



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 21-12(5): Minister Absent From The House

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Honourable John Todd will be absent from the House today and Monday on personal business. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Payroll Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. In February 1993, during debate on the proposed payroll tax initiative, the Minister of Finance made many compassionate pleas and arguments regarding the objectives and merits of the payroll tax. The main argument used, in one of the objectives of the payroll tax, is to obtain tax revenues from individuals who work in the Northwest Territories, but do not reside nor pay income tax in the Northwest Territories.

The Minister also stated that after years of study, the payroll tax system was determined to be the only

feasible method to meet the objective of taxing temporary and non-resident workers. In the recent budget speech of February 14, the Minister of Finance stated that, "This government remains convinced that all individuals who are employed in the Northwest Territories must share in the tax burden. The payroll tax is the most effective way we have to ensure that such sharing takes place." However, on February 15, 1994, in response to an oral question made by my colleague, Mr. Whitford, the Minister of Finance admitted that not everyone who works in the Northwest Territories has been trapped in the net, for example, self-employed people.

Madam Speaker, these comments and statements give some mixed messages. Initially, when the Minister of Finance was seeking support for the payroll tax bill, he used the argument that the burden be placed on workers from outside of the Northwest Territories. Now he states that this government remains convinced that all individuals who are employed in the Northwest Territories must share in the tax burden, through the payroll tax. Madam Speaker, the public deserves a consistent message. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Speaker would like to recognize in the gallery, Lucy Fillion, from Edmonton and Diane Wearden, from Peace River and their competitive skipping team representing the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Welcome.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Performance Of Ministers

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, I have been asked to advise the Premier, through you, Madam Speaker, that we have some concerns. Madam Speaker, in December, Members and Ministers were involved in the mid-term review. During that review, the responsiveness of Ministers was a key factor in reviewing their performance. Ministers were told that we expect them to be prepared and to treat ordinary Members with courtesy and respect.

Madam Speaker, since the review, there seems to be a somewhat disturbing trend taking place among

some Ministers, especially during question period. More than once, Ministers have not answered questions saying they have not been in the portfolio long enough. I must say, Members on this side feel that after periods of three to six months, we expect Ministers to be prepared for question period.

Sometimes it has been obvious that Ministers have not been paying attention and questions have had to be asked again or Members have had to point out that Ministers are not prepared to hear a question when they don't speak a language in which the question is being posed. Other times, Members have been told that if a Member wants an answer to a question, they could go directly to the department. Madam Speaker, Members have a privilege in this House of asking questions that they believe the Minister should have the knowledge of. Members expect to get an answer from the Ministers. If the Minister isn't prepared to give an answer, he always has the option of taking the question as notice. But it is not considered acceptable, by Members on this side of the House, for a Minister to suggest that a Member should go directly to the department.

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OMC Members are asking questions which are important to them and to their constituents. Ministers are expected during question period to pay attention and respond as fully as they can. A cooperative relationship will help all of us do a better job for all of our constituents. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Health And Safety Concerns Of People Living In The Bush

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not what is called a "linear thinker," Madam Speaker. So I try to get as much in my Member's statement as I possibly can and hope that people can take the messages from it. My statement today owes its origin to three different sources. The fact that we met with the representatives of the Treaty 11 chiefs last night and I had a chance to think about the way things must have been in 1921. This week we also discussed the

extension of benefits to hunters and trappers and the fact that there is some concern that perhaps things that go on in the bush are not that serious and we should be looking at their benefits.

Also what prompted my statement today, Madam Speaker, is the continuing debate between smoking and health. I read the other night, Madam Speaker, in the case of snow blindness, many, many years ago it was the custom that if a man were to become snow blind -- on the kinds of days that we're having just about now -- to drag the partner into the bush, open up the eyelids and then proceed to wipe the person's eyeballs with the tongue. That, in fact, cured snow blindness. However, the text I read from by a Metis elder, which was recorded about 100 years ago, was that you don't allow your partner to do that if he is a smoker. Because, if you smoke and you try to cure snow blindness, then the nicotine from your tongue would, in fact, make your eyes even worse than they were before.

The message I'm giving today is that those people who live in the bush really are afraid of becoming sick, they're afraid of injury, they're very careful and this little incident from the past indicates the degree to which people were really concerned about safety and conducting themselves in a way that make their way of life a safe occupation. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On The Passing Of Wayne McTaggart

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and the many friends of Wayne McTaggart of Fort Norman.

Wayne McTaggart committed suicide a few days ago. A young man who has endured many personal tragedies and difficulties during his lifetime. Wayne had always taken a deep personal interest, in all the years I've known him, in advancing the political cause and fighting for the right and recognition of Metis people, and has done extensive work and has involved himself at great length with the development of the Dene/Metis comprehensive claim that took place during the early and late 1980s. He worked

tirelessly for the Metis of his community and the Northwest Territories, and has served as a past executive of the Metis Nation.

More recently, he chaired the Sahtu Land Claim Ratification Committee. He was always seen to approach his work with a sense of commitment and a sense of humour. I must say, in spite of the incredibly difficult issues and conflicts that all of us have endured over the years in our work supporting the cause of Metis people, Dene people, Inuit and Inuvialuit, many of us have found sometimes a need to dip into inflicting upon each other some personal pain, some insults and sarcasm. I must say from a personal point of view, Mr. McTaggart was one person who has never, in every instance that I've dealt with him, done that to me. In spite of the differences we've had in the approach we want to take to the work, in spite of all his rough edges and his personal background he has never, in my recollection, taken to personalizing the differences that we've come up to on occasion.

He is one person that I know who I've worked with over the years who always conducted himself professionally in working out the many problems and issues that we had to tackle together.

I wish to let the Members know that I've been very, very shaken with the loss of this man. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inuit Archaeology Conference

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would to inform the House of the meeting that recently took place in one of the communities in my constituency, Igloodik.

During the week of February 7, 1994, the first ever conference on Inuit archaeology in Nunavut took place. The name of the conference was "Ittarnisaliirijiit," which means those who deal with ancient artifacts, in Inuktitut. The main purpose of the conference was to find a way for Inuit to work more closely with archaeologists and cultural groups, and also to set up guidelines for a conduct for archaeologists working in Inuit lands.

I've been informed by the co-chair of the conference, Deborah Kigjugalik-Webster, that the meeting went extremely well. I will be tabling, later on during this session, the 20 resolutions that were adopted at the conference. These resolutions range from encouraging archaeologists to involve local people in projects, ensuring projects have the approval of the hamlet councils, the involvement of elders, the translation of reports into Inuktitut, the set-up of regional museums and many others.

I encourage the organizers of the conference to continue with the good work started at this first-ever conference of its type in Nunavut. I want to also assure them that I am committed to actively supporting the continuation of this valuable work in the form of ongoing dialogue and future conferences.

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For the information of Members of this House and the public, the conference proceedings will be aired on CBC North, Inuktitut Current Affairs program, "Aqsarniit", on February 23. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Telecommunications Technology

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The other day I was going through some of my things. I was going to clean out my basement and throw out some things. I came across this scrapbook I had that dealt with some newspaper clippings from the launch of the satellite, Anik "A". It's brought back a flood of memories. Back in 1972 when I was attending AVTC -- Adult Vocational Training Centre in Fort Smith -- we had an occasion to participate in this launch of Anik "A" satellite at Cape Kennedy. We raised money and travelled to Florida to be guests of Telesat Canada to see this launch.

It went off almost on schedule -- a couple of hours late -- but it had a number of firsts, Madam Speaker. It was the first Canadian communication satellite and it was the first satellite that would directly affect the north to the degree that it has. Because it was late, it

was also the first nighttime launch of a satellite from the Cape. So it had a little bit of a history to it.

Most people, at the time, hailed this as a great improvement. Something we should be pleased with. But there were sceptics who said it would ruin the north, it would change it forever. It would change the spirit of the north. One thing we do know, Madam Speaker, is that it did change the north. For good or bad, it brought people much closer together. And we took the good with the bad.

In 1979, Madam Speaker, I was there on holidays in Florida, and I also had another occasion to attend the launching of yet another of the Anik class satellites, Anik "C". This was to greatly improve our telecommunications.

Madam Speaker, if I may seek unanimous consent to conclude.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, colleagues. It would vastly improve our telecommunications network and again substantially improve our lives, as did Anik 1. Today, we don't realize the degree to which we depend on satellites in our everyday living. Members will recall about three weeks ago, we had a major disruption in the north, as a result of solar flares. We lost, not one, but two satellites within a very short period of time. It caused major disruption in the north to telephones, television, fax machines, et cetera. There was a big scramble to get alternate sources of telecommunications as a result of it.

I just wanted to point out that we are dependent on satellite technology and it all began back in November of 1972. A number of northern kids were at that occasion and I am sure they look back with some pride in having participated in that. I just wanted to remember that to the Members, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

-Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Funding Of Family Violence Programs

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, last week on the inspiration of Mr. Kakfwi, we had a debate on family violence. It was described in his opening address, "...as a very significant problem that deserves our serious attention." We were reminded that reported violence in the Northwest Territories in the family area is six times the national average. Mr. Kakfwi stated, "This is more than a disgrace, it is a tragedy." And he proposed a demonstration of leadership and commitment in the form of a declaration of zero tolerance. He acknowledged that this would be a significant step, but cautioned that it would also only be a symbolic step. Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Kakfwi for clearly leading the way in bringing this critical issue to the fore in this Legislature and in Cabinet and tabling the very thoughtful, Building a Strategy for Dealing with Violence in the Northwest Territories, last fall.

However, Madam Speaker, many people who are anxious for action in this area, are wondering if Mr. Kakfwi is a lone voice in Cabinet. Is he so far ahead of his Cabinet colleagues that he has left the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Social Services behind? The Standing Committee on Finance has observed that despite the attention paid by this government to family violence, there is no increase whatsoever in grants and contributions, in family violence prevention services, child sexual abuse programs and family counselling. These are areas where we would have expected to see funding increased in order to make meaningful progress towards zero tolerance.

Madam Speaker, I hope we will soon see that our government's commitment to zero tolerance is more than just words. And I can do no better than quote the presentation from the Status of Women in this House a few days ago. "If this Assembly would commit to healthy citizens as its priority, what then? The dollars, limited as they are, would go to healing first. Everything else waits in line. Do you have the courage to do that?" Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Native Animal Brotherhood
Statement Re Fur For Fashion

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have listened with amusement to a CBC Radio interview on February 11 with Peter Hollingsworth, a representative of the Native Animal Brotherhood - Aboriginal People Against Furs for Fashion. In his statement, Mr. Hollingsworth said that the fur trade was morally and ethically wrong and that the fur trade did not exist before the Europeans introduced it to the aboriginal people. Madam Speaker, I would not want to guess what planet this individual is from. What did we wear if we did not use furs for fashion?

When I listened to the interview, the image of natives running around buck naked kept leaping into my mind. I then had this vision of grass skirts and spruce bras.

---Laughter

Perhaps leaves, one for the men, three for the women, step on the blue suede shoes.

---Laughter

Then I thought about the weather up here. Then I thought about the mosquitos. I decided that we probably did wear clothes of some kind. I know for a fact that our people ate wildlife meat and used their skins long before the white man ever showed up. Ceremonial dress, in most aboriginal cultures, involves the use of small animal skins, such as rabbits or beavers. When this gentlemen says that we, as people, should get out of trapping, that it is no longer economically viable, that our people should become part of the wage economy, that is all well and good, Madam Speaker, when you are from Guelph, Ontario like Mr. Hollingsworth, and have the opportunity to participate in the economy. But I would like to point out to Mr. Hollingsworth that trapping in this day and age is more often a means to an end for aboriginal people.

A person needs to be able to buy guns and bullets in order to hunt so he can eat. To buy these things, you need money. To get money, you have to have a job. There are hardly any jobs up here. So a person has to trap to get money. A vicious cycle, indeed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, except for...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Gargan, your time has lapsed. Does the honourable Member seek unanimous consent?

MR. GARGAN:

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable Members. Madam Speaker, except for the natives who sold Manhattan Island for \$26 in glass beads, our people are some of the smartest, most resourceful and environmentally conscious people in the world. We have adapted to the most inhospitable climate and conditions in the world. I do not blame my ancestors for wanting to trade with the Europeans for things that would make their lives easier in this harsh land. If the white man wanted ten muskrat pelts for a tin pot, it seemed like a good deal at the time.

Madam Speaker, my message to this House, and to the media, is to please not give too much credence to the position of the Native Animal Brotherhood of Guelph, Ontario, an organization that I think has lost touch with most of their identity and does not speak for a majority of aboriginal people in Canada. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arnngna'naaq.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Oral Question 96-12(5): Community
Contribution Policy For Recreation Facilities

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 14, 1994,

regarding community contribution policy for recreation facilities.

The policy with regard to municipal capital infrastructure has evolved over the years in order to reflect the current needs of communities in the Northwest Territories.

The most recent change in policy regarding community contributions to recreation facilities has come as a result of Cabinet's approval of the municipal capital assistance policy, which will take effect April 1, 1994.

The municipal capital assistance policy is a comprehensive policy that applies to all communities in the Northwest Territories for all Municipal and Community Affairs capital programs. MCAP, as it is referred to, ensures a consistent, equitable and fair distribution of all capital programs of the department.

Community contributions under MCAP are based on an ability-to-pay criteria. As a result, all communities will benefit. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Oral Question 36-12(5):
Amalgamation Of RCMP "G" Division With Alberta

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Whitford on February 9 regarding the federal plans for the RCMP "G" division.

We've checked with the department and what we've ascertained is that there are no plans afoot, presently, with the RCMP to amalgamate "G" division with "K" division in Alberta.

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The RCMP are, however, looking at whether there are any economies of scale to be achieved by having some functions for both divisions served from either Yellowknife or Edmonton. This is what is being looked at, not amalgamation. The RCMP, like other government organizations, is looking for ways to save money without reducing service. Across the country, administration costs are higher in the smaller divisions. It is in this light that the RCMP administration is examining its organizational

structures. This examination, as I understand, is in a preliminary stage. It is not apparent that true economies of scale would be achieved in combining any administrative services for Alberta and the Northwest Territories, mainly because of the great distances involved.

There are also cultural differences between Alberta and the NWT and, therefore, if there is to be a move toward shared services for some functions, we will be encouraging the RCMP to explore the possibility of sharing with "M" division, which serves the Yukon. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Oral Question 108-12(5): Location Of
Additional Housing Units

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Madam Speaker, I have three returns to oral questions. The first one was asked by Mr. Patterson on February 16, 1994, regarding the location of additional housing units.

The Financial Management Board approved 16 new staff housing units to meet the 1994-95 staff housing shortfall.

The 16 units approved by FMB are for the following communities: Pangnirtung, one unit; Igloodik, two units; Cape Dorset, two units; Broughton Island, one unit; Clyde River, two units; Pond Inlet, one unit; Sanikiluaq, one unit; Arviat, one unit; Coral Harbour, one unit; Pelly Bay, one unit; Fort Good Hope, one unit; Rae Lakes, one unit; and, Snare Lake, one unit.

Further Return To Oral Question 90-12(5): Benefits
For Off-Highway Communities

Madam Speaker, I have another return asked by Mr. Gargan on February 15, 1994, regarding communities considered as off-highway.

Madam Speaker, on February 15, 1994, Mr. Gargan, the Member for Deh Cho, asked me for a list of the communities that are considered off the highway system for the purposes of government benefits. This question arose from the earlier discussion about the settlement allowances being provided for the staff of the alcohol and drug treatment centres. When Mr. Gargan originally asked me why the staff of the Hay

River Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centre were not eligible to receive the settlement allowances, I incorrectly indicated that it was because Hay River was on the highway system and settlement allowance was not payable on the highway system.

Rather than providing the list Mr. Gargan requested, I would like to correct the record and provide more accurate information. I decided to provide settlement allowances to treatment centre staff equivalent to those provided to government employees. These settlement allowances are outlined in the collective agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers. The allowances are intended to compensate staff for the higher cost of living in communities outside of Yellowknife and are not related to whether or not the community is on or off the highway system.

Further Return To Oral Question 134-12(5): Social Services' Response To Family Law Review Recommendations

My third return to oral question asked by Mr. Dent on February 17, 1994, regarding Social Services' response to family law review recommendations.

Yesterday, Mr. Dent asked when the discussion paper from Social Services on the family law review would be available for distribution. The paper will be mailed this weekend to a wide distribution list including Members of the Legislative Assembly, hamlet and band councils, aboriginal organizations, the Native Women's Association and Pauktuutit.

This paper was prepared in consultation with the Department of Justice and is intended to provide potential solutions to the problems identified in the family law review.

I and my colleague, the Minister of Justice, realize the need for a timely response to this report and for an early start on the legislative changes that will be required.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Those are my responses.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The Payroll Tax Act is now implemented and taxes are being collected. I have a question for the Minister of Finance, based on the statement made in the budget address dated February 14. Can the Minister clarify what is meant by the statement made in the budget address, and I quote, "The government remains convinced that all individuals who are employed in the Northwest Territories must share in the tax burden. This tax is the most effective way we have to ensure that such sharing takes place." Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What that means is that people who earn a living in the Northwest Territories and pay taxes elsewhere in Canada and other jurisdictions were not contributing to the Northwest Territories, prior to the payroll tax being introduced. So what I'm saying

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is that we remain convinced that those individuals who earn a living here and file their income taxes elsewhere in Canada, should share in the tax burden of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

MR. KOE:

I thank the Minister for that response but I don't read those things into that statement. My supplementary question to the Minister is, have the objectives of the payroll tax now changed whereby all residents of the Northwest Territories who are employed or who work are expected to share in the tax burden through the

payroll tax equally with those of out-of-province employees?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. People who reside in the Northwest Territories and file taxes here, who earn a pay cheque, are entitled to a tax credit that only people who file in the Northwest Territories can get. That means that most of the people in the Northwest Territories who are employed here contribute to the payroll tax and they are entitled to the tax credit. I say most of them because there are a number of people who earn investment income, people who draw dividends from companies, people who are shareholders in companies and have some form of receiving funds from those companies, who do not pay the payroll tax. That has been a matter of concern with the Standing Committee on Finance and it has been raised in this House, Madam Speaker. We are aware of the fact and I have tried numerous ways to get all of the people in the payroll tax and I haven't come up with a way to capture those other people yet. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The Minister mentioned the payroll tax credit for northern residents. If most people are like myself, I usually file on the last possible day, which is near the end of March. Can the Minister, in the near future, table in this House the forms that residents will have to use in claiming this tax credit?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 135-12(5): Minister's Remarks Re Payroll Tax

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, those forms are provided to people in their tax package that comes from Revenue Canada. I will table a facsimile of that form. As I said earlier, we will be putting ads in papers and advising people across the Northwest Territories that they should fill in that form to get their tax credit from the Government of the Northwest Territories and they should also fill in the forms with regard to child tax credits. Yes, I will table a facsimile in this House, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 136-12(5): Assistance For Preparing Income Tax Returns

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It has been a day or two since I indicated that the unemployed people are numerous in the Northwest Territories and they are having difficulty getting their income tax returns done. Can the Minister of Finance indicate to me whether he has considered the concerns I addressed during my Member's statement regarding income tax returns? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 136-12(5): Assistance for Preparing Income Tax Returns

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I am more aware now of the problem raised by the Member. I am looking at the situation, but I must tell this House, that the government has no program whereby it could send accountants into communities. I am looking at the problem. We have also been in touch with the federal Department of Revenue and sent down information with regard to the difficulty people have in filling out their tax forms, the language difficulty and I have taken the liberty of sending down copies of letters that I have sent to Mr. Pudlat in his own language, to make the federal Finance Department more aware of the problem. So I am looking at it. I

don't have an answer, at the present time, but I will next week, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister of Justice will recall my statement expressing concern about the presently serious and possibly growing problem of contraband in Iqaluit. I wonder if the Minister has had an opportunity, as I had suggested, to pursue the matter of acquiring federal enforcement officers in Iqaluit, and perhaps elsewhere in the Northwest Territories, through the RCMP? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The staff within the Department of Justice is meeting with officials

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from the RCMP this morning and, following this meeting, there will be more information available as to an assessment in response to the question the Member asked earlier. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to hear that. I would like to ask the Minister, was my assumption correct that these, I think they are called FES officers, if they are approved, would be paid for 100 per cent by the federal government, rather than under the cost-sharing arrangement for regular members of the RCMP? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I am not clear on that question, Madam Speaker. I do know that before we provide any sort of response to the issue regarding customs and smuggling, illegal sale and transportation of goods in the eastern Arctic, we need to meet with the RCMP to have them share their assessment of the situation to get some idea of their perspective on the situation. Following that, we will have more information to share with the Member. Hopefully, that will be within the next couple of hours. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to ask the Minister if I am correct that part of the federal government's response to the cigarette smuggling issue in Quebec and Ontario has been to allocate more money to the RCMP nationally to deal with this smuggling problem in Canada? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 137-12(5): Federal Enforcement Officers For Iqaluit Re Contraband

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, it is with interest that I have been following some of the coverage through CBC and other networks. I thought I saw an old friend being interviewed on the CBC special the other night.

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 138-12(5): Telecommunication Services To Small Communities

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of DPW and it is with regard to telecommunication services to small communities. I understand that this government hasn't supported NorthwTel's rate increase because of the fact they are not providing some services to small communities. I appreciate that. But has any progress been made with regard to NorthwTel providing telephone services to the small communities such as Kakisa, Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Colville Lake, Nahanni, et cetera?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 138-12(5): Telecommunication Services To Small Communities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As Members know, I made a presentation to CRTC and we intervened on NorthwTel's application to raise the rates in the Northwest Territories. It must have done some good because CRTC didn't allow them to raise the rates. CRTC also directed them to come up with a plan by June 20, 1994 to present back to them as to how they would service the non-serviced communities, and also how they would upgrade the service in those that have minimum service. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Respecting my question yesterday, I was still unsure from his response whether there is a mutual understanding and acceptance from his department, especially from student services and Arctic College, respecting Mr. Comerford's letter rejecting the applications for

financial assistance for Coral Harbour arts students that are being held right now.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to indicate to the honourable Member that from the analysis that has been done, the program and project that has been proposed in Coral Harbour does not fit within the guidelines of the student financial assistance program. What I will do and commit to the honourable Member is to review the circumstances and ensure that there is a fairly reasonable

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understanding about how the financial support can be provided to that particular program. But under the present circumstances the program falls outside the student financial assistance program.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is the Minister then indicating to me that there is disagreement between Arctic College and the Department of Education, financial assistance section regarding this particular arts course?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no disagreement on the matter of the program itself. Arctic College has the responsibility and the right to initiate programs with the communities with the advice

of the communities. However the programs that are instituted in the communities don't necessarily comply with the terms and conditions of student financial assistance, therefore the student financial assistance administration does not determine programs. However, they do determine whether the programs that are being offered fall within the terms of the student financial assistance program.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This particular course I'm talking about is sponsored in Coppermine, Coral Harbour and Hall Beach. Three communities in which the same course is organized and sponsored by Arctic College. Isn't it ordinarily the case that students in most Arctic College sponsored courses are automatically approved for Northwest Territories student financial assistance?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Madam Speaker, thank you. No, not all students are automatically approved. It depends on the program itself, the manner in which that program is designed, and whether or not it is an acceptable credited program, and as such is considered to fall within the student financial assistance. There are some other financial programs that are available to students. It depends on what financial programs they are associated with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My final supplementary, will the Minister find out why there was a disagreement between Arctic College, if there are any, in Mr. Ernie Comerford's letter of rejection, and show the cause why there is particular... This case seemed to be kind of remote because most of the Arctic College sponsored ones are usually accepted by the Department of Education, naturally. Would the Minister report why this one is somewhat odd?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 139-12(5): Student Financial Assistance For Coral Harbour Students

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I will look into the matter. However, again, I want to advise the honourable Members of this House that not all programs are financed under the student financial assistance program because they don't fall within the categories of the assignments that are made. I will look into the matter for the honourable Member and advise him of the nature of the discrepancies and the differences of the program that is offered by Arctic College.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 140-12(5): Simplifying Change Of Name Procedures

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice with regard to a change of name procedure issue which was raised during the last session, and the difficulties in the legalities and the costs associated with the process. At the time, the Minister stated he would look into the matter and prepare some sort of response. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister what kind of progress he has made in that regard. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 140-12(5): Simplifying Change Of Name Procedures

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, yesterday I asked the department to provide me with a briefing note as to the work done to date on this request, and I haven't received it as of yet. Probably by Monday I will be sharing information with the Member since I know it's something that has been a serious request made and taken seriously, however I'm not clear on where the department is in preparing a response to it. So I will commit to providing that on Monday. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct for the Minister responsible for Government Services, under whose jurisdiction I believe this might fall. He can correct me, if it isn't. It's a matter concerning the eastern Arctic communities. I think my honourable colleagues are more than well aware of how expensive it is to provide fresh food into the communities, other than country food, but things that are of a necessity in the communities. Over the years, a program had been developed through Indian and Northern Affairs and Canada Post, I think it was called food for the north airstage subsidy program. I believed, and so did the Members believe, that it was designed to offset the cost to individuals for bringing in food. This program is, of course, very costly and it comes under review. I think we discussed this in the House a few years ago, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what is the intention of this program, perhaps more, who is it there to serve?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Food mail subsidy program is a program of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Department of Indian Affairs has made an annual contribution of \$15 million to Canada Post Corporation, since 1991. The reason for this program is to bring down the rates of mailing food to isolated northern communities. That program has been successful in reducing the costs of shipping nutritious and perishable foods, such as dairy products and vegetables, to a number of remote communities in the Northwest Territories that are only serviced by air. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In discussion with my colleagues, they certainly appreciate the value of this program, and they are concerned that if it would ever be terminated because of the high costs. Is this program, Madam Speaker, designed to assist construction companies that go into build buildings in communities? Say, this budding mining industry, exploration companies, are they part of this program as well?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that this program is designed to service the remote communities, it's not designed to be a subsidy for mining companies or construction companies. I guess there has been some concern raised because there is a possibility that there might be a reduction in this program. So I have written a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs on this issue, already, basically letting him know how valuable a program it is for Northwest Territories residents and encouraging him to keep it in his budget. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Am I correct to understand that the Minister has undertaken to look at the concerns that my colleagues and I are expressing concerning the misuse of this program?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 141-12(5): Food For The North Airstage Subsidy Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for raising this issue in the House and raising it to the public. I was unaware that mining companies or other people were trying to use this program, other than it being used for getting food into small, remote communities. I will follow up on that issue. I have followed up already on the issue that people have raised a concern of a reduction in the program, but I will follow up to see if people are trying to misuse the program. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 142-12(5): Payroll Tax Return Forms

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. It also has to do with the payroll tax. Madam Speaker, I have in my hand today a copy of the payroll tax annual return which many businesses in the Northwest Territories will have just gotten a copy of, or recently gotten a copy of, because it required to be filed with this government by the end of February. Madam Speaker, looking at the form it's clear that the Department of Finance is probably as confused as any of the people who have to try to fill this form out. It's very interesting that, for instance, Madam Speaker, the word remuneration is used four times in the text on the form, and twice it's spelled incorrectly and twice it's spelled correctly. I

would think that on a government form we could at least check the spelling before we send them out.

---Laughter

Madam Speaker, according to this form -- and here's my question for the Minister -- the employer must provide the name of each employee who worked in the NWT in the year. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the purpose of asking that question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question 142-12(5): Payroll Tax Return Forms

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, it has to do with cross-referencing who was working for what companies and whether they were from the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(5): Payroll Tax Return Forms

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure I understand why we would have to cross-reference them, but I guess I can assume that's the reason employers would also have to supply the social insurance number of all employees who worked in the Northwest Territories. The form also asks for employers to provide the gross annual remuneration - - actually, it says remuneration here -- subject to payroll tax of each employee, the gross remuneration paid to each employee and the total amount of tax collected from each employee. Still, Madam Speaker, I'm not sure why we need all of this information other than perhaps a big brother syndrome. In particular, why does the department need to know the total amount of tax collected from each employee? This form doesn't say payroll tax, it says tax collected. So why does this department need to know how much total tax was collected from each employee?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I'll have to go and check whether it means payroll tax or it means total tax. I would point out to Members that in the legislation, as I recall, there are allowances in there for overpayment or underpayment by employees. So I think what we're looking for is to ascertain if employees paid too much tax or too little tax, mostly if they paid too much tax because I think in the legislation they have the ability to appeal that they have been taxed too much. I think that's our way of checking it. I'll take the question as notice and provide an answer next week, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. May I remind Ministers that when you take a question as notice you don't need to explain that you're going to take it as notice. Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. the honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo.

Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In his statement earlier this week, he mentioned that the European market for furs is very important and we need to protect it. I agree with that statement. I know, Madam Speaker, that there has been a group who are working on trapping standards. This is an international group, to make sure that the trapping research is done by each country and province. I wonder, Madam Speaker, what stage are they at in terms of allowing the trappers to use methods that are acceptable to the trappers. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, there is an organization called the International Standards Organization which has been working on behalf of a great many countries to

develop and draft proposed standards for what would be called acceptable standards for trapping. Those are considered humane or fall within the definition of quick kill. As Members should be aware, it's our belief that organizations such as the international animal rights organizations, when they first proposed to try to wipe out the fur industry, by demanding certain standards they thought we would not be able to meet them. However, we have, for instance, banned the leghold trap for most small species. The progress we've made in meeting the demands of the Europeans, but also ourselves within Canada has been very good. Now that they see the progress, it is our view that many of the animal rights activists are now trying to discredit the work to develop acceptable standards for any type of trapping. They are suggesting that all trapping is inhumane and, therefore, no standard is acceptable. One of the organizations that is now being attacked is this International Standards Organization. It met recently in Ottawa and some of the animal rights activists came in from Europe and were directly involved in some of the discussions and lobbying. What has resulted is no decisions by this organization to accept the draft standards. They will defer to individual countries to make up their own mind to be decided later if standards are acceptable or not. So there is some cause for concern. Those are the developments to date. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is the request from Canada to extend the period for one more year to allow trappers to use the old method still in place?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, the European Commissioner, part of the European Parliament, is set up by the member countries. It is the

administrator/management body that works and carries out some of the decisions made by the European Parliament. It is this commission that has asked its underlings to draft a report that would assess whether or not the regulations passed by the European Parliament are being met, what is the definition of "significant progress," and whether these middle-management staff can muster up some substantive arguments for saying certain countries, for instance Canada, has made significant progress, therefore, should be granted the additional year as laid out in the regulation. Again, we have questions about that, and some concerns I personally have, because some of the staff involved are known animal rights activists.

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I am hoping that they carry out the work professionally, aside from their own very strong personal biases and follow the spirit and intent of the regulations, which would be very clear that Canada has made significant progress and should be allowed the additional one year to meet the remainder of the demands set out under the European regulations. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The international working group that was setting standards met in Ottawa. My information is that the meeting -- I believe there are 12 countries involved in that working group to set up a trapping standard -- broke down. Eight countries didn't want to pursue trapping research. Only four countries agreed that they should work towards trapping standards. Does that group still exist or has it been abandoned by eight countries? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. If I could just remind Members, when you are doing your supplementary, please keep it as brief as possible. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

There was a technical committee set up by the international standards organization, which has approximately 120 countries that belong to it. The technical committee set up had seven countries involved in it. One of the things the animal rights activists are doing now is questioning whether or not these member countries are unbiased enough to present credible work. So the credibility of the member countries has been under attack by the animal rights activists. As I said, the technical committee presented its work. There is no agreement on how to proceed except to give member countries some time to decide whether or not to accept the work of the technical committee to date. The technical committee may or may not have finished their work or may be at an impasse at this time. But the International Standards Organization continues to exist.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the technical committee of that group no longer exists, what are the consequences to the trappers in the Northwest Territories, for them to be allowed to sell furs to the Europeans?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 143-12(5): Acceptable Standards For Animal Traps

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, under the decisions of the European Parliament, December of 1994 is the closing date for the import of wild furs caught by leghold traps. The debate right now is whether we have to comply with all of the demands of the European Parliament across Canada before we are allowed to continue exporting wild fur to Europe. The consequence of a decision by the European Parliament not to allow extensions or to be very rigid in saying that all of their demands have to be met before they will allow further import of wild

fur, would wipe out trapping as an economic activity for the people of the Northwest Territories, and Canada for that matter. That would be the consequence.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 144-12(5): Location And Status Of Mr. B. Funston

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. I had the pleasure, three years ago, of serving with the Minister on our constitutional committee. I learned a lot from it. Prior to that process, there was a transfer of one person from Yellowknife to Ottawa because this person was our constitutional expert. I got to know him and I think he is an incredibly able individual. Would Mr. Kakfwi indicate whether Mr. Funston is still in Ottawa and still working on constitutional matters.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 144-12(5): Location And Status Of Mr. B. Funston

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the person who the honourable Member is referring to is presently having discussions with myself and the deputy minister to discuss what areas of work we have identified, which I outlined roughly the other day. What areas he may be interested in, if any, and what type of other opportunities may be available to him within the ministry and perhaps in other areas of the government. That has not been concluded at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(5): Location And Status Of Mr. B. Funston

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since there were several people who were dedicated to that task of working with the Minister on renewal of our Canadian constitution, and since that is dead now, and the only constitution that is going on that we are directly involved in is developing the constitution for the western Arctic, has some thought been given to returning those individuals to assist with that process, even though I know it is not a government-run project, we still support it.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Further Return To Question 144-12(5): Location And Status Of Mr. B. Funston

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the government and myself, as Minister, have given that some serious thought. The message has been conveyed to the chairman of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee that if there is staff available in the government who they are interested in and if the Members who make up the steering committee wish to request government staff, they have been told to feel free to do so. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. It is my understanding that the department is developing a medevac policy for air carriers. I would like to ask the Minister what the status of that policy is and what areas are taken into consideration in that policy?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The department has developed two papers. One deals with medevac standards for the aircraft and the other one deals with staff. Those two papers have been given to the health boards and we are anticipating their responses in the next little while. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Are regionally-based air charter operations taken into account in the development of these policies?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It doesn't deal with where the aircraft comes from. That is the next stage. This merely deals with the standards of the aircraft that are required to medevac patients between communities in the Northwest Territories and out of the Northwest Territories. Once we have established those and the boards have agreed with us on the standards, we will sit down with the boards in April, in Spence Bay, and discuss how we go about making aircraft available to health boards for the efficient transportation of people in the Northwest Territories who need urgent medical care. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Currently, who determines where the aircraft originate for medevacs? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 145-12(5): Status Of Medevac Policy

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, the medevac area is very complex and I am approaching it with some caution. So you will have to excuse me. There was a problem that brought this to light and it was raised by Mr. Dent some time ago. So we are working our way through the process now. We have developed the terms of reference and standards for the medevac policy, in consultation with the experts in the field and have provided that to the health boards. The health boards have advised me that they will look at these documents and this is a good step, but we want to be actively involved with you in how to decide which aircraft to choose and where those aircraft should be located. I will say that I have told the health boards that I am more interested in regional aircraft, than having one central aircraft facility. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 146-12(5): Payroll Tax Calculations

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance concerning the payroll tax. Again, referring to the form, as the Minister looks into the details of what is on this form, there is another real problem. Taxpayers are asked to put down their gross annual remuneration and the calculation is times .01 to get their payroll tax calculation. The problem, of course, is this was started on July 1. So if they put their gross annual remuneration times .01, they will pay twice as much tax as they should and a lot of people are confused by this. I wonder if the Minister would look into this also?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 146-12(5): Payroll Tax Calculations

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have always made it quite clear that this did not come into effect and affect us for one whole year. So there is no intention to try to scoop a wind-fall profit. I will look into the matter. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

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Question 147-12(5): Health's Involvement In Family Law Reform Review

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Madam Speaker, yesterday, in response to a question that I asked the Minister of Social Services, the House was advised that along with her department, the departments of Health and Justice were involved in responding to the recommendations of the family law review. I was aware of the involvement of the Department of Justice, but was not aware that Health was involved. Which recommendations from the family law review is the Department of Health planning to respond to?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 147-12(5): Health's Involvement In Family Law Reform Review

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think yesterday there was some mistranslation. I believe the Minister of Social Services was responding to the collective committee between Education, Health and Social Services that is responding to the concerns and recommendations made in the Health report that Mr. Dent tabled in this House last fall. The Department of Health is only there when they are asked to be involved by other departments with regard to the family law review. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 148-12(5): Government Leader's Stationery

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This being a Friday, I would like to ask the Premier, referring to her earlier statement in an earlier session of this Assembly that she would continue using the title "Government Leader" as long as her present Government Leader stationery held out. I gather the previous Government Leader might have been a bit overzealous in printing stationery.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Perhaps he thought he would be there longer.

---Laughter

MR. PATTERSON:

Yes, perhaps he thought he would be there for longer than he lasted. At any rate...

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

---Laughter

MR. PATTERSON:

I would like to ask the Government Leader, how is her supply of Government Leader stationery holding out? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 148-12(5): Government Leader's Stationery

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, at this moment, we are contemplating ordering new paper and we should have enough to last until the end or middle of March. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 148-12(5): Government Leader's Stationery

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the Premier agree that this might be a good time to consider what title this House should recommend she should use from here on in? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Patterson, unfortunately your question is asking for another matter. You initially asked about the supply of paper, then you went to a title. Therefore, I would have to rule your supplementary out of order.

---Out of Order

Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit. New question.

Question 149-12(5): Sale Of Power Corporation's Staff House In Pangnirtung

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, on a more serious note, I would like to ask the Premier in her capacity as Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, is she aware that the Power Corporation is offering for sale its staff house in Pangnirtung? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 149-12(5): Sale Of Power Corporation's Staff House In Pangnirtung

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, no I'm not aware that it's been offered. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 149-12(5): Sale Of Power Corporation's Staff House In Pangnirtung

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier, is the Power Corporation beginning a strategy of selling off its staff housing? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

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Further Return To Question 149-12(5): Sale Of Power Corporation's Staff House In Pangnirtung

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, on June 12, 1992, the Power Corporation board of directors did approve a set of principles to guide the development of their staff housing policy. The principles provide direction to increase rents and utilities, which is done through a phased-in approach so that employees would be responsible for the actual costs associated with fuel and utilities, and charged rental rates that were more in line with market economic rates of rent in communities. In addition, direction was given to develop a method for selling staff accommodation, and to withdraw from providing accommodation in communities that have road access. The discussion and approval of those principles was in June of 1992. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for Mr. Morin. My question relates to several tenders which have been called in recent months for the supply of trucks which contain containers either for garbage, water or sewer. There is a requirement in the tender that at least the container part of the truck has to be manufactured in the Northwest Territories. So it means, in effect, Madam Speaker, that since Kingland Ford in Hay River has another company which manufactures these things, that that's the only company which can bid on these vehicles. I would like to ask the Minister if he has investigated this issue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we have.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, throughout the Northwest Territories over the last 20 years, there has been a pretty well even division of the supply of trucks between the General Motors ones and Ford ones. So, throughout the territories we now have a mix of vehicles. There are problems, in fact, that you now find that there is a monopoly that can only provide one kind of vehicle and all the other stuff you have hanging around may not be available for spare parts and everything else. I would like to ask the Minister, does this tender provision mean that he's creating a monopoly?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. No.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

MR. LEWIS:

Is it the Minister's intention then to continue issuing tenders that can only be bid for by one Northwest Territories company?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was never the intention to send out a tender that can only be bid by one company. All tenders can be bid on by all companies. But to encourage northern manufacturing, the tanks that go on those trucks will be made in the north. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

MR. LEWIS:

Will the Minister undertake to make sure that these future tender calls will include separate provisions for the supply of a vehicle and the supply of the tank so you would not be creating a monopoly?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 150-12(5): Tenders For Supply Of Trucks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will look into that issue. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

Question 151-12(5): Policy On Sale Of Power Corporation Staff Housing

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Just following up to my colleague from Iqaluit on the Power Corporation housing strategy. The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, I think she stated that in June 1992 at the board meeting, the board discussed principles for the sale of Power Corporation staff houses. My question is, what is the current status of the strategy to sell Power Corporation staff houses?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

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Return To Question 151-12(5): Policy On Sale Of Power Corporation Staff Housing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, in my response I did indicate that direction was given to develop a method for selling staff accommodation and to withdraw from providing accommodation in communities that have road access. If the Member wants more detail I can provide that, but my understanding is that as much as possible if units are not needed they are sold. The Power Corporation is taking much the same approach to try to encourage people to become home owners. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Time has lapsed for oral questions. I will recognize you first on Monday, honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Lewis' Reply

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, I just realized how quickly time passes. Monday, in fact, will be the last day that you can reply to the budget address, I believe. So I wouldn't want there to be a rush of people at the last minute suddenly deciding that they should be replying to the budget. So I will take advantage today to make a brief reply, since I've done so ever since this item has been on the order paper.

I don't have a massive, prepared text, Madam Speaker. I'm not on the Standing Committee on Finance any more, so I'm not privy to all the inside discussions that take place within that committee and perhaps don't have the same grasp of all the details that I would have were I a serving Member of that committee.

I have a few observations to make though, Madam Speaker. The first one being about the criticism that

this budget lacks focus. I've said many times in the past, it's very easy to be critical. It's very simple to be a critic. I would like my remarks to be taken as a reflection not on the fact that the people we have doing the work do things badly, but that perhaps we're limited because of the kind of system we have and therefore you are limited in the ability that you have to provide the kind of focus and direction you would like because of the nature of our consensus-type government.

I know that in the past we have referred to some of the mistakes that we've made in the past. I refer back to the beginning of this document, which outlines our fiscal position and outlook, and points out that from time to time we find ourselves going into debt or finding that we don't have enough money to serve our programs, because during the transfer we never made arrangements to make sure that there was a proper transfer of money. I refer particularly to fire suppression where we were given the responsibility for protecting the trees, but we weren't in fact given that responsibility but we were given responsibility to put out the fires when those trees were threatened.

The same kind of dilemma it seems to me is being posed by the possible vacuum that exists right now in relation to social housing. There is a bit of ambiguity when we hear, on one hand, that we're going to take an overall government approach, a package approach, when we get into our next meetings with the federal government to sort out of fiscal arrangements, that we won't be going piecemeal. Yet, for the past several months -- and it's certainly to his credit because he's shown, as I said before, bulldog tenacity in going to see the appropriate Minister of Housing in Ottawa. But you have someone who, in fact, is spending a tremendous amount of time trying to solve this problem with one Minister, yet we're told no we're not going to do it that way, we're going to do it a different way. We're going to have a total package approach. We're not going to take it bit by bit by bit. Yet that seems to be the way we're going.

There is also some ambiguity about what we are going to do with relation to taking over responsibility for things. On one hand we're told, no, the federal government has the legal responsibility for housing, so that's the position we're going to take. The point I'm making is that we've heard that there should be no ambiguity about who is responsible for housing. It is a federal responsibility. Yet, from time to time we hear that's one of the reasons we have to sell off the Power Corporation, because if we do that, look at the

money we'll have to solve our housing problems. You get a mixed message when you're told we are going to be absolutely adamant that the responsibility of the federal government will remain and we won't equivocate on it, on the other hand we're told that if we had more money of our own then we would be able to solve the problem. We can't have it both ways. Either they're going to do it, and we're going to insist they do it, or we say it's our responsibility and we have to find the money to do it. So we get mixed messages. That's why, I think, you get comments that there's some lack of focus, some real sense that there is no plan in place to solve our problems.

As far as priorities are concerned, Madam Speaker, there's no doubt in my mind, since I was involved in education for many, many years in the early years of my life that I will be accused of some bias. But it seems to me that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not out of line in making education and training a priority. That's the position that's been taken by every industrialized country in the world today. That is the solution. You have to have a very well-trained education workforce. That is the argument why the United States is now in decline. It's an empire that's rotting because the education system is not working. Ninety million people, they reckon, in the United States, find it very difficult to simply fill out a form. There are lots of forms, as we all know, that citizens are asked to fill in these days just to be a functioning member of society, let alone a strong economic unit.

Those countries that are providing a good, solid, modern, forward-looking education system for the young people, are leading the world. That's the way the economies are going. That's the point we also made three years ago in our Special Committee on the Northern Economy. People couldn't understand that that's an economic issue. Your trained workforce is where it all starts because if you don't have the guns you're not going to win the war, and that's the name of the game. So I certainly appreciate the position of the government and also the response from SCOF, that this is an

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issue of priority and I'm glad to see that we're putting the resources into it. It's not a biased view, it's the view that's held by nearly every economist in the world today, that that is where you have to put your effort.

I know I've been criticized in the past because I haven't made it absolutely clear what I mean about transportation and transportation infrastructure. I know that Members in this House accuse me of making statements about roads to nowhere. It seems to me that the priority that this government has placed to try to do something on the Mackenzie Highway makes sense, because it ain't a road to nowhere. You're talking about linking up places, where there are people, or where there are goods that are being transported, and it's so obvious that if you have communities linked along a line --, an old transportation car that existed even before we thought of roads -- that that's what we should be doing. That isn't a road to nowhere.

What worries me is when you have some scheme that you suddenly see as a vision that will create expectations that may never happen. We know there are people needing services and that the services will be provided. But if all you have is a dream, and the dream hasn't been thought through, then perhaps it's not a good way to spend your money. It's just a pipe dream. So I'm happy to say that that in fact is being given consideration because it makes sense to do that, despite what some people in the city of Yellowknife may think, that a priority should be a road to the coast. That will happen one day. One day I'm sure that will happen. But things have to evolve in a natural, organized, planned fashion and that's the position I would always take.

I've looked through the other departments and I've worried very, very much about how our government intends to get the kind of revenues it needs to do the work that needs to be done ahead. I can see that it's very difficult in our form of government to do the kinds of things that you like to do. I know three years ago Mr. Kakfwi was talking about having to legislate. We have huge problems so maybe we have to legislate. In a consensus House like this, it's very difficult to do that. It's okay for us to legislate ourselves and take the two per cent off our own salaries, but you try to legislate to do that with all kinds of other people and it's very, very difficult and you will put tremendous burdens on us to do that.

It's very difficult in our form of government to get a tough bill through the House. In my opinion, Mr. Pollard was lucky last year that he was able to get his payroll tax through, because all the thinking, all the talking, all the impetuous for months before that was that how are you going to get people to agree that we should do this because it's an unknown tax, the impact was going to be this or that, it was unknown

and people were worried about it. Although we did all agree to it, I know that, personally, in Yellowknife people were very, very upset with me for even voting for it. It's very difficult to get taxes like that through the House. A corporate tax is a bit easier because it doesn't effect every individual in the way that the personal taxes do, individual taxes.

I note that if you really believe that the way to go is to develop an economy throughout small business, they have been burdened. It's incredible, the amount of burden that we put on small business that have to worry about GST, the payroll tax and all the other accounting that we have to do just to keep little businesses floating. They spend an inordinate amount of time just to do the paperwork. It seems to me that has to be sorted out somehow.

Another problem I see in our consensus type House to do tough things is when you identify, Madam Speaker in our budget book, that we are going to really look at the way in which we handle the public service, the management of the public service. It's all right to say there's one-third of our money there. That's the place, obviously, where we can look for savings. Again, we don't have the power to legislate the way other people do and to use the power of the numbers. But you really don't have control over that process. The best you have is a shared responsibility. It's not something that you can say we're going to do this, bang. When you sit down with people it's a give and take process. You're not going to be able to say we want to take. If that's the goal of the exercise, just to take, you're not going to win because you'll end up going to arbitration. I'm afraid that our one or two per cent that we've taken off ourselves will not provide you with much of a precedent to settle a dispute about salaries or benefits. Everything else that you want to do is going to be at a table, it's bilateral and you don't have the power. It's a shared responsibility and it's not part of management of government, as such. That's a different process. Managing a government and bargaining are two completely different things.

Having said those things, Madam Speaker, I'm really not being negative about this budget. What I'm saying is that the faults that our government are being credited with or discredited with, are because of the nature of our system not because of the people who are in it. I believe they're doing the best they can with the tools we have available to us. When you look at achievements over the many years, even though we have from time to time been very critical, we still exist,

we're still struggling along. For our all faults, we still seem to be able to get out business done.

So that is this year's response to the budget address. I was very happy to be the first to do so. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to budget address. Thank you. The House will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I now seek unanimous to proceed with Motion 12-12(5) on the use of "Premier" as the title for the Government Leader, of which I gave notice yesterday.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent for Motion 12-12(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

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ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 12-12(5): Use Of "Premier" As Government Leader Title, Carried

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS, in 1979 this Assembly adopted the designation "Leader of the Elected Executive" to describe the leader who has been chosen by the elected Members of the Executive Council at a time when the Executive Council was composed of both appointed and elected Members;

AND WHEREAS, since 1983 this Assembly has adopted the designation "Government Leader";

AND WHEREAS, the Government Leader of the Northwest Territories has been recognized as equal to provincial Premiers at western Premiers' conferences since 1991;

AND WHEREAS, the Northwest Territories has been recognized as equal to provinces at First Ministers' conferences since 1991;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, that this Legislative Assembly adopt the designation "Premier" to refer to the Government Leader and chair of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Secunder for the motion, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would just like to recite some of the reasons for this motion and perhaps deal with some of the questions. I am aware, Madam Speaker, that there are some people who may think that using the term "Premier" may be just a little bit pretentious. I know that was certainly the reaction in some quarters when Government Leader Tony Penikett announced he would adopt the title during the height of the Meech Lake crisis, at the very time when the territories were aspiring towards equal status with the provinces. I am not sure that timing was well-conceived.

However, I would like to remind Members of this House, what they well know. Apart from the area of natural resources, this government has all the powers and responsibilities of any province in fields such as education, health, social services and local government. Indeed, in the area of housing, I understand we build far more social houses in a year, than all of the Maritime provinces combined. I had some fun discussing this with then Premier Gihz of

Prince Edward Island when I met him, shortly after his election. Our budget in the Northwest Territories is well over twice that of the province of Prince Edward Island.

As to the absence of power in natural resource areas, even though we have worked very hard on the northern accord, intensely for the last six years or so, Alberta and Manitoba became provinces and they were carved out of the Northwest Territories and then waited until 1930 before they were granted control over natural resources. Two provinces have used the term "Premier" with the same jurisdiction as the Northwest Territories has now.

Indeed, a careful reading of history, and perhaps Mr. Lewis will give us more details than I have knowledge of, will show us that the term "Premier" was used many years ago by leaders of the Northwest Territories, Haultain being one who used that title.

I think there are very good reasons for using this title today, Madam Speaker. I think it would reflect our evolution and our coming to the table in what has been called, by political scientists, the very important institutions of executive federalism. Executive federalism is that relatively new, but important creature called the First Ministers' conference, which has dealt with major constitutional and economic issues in recent years.

For example, I understand that under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chretien, the December 23 First Ministers' conference, which our government attended, and our Premier attended as an equal, had serious discussions on a national strategy for deficit reduction and tax reform. This is an increasingly important forum, Madam Speaker. The good news is we are now in the club as equals.

In the early 1980s, the first leader of the elected Executive, the Honourable George Braden, was subjected to the indignity of sitting in the gallery of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, while Premiers met below. He was not only an observer, but a very distant observer...he and Chris Pearson of Yukon.

Progress was slow over the years, although it was measured by small victories. This almost sounds trivial, but I do remember at the time what a significant event we thought it was when the late Premier Hatfield, who was hosting a First Ministers' conference in New Brunswick, invited Mr. Sibbeston, another former Government Leader, to attend a dinner of First Ministers being held after the first day

of an FMC, that was considered to be a breakthrough. Mr. Sibbeston had been an observer at the meeting, but he was invited to the table for dinner.

I, myself, recall another small victory in 1987, when Mr. Penikett and I were invited to the table after a coffee break at a First Ministers' conference on the economy, but only to make a ten minute presentation. Then we were politely escorted back to our seats in the peanut gallery beside the press. I recall at that conference in Toronto, that Mr. Penikett, and I and our staff became very excited because we did receive a formal invitation to a dinner that night from Premier Peterson, only to learn from anxious aides of the Premier, later that day, that the inclusion of our names on the invitation list to dinner had been a mistake. We weren't invited after all. We were tempted to crash the dinner party, but we didn't.

Madam Speaker, there were breakthroughs, finally, in the 11th Assembly. Perhaps as a benefit of our high profile position on the Meech Lake process, we got invitations to participate as equals at the First Ministers' conference in Ottawa on the invitation of Prime Minister Mulroney and to the western

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Premiers' conference at Neepawa, Manitoba, on the invitation of Premier Devine.

Our leader is now an equal in every sense with the provincial Premiers. There is no real reason for a distinction in title from other provincial leaders. I think, Madam Speaker, having experienced this myself and having talked to the present Government Leader about it, there is also a very practical reason for making this change and that is simply this. The term "Government Leader" is inevitably confused with the term "Government House Leader." This error is often made, Madam Speaker, even by experienced politicians who should know better. When our leader is introduced at public events, for example, the Western Premiers' Conference, it is very confusing for the public when our leader is described as the Government House Leader, quite a different status from a provincial Premier.

We have a very hard-working Government House Leader, Madam Speaker, in Mr. Pollard. Let's end the confusion between Mr. Pollard and his job, and that of Ms. Cournoyea and her job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. PATTERSON:

There are many differences between the two of them, I won't elaborate.

We have discussed this in Caucus, Madam Speaker, and I believe most Members are agreed that it's time simply to recognize reality. Our Premier is now treated as an equal with other provincial Premiers and the Prime Minister. This status was a result of hard work since the time of Mr. Braden. It has, of course, achieved equality status in other forums with other Ministers, as well. I would cite Mr. Kakfwi's equal participation and full participation in the constitutional discussions of the ill-fated Charlottetown Accord.

Let's recognize this reality in our status. Making this change in designation can only enhance our progress, I believe, towards finally acquiring control of natural resources. And, as well, there are other issues that should be resolved, I know, such as renovating the Northwest Territories Act so as to recognize the reality that the Commissioner is now the titular head of government, the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories, and no longer the chief executive officer of the Northwest Territories.

I think this recognizes present reality and will reinforce the status that has been hard-earned by Government Leader Cournoyea, her Ministers and other predecessors. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be very brief. I just wanted to add my support to this motion. I was pleased to second it because I see this change in the use of the terminology from Government Leader to Premier as part of the evolution of the authority and the responsibility of the Northwest Territories.

I think Mr. Patterson has outlined very adequately the background and reasons for us agreeing to adopt this title. I agree that while we may not have authority in all of the areas enjoyed by provinces, I think that in most significant areas we do. We set our own policies and standards in most areas. We determine

the spending priorities through our budget without worry of oversight by the federal government, any longer. So, I do think that in itself indicates that we have achieved significant autonomy. I think it's time to reflect on the level of autonomy that we have achieved by adopting the title of Premier.

I just wanted to add my support to this motion, and indicate that I am very comfortable with the adoption of the term "Premier," at this point in time. I would urge all Members to support the motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also will add my support to the motion for a number of reasons, and they were best summed up by Mr. Patterson, as far as the history goes and the chronology of events that brought us to this point.

Madam Speaker, from time to time I do get to travel in different circles with people from the provinces, and it is often confusing when I explain to the visitors and to other elected people what type of government we have. When it comes to Government Leader, it does take a considerable amount of explanation. I think the powers and the authorities that our Government Leader/Premier currently have will perhaps not be changed any more than they are. It will just lend credibility to the honourable position that she occupies and her successors who will occupy it, in circles that place a certain amount of emphasis on titles. I think in the evolution of our government it's a step forward and it's a good step. That's why I wanted to advise the House that I will be supporting the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, you and I and the Clerk had the pleasure just three weeks ago of sitting in the house that was built for the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territories in 1878. At that time, there were only two buildings where Regina now sits. That was the house of

Lieutenant Governor plus the RCMP barracks. On Dewdney Avenue there was the site of the first territorial government, a small stone building. The civil service at that time was about ten, I think.

The point I'm making is that we have had in the past people who were called Lieutenant Governor, people called Premier. That seems to have been forgotten when the Northwest Territories became just the sparse part of Canada that we've known over the last few decades.

I was a little concerned, though, Madam Speaker, when I heard that this was going to be brought forward as a motion of the House. Not because I don't agree with it, I do agree with it. But the problem I saw was what if this motion were to be defeated? Does that mean to say that we can no longer call

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the Premier "Premier" if we so wished? It seems to me that what we wanted to do, we know ourselves what we are and what we do, it's to let other people know all across the country that we do have a Premier. Therefore, all correspondence of government, all correspondence of the Legislative Assembly could carry this designation.

The problem I always see with trying to do something formally like this is that throughout history, things happen. We call ourselves the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, but there is nothing in the NWT Act that says we can. It has just evolved, and it's happened. I remember CBC for many years refused to call us the Legislative Assembly, they insisted on calling us the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories. Gradually, things happen and evolve as people get more comfortable.

So the only concern I had with Mr. Patterson's motion -- and I was ready for an amendment just in case the numbers didn't look right -- that we would amend it somehow to say that the word "Premier" be used on all correspondence in the Legislative Assembly, all correspondence in the Government of the Northwest Territories, so all the stuff that goes on across the country it will be quite clear to those people that this is what we are and this is what we do. Of those Members who didn't feel comfortable about using it in the Assembly, it would be up to them. But gradually, it would become a real thing.

I think, though, that we do have the numbers, Madam Speaker, so I will not be introducing the amendment, and I urge other Members to support the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting the motion, as I believe it's inevitable that it's part of evolution that the territorial government has been evolving since it started. However, I would also like, at the same time, to ask the House and the Government of the Northwest Territories to start taking a very active role. I know that the change of the title will not get you automatic recognition from the federal government. In fact, the Northwest Territories Act still states that we come under the flagship of Indian Affairs, not reporting directly to the Prime Minister as other provinces do.

We must become more active in getting our role, and start amending or changing the NWT Act, allowing the Premier of the Northwest Territories to participate equally and report directly to the Prime Minister, rather than the Minister of Indian Affairs. That will be the true reflection of what we mean by evolution.

I think it is very, very important that when we start getting into this kind of stepping stone, first of all with a title change and, secondly, we have been recognized by the federal and provincial governments already by giving us a very, very hard time on the health billings dispute, the housing, financial contributions, et cetera. This is a form of recognition that we have more power and independence from Indian Affairs, morally anyway, not necessarily financially. So I would like to have the government start working on responding to coming under Indian Affairs under the NWT Act, and the provincial status. Something in between that will get us at least a debating power when we are making agreements, whether it's on education, housing or other agreements between the federal government and the territorial government. Qujannamiik.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo.

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the non-Inuit speaking people will be adopting the word "Premier," because the Inuit speaking people have been calling the Premier "Premier" all along. "Sivuliuqti" means a supreme...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Being!

---Laughter

MR. ALLOOLOO:

...the forefront of everyone else. I think that word "Premier" means that it's the first. Like the premiere of a film. When you see it for the first time, it's the premiere show.

I'm glad that the English speaking people will be adopting the Inuktitut interpretation of Premier, because in Inuktitut we've been calling her the "Premier" all along. What did we call Dennis Patterson when he was the Government Leader? "Premier" in Inuktitut words. We called Nick Sibbeston "Premier." We called Mr. Braden "Premier." We never called the Government Leader in our words "Government Leader," Angnajuqaq. We didn't call her that, we called her "Sivuliuqti," the Premier. I am glad we are changing that.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What did you call Mr. Nerysoo?

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Sorry. Yes, we called Mr. Nerysoo "Premier" when he was called in English words "Government Leader." I am glad we are adopting the word "Premier." Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95; Committee Report 2-12(5), Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates; 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; and, Tabled Document 11-12(5), First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT for the Year 1992-93, with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

The committee will come to order. When we concluded yesterday we were dealing with Bill 1 and the main estimates. What would the committee like to do? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend the committee continue consideration of Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), and resume consideration of the Department of Executive, under Bill 1.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Is that agreed that we follow Mr. Dent's suggestion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Committee Report 2-12(5): Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates

Department Of Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We're on page 02-25, which is the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Mr. Pollard, do you have any opening remarks for us?

Financial Management Board Secretariat,
Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is my first opportunity to present the budget of the reorganized Financial Management Board Secretariat since it was created eight months ago. The basic restructuring that was approved in May, has been accomplished in a short space of time.

The Financial Management Board Secretariat is now responsible to support the Financial Management Board in all aspects of the internal management of the government's financial, human and information resources. The secretariat provides centralized services to the total government for revenue and general accounting, budgeting, comptrollership, program and organizational design, also internal audit, program evaluation, information management, employee compensation, human resource planning and labour relations.

Mr. Chairman, besides keeping up with the normal responsibilities for coordinating budgets, running financial systems, doing audits and managing labour relations, the secretariat has been assigned some large initiatives.

These initiatives include completing and implementing an informatics strategy, updating and revising the government's audit policy, creating a central evaluation service, developing program and organizational design standards, developing a government human resource planning strategy, including a review of the affirmative action policy and negotiating three new collective agreements. In addition, there are the labour relations aspects of community transfer, the implementation of a new job evaluation system, the coordination of a review of government's capital standards and criteria and implementing substantive improvements to internal controls throughout government.

Mr. Chairman, this is an ambitious work plan and we are planning to do this with almost no increase in resources.

The total proposed budget for 1994-95 is \$43.011 million and 215.5 person years. This represents an increase of \$4.944 million, and an actual decrease of 2.4 person years over the 1993-94 main estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the few areas where we are asking for additional funding are related to collective agreement provisions or by other factors outside our control. The major areas of increase are:

1. Vacation travel assistance, where an increase of \$3.714 million is being requested to meet the provisions of collective agreements;
2. The NWT power support program, where an increase of \$385,000 is being requested in relation to the impact of the electricity component of the user-pay component of the staff housing strategy on the power support program.
3. Medical travel assistance to employees, where an increase of \$619,000 is primarily due to a delay in the transfer of the administration of the employee medical travel assistance program to the Department of Health.

Mr. Chairman, in preparing this budget, a number of internal reallocations were made to realign resources in accordance with priorities and objectives. This reflects my belief that much can be accomplished without always seeking new money. In the few cases where new funding is required, it is only requested after a thorough examination of all possible internal resources.

Mr. Chairman, I am now at your disposal to answer Members' questions and reply to their concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. I believe the Standing Committee on Finance has a report to read. Mr. Zoe.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. I have been assigned to continue on with the Financial Management Board Secretariat, which is part of the Department of Executive.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Financial Management Board Secretariat, with the greatly enhanced duties of the new and enlarged FMBS come greater responsibilities. It is now more important than ever that the committee, and all ordinary Members, be kept informed of and involved in the activities of the secretariat.

Formula Funding Agreement

The committee presented a report to the Legislative Assembly in December 1993, Response to the Options Paper on Deficit Management, that recommended that the Financial

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Management Board develop an "integrated plan and political strategy" to address all the major financial issues facing the Government of the Northwest Territories over the coming years. Mr. Chairman, there is a reference on page eight, if you want to get the text of that recommendation.

The committee is not yet convinced that the government concurs with this aspect of the recommendation. The chairman of the Financial Management Board agreed to keep the committee informed of the development of the package and the ongoing negotiations with the federal government. However, in the last meeting the committee held with the chairman of the Financial Management Board, it appeared that the chairman was wavering with respect to the "package" concept of negotiating. The committee remains strongly convinced that the package approach is the only effective way to achieve optimal results in the negotiations with the federal government.

Committee Members encourage the chairman of the Financial Management Board to develop a financial and political strategy which would take us through to division and beyond. Specifically, the committee would like to see the GNWT negotiate a five year agreement, with a five year extension provision, which allows for the incremental costs of the two new territories. This would establish a base with incremental costs included as an add-on.

The rationale for developing this comprehensive strategy is multi-faceted.

-The implementation of this strategy would ensure a stable fiscal climate for the implementation of division.

-The Legislative Assembly can serve as a unifying force.

-This strategy provides the opportunity for political unity within the Northwest Territories during the period leading up to division.

-This strategy would provide the basis for a unified focus, among all players -- eastern and western Arctic and the federal government -- for the implementation

of division and beyond. It could reduce uncertainty and the potential for damaging misunderstandings.

-There is a strong possibility that there will be a federal election right at the time of division. Negotiations between the Government of Canada and the two new territories, at that time, could be very difficult.

-Governments can plan more effectively with longer term major funding agreements in place.

Human Resource Planning/Affirmative Action

While the affirmative action program has not been as successful as hoped, the emphasis on hiring aboriginals, women, the disabled and indigenous non-aboriginals has made a difference to the NWT civil service. However, as more northerners are hired and fewer southerners are employed by the GNWT, some issues arise that must be addressed.

While committee Members noted that some considerable progress has been made to date in the area of affirmative action, we would like to see even more incentives to hiring in the north. We would like departments to exhaust all other avenues before advertising and recruiting in the south. The committee suggests that the Financial Management Board ask all government departments to support each request to advertise in the south with a detailed description of the efforts undertaken to hire north. Following approval and recruitment from the south, consideration should be given to future initiatives which would alleviate the need to recruit in the south.

Another important consideration in implementing the affirmative action policy, is the training available to northerners. While most northerners have the capability and intelligence to work in the civil service, comparatively few have access to the necessary training for some positions. Specifically, the low percentage of northern aboriginals in technical, professional and managerial positions suggests that training in those areas is not sufficient. It is possible that the hiring practices used to implement affirmative action may be approaching their limit given the current level of training and education among northerners.

As well, career development must be seen as an equal priority. Just training northerners for entry-level jobs isn't enough, they have to have the opportunity to progress with adequate guidance and training. All civil servants, especially those covered by the

affirmative action program, should be encouraged to advance, to learn, to progress and eventually to lead.

Along with the reorganization and repositioning of the Financial Management Board Secretariat, the government has established a definitive objective to implement a comprehensive human resource plan. The committee encourages FMBS to ensure that this comprehensive plan encompasses, not only hiring practices, but also education, training and career development.

Government Contracts

Negotiating contracts directly with suppliers is one method of government contracting that has been introduced into the Northwest Territories as a means of developing local businesses. In many communities, negotiated contracts have helped establish successful aboriginal enterprises. However, there is a perception that negotiated contracts may be, somehow, less "fair" than tendered contracts. As well, there have been serious problems with some negotiated contracts. Committee Members feel that all contracts, whether negotiated or tendered, must be better monitored. The committee also believes that full public disclosure of negotiated contracts would help to ensure value for money could be assessed.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the committee makes the following recommendation.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that the government develop policies and procedures for providing full public disclosure of the details of negotiated contracts, and for monitoring all contracts in order to avoid cost overruns and poor

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management. Further, the committee recommends that this policy and these procedures be in place before August 1, 1994 and that copies of the policy and procedures be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance.

While negotiated contracts themselves may be controversial, the goals of the concept are not. Members of the committee are in favour of any reasonable proposal which would employ northerners and invest money into our communities' businesses and infrastructure. For example, the public tendering process should be improved. The business incentive policy, BIP, should be amended to include northern

employment and buy north provisions in labour-intensive contracts. In short, the government should carefully examine all possible means of improving the government contracting process in order to maximize northern employment and economic activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the government develop an options paper outlining all possible means of maximizing northern employment and northern spending on work contracted by the government. Further, that the government respond to the Standing Committee on Finance with this paper by August 1, 1994.

Business Incentive Policy (BIP)

Committee Members are concerned that the business incentive policy "needs teeth", that is, that stronger measures are needed to penalize companies who abuse the contract process by violating contract provisions related to the policy. As well, the committee feels that the process used to screen contractors and ensure adherence to the business incentive policy requires tightening up.

Video Production

The committee has an ongoing concern regarding video production within the government. Committee Members are not convinced that the departments, including Education, Culture and Employment and Renewable Resources require in-house video production facilities. Committee Members feel that existing producers could increase capability to fulfil all GNWT needs if video production was privatized.

This has been the subject of repeated recommendations from the committee. If the government does not provide a cost/benefit analysis for producing videos in-house, the committee will propose elimination of all funds budgeted for in-house video production.

Recommendation 6

The committee recommends that the Financial Management Board identify and assess all in-house video production facilities. Based on this assessment, the Standing Committee on Finance should be presented with a briefing that justifies the continuation of in-house video production. This briefing should be accompanied by samples of work recently completed

in-house and by private contractors, and presented to the committee before March 1, 1994.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Finance. But I would like to return to recommendation 4 before I finally conclude the report.

Committee Motion 4-12(5): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the government develop policies and procedures for providing full public disclosure of the details of negotiated contracts and for monitoring all contracts in order to avoid cost overruns and poor management. Further, the committee recommends that the policy and these procedures be in place before August 1, 1994 and that copies of the policy and procedures be provided to the Standing Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. There is a motion on the floor. Your motion is in order. All those in favour? Sorry, we don't have a quorum. Ring the bell.

Okay. All those against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

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

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the government develop an options paper outlining all possible means of maximizing northern employment and northern spending on work contracted by the government. Further, that the government respond to the Standing Committee on Finance with this paper by August 1, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had my hand up prior to the vote taking place and I wanted to ask a question on clarification. I don't want to debate with the honourable Members, but I do want to have an opportunity to clarify a number of issues. The vote has already taken place. I won't have that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I regret not having recognized you, Mr. Nerysoo. I temporarily put my glasses down. I will make sure that I have them on from now on. Mr. Zoe.

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

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Financial Management Board identify and assess all in-house video production facilities. Based on this assessment, the Standing Committee on Finance should be presented with a briefing that justifies the continuation of in-house video production. This briefing should be accompanied by samples of work recently completed in-house and by private contractors and presented to the committee before March 1, 1994.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the comments of the Standing Committee on Finance pertaining to Financial Management Board Secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard invited questions after he made his opening remarks. He would have to take the witness table if that were the case.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the committee's indulgence to bring in a witness, Mr. Lew Voytilla. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do Members agree that Mr. Pollard can bring in a witness? Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the witness to the table. Perhaps you could identify your witness, for the record, please.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my right, is Mr. Lew Voytilla who is the secretary to the Financial Management Board and also the Comptroller General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

All right. Any Members have any questions for the Minister? General comments first, then. Mr. Koe.

General Comments

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have some comments on the words that are used in the program overview and the definitive objectives on pages 02-20 and 02-21. I would like to ask some questions on these. On page 02-20, under program goals, there are four program goals identified, and, if I may, I would like to get some

explanation on program goal number three: "A qualified representative public service is developed and maintained." If the Minister may, I would sure like some clarification as to what that statement means and how it is a program goal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

So it will be clear then, Mr. Koe, you had asked about general comments but you want to just ask several questions and then we will continue from there.

MR. KOE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, thank you. It is to do with our human resource planning policy. I guess it is a very short and to-the-point sentence. "A qualified" means to us that we would like to see northerners trained and able to move into government jobs in the Northwest Territories. When we say "representative", we mean that they should represent all groups in the Northwest Territories, and that is what we are working towards by saying that we are developing that. After that, it is our job to maintain those people and make sure that they stay in our organization, so it is our human resource planning strategy, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you for that explanation. Moving on to number four: "A good working environment is maintained through establishing contractual relationships with staff...". Can the Minister clarify the phrase "contractual relationships"? What does that mean and how do you propose to achieve this goal?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are mostly referring to our contractual relationships with our

unions or collective agreements, but within that broader context, there are other things, such as the ways we handle complaints, the way we deal with issues that plague us each day, back and forth, so we make reference to our collective agreement and, also within that, the day-to-day business of employer/employee relationships. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I asked the question as I was hoping that they weren't going to start establishing contracts with every staff in the system. I am glad you clarified that.

Moving on to the definitive objectives, I have some questions on the details on page 02-21. Under human resource management, the definitive objective there: "To develop and start delivering pre-retirement training courses". I am very curious as to why this is a definitive objective this year. I was always under the impression that these courses were ongoing and you had a pre-retirement training course. My question is, is this new and haven't there been other courses in this regard before?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, supply and services offered a two-day pre-retirement course in Yellowknife. It is available to both federal and GNWT employees. We have identified a need to develop a program that can be used in Yellowknife as well as in regional centres. In order to do that, we are going to get some resource materials, video tapes, training aids and financial planning worksheets together. That

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stuff is already available, for the most part, and we hope to build upon the experience that we have already got and develop a new program that we can deliver, not only in Yellowknife but across all of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. Another one that interests me is the objective to provide employees a written explanation of pay stub detail. The questions that come to mind are, who has asked for this and at what cost will this be done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we get numerous enquiries with regard to pay stub detail and we think we can cut down on those enquiries and the amount of time that it takes to deal with those enquiries if we were to provide to all our employees a written explanation of the detail. Hopefully, that would cut down on some anxiety by them and some time saved for ourselves in responding to all those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Another question is, in the restructuring and reorganization, there was a question that was raised or issue brought up by the Standing Committee on Finance on affirmative action. My question is, who now has the responsibility for affirmative action programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The policy rests with the Financial Management Board, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Under the activity of financial management, there is an objective to develop a training program on forms completion. Is this for forms completion for the public or for staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

It is for our internal staff. Mr. Chairman, I was tempted to say that we might need to develop a training program for the people filling in the payroll tax form.

---Laughter

I don't know, Mr. Chairman, if you are familiar with all the forms that we have in the Government of the Northwest Territories but some of the ones that I have to sign are very confusing. I think, if we develop a program on forms completion, we will probably get some suggestions on how we can make those forms simpler, and I would welcome some of those recommendations to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

My last question is on the audit evaluation activity, "...to implement components of the informatics strategy". Can the Minister briefly brief us as to what the informatics strategy is?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance, I think some two years ago, recommended that we look at the computerization and the information exchange in government, particularly the electronic information exchange. I think it was to do with the number of computers that we were purchasing, the amount of computers we had at the present time. They virtually asked us to do an informatics study.

We're doing that at the present time, and I'm anticipating the report being placed before me, certainly by June of this year. The informatics strategy is, where do we need to be in five or ten years with the exchange of information, what equipment will it require and how can we best place ourselves right now to be in that position in five or ten years? So, it's a long-term strategy that deals with

computerization and the movement of electronic information around the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much, Mr. Pollard. Before I recognize anybody else, just a technical question, if I could, Mr. Pollard. On the question asked by Mr. Koe about the provision of written explanation of pay stub detail, does that actually mean written or printed? I want to find out if this word "written" is what you mean.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry for the confusion. We would like to point out to our employees, who receive pay stubs from us, what the detail on that pay stub means. I guess we would be writing to them in some respects, and saying this is what your pay stub means, amongst other things. If that makes sense, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LEWIS:

It's technical, but "written" means hand-written, and printed is something different to written. That's the only question. Anybody else with questions for the Minister or his witness? Are we finished with Mr. Pollard? What is the wish of the committee? Have we concluded this item? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity sake, there's been a little bit of confusion. At one point in time, the Minister advised the Standing Committee on Finance that he had agreed that the approach to the federal government should be a package approach. In his last meeting with us it became clear that maybe he was reconsidering that approach. There have been some conflicting messages going out. On the record, I would just like to find out what is the current approach that the government is planning to take? Are we, in fact, putting together a package which will include all of those issues which are on the table in a financial way with the federal government, and attempting to deal with them at the highest level? Or, are we going to deal with situations like the perversity clause and so on, on an individual basis?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if there is some confusion. It has never been anything but our indication to everybody that we want to deal with this in a package

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approach. Now not everything is on the table. As I've said before, health billings is out there, so is housing, the formula financing agreement, the GDP ceiling and the perversity factor within that formula, also the minerals accord and the northern accord, and the last one was the grants in lieu of taxes to municipalities on land set aside for aboriginal people. That was the package, by title, that I put before Mr. Martin. That's a package that the Premier has communicated to the Prime Minister, and that is also the indication that we've given to Mr. Irwin. So there is no hesitancy on my part in saying that that's the route that we've committed ourselves to. Until such time as the people on the other side of the table say that we're not prepared to do it in that manner, that's the way we mean to proceed, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister advise, is the northern accord part of the package?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, for the record I would advise the committee that right now I'm speaking as the Minister of Finance, that this is not within the realm of the Financial Management Board Secretariat, this is in Finance. The northern accord is part of the package, as I've said, and so is the mineral accord. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a few general comments in a couple of areas. Last night the Premier brought up the Beatty report. In my reply to the budget speech I want to actually give an

explanation of the Beatty report from when it was created. I don't think that has been done, but I will do that on Monday.

But there is another area that concerns me. This is not a harsh criticism of the government, it's as much a criticism of the media as anything else. Over the last ten years, our debate of the title of the Premier indicates what has happened. This jurisdiction has matured at an incredible rate. The word "Finance Minister" and the word "Premier" have very powerful significance now. Anytime a Premier or Finance Minister makes any kind of a public statement about the state of the financial affairs of the Northwest Territories, a lot of very important people listen, and listen very, very carefully. I think it's extremely critical for the Finance Minister and for the Premier to be extremely precise with the information they give out, extremely precise with the information they make public, that they give to MLAs. The media has never ever been able to do a lot of homework, for whatever reason on financial matters. It's boring, it takes a lot of work. So basically, they will report superficially whatever is said.

If the Finance Minister comes to the Standing Committee on Finance, unless the Finance Minister is very precise about the nature of the information, the public statements or the reports from the Finance committee or other committees could actually be the type of reports about which the media will make headlines, that really do scare off investors, scare off bankers

and scare consumers. I think every year this is going to be more and more of a factor.

I will give two or three examples over the last couple of years of what, at least I perceive to have been a problem in this area. One, lack of precision and, secondly, the fact that the media didn't do their homework to really look at exactly what the Finance Minister was trying to get across or what the Premier was trying to get across.

In the area of short-term borrowing. The area of short-term borrowing is very different and distinct from the area of long-term debt. It's in an absolutely different category. What has happened over the last two years, those two categories, that of deficit and that of short-term borrowing have been coming together in the public mind and that compounds the problem.

Our government over the last ten years has really had a luxury that no other governments have had because we've had large accumulated surpluses. We, like every government, have cash flow problems. Everybody does. Businesses do. So what we're talking about here is really a line of credit. We're not talking anything to do with accumulating debt or long-term debt. What's happened over the years is we've maintained pretty consistently the level of our accumulated surplus. It's been between \$35 million and \$60 million for ten years, and that's about where it is now. It goes up and down, but it's there. But some of that accumulated surplus can't be used the same way it was before because we have debentures out there, or what have you. So from time to time we have to go and borrow money. I'm not sure what the limit is. When I was Finance Minister the limit was \$40 million, but I don't know what it is now. But it's not a big deal. That aspect of it is not a big deal. The problem is -- I just hope the Finance Minister takes this right -- the media didn't understand the difference between the real significance of a long-term debt and short-term borrowing requirements. I said that the public, when they're hearing both at the same time it compounds the message and it really scares a lot of people. That's one example of precision.

Another example of the precision of what I'm talking about is when we talk about the formula financing agreement. Now the formula financing agreement has a couple of flaws that we talked about. I think most people understand perversity, it's basically that the level of our taxation has to match some average level of provincial taxation or we're penalized for the difference. Then the GDP cap that was imposed in 1988.

Talking about precision, I think the Premier in her statement talked about the fact that we're trying to get rid of the problems that we have in our formula financing agreement that the provinces don't have in their equalization agreements. If you look at the formula financing agreement and you look at the provincial equalization agreements, we talk about losing hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. The precise fact is a little bit different from that. Though that is true that we have lost millions from what we would have had if it had have stayed the same as it was pre-1988. The way I think that should have been put is that in 1988 the federal government imposed ceilings on provinces and on the territories. The provinces and territories, collectively, lost hundreds of millions of dollars. The question you want to ask is

how did we fare with the formula financing agreement, compared to a province that has

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equalization? The reality is, compared to the other provinces, in that five years, we went ahead in revenue by \$150 million and they dropped in revenue by \$50 million. So because we had a formula financing agreement, we actually saved ourselves \$200 million.

The other aspect, and I think the Finance Minister told us about the new deal that the provinces are getting. I think that was what the Premier was alluding to, perhaps, but it wasn't clear in her messages that they have been given a five per cent increase over the last couple of years. In the last two years, using the government's own statistics, but in the year 1991-92 to 1992-93 we actually went down. In that year there was a decrease of \$4 million. But then from 1992-93 to 1993-94 we had an increase of eight per cent. So we're up almost at historic levels. Then, from 1993-94 to 1994-95 we're about four per cent. So I guess the question is, the difference from what we anticipate compared to that five per cent is really what we're talking about. The problem, though important, shouldn't take away from the fact that the formula financing agreement has saved us a couple hundred million bucks over the last four years. That's, again, another example where it's very important to be precise.

A third example of that is when this government first came into power. Mr. Pollard, who I think has done an extremely competent job as Minister of Finance and I think deserves a lot of credit for being able to maintain the fiscal situation that we have right now. It's a real tough job and I think he's done very well.

Another example of where precision -- and this is not the intention, I'm sure, at all on the Finance Minister's part -- is really important, the Finance Minister, for instance, quite rightly, would brief the Standing Committee on Finance of worst case scenarios. That's what Finance Ministers have done since the beginning of time. Out of that, unless there are very precise instructions about how the information is used, the Standing Committee on Finance says in the paper we're expecting a \$380 million deficit by 1995. The media, of course, don't go to the Finance Minister or the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and say, what's this. Mr. Pollard would have said, look, we're talking as if everything went bad, we just wanted to be realistic. That doesn't happen.

There's a headline. It stands there on its own. Bankers and people who are thinking of investing in the north see these headlines and there is nothing there to qualify it. I know for a fact that with bankers in this town, anyway, that has a big impact.

My point is here -- and I'm not blaming him, this is as much as the media's fault as it is anybody else because they pick the juicy part and that's the juicy part of that. They don't report a well thought out presentation. The one line is the headline. But it's the headline that does the damage. My point is, more and more every day for the Minister of Finance and the Premier to be extremely precise with the information they give out, because that information and those words have a very profound impact on how the financial world looks at investment opportunities here in the Northwest Territories. Whether banks are prepared to lend money to businesses. It's quite extraordinary. I'm not sure if you actually both recognize how important your positions are and how much people read into what you have to say. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Ballantyne. Those were general comments and observations. Would Mr. Pollard like to respond?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, except that I'm here as the chairman of the Financial Management Board and that's the Finance Minister's concern, Mr. Chairman. It's ironic that Mr. Ballantyne is cautioning the Premier and myself to be careful about what we say lest people read that information, listen to that information and then make decisions based upon that information.

I would point out, being it's Friday, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Finance in Ottawa and the Department of DIAND in Ottawa have readers who read all the debates in this House. Talking about our surpluses and so on, and our cash position and how fortunate we've been, does not really give me a strong card to play at the negotiating table with Mr. Martin. In addition, to myself and the Premier having to be careful about what we say about the investment climate in the Northwest Territories, debates in this House have a way of weakening our hand when we're trying to convince people that we really do need some extra funds or do need some greater consideration than other jurisdictions in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks, Mr. Pollard. This is taking on the tone of a debate which I would like to avoid, if we could. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I don't want to debate it. I think the Standing Committee on Finance was very careful to have a balanced approach. The reality is that, at the present time the fiscal situation is pretty good. On the other hand, I think we are very clear that we're very, very vulnerable in the future. I think Mr. Pollard is also well aware that not only does the Department of Finance in Ottawa listen to our debates, but they read all the financial records coming from all the jurisdictions so they are quite aware of everybody's relative position. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thanks very much, Mr. Ballantyne. Anybody else? General comments or questions. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under your human resource management, I'm curious. I know the government has a large workforce and certainly any workforce has problems with employees. You have to deal with employees who are not performing and not doing their jobs. We always hear of these wrongful dismissal cases that happen to get publicized. How do you deal with employees who are in that kind of a situation, who are not performing their duties. What is the process for dealing with that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have a performance appraisal system in the Government of the Northwest Territories. It may not have been working as well in the past, as we believe it is starting to work now. We have consulted, with departments in regions, et cetera, how to handle these kinds of things, how to do the assessments and appraisals, what to put on people's files, et cetera. It is something we are quite keen about and that is to point out to employees where they are failing and be fair about it. Also to

give managers of departments the ability to say you haven't been performing and we can see this consistently over the last two years and for this reason, we want to take this particular action. If we are going to ever do any of those kinds of things, it has to be documented, Mr. Chairman. That is what we are about right now. To provide departments with the on how to go through those procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there set guidelines in place already so that departments are aware of the steps they have to follow? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are procedures in place. It says, on the form, your weaknesses are this, here is the training that is available to you and this is what we think you should do to help that person along. If you don't do this, here are some of the things that might happen. That would be provided to the employee. Hopefully, he or she would know where they are and we would know our position so we could go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up from Mr. Ng on questions about human resource planning. I think it is fair to say that most people accept that our government has not done a great job in this area over the years. I certainly take my share of the blame for that. There are well-known stories where employees have gone for years, or even their whole career, without ever having had a performance appraisal. I am sure the Minister has heard these stories.

operations of our government? My impression is that there may be less staff in the field as a result of this reorganization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the last question first. There is not less staff in the field than there were before. I think perhaps Mr. Patterson is too hard on himself, there was a lot of good work done by previous governments. When the reorganization came about of the government, we found that Personnel had done a lot of work. It will not slow down now that FMBS is responsible, in fact, it will speed up. We have allocated more resources to human resource planning.

We have been told we have a lack of focus across government. In this area, and in other areas, if you really look at what we are doing, you will find that the Department of Education is very closely involved with FMBS in management training and in a new program we have where we are going to take young people from the Northwest Territories and bring them up through the ranks. You will find that we recognize that if we are going to have the kinds of people who are going to be required when division occurs, particularly in Nunavut, we have to increase the area of education. Mr. Nerysoo is very aware of that. Consequently, we are pouring more resources into Education because we recognize that we have to educate people before we can get them into the government service. These things are all meshed together. Human resources perhaps blends in with the other things in education and training, but it is very important to us. We will continue to put all efforts into hiring and training more northerners and making sure we have a public service that reflects the make-up of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do acknowledge that there has been some good progress made. I would like to specifically turn to the question of planning for Nunavut. I think there is a concern that, while we may have attracted considerable numbers of Dene-Metis into senior management positions, particularly in headquarters, and we have notable successes at the DM, ADM and other senior management levels, for obvious reasons Inuit have not been as successful at

the senior management level perhaps because it has been farther away for them to relocate. I am not sure what all the factors would be. I would like to ask Mr. Pollard if the human resource strategy of the FMBS includes planning for the public service needs of Nunavut, particularly, whether we will see more programs like I know are in place in Renewable Resources to earmark positions like deputy minister and establish a training program and a training position as that department is doing with its deputy minister position, as that department is doing, I believe, with some of its superintendent positions. Will there be a strategy with an eye towards Nunavut in this area of the Executive? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, once again, I am going to get to go back to this, that we are not focused and that we are not working together.

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Pardon me for harping on this subject, but every chance I get to prove to this committee that we are looking out for these things, planning long-term and collaborating, I think, will give this committee more confidence that we do have a game plan and maybe we are just not explaining it as well as we should.

With regard to Mr. Patterson's question about division, human resources on the Nunavut side is, after all, our responsibility. There is no question about that. Theoretically, and we can be reasonably assured that the employees that are there right now, and, of course, it is going to take some work with unions and the NWTTA about how it occurs, are going to be the employees of the new Nunavut government. It is incumbent upon us as the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and the Government of the Northwest Territories to make sure that those people are trained as well as they can be, because there is no question they are going to get more responsibility. Many of the decisions that are made in Yellowknife now will not be made here any more. They will be made in their own homeland.

Getting back to the coordination, that is why the Premier has established a division review committee, and there is a secretariat that goes along with it. That is one of the issues that committee is looking at. The

secretariat will make recommendations to the division review committee, which will make recommendations to Madam Premier who will bring them to Cabinet and say, here are the kinds of problems that we are seeing when division occurs. And on the human resource side in Nunavut, here are the things that we are going to have to fast-track, speed up or pay more attention to. So we are looking at it through that process, Mr. Chairman, and we are aware of the problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

This is all encouraging, Mr. Chairman, and I do acknowledge that this is the first year of operation of this new creature. I would like to learn more about this plan as it unfolds. Does the Minister see the eventual outcome of the Nunavut planning and the division secretariat being that each department and area of our government -- and I would hope this would also extend to arm's-length agencies or less dependent agencies like the Power Corporation, the Housing Corporation and the Workers' Compensation Board -- would have a plan and a strategy to prepare human resources with an eye to the division of the Northwest Territories in 1999? Would the end point be that each department would have, in effect, a new Nunavut human resources strategy? In addition, of course, to the other training priorities that would be identified, I would just like to ask if there would be kind of a Nunavut human resource plan in departments and in the overall government as a result of this new FMBS? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, not specifically. I think the plan that we have at the present time addresses all of the Northwest Territories because there are problems in the western Arctic as well. There will be a plan for all of the Northwest Territories but, as I say, we are aware of the fact that there is going to be a bit of a vacuum in Nunavut if we don't do something about that kind of thing now. The division review committee will point out where those problems may occur and pass them on to us. We'll then come back and say

how it should be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

This is my final supplementary. Does the division review committee happen to include any persons ordinarily resident in Nunavut? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, Nick Carter, one of our regional directors, is on it, but that is the only one I can recall from Nunavut or the eastern Arctic at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Patterson is finished. Is there anybody else who would either like to ask a question or make a comment? Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5). I would like to report progress, with three motions being adopted. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Before I go on to Item 21, I would like to recognize in the public gallery the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Don Mazankowski. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus subcommittees immediately after adjournment today; at 10:30 am on Saturday, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance; on Monday at 9:00 am, a meeting of the Nunavut and Western Caucuses; and, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Monday, February 21, 1994.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Replies to Budget 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
 - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95
 - Committee Report 2-12(5), Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates
 - Minister's Statement 5-12(5), Session Business
 - Tabled Document 1-12(5), Towards and 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
20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, February 21, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT