the school and the different government departments were buying supplies from Fort Nelson in the past. However, with this new buy north policy, it's costing them extra money to buy things from other places. The next

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biggest centre is Fort Simpson, which is about a four-hour drive. In comparison, you have a four-hour drive and more expensive material, and a two-hour drive where you can buy things a lot cheaper. One of the purposes of the government is to try to save money and you balance that by trying to buy in the north. It doesn't make sense for citizens in Fort Liard. That is the problem we have. Is the Minister willing to look at this situation and see if we can be flexible and reasonable in some of the policies that we have been passing? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The business incentive policy was put in place to encourage businesses to do business in the north. It has created a lot of jobs in the Northwest Territories. If there is a funding problem with the school boards, that should be taken up with the Minister of Education. As far as I understand it, they are funded adequately, in order for them to buy in the Northwest Territories. School boards, health boards, nursing stations or DPW, buy in the north. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he is willing to look at the unique situation in Fort Liard and see if there is a possibility of being flexible with this policy. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 62-12(5): Business Incentive Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be happy to look at this unique situation to try to see if we can help them out to make it easier for them to buy in the north. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 63-12(5): Funding For Education On The Dangers Of Smoking

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister of

Finance. Madam Speaker, I'm glad the Minister is taking the issue of tobacco taxation as a health issue. I agree with the Minister 100 per cent. I'm wondering if the honourable Minister would consider giving increased funding to the health boards so the health boards in different regions can try to fight against the dangers of smoking? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 63-12(5): Funding For Education On The Dangers Of Smoking

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the whole issue of education in the health field is up for grabs right now. The federal government is going to have over \$168 million over two years to spend in the provinces and territories, to teach people and get the message across about the dangers of smoking. The provinces and territories, right now, are discussing that issue with the federal government. I think, around the table last week, we were fairly convinced that the money should flow through us right to communities, boards and to the people actually doing work in the communities, depending on the jurisdictions across Canada.

The answer is, there is money forthcoming and it will go to the boards, yes, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Question 64-12(5): Concerns With Bank Debit Card Arrangements

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Yesterday, I pointed out the concern with the exclusive debit card agreement between the CIBC and the Northwest Company. Although I recognize that the government wasn't directly involved with that agreement, they are indirectly involved, in that it came about as a result of the GNWT's proposal call to supply banking services to our communities. I would like to ask the Minister if he recognizes that problem and if he does, how he plans to address it?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 64-12(5): Concerns With Bank Debit Card Arrangements

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I do recognize the problem, although I would advise the House that what the CIBC is doing in the Northwest Territories, they have been doing in northern Manitoba for some time. They were well down the road to negotiating this arrangement with the Northern stores six or eight months ago. I think all we've done is moved ahead their time schedule.

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I would point out to the Member, through you, Madam Speaker, that there are other banks dealing in the Northwest Territories, at the present time, which are looking at other communities. I'm aware that those talks are ongoing. There may be other banks who are going to move into other communities with some services. Certainly, I don't want to give anybody the impression that there's a bank talking about a standard bricks and mortar bank, but they're certainly looking at things like debit cards and money machines.

I want to be very frank with the house that I'm somewhat alarmed at a letter I've received from Northern stores that indicated to me that they don't feel the CIBC has an exclusive agreement with Northern stores. I checked with our people who were in the room when the CIBC made a presentation to them and they said they felt that the CIBC indicated a sole vendors agreement, an exclusive agreement. I'm having that checked out at the present time, Madam Speaker. If, in fact, the Northern stores are correct in what they say, it does not preclude other banks from going to other branches of Northern stores and co-operatives and saying they will put in debit card systems. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Finance or the

Minister of Health, I'm not sure which of the two because, Madam Speaker, the Minister appears to be caught between a rock and a hard place. As Minister of Finance, he wants to see that our finances are in good order and that means ensuring we get every tax dollar from the public. On the other hand, he's Minister responsible for Health, and he wants to ensure that northerners receive the best of health care, and preventative health care. I think it has almost been shown conclusively how cigarette taxes have improved the health of Canadians by reducing the consumption of tobacco.

We all know that when a luxury commodity becomes too expensive, people quit using it. Therefore, if he's Minister for both, I'm wondering which hat he wears the most? I would like to ask the Minister when he was in Ottawa, which hat was he wearing when the federal government consulted him on this matter, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Go ahead, Mr. Whitford.

Question 65-12(5): Minister's Role In Consultations Re Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Madam Speaker, perhaps I was speaking metaphorically and I shouldn't have. I would like to ask the Minister, which Minister was he when he was in Ottawa when the Canadian government consulted him -- if they consulted him -- on this tax issue? I shouldn't speak in metaphors.

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 65-12(5): Minister's Role In Consultations Re Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was Minister of Finance at the Finance Ministers' meeting when this issue was discussed and I was Minister of Health at the recent Health Ministers' meeting when this issue was discussed. If people are worried that if I have a conflict, Madam Speaker, the Minister of Health wants to save lives and the Minister of Finance wants to save dollars. I think this is a win-win

situation. Anyway you cut it, if more people start smoking, we're going to have to pay that price down the road and it's a huge price across Canada. I think we can handle this thing.

I want people to disregard the money issue right now, as far as revenues lost or revenues gained, although they're important. The issue right now is that the cost to us down the road is going to be human lives, it is going to be emphysema, it's going to be lung cancer and heart disease. We have seen a lessening of smoking in the Northwest Territories in the last three years and we want that to continue. One of the ways we can do that is by keeping the price higher. I think that's what we have to keep in mind, the health of our population, because we already do pretty well at smoking and we certainly don't want it to increase. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 65-12(5): Minister's Role In Consultations Re Tobacco Tax

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a letter and I'm sure all the Members received it too, from a well-known citizen of our community who knows only too well the effects of tobacco on health. He urges that the Minister not cave into the actions of the federal government by reducing cigarette taxes and to keep the taxes high so that consumption remains low. I guess the Minister has a tough job to do because of the smuggling part of it.

He has pointed out what he is going to do, but I just wonder what the effect of this is going to be, when he says if someone decides to bring a couple of cartons of cigarettes over the border and the police catch them, all they have to say is they're going to pay the tax on it later on. In his conversations with the RCMP on this matter, have they indicated what kind of follow up takes place after someone makes a commitment to pay the taxes voluntarily on tobacco products that are brought over? Is there any follow up on this?

MADAM SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 65-12(5): Minister's Role In Consultations Re Tobacco Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I don't want anybody to think that the RCMP are going to be standing at the bottom of the stairs of aircrafts, asking people how many cartons of cigarettes they have on them. That's not what I'm intending to get across. What I'm saying is that if the RCMP stopped you from speeding to the airport and your trunk was full of cigarettes, you could turn around and say that you are going to send the taxes in.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The subject of taxes also relates to another commodity, that being the purchase of alcohol in the provinces. Does this same principle apply to the import of alcohol products from other provinces, when taxes are not paid in the territories? Does the voluntary aspect of the import of alcohol from other provinces apply, as well?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Whitford, I know what you are attempting to ask the Minister of Finance, but supplementaries are intended to follow suit with the initial question. You initially questioned the Minister of Health and then went to the taxes applied by the Minister of Finance. Now, you're attempting to seek an answer from the Minister of Finance with respect to alcohol. I would like to ask you to rephrase your question to either ask a question about taxes or a question that relates to your initial question to the Minister of Health. That is the intent of supplementary questions. Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thought the Minister was answering as the Minister of Finance, because it is hard to separate that kind of creature. It is hard to tell from this distance what he is exactly, at this moment in time.

---Laughter

I thought he answered as the Minister of Finance and that's why I asked the question dealing with finances. I can't carry on the questioning on alcohol because it

doesn't relate to tobacco, although people do smoke and drink at the same time. I will save it for another day, Madam Speaker.

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Not everyone smokes and drinks at the same time.

---Laughter

Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 66-12(5): Transportation Of Equipment From Fort Simpson To Trout Lake

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Government Services. It is in regard to Trout Lake. For two weeks now, the furniture for their new building has been sitting in Simpson. They have a new water truck and sewer wagon that is supposed to go on the loader. I would like to ask the Minister if the supplies have arrived in Trout Lake by this time or not?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Government Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 66-12(5): Transportation Of Equipment From Fort Simpson To Trout Lake

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The truck that was supposed to haul this material and the fuel pump belong to a local contractor. I've instructed the department to get the office furniture, the water tank and the sewer tank in the community today. It is supposed to be there. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 66-12(5): Transportation Of Equipment From Fort Simpson To Trout Lake

MR. ANTOINE:

I don't know if this is the result of the equipment not being in the community sooner, but a building burned down the other night. The chemicals in the fire truck weren't useful and the water tank was too small and froze up, so this building burned down. Sixty chickens got fried to death.

---Laughter

The chicken coop burned down and they lost their chickens. The community doesn't have any more eggs, I guess. It is funny but, at the same time, if it were a bigger building with people living in it, I think they would have had some problems. The community wanted me to ask the Minister when this equipment was going to be in, and the sooner the better. If it is confirmed for Friday...I don't know if there is a question in this, Madam Speaker, but...

---Laughter

Could the Minister tell me for sure that this equipment is going into the community today? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Government Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 66-12(5): Transportation Of Equipment From Fort Simpson To Trout Lake

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've instructed the department to do everything possible to get the water tank, the sewer tank and the furniture for the office into Trout Lake by today. Their response was that it was a local contractor that had the contract and the fuel pump is on a truck that is awaiting parts. I know the Fort Simpson area and I know there are other tractors available in the area, so I've instructed them to hire another tractor and take that equipment over. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

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Question 67-12(5): Impact On Business Sales Due To Tobacco Tax Cuts

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development if he's aware of concerns expressed by at least one Iqaluit retailer about the impact on the business sales of cigarettes and food as a result of federal tax policy changes on tobacco? Is the Minister aware of the concern about the impact? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 67-12(5): Impact On Business Sales Due To Tobacco Tax Cuts

HON. JOHN TODD:

Am I aware? I know that Mr. Harper, your constituent, has written a letter expressing concern about the impact this will have, both on the business community and more importantly, on where people spend their income. That is as much as I know at this time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 67-12(5): Impact On Business Sales Due To Tobacco Tax Cuts

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I think Mr. Harper believes the solution is that the territorial government should lower prices by lowering taxes on cigarettes to avoid leakage of purchasing dollars to the south. I'm also aware that Mr. Pollard has, at present, taken a very firm stand that there will be no reduced taxes for reasons that I understand and respect. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, given that this tax policy -- which I'm not adverse to -- could have an adverse impact on an important retail sector which employs many local people in Iqaluit, will the Minister undertake to have his officials look into the situation and monitor the business impacts that this tax policy might have on the retail sector in Iqaluit? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 67-12(5): Impact On Business Sales Due To Tobacco Tax Cuts

HON. JOHN TODD:

I'm having a difficult time being objective because I'm a non-smoker. I suppose I have to qualify that. I think perhaps, with all due respect to Mr. Harper and others, they may be overreacting at this time. I think what we've got to do is look at the percentage of their sales in cigarettes, in comparison with everything else they do. I suspect that when you're running a large retail operation like Mr. Harper and others, it doesn't have the same effect as it does on the small smoke shop in Ontario and Quebec where there was concern raised.

However, what I am prepared to do is sit down with the retailers if there are some specific issues like Mr. Harper raises and take a look at them. I think, perhaps, with all due respect, we have to put this thing into perspective. What is the percentage of sales and the return on investments with the sale of cigarettes, in comparison to selling cabbage, potatoes or Carnation milk? I suspect, from my previous experience, that the return on cigarettes is marginal. I also suspect, and it is only a suspicion, that the impact on somebody's bottom line in sales is probably marginal. We will look into it and we will specifically look into the case in Iqaluit. But I want to look into it from that perspective. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The allotted time for oral questions has lapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to table the following, Tabled Document 18-12(5), Deficit Management Options, Interjurisdictional Survey.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 11-12(5): Declaration On Family Violence

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislature adopts a principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and endorses the goal of eliminating family violence by the year 2000;

And furthermore, that this Legislature invites all northern leaders, such as leaders of aboriginal organizations, municipal governments, trade unions, boards, agencies and societies to make a similar commitment by adopting this declaration in spirit and in practice.

Madam Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to proceed with my motion today.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I shall move that Bill 12, an Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

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Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Motor Vehicles Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I shall move that Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I shall move that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

Bill 8: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I shall move that Bill 8, and Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Bill 11: An Act to Amend The Safety Act

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 14, 1994, I shall move that Bill 11, an Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed today with my motion on the particular issue of family violence. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to continue with his motion today with regard to zero tolerance against all people, Motion 11-12(5). Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

Point Of Order

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I wonder if you could allow a moment. I think the motion is just, at this moment, being circulated. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Your point of order is not a point of order because we do not have unanimous consent yet to address the motion. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot is seeking unanimous consent to address Motion 11-12(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 11-12(5): Declaration On Family Violence, Carried

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, thank you colleagues.

WHEREAS, violence against all people, especially elders and disabled people, men, women and children, and violence within the family in particular, is occurring at levels which are tragic and destructive, not only to those directly affected, but to all of northern society;

AND WHEREAS, family violence consists predominantly of violence by men against women and children;

AND WHEREAS, violence includes physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse;

AND WHEREAS, violence has, for too long, been tolerated, the incidence of violence denied, and its effects minimized;

AND WHEREAS, the practice of violence is transmitted from generation to generation; children and youth are educated by experience and example to practice violence;

AND WHEREAS, everyone is entitled to live free from violence;

AND WHEREAS, family violence will only be contained and reduced if northern society refuses to continue to tolerate its occurrence;

AND WHEREAS, this Assembly has heard representation from women's groups, the aged and disabled, and discussed the issue of family violence in committee of the whole;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislature adopts the principle of zero tolerance of violence against all people and endorses the goal of eliminating family violence by the year 2000;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislature invites all northern leaders, such as leaders of aboriginal organizations, municipal governments, trade unions, boards and agencies and societies, to make a similar commitment by adopting this declaration in spirit and in practice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. Point of order, honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Point Of Order

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Madam Speaker, I think there's a typographical error in the first "whereas." It says, "WHEREAS violence against all people, especially elders and disabled people, men, women and children..." The intent, I think, of the mover and seconder was to say that although we condemn violence against all people, we recognize that certain people in society are more vulnerable than others. I believe the word

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"men" in the first line of the first "whereas" should have been deleted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your point of order is noted, Mr. Ballantyne, however, it's up to the Member to put forth his "whereases" as read into the record. If the Member chooses to amend the "whereases", then I would suggest it be done accordingly. However, it's not a point of order because the "whereases" have been read into the record. Thank you. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The seconder to the motion, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, Member for Sahtu, and I conferred on this and we have agreed to eliminate the word "men" from the motion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Secunder to the motion, are you agreed to the amendment?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, it was the intention to have dropped the word "men." It was just in retyping that it was once again included. So both the mover and myself agree the record should show that the word "men" was not included in the first "whereas." Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The motion, as presented, eliminating the typographical error including the word "men" in the first paragraph. Motion 11-12(5), as presented, is in order. Any further discussion? To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

---Applause

It wasn't carried unanimously because everyone in the room didn't place their hand up. A recorded vote can only be called prior to the call of the vote. Thank you.

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-

12(5), Towards an NWT Mineral Strategy; Tabled Document 2-12(5), Building and Learning Strategy; Tabled Document 3-12(5), Towards a Strategy to 2010: A Discussion Paper; Tabled Document 5-12(5), Declaration of Family Violence; and, Tabled Document 11-12(5), First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT for the Year 1992-93, with Mr. Whitford in the chair. Thank you.

ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee of the whole will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion to report progress which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress to the Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 19, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Madam Speaker, your committee has been...Your committee would like to report progress. Sorry, we didn't do anything, Madam Speaker.

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder to the motion?
Seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot,
Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. All those in
favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk,
orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the
Caucus working group at 12:00 noon today. On
Saturday at 9:30 am, there is a meeting of the
Standing Committee on Finance; on Monday morning
at 9:00 am, there is a meeting of the Standing
Committee on Legislation; and, at 10:30 am of the
Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for
Monday, February 14, 1994.

1. Prayer
 2. Budget Address
 3. Ministers' Statements
 4. Members' Statements
 5. Returns to Oral Questions
 6. Oral Questions
 7. Written Questions
 8. Returns to Written Questions
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9. Replies to Opening Address
 10. Replies to Budget Address
 11. Petitions
 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of
Bills
 14. Tabling of Documents
 15. Notices of Motion
 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Legislative
Assembly and Executive Council Act
 - Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles
Act
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of
Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 5-12(5), Session
Business
 - Tabled Document 1-12(5), Towards an
NWT Mineral Strategy
 - Tabled Document 2-12(5), Building and
Learning Strategy
 - Tabled Document 3-12(5), Towards a
Strategy to 2010: A Discussion Paper
 - Tabled Document 11-12(5), First Annual
Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT
for the Year 1992-93
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until
Monday, February 14, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT