



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

5th Session

Day 11

12th Assembly

HANSARD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1994

Pages 243 - 273

Page numbers reflect printed Hansard

The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Social Services and Personnel, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 22-12(5): Youth Initiatives Display

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Madam Speaker, the purpose of the youth initiative program is to strengthen the capacity of youth to lead and find solutions to problems and issues affecting youth. The program provides contribution and grant funding to allow youth the opportunity to plan, implement and participate in programs and services to youth.

The goal of the program is to provide the youth of NWT with the tools and resources necessary to develop their leadership potential, enhance their cultural and traditional awareness, instill self-esteem and confidence and learn the value of working together. The Department of Social Services is pleased to present a display of the youth initiative program in the lobby of the Legislative Assembly. The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes that we must enhance the role of youth in the NWT by encouraging their active participation in projects, initiatives and special events that will assist in developing their personal potential and developing leadership and advocacy skills.

Madam Speaker, a total of 39 projects received funding this fiscal year. They include cultural camps, youth drop-in centres, outdoor leadership training programs, youth gospel conferences and attendance

at school alcohol and drug conferences. The display shows communities that received funding for the 1993-94 fiscal year. I urge you to take a few moments to visit the display.

Also, Madam Speaker, a group of young people representing Generation 2000, a national group, and Youth On The Move, an NWT group established to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being for youth in the north, are present today at the display to promote their mandate. They are also holding presentations in local schools in Yellowknife throughout this week. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The speaker would like to recognize in the gallery the youth who are in charge of the display, Youth 2000. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Absence Of Mr. James Arvaluk

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to inform Members of this House that the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. James Arvaluk, will not be in the House today as he is attending a meeting of the Keewatin Marine Resupply Steering Committee in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Arvaluk will be back in the House tomorrow. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. For the first time today I will speak to you in my mother tongue. Last Sunday I was at a conference in Yellowknife with the Metis Association, the heritage

conference. The conference was to examine the Metis language. We were told it was called Michif...

MADAM SPEAKER:

I apologize, Mr. Whitford. I believe Mr. Pudlat does not have translation. Mr. Whitford, proceed.

Member's Statement On Michif Conference

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I said for the first time in this Assembly that I would speak a little bit of my mother tongue. The language is called Michif. This Sunday, I attended a conference put on by the Metis Heritage Association on the language Michif, the language of the Metis people. It was attended by Metis elders from Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Fort Norman and Yellowknife, as well as facilitators from the province of Manitoba and from North Dakota in the United States.

This weekend I learned that a language of the Metis people evolved, flourished and still exists in small pockets across the west and here in the NWT, particularly along the Slave/Mackenzie river systems and where there was influence of French-speaking nuns, priests and traders. Michif was the

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working language of the Metis people and the voyageurs, and appears to be a combination of French-Cree, French-Chip, French-Ojibway and other languages with a french base. I seek unanimous consent to continue, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, colleagues, and Madam Speaker. The language is a combination of french and native languages with its own particular form and structure, eventually becoming a language of its own, usually passed along from father to son, mother to daughter and spoken mainly in the home. It was often mistakenly referred to as broken French or broken English and often made fun of.

Madam Speaker, this weekend's conference was the second one of its kind in three years and the first one in the NWT, as I understand it. It brought together elders who still remember speaking the dialect in their families, and many still do. Among the many items discussed was the origin, the evolution and the decline in use as well as the efforts by some Metis to preserve and perhaps revive this language, much like the Acadians on the east coast and the Cajuns in Louisiana in the United States.

Madam Speaker, to conclude, I enjoyed the conference and look forward to the next one. I felt comfortable talking my own version of French in company who understood. We had some fun, like Metis people usually do when we get together. I'm not sure whether Michif will ever become an official language in this Assembly but in the rich cultural background of Metis people of the west, it was and may still be an important part of our heritage. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association AGM

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge an important gathering that is taking place at this time in Iqaluit. The Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association is holding its annual general assembly starting today, February 21, and ending on February 25. Inuit women from all over Canada will meet to discuss important issues and projects affecting Inuit women and children today. Projects on justice, health and housing, to name only a few, will be reviewed. They will also discuss a code of conduct and economic development.

Madam Speaker, this year's assembly promises to be an exciting one as Pauktuutit also has a fashion show planned for February 24 that will showcase Inuit traditional clothing. Inuit traditional fashion from every region in Canada will be represented, and producers from Alaska, Greenland and Russia are also invited to participate. I would like to express my support to Pauktuutit in their endeavours. I am sure that their

assembly will be productive as well as memorable.
Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Heritage Day

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was going to make a statement last Tuesday, which was Shrove Tuesday, but I realized that we have so many dates on our calendar that have significance and meaning to them that you could stand up on almost any day of the year and find it is a special day for some reason or another. Instead of talking about going to the priest last Tuesday and asking to be forgiven for all my sins and then having pancakes -- which would be the last good meal I would have for 40 days, until Easter -- I decided people don't do this any more. That is not what people do on Shrove Tuesday.

However, today is a very important day which is meaningful to many of us because it is Heritage Day. It strikes me that in this great country of ours, and particularly in the Northwest Territories where we have so many cultures, it would be an opportunity for us to do something rather special, something different. Instead of just marking it on the calendar and saying this is Heritage Day, we should be doing things within our own society, within our own country, within our own language, which are meaningful right now, today. The calendar is full of dates that have been set aside by the Christian church and there has been a great civilizing influence throughout the centuries, but many of these customs and traditions are not really part of everyday life in the way we know it today. I would like to urge people today to reflect on this matter. Many of the challenges that we face relate to the fact that we are from different backgrounds, different histories and different cultures, and the challenge for us to live together may be to find respect for the way people look at the world. We could all live together more fully, I suppose, if we really appreciated the kind of cultural baggage we bring with us, the history we bring with us, so that by looking forward, we can solve the problems ahead. I would particularly urge the Minister of Education and Culture to look at this to see if in future we could do something definite, just more than simply observe it

on the calendar. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Alcohol And Drug Counsellors' Training

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express some concerns which have been brought to my attention. These relate to the acknowledgement and use of the various types of training taken by alcohol and drug counsellors. I believe that this government has adopted a philosophy of standardizing the training of alcohol and drug counsellors in the Northwest Territories. To achieve this, this government is also using the exclusive services of Arctic College to develop and deliver this program.

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Madam Speaker, there are many alcohol and drug programs in the Northwest Territories, and all are committed to the growth, development and training of their workers. However, there are many counsellors, especially ones in the western Arctic, who have been trained through the Nechi Institute on Alcohol and Drugs, in Alberta. These workers are convinced that the training provided by Nechi is more appropriate than that now provided by Arctic College. Therein lies the dilemma. This government does not recognize and will not assist in sponsoring alcohol and drug counsellors to complete their training through the Nechi Institute. Some of the concerns raised about the current program at Arctic College reflect the reliability, availability and consistency of its courses. Also of concern is the lack of spiritual and cultural components of the programs and, finally, the setting and environment in which courses are delivered.

Madam Speaker, the ultimate objective of our alcohol and drug programs is to assist the people who are ill and in need, and to do this we need properly trained and equipped counsellors. Thus, it would seem beneficial to utilize the various programs and learned people who can help achieve these goals, no matter where they are trained. Our population is so small and the need so huge that we should accept help

from whatever source we can. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Madam Speaker, I hope this government will review their position on this issue and will use the service and training provided by the Nechi Institute to help deal with our biggest problem in the north, the abuse of alcohol and drugs. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Michif Conference

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This weekend I attended part of the very interesting conference here in Yellowknife organized by the Metis Nation and the Metis Heritage Association. I want to thank them for their efforts, especially Bren Kolson and Mr. McSwain, from Rae-Edzo, who organized the conference. Also, thanks to Education, Culture and Employment for funding this conference.

There are many varieties of Michif French -- as my colleague from Yellowknife South mentioned -- but the word is pronounced in a different way. There are also Michif Cree in which all the nouns or names for things are in Cree and all the verbs or action words are in French. There is also Michif spoken in Manitoba. We were trying to determine if the Michif here in the Northwest Territories is different, which is French mixed with Dene languages. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Very well timed. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement On Illaut Investments Incorporated

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is a group of Inuit in Coppermine who have established a local development corporation, Illaut Investments Incorporated. On Wednesday, February 16, the shareholders held their first annual general meeting. Madam Speaker, this group of individuals has been struggling since early 1992 to establish itself. During my election campaign in early 1993, I was asked and agreed to support and assist the group. Since late last year, I have actively become involved in providing advice and encouragement to them.

These individuals are long-term residents of Coppermine who have developed a desire, like many other aboriginal people in the NWT, to become involved in the private sector. The shareholders have invested \$500 each, which may not seem to be a lot of money to some of us who have well-paying employment, however, to many of these shareholders, becoming involved in business for the first time, the \$500 investment of their hard-earned and limited financial resources is a major financial commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, through his department, has now provided funds for a consultant to work with the group, to develop a work plan and identify possible business ventures which the group can possibly become involved in.

The shareholders have committed to a long-term investment. In fact, these investments are not for themselves but, they are hoping, for the benefit of their children and grandchildren. These individuals are not trying to get rich overnight or disrupt any existing businesses. They are only asking for the opportunity, as a broad-base of local individuals, to become involved in a small way in the business sector of their own community.

Madam Speaker, I urge the government to support any reasonable initiative that comes forward from this and any other group which shows a broad community-base of involvement and the initiative to pool and risk their own resources. The newly elected executive of Illaut Investments Incorporated are:

Mrs. Elizabeth Joss-MacDonald, president; Mrs. Joanne Taptuna, vice-president, Mrs. Annie Kellegok, treasurer, Ms. Rosie Kagak, secretary. I congratulate these ladies and the rest of the board members elected to pursue the interests of all the shareholders.

Madam Speaker, I will be absent from this House on Tuesday and part of Wednesday in order to meet with the consultant and the new board of directors in continuation of my support for their efforts. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Constituents' Concerns Re Rental Increases

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My statement today will be regarding the rental rate review for public housing in the NWT. Madam Speaker, my constituents, most of whom live in public housing units, are very concerned about possible rent increases. The housing association in Lake Harbour, for example, informed me that their tenants are extremely worried about how they will be able to afford their rent, along with the very high cost of living in that community. They have not been officially notified, but the general assumption is that the rents will be increased significantly.

They have instructed me to resist any such increases. The local housing associations are also under pressure from tenants not to increase rents. I am also very concerned with the very high cost of living, especially the high cost of food, and how increased rents would have a very negative impact on many of my people.

I am aware of the difficult position that the Minister of Housing has been put in by the CMHC, but the legitimate concerns of public housing tenants must be heard and responded to. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I understand that the Premier attended meetings over the weekend with the Minister of Indian Affairs and representatives of the Treaty 8 group. I wonder if the Premier could advise the House of the purpose of these meetings.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The initial request for us to travel to Edmonton was from the Treaty 8 Nation, who asked us if we would go down in support of them at the beginning of their negotiations on their land entitlement. They also wished that a parallel negotiation process be put in place to discuss programs and services to Treaty 8 people in the Northwest Territories. The Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Irwin, was conducting a series of meetings with all Treaty 8 people across Alberta and had set up a generous amount of time to meet with the Treaty 8 of the Northwest Territories. They requested that we be there in support of getting their negotiations going.

While we were down there, we also asked to have a meeting with the Minister of Indian Affairs in relation to setting up a process to deal with our overall financial arrangements for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Premier just mentioned that the meetings were with the intent of setting up a parallel negotiating system with the territories and the federal government. Could the Premier advise this House whether she committed to that parallel process with Treaty 8 representatives?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There were many people at those meetings with Mr. Irwin, and he had gone through at least a month of steady sessions before he got to the meetings with Treaty 8. We are attempting to get the federal government to deal with that outstanding issue. We did commit that we would be willing to go on a working group if the process could be established. I would like to refer a further explanation of this question, Madam Speaker, if it is permissible, to the Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Unfortunately, I don't believe our rules allow for one question to be directed to two Ministers to answer. Unless Mr. Dent asks this question to the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Minister, our rules do not allow it. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I may follow up with the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs later. Could the Premier advise the House if she is aware of any commitments made by Mr. Irwin to Treaty 8, to get the process under way that Treaty 8 representatives were looking for?

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it appears that the Minister wants to begin some type of process. I don't think it is quite clear from our discussion exactly what that process will be. The federal government of the day is committing to respective inherent rights and also aboriginal self-government. The suggestion was that perhaps Treaty 8 could be part of the overall review regarding the parameters of those two phrases, but that would take a whole year to do. The Minister did, without our provocation, state that he was interested in a one-window approach to deal with the treaty land entitlement and self-government. But I don't think it was very clear to us exactly how he was going to approach that, although he indicated that if we formed a working group, we could work toward what that process would be to allow Treaty 8 to proceed with their claim. I don't think I can clearly say to the honourable Member that there was a great deal of clarity. We did commit to support a process to try to deal with it and get it on the table. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Premier commit to this House that she will keep the Constitutional Development Steering Committee in the West fully informed of all developments that may take place in terms of negotiations with Treaty 8 on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 152-12(5): Purpose Of Meetings Attended By Premier

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I think it would be in our very best interests to do so, yes.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. In my Member's statement today I mentioned a concern raised by some people in the western Arctic about training provided by the Nechi Institute on Alcohol and Drugs. My question to the Minister is, has this issue been reviewed and what is Arctic College's position on the training program provided by the Nechi Institute for Alcohol and Drugs as compared to the program run by Arctic College? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There has been no position taken by Arctic College, per se. They are a delivery agent for training on behalf of our government. They're not involved in the philosophical decisions of this government.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

MR. KOE:

It is recognized though, that Arctic College does deliver a program to train alcohol and drug counsellors and I believe it's supposed to be standardized across the Northwest Territories. That is a government policy and philosophy. My question to the Minister is, does this government then recognize the training that people have taken through the Nechi Institute and the equivalency of those programs and training to the courses at Arctic College?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is an interpretation of how one recognizes a particular course. I want to inform the Members that there is only really one institution, I believe, at present -- I'm not aware of any others -- and that is the University of Alaska that makes recognition of the Nechi program. Our attempt to develop an alcohol and drug counselling program in the NWT, through Arctic College, is to associate it with other post-secondary institutions in Canada where you can continue in a program to receive a degree. That is where we're at, at this particular juncture.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Arctic College's alcohol and drug program is fairly new and is trying to be enhanced. What changes are being made to include some of the spiritual and cultural components that Nechi has into the alcohol and drug programs provided by Arctic College?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will just indicate that many appropriate changes can be accommodated to respond to the training needs and cultural differences of the residents of the Northwest Territories. What seems to be the big debate at this particular time between a number of communities is whether they want to participate in

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the northern training program or whether they want to continue in the Nechi program. That is the crux of the problem. My suggestion to the residents of the

Northwest Territories is to help Arctic College develop a program that is more responsive to these needs, including spiritual and cultural requirements, in the northern training program. We would be prepared to consider these program changes if necessary.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. I assume, though, that Arctic College programs for alcohol and drug treatment are delivered in central locations. Is Arctic College willing to look at delivering the alcohol and drug counsellor training programs at some of our alcohol and drug treatment centres?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 153-12(5): Arctic College Position On Nechi Institute Training Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Any of those considerations could be made by Arctic College and by the department, but I would be a bit cautious about indicating to the honourable Member in the affirmative until we see what the design of the program is. I think we could consider the concept, as with the teacher education program where we run it on a community by community basis, with modules being run in a central location. There is nothing to suggest we can't consider that.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo.

Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. The Minister knows that there

are quite a few students attending school outside the NWT, and there is no policy to guide the parents on what sort of financial assistance they can gather if schooling is available in their community or region. I would like to ask the Minister if the department is drafting a policy that would address those students attending school outside the NWT.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The basic policy we've adopted as a government is to deliver our education programs in the NWT. It is not my intention to promote the idea of not developing the educational system. While I understand the issue the honourable Member is raising, I think our main focus should be developing quality educational programs in the NWT. That's our first priority and that's the approach I'm taking at this point in time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Madam Speaker, I don't dispute that the quality of education in the community is going to improve. I believe it is still improving and it will continue to do so for a long time. For those students who are interested in taking courses that are not available in their community or region, would the Minister be willing to develop a policy to address that sort of requirement? These students are mostly very bright. I know the first priority of the Minister, his staff and Cabinet is to educate our kids to the fullest. There are students who are very bright, and the courses they want to take are not available in their communities or regions so their parents are sending them out. Is the Minister willing to support developing a policy that would address those particular students? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am prepared to consider the idea but I'm not going to suggest to the Member that I'm going to support a policy of that nature. I would rather, if I could suggest, support a programming initiative in the Northwest Territories that would respond to those students. I would be very careful about how a policy that is being suggested by the honourable Member is considered or, for that matter, implemented. It could mean that a lot of students or parents could find ways to suggest that their child could qualify for a program of that nature. It's no different than the student residence/home boarding policy. Once you make a change to it and allow options, then it seems to fall apart. I would be very careful about that, but I will consider the comments that are being made by the honourable Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Alloo.oo.

Supplementary To Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the Minister agree with me, in sending a certain group of students outside the Northwest Territories may cost the government less money? Madam Speaker, recently I received a letter from the Minister saying that in order to send a student from Pond Inlet to Iqaluit to attend high school, it costs this government \$24,000 a year. I have a student in a southern institution whose parents are paying all of the costs and it's not as much as that. Would the Minister agree with me that in some cases it will cost this government less to send the students outside? Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 154-12(5): Development Of Financial Assistance Policy For Students Attending School Outside NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would not argue with the point that is being made by the honourable Member, however, the concept of building an educational system in the Northwest Territories is expensive no matter how we look at it. Our first commitment is to build a quality educational system in the north. That's our first priority.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 155-12(5): Notification Prior To Rental Increases

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. A little while ago I made a Member's statement with regard to the rental increases. This question is directed to the Minister of Housing. In the Baffin South region, in my constituency and other communities, there is a review being done with regard to rental increases. I have been getting a lot of phone calls from my constituents that if the rents are increased they will have a hardship. Madam Speaker, my question is, before the approval of the rental increases, would the Minister please notify the communities just before the rental increases become effective? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 155-12(5): Notification Prior To Rental Increases

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The process for reviewing the rental structure in the Northwest Territories for the Housing Corporation is, right now we're out in the communities gathering all the information from your constituents. Once the information is documented, then the Member will be informed of how it would effect his riding, also the community will be informed. A new rental structure will be discussed through the advisory committee, through Cabinet and through Members of the

Assembly, then the community will be informed. There will be no adjustments for rent until 90 days after the process has all gone through. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 156-12(5): Treaty 8 People's Takeover Of Delivery Of Programs And Services

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. I was wondering if the Minister could advise us whether at the meetings this weekend or at any prior time, if there have been any discussions with Treaty 8 representatives which might lead to their taking over delivery of services similar to what is taking place under the community transfer initiative. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 156-12(5): Treaty 8 People's Takeover Of Delivery Of Programs And Services

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, Treaty 8 had indicated to the Government Leader in meetings a few weeks ago, that they were interested in exploring options through which they could take over programs and services for their own members. The Government Leader and myself had indicated that the community transfer initiative does not lend itself to the kind of programs and services that they want to deliver, simply because we don't have the legislative capacity to set up programs and services specifically for aboriginal people. The best recourse for them would be to discuss it with the federal government since they have that legislative power, and that we would support them in setting up discussions with the federal government to explore options or ways in which this could be negotiated with the view of Treaty 8 making that offer to their members respectively. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance, and it's to deal with a meeting that the Minister attended in January. A meeting that was put together of the federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister, Marcel Masse, about the possible elimination of duplication between federal, provincial and territorial programs. I wonder if the Minister could give us a brief report as to what transpired in that particular meeting. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was actually a Finance Ministers' meeting, in which Mr. Martin had asked Mr. Masse to attend to talk to Finance Ministers about overlap in duplication. It involves areas of concern expressed by both levels of government, where we're both doing similar things. It involves the regulatory process. It involves the environment. It involves programs that are delivered by sometimes three levels of government: municipal; territorial or provincial; and, federal. It is hoped that after Mr. Masse has looked at this problem and gotten more comfortable with it, that individually, as provinces, territories and in some cases municipalities, we can agree on areas that do overlap, that do duplicate and we can come to some arrangement whereby the program would be delivered by one level of government and get some efficiency in the others. That was the gist. It was a get-to-know-you kind of meeting.

I have to write to Mr. Masse and give him our position with things that we see in the Northwest Territories that overlap and duplicate. Many of those things involve DIAND, of course, and

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the transfers of program responsibility that we have not yet received. I will be doing that, then Mr. Masse will respond and we'll see if we can work some of those issues out, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I find this process very interesting for us, probably as much if not more than other jurisdictions. It's a very, very important one. As the Minister has said there is a lot of overlap now. Many programs that DIAND carries out I am quite sure we are very capable of carrying out. Is the Minister of Finance the designated Minister in this process?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I am, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Could the Minister give us a time frame where we can expect the Minister to report back to this House as to what progress he has made in these negotiations?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hope to be able to isolate some fairly simple things this summer and pass them on to Mr. Masse. The overall strategy has to involve the rest of Cabinet, sitting as FMB, simply because of the complexity -- as Mr. Ballantyne points out -- of the problem in the Northwest Territories. It involves a huge government department and we are going to have to sit down and look at this before we make suggestions of an immense size. We will probably be able to report with some small successes in the fall session, and with the strategy then of how we intend to approach the larger picture. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Then would we expect this initiative to be put into the package of initiatives that the government now is negotiating with the federal government?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 157-12(5): Report On Finance Ministers' Meeting Re Duplication Of Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

It is ironic that Mr. Ballantyne should ask that question, Madam Speaker, but of course he is very swift of mind. Just as a little insurance, shall we say, when I was meeting privately with Mr. Masse, I mentioned that we had experienced some problems with transfers from the federal government to ourselves, namely minerals and the northern accord, and would he be interested in attacking that problem from the aspect of overlap and duplication. He said he would be willing to look at that situation after we had exhausted the efforts that we have under way right now with the federal Finance Minister. I think Mr. Ballantyne was probably thinking ahead and I was doing the same thing in trying to cover some bases. We may be able to attack that problem from an angle of overlap and duplication, which would perhaps speed the process up and save the federal

government some money. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. The Department of Social Services has done a lot of work and have been able to find some money to resolve the salary and benefits issue for alcohol and drug workers. For this, the workers are very grateful. But other than alcohol and drugs, there are many different programs within the department. One of these is the care for elderly residents. They are cared for in either government-owned and operated facilities or self-standing facilities, which are managed by other agencies and they receive contributions from the department. What is the department doing to ensure that the salaries and benefits of employees in the free-standing facilities are compatible with the work and responsibilities they do?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Department of Social Services has already compiled a list of where there is wage parity with the facilities we have. But there are ongoing talks within Cabinet. Social Services is not the only department that has wage parity. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

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Supplementary To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I understand that a study was done reviewing the salaries and benefits in all the long-term care facilities. Can the Minister confirm whether a study was done of all long-term care facilities funded by the department in order to ascertain the salary and benefit levels of all the staff?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am not aware if there was a study done, but our staff did collect information on the staff who are hired through the contributions and grants we provide. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

MR. KOE:

I have also been lead to believe that the levels of salaries which employees receive and work in government-owned and operated facilities are quite different than those owned by employees of free-standing or contracted out facilities. Can the Minister confirm that there is a difference in the salaries paid to employees in government-owned and operated facilities as compared to non-government-owned facilities?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, that was one of the reasons why the alcohol and drug counsellors' wages were increased to bring them up to the GNWT employee wage level. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Can the Minister then assure this House that employees who are qualified and have responsibilities in caring for aged and handicapped people should be paid salary and benefits which are commensurate and equivalent with their duties and equivalent to those in government-owned and operated facilities?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 158-12(5): Wage Parity For Employees In Non-Government Facilities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have the full commitment to try to increase the levels of wages where it lapses. It will come when the reorganization and the realigning of the programs within the department, where the funding can be found, are complete.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 159-12(5): Annual Increase For Students' Living Allowances

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. The students in universities, outside of the communities...Since the...(inaudible)...quite rapidly, the price of clothes and food. Can their living allowances be raised annually? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 159-12(5): Annual Increase For Students' Living Allowances

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. A year ago, there were changes that allowed for increases to student

financial assistance, specifically in the area related to aboriginal students. The honourable Member has raised a concern. It is not our intention to cover things like clothing. That is not part of the ongoing responsibility we have. What student financial assistance does deal with the matter of financing students to attend an institution, a college or a university.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 159-12(5): Annual Increase For Students' Living Allowances

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. In Iqaluit campus, do the students who are single parents and do not have their children with them receive the same kind of assistance as the ones who do have children there? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 159-12(5): Annual Increase For Students' Living Allowances

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm unable to say at this particular juncture, unless I know the specific situation the honourable Member wishes me to address. If single parents have their children, then additional support is provided to their children if they take them, for instance, to Iqaluit. That would be the case for married students, as well. It depends on the circumstances of the individual.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Premier. On two occasions now, the Caucus has met with representatives of Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 chiefs.

Members were given a presentation on an oral interpretation of the treaties. The Premier was asked to provide support to the effort of the chiefs, and the Premier agreed to do so. Is it on the basis of the oral tradition, that the Premier has agreed to support the Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 chiefs?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I have not studied or researched the intent of the treaties. The basis of my support for the Treaty 8 chiefs is to get negotiations going with the federal government. The area the Treaty 8 chiefs are asking us to determine are areas directly related to the fiduciary responsibility of the federal government to the Treaty 8 people. We are merely there to support them to try to get the process going. We don't want to stand in their way. We want the federal government to take their responsibility as determined by the treaties. If it is an assessment or an analysis of what the treaty says, I don't believe that can be overcome unless the federal government sits down seriously with these people and take on their particular responsibilities.

It is my understanding, and it has been stated in this Legislative Assembly for many, many years over and over again, that this government does not have the legislative authority to deal with the particular questions Treaty 8 people are asking. We can help, but we can't answer to the treaty entitlement. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Premier was at a meeting on the weekend at the invitation of the Treaty 8 chiefs. We've been given some account of what went on at that meeting. Would the Premier tell the House whether Mr. Irwin agreed to negotiate with the Treaty 8 people on the basis of their version of the treaty, rather than the written one?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, it is very difficult when you're in a meeting where there are about 25 or 30 representatives of Treaty 8 in the NWT. They were expressing to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Irwin, that they wished to try to get a broader mandate on how they would negotiate with the federal government, in response to what the Minister of Indian Affairs stated as the parameters of the treaty land entitlement mandate.

I would say that the Friday night meeting was fairly optimistic that he would take a parallel or coordinated approach. There were many words to describe this approach. We wanted to make sure that everyone understood, including the Treaty 8 people and the Minister of Indian Affairs, that we were not about to be used in a parallel situation when it was his direct responsibility. As I've stated before, it is the federal government that is stating that they wish to support the inherent right to self-government.

There is some indication from some Members of the present government that it is in section 35. These are the areas on which the federal government is making statements. The Treaty 8 people wanted us to support them in trying to get this stance clarified so they would know what process they could take to deal with both the treaty land entitlement and self-government. They wanted to know if that was parallel or if there was another way to do it. We were there to make sure the discussions didn't go as they usually go where they have meetings and say the programs are funded from GNWT coffers. Our argument is, it doesn't matter where the funding comes from, the final decisions are up to the federal government to make.

I would like to be more clear, but Friday night seemed to be optimistic. On Saturday morning some of the officials met and some details were worked out. Right now, we are composing a letter to the federal government. Our Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development is putting a letter together indicating what we understood happened at the meeting. The fact is, the only thing I can be clear about is that the federal minister, Treaty 8 people and

ourselves did agree we would have a process to deal with it so people wouldn't be going around slipshod to all the jurisdictions. That's what we agreed to, but there weren't any details determined on what that was going to be. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

MR. LEWIS:

I appreciate that in all these negotiations unless you make it clear where you stand, if you're not on somebody's side, people automatically assume you're against someone. I appreciate the efforts of the Premier and the Ministers who were there to show an interest in this process. Would the Premier confirm that all that has been agreed to is that there has to be a process, nothing else? That's the sum total of what's been agreed to. Can she confirm that?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 160-12(5): Premier's Support For Treaty 8 And 11 Chiefs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Madam Speaker. The short answer is yes. What has been agreed to is a process should be set up to look at the desire of Treaty 8 people to take over programs and services provided to their specific people.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services, and it has to do with the review of POL rates, including heating oil and gasoline prices that the government charges to consumers. I would like to ask the Minister when he expects the review to be complete. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. By March 31.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if there will be a consultative process where Members who are interested will be allowed to review these rates prior to them being enacted. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be happy to discuss it with interested Members. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

I'd like to clarify, is the intent of the review to eliminate the large differences between communities and between regions? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I missed that one part of the question. I didn't hear it.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ng, may I ask you to clarify your question.

Supplementary To Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question was, is it the intent of the review to eliminate the large differences between communities and between regions, the rates between those communities and regions? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 161-12(5): Review Of POL Rates

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The intention of the review is to make it fair for everyone. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Sometimes the communities are not aware of accumulating a deficit. Can the Minister indicate how much of a deficit is expected by the end of the fiscal year? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Point of order, Mr. Pudluk.

Point Of Order

MR. PUDLUK:

My question was directed to the Minister of MACA. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. There appears to be some confusion on the question not coming across clearly on translation. If I could just ask you again to briefly

clarify the question for the Minister of MACA. Thank you, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will speak very slowly. Madam Speaker...

---Laughter

---English not provided

MADAM SPEAKER:

Sorry, Mr. Pudluk, you're speaking too fast. We didn't get any translation, but I think they were starting to finally translate. Proceed.

Question 162-12(5): Reason For Community Deficits

MR. PUDLUK:

I'm going to repeat that question for the third time now. (Translation) My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The hamlets accumulate deficits. Sometimes the hamlet board members are not aware they will have a deficit. At this time, today, the hamlets with deficits are not aware of how they end up with deficits. Can the Minister indicate what causes the deficits, and respond to my question? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 162-12(5): Reason For Community Deficits

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

(Translation) Madam Speaker, I don't know which community the Member is talking about. But for those communities that I know, as of March 19, 1993, and the end of March 1993, there were three communities that I know of that ran into a deficit. To date, I don't really know which communities have deficits. I have to find out more information on this then I will get back to you. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 163-12(5): Community Justice System Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister of Justice. Madam Speaker, when I travelled to my region, namely: Pelly Bay, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, there is notable perception from the public that the communities want to have more control over the community justice system. The honourable Minister initiated a justice system initiative a few years ago. I know there is an incentive from the Minister, as well as from the community. I know this justice system initiative could be applicable in the community whereby a community would be in control because they know their way of dealing with the system. According to my understanding, people are saying that for minor crimes in the community, the system we have in place is not working. My question to the honourable Minister, through you, Madam Speaker, is what is the status of this community justice system initiative? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 163-12(5): Community Justice System Initiative

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the community justice initiative is one that is going to take some time to gain momentum. All across the Northwest Territories, at this time, there is major work being done by nearly all the predominantly aboriginal groups to implement land claim agreements. These are very complex and time consuming. Many of the leadership and skilled people at the community and regional levels are focusing their priorities on this work at this time, such as in the Gwich'in settlement area. The Inuvialuit continue to implement their claim. The Sahtu is following suit. The Nunavut claim area is also starting to swing its focus primarily on claims implementation.

In the wake of that, the focus that I hoped would be put on community justice has not moved as quickly as I would have liked. At the same time, it follows that once people put their priorities in order, I believe that community justice is going to be high on the list because people are preoccupied with taking responsibility for crimes, for the social upheaval and the things wrong in our communities.

The Department of Justice continues to stand ready to help those communities that call on us to assist them setting up meetings and workshops, those communities that wish to explore ways in which they can, initially as volunteers, begin to look for ways they can get involved in the current justice system, to take over certain elements of justice the way it is now and to give the community more responsibility and involvement in that area. It is still a high priority, at least with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 163-12(5): Community Justice System Initiative

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the honourable Minister responded by saying that there are community planned workshops taking place in the process. I wonder if the honourable Minister would send his officials to the communities of Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Pelly Bay to hold such workshops. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 163-12(5): Community Justice System Initiative

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, we will contact the leaders of the community of Gjoa Haven, or whoever the individuals are that the Member wishes us to contact -- whether they be interested individuals, people already in the service program area, or elected leaders -- to begin discussions on whether setting up a workshop would be appropriate at this time. We would be very happy to do so. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 164-12(5): Status Of Heritage Day In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for culture. Today in some parts of Canada and the territories there is a recognition of Heritage Day. I'm not sure whether this is an officially recognized holiday across Canada, but it appears to have taken hold in some provinces and cities. I would like to ask the Minister if this is officially recognized here in the NWT.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 164-12(5): Status Of Heritage Day In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a holiday, no, it is not officially recognized.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 164-12(5): Status Of Heritage Day In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Because it isn't officially recognized as a holiday, I wonder how is it that the schools in some areas have officially recognized it and have a day off and none of the parents have a day off, as well? I just wonder how is it that the schools recognize it when it isn't official.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Further Return To Question 164-12(5): Status Of Heritage Day In The NWT

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is really a matter of the school district boards, or the divisional boards, determining whether it is going to be a day off as part of their calendar planning.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The time allotted for oral questions has lapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to returns to oral questions.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Kelvin Ng on February 18, 1994, about simplifying change of name procedures. Mr. Ng asked for a report on progress being made in respect to amendments to the Change of Name Act. I would like to let Members know that discussions have been held between the Department of Safety and Public Services and the Department of Justice, and it is our belief at this time that we do have to repeal the act and have it replaced. We are preparing a legislative proposal at this time and, hopefully, by fall we should have a bill to enact a new Change of Name Act introduced to the session at that time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. 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 Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

Mr. Koe's Reply

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to reply to the budget address. With all the pre-budget hype, the doom and gloom and the talk of a tough budget, I think most of

us expected something quite different than what was presented in the budget address. The Minister of Finance delivered a very conservative budget address.

The address, together with the Premier's Sessional Statement, reaffirms this government's mode of continuing to plan and strategize. For example, there are many strategies mentioned, including the income security reform strategy, the renewable resource development strategy, the minerals strategy, the health strategy and the Arctic College and education strategy.

These are well and good as plans are required to develop programs, but the public would like to now see some action.

They've experienced over two years of restructuring, reorganizing, decentralizing and, in some cases, the centralizing of departments and programs. I believe the public now wants to see some stabilization and some concrete work in our economy. How can we create jobs? How can we stimulate the economy in our communities? We need to create an environment where investors can divert their money in the

north and expect security, stability and, hopefully, the ability to generate some wealth.

In many ways, the budget address tries to highlight what good things this government is doing or expects to do. I would express my appreciation of some of these good things this government is doing. For example, in Education, there has been an acceleration of the teacher education program. There has been a move toward grade extensions into the communities, and some moneys has been put aside to enhance post-secondary education. In Municipal and Community Affairs, there's been an enhancement of the recreation programs. In Economic Development and Tourism, decentralized authority and responsibility to the regions. And there's been a lot of work on the income security reform program. However, there's a need in income security reform to start some pilot projects now.

I'm aware of a recent proposal that was presented to some Ministers to start construction and extension of the Mackenzie Highway. I think that warrants a good look, and maybe some energies and money put into a program of this sort.

On the other hand, Madam Speaker, there are many areas which need focus and direction and these did

not get mentioned in the budget address. For example, we have, in this House in the last several years, talked a lot about the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services. We made many recommendations in the recent report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, and I believe these need to be addressed and looked at.

In Education, the need to address the quality of education and work on some stay-in-school programs. The need to establish education as this government's number one priority.

We also need to develop our human resources based in the north, and we need to enhance the Arctic College programs.

In any budget you have two sides to an income statement, the expenditure side which is what government does very well, then the revenue side. I was very disappointed to notice no new initiatives on the revenue side of this budget. Some of us expected the Minister to announce new revenue generation ideas, not more personal taxes which I believe people in the north appreciated because no new tax increases were announced. But, I'm sure we could have withstood some increases in our consumption or win taxes. Maybe take the freight subsidies off booze. Maybe generate new gambling revenues by establishing new and regulated gambling regimes. And we have to increase our efforts in the enhancement of mineral and oil and gas exploration development. Again, we need a proper and stable environment so investors would look at putting their money into the north.

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We also need to accelerate the settlement of land claims and self-government negotiations. And we need to ensure that the implementation of existing claims proceed as was negotiated.

Madam Speaker, in the section on the economic development I was very disappointed in the highlights. For example, in the Inuvik region the big highlight was the establishment of an economic development committee in Fort Norman. This may be a big event in Fort Norman, but I'm not sure what economic benefit or impact this will have on the region, not in the short-term anyway. Surely there must have been other events of note in the Inuvik region.

This government is currently negotiating with the feds on a new formula financing agreement. I wish the Minister and his staff well in these negotiations. I've offered, through this House, and I'll offer again, the assistance of some advisors who are very experienced in negotiating with federal officials.

There are many negotiators who have worked on land claims who can probably assist the Minister and staff in the financial negotiations. These people have done package deals before, and probably can provide you with some good advice -- and I understand that their rates are very reasonable.

I now wish to comment on the federal/territorial fiscal arrangements which the Minister mentioned in his budget address. There does not seem to be an overall concrete government strategy on how to resolve some of these issues. Each item seems to be a major issue in itself. The Standing Committee on Finance has recommended that a package approach be negotiated, and I support these recommendations.

I also fully support this government's recent announcement by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Resources to start negotiating the oil and gas and mineral accords. However, I must caution the Minister to ensure that he keeps the aboriginal organizations fully informed and fully involved in these negotiations. The groups with land claim settlements have a stake in these negotiations as they have negotiated some royalty arrangements with both the federal and territorial governments.

In the area of the health billings, the Minister announced that he has talked to the federal Ministers of Finance and Indian Affairs and Northern Development and they have agreed to explore the possibility of reaching a settlement. This doesn't give me much comfort as this dispute has been dragging on for many years. It seems like another case of the big brother syndrome -- back off, be good and we'll continue to keep this issue on the back burner. Madam Speaker, to me that's not good enough.

I would like to hear the Minister of Finance say, yes, we will include this item in our overall package and this is how we'll deal with it. With a push for more devolution, I don't want to see us get into similar financial problems as we've experienced in Health, forest fire fighting and social housing.

In terms of social housing, again, here's another instance where northerners, I think, have been sold down the river. Obviously, the ongoing meetings and the ongoing talks with federal Ministers have

produced no results. In the budget address, Minister Pollard stated, and I quote, "We will continue to pursue the issue of social housing vigorously, and the federal government has to recognize it's responsibilities and it must reinstate the funding for social housing."

Madam Speaker, these are nice words, but meaningless. The more we talk to the feds, it seems the more cuts are imposed. We have to take some drastic action. Let's all go to Ottawa, let's demonstrate, let's have sit-ins, let's move into the

Minister's office. We have to let them know we're serious. Nice talk and nice words don't seem to be good enough.

As for the national infrastructure program, it seems that with our intensive lobbying by our Premier and by the Minister of Finance, we were able to get an additional \$1.3 million over and above the \$4 million. This is well and good, but I wonder how many political favours were used up in this deal. I believe it would have been more appropriate to include this item in an overall package, present this to the feds and say, let's make a deal. Here are all the components which we wish to talk about and have financed.

We cannot continue on a piecemeal, project-by-project basis, where everything becomes a crisis and no one wins. We need to present a package deal where the Northwest Territories wins, the federal government wins and, ultimately, our residents of the north win. This is the goal of successful negotiating, everybody wins.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity. Qujannamiik. Mahsi cho.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Mr. Ng's Reply

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our government has presented their operating budget for the 1994-95 fiscal year. I have been fortunate, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, to review these estimates in greater detail than many other Members. There are many positive items being proposed by all departments in the definitive objectives outlined in the budget. I, along with other Members of the Standing Committee on Finance, have doubts whether each

department can obtain and achieve all of their definitive objectives in the coming year.

As Members of this Assembly, I believe we are not expecting the GNWT to carry out massive improvements and initiatives overnight, or even in the course of one year. We know their human and financial resources are limited. I believe that the government should outline realistic goals, both immediate and long-term, and diligently work towards carrying them out. That is why we want the government to prioritize their initiatives in order to do a few things well, as opposed to many things poorly.

Madam Speaker, the government has indicated to us that the Education, Culture and Employment budget will be up to more than \$144 million. I am glad the continued resources are being provided to education, which all Members feel is the priority.

A concern I do have in Education is that over the course of the past several years, the education boards, the department and

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staff have concentrated their efforts on increasing student enrolment and reducing drop-out rates. The emphasis of Education has been on the staying-in-school strategy. I commend them -- the department and the boards -- in being successful in this. However, while it is important for our children to do just that, it is more critical for the ones who do complete school, to graduate with advanced academic certificates and have the opportunity to attend post-secondary education.

As student enrolments continue to increase, as grade extensions are now being implemented into our communities, the focus and emphasis on education should be shifted toward achieving excellence. Similar to housing, the GNWT identifies their major priorities and objectives in order to concentrate on doing things well. We must now ensure that our students strive to raise their standards by developing an attitude toward excellence.

Another concern I have with the Education budget is the approximately \$1 million reduction in community programs of Arctic College funding. We must continue to develop our workforce in order to prepare for opportunities in a civil service, new and existing businesses and the creation of land claims implementation organizations. This should be the time when the government should be increasing, not

decreasing, their funding for adult upgrading and training needs. Although we place a high priority in the education of our youth, we cannot forget about our ever increasing existing workforce.

Madam Speaker, I am cautiously optimistic that mineral developments will bring employment and business opportunities to northerners. Job creation and income-producing initiatives will be further advanced if our government is successful in finalizing a mineral accord with the federal government. I will again state that our government must have the legislative and regulatory powers to deal with mining developments in the NWT to ensure northerners maximize our involvement and derive significant benefits from resource development in our backyard.

The continued and increased emphasis on developing and supporting our renewable resources sector will provide immediate, short and long-term economic benefits to northerners. I am pleased that the government has finally recognized the need to formalize a policy which encourages their own institutions to utilize our renewable resources harvested from sustainable commercial quotas. The finalization and approval of this policy will increase the income earning opportunities to our harvesters and provide wage-earning opportunities to residents in our communities involved in processing.

Madam Speaker, the Building and Learning Strategy and the construction worker training program have benefitted some communities in a small portion of our unemployed. It is a good start. A continuation of these programs, along with structuring government contracts to ensure maximum involvement of northerners, will assist toward providing much needed employment and income earning opportunities.

The new direction of Economic Development and Tourism in decentralizing decision-making authorities to the regional level should speed up the application and turn around process for applicants. The new grants to small business policy designed for artists, crafts people and commercial renewable resource harvesters will benefit the clients under this program tremendously in supporting and allowing them to participate in income producing activities.

Madam Speaker, the social housing funding crisis facing us is part of our government's overall fiscal framework which must be clarified in the immediate future, along with the health billings dispute, the perversity factor and the formula funding agreement. Future financial agreements, such as increased costs

of funding, two new territories in 1999, the northern accord, the mineral accord, transportation agreements, et cetera, must all be negotiated as an integrated, overall financial package with the federal government in order to provide financial stability and to coordinate our government's negotiations.

The budget addresses public service management costs in great detail, compared to other expenditures of the government. Rightly so, as salaries and benefits account for over \$400 million of the \$1 billion plus operating budget. The Minister addresses the issue of pay-for-performance in the public sector compensation and the fact, I believe, is this may be long overdue. While the government has many dedicated, productive employees, we all know there are also a few unproductive ones. Many of us are aware of instances where employees are paid for incompetence.

The Minister has announced that deputy minister compensation will be based on performance paid based on the results they achieve. I believe this was developed by the government to show the civil service that our government is serious about pay-for-performance. Madam Speaker, our government should take it one step further by having our Executive Council Members compensated in the same manner as the deputy ministers, pay based on performance. If the government believes in this concept, let them show the civil servants, the public and this Assembly that they are serious.

I believe a majority of the Members of this Assembly are supportive of the zero increase legislation to our salaries for 1994-95. Although I believe the government will be negotiating for zero increases and may be considering rollbacks with the public service, they should also consider optional, unpaid long weekends as a cost-reducing measure in dealing with the overall fiscal situation.

I have addressed the major areas of importance which I wanted to highlight: the need for the government to prioritize and establish realistic goals; a continued priority on education and training; instilling excellence in education; job and income producing opportunities from both renewable resources and non-renewable resources; and, a need for the government to negotiate an overall financial package with the federal government.

Madam Speaker, we all recognize that our financial resources are becoming more limited. Our government has to identify cost-saving measures and

revenue-producing initiatives in order to continue providing the ever-increasing demand for services placed on them. We cannot continue disposing of our government assets, such as staff housing, to meet the fiscal demands of other programs.

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In these days of scarce financial resources, we must all work together toward maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of programs to our residents. This has been my first reply to the budget and I look forward to doing many more. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. 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. Whitford in the chair. Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to suggest that the committee continue with Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), and continue with the examination of the Department of the Executive, where we left off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree?

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. Whitford):

We have agreement. When we left off we were still on general comments, I believe. The Department of the Executive is in your main estimates book on page 02-25. With Committee Report 2-12, I believe we were on page five, or thereabouts. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Let's take a break.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

There has been a request that we take a short break. We'll resume in about ten minutes time.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Bonjour, tout le monde. We're ready to reconvene the committee of the whole after a short recess. There are more Members on their way in here as we speak. Mr. Pollard, I understand you have some witnesses to bring in, or a witness. Mr. Pollard

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That's correct, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in Mr. Voytilla, who is the secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witness to the witness table. Oh, I'm sorry. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. Mr. Pollard, the committee has agreed that we accept the witness. Would you introduce the witness to the committee, please.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

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

Financial Board Secretariat

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. We were on general comments and we will resume that. Financial Management Board Secretariat, page 02-25. Any comments? If there are no further general comments, does the committee agree that we proceed with detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 02-26, directorate, total O and M, \$2.455 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I noticed that one of the definitive objectives is to initiate the collection and analysis of travel patterns and cost data, and start providing the analysis to travel budget managers under the directorate. The travel office has been in operation for more than a year now so I had thought that this sort of undertaking would have been completed and we would have been into the travel management phase. I wonder if the Minister could advise just what is happening with this travel management office?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the committee knows, we have a consultant hired and the consultant has been dealing with a steering committee of our people in government. I understand they're close to being able to make some recommendations to us and I'm confident that sometime in the next four months we will be able to start passing that information on to our people in different departments who are dealing with the travel in those departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Directorate, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$2.455 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Human Resource Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Human resource management, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$26.778 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that in this activity there is some medical travel assistance. We heard last year that the Department of Health is going to be taking over medical travel assistance. Could the Minister outline when it is expected that the Department of Health will take over medical travel assistance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we will begin that process just as soon as possible. I would like to conclude some things with the health boards, as Minister of Health, but I would like to see it happen as soon as possible, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the same issue, I would like to ask Minister Pollard if regional health boards are in support of the Department of Health taking over medical travel? It is my understanding that initially it was Social Services that looked after travel arrangements for patients. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, at times Social Services is responsible for the compassionate part of medical travel where it is not covered by the Department of Health. In this particular instance, we are dealing with the medical travel of government employees. I know it gets very confusing. It gets confusing for me as well, Mr. Chairman. What we are hoping to do is move the responsibility for the assessment and travel of our staff, which is presently with FMBS, over to the Department of Health and on to the health boards because they are dealing with it now with the rest of the population. They have more expertise and, as they deal with it every day, they can probably deal with it better. In fact, I know they can do it better than we are at the present time, Mr. Chairman. That's the reason we'd like to move it over. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Human resource management, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$26.778 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 28, financial management. Operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$10.441 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Audit And Evaluation

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Audit and evaluation. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last couple of years, there have been a number of cases of fraud or suspected fraud within our government-controlled or regulated agencies or contractors. I was wondering if the Minister could outline what steps have been taken to ensure we are tracking down more cases of fraud, should they be out there. And if he could give us an evaluation of whether the number of cases of fraud is increasing or decreasing and whether we have enough checks and balances in the system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I have committed to table a report in this session with regard to fraud in the government and the steps we have taken. I will do that. I think there are enough checks and balances in the system if they are used, and used properly. Unfortunately, it's not only in government but in all aspects of industry, as well. Where you're handling money, things get a little lax after a while and you don't have the paper trail tracking of money. I don't care what environment you're in, when there's a lot of money at stake or lying around, there's always the temptation. I think the checks and balances are there, we just have to keep making sure that as people's responsibilities change and as we ask them to do new things, that they keep policies changing to increase the checks and balances and that we ask them to be vigilant.

There's been an offer made to all departments by FMBS to work with them and to check over the areas where they are handling money and other assets. We will keep working with those departments that request assistance. On the audit side, when we audit a department and we come across an area where there have been loopholes, we'll point that out to the department, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this activity is the task for audits. Could the Minister outline how it is determined which departments will have internal audits each year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Over the years, Mr. Chairman, there has been a pattern set up and it is a cycle of the audits that are

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done. For the first time this year, we have tabled with the Financial Management Board our audit plans for this particular year when we have put our budget before the Financial Management Board, just letting the board know what we intended to do. Of course, in between times, many other issues come up. We may get calls from departments to say, we have a problem in this area. We have to respond to that, as well. Managing the time of the auditors is quite difficult, but there is a basic plan in place and it has been approved by the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister satisfied that we are doing enough internal audits each year, or are we falling behind and not getting as many done as he would like to see done?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, when we get called to an audit that where there is the possibility of wrong-doing or miscalculation or there has been money misplaced, then we have to drop other things and rush off to that. It may be in conjunction with the RCMP or other areas of the government. That takes up considerable time. What we lose, then, is the ability to grind away at just that regular auditing, where we are doing ten per cent sampling on this particular file and 20 per cent sampling on another file, which are turning up those

errors that staff are making inadvertently and perhaps getting away from the policies. I suppose that we could do more if we had more resources. But, at the present time, we are doing the best we can with what we have been allocated, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many years is it in the cycle? I am assuming that most departments are audited on a cyclic basis. If that is true, how many years, on average, is there between cycles where a department might get audited?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, depending on what issues are being raised with us by other departments or the department in question or what things are coming to mind, we usually are on a seven to ten year cycle. Of course, again, the Auditor General is doing work in this area as well, so we try not to be in the same place at the same time, because at least we are getting some double coverage in that respect. There are about seven to ten years, Mr. Chairman, for a full audit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister advise us what he would see as being the optimal range? Would he prefer to see it done every five to seven years or four to five years? If we are at seven to ten now, and he has

indicated that he would prefer to see more audits done, what does he see as being the optimal cycle?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

My preference, Mr. Chairman, would be five to seven years. Just tightening it up by another couple of years would get us going over the same ground more often and it would give us tighter control. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What sort of staff increase would be required to accomplish that goal? Would it take a doubling in current staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we have never really calculated that, but I would have to say it would probably take us another five positions. That would be a major expense at the present time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed, also, that one of the tasks in this activity is information. I am assuming that informatics is involved in this. Could the Minister advise what is the status of the informatics strategy and when can we expect to see the final report?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

We anticipate that it is going to be in front of the Financial Management Board this coming March, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We lack the human resources in the system whereby there were frauds coming out from left and right these past years. What are we doing for the prevention? I understand, in the system, there are times when cheques are actually not signed by a person, but they are stamped with a signature of a person who is authorized to sign them. There is the possibility that fraud may occur during a transaction of the money disbursement, paying for the bills and so forth. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if we have people co-signing cheques going out to the suppliers that we buy from, how does the fraud -- when a person steals money from the system -- occur? How does it happen? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we mass produce cheques. The Member is correct. They are automatically signed. They are stamped. There is a cheque register that is maintained. The cheques are numbered. The amounts are listed. At the end of the day, the batch run of cheques should balance with the cheque register. Of course, when the cheques go out, Mr. Chairman, eventually they go through our bank account, so there is a bank reconciliation done. At the end of a particular period of time, we would know how many cheques are still outstanding, which ones have been cashed. That is generally the way that our accounting is kept of the cheques that are issued and run through our bank account. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are times when a person pays for licenses and fees by way of cash. Of course, cash exchanges hands from time to time. Is there a close monitor in the system whereby, when the cash is actually changing hands, this is monitored?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, when we receive cash or cheques, there is an accounting procedure for maintaining the trail of the money or the cheque through the hands of the department into a deposit bag or some form of deposit. There is a deposit form filled out that is presented to the bank. Of course, that is stamped when the cheques and money are deposited. There is also a paper trail which lists out the money, when it was received and what it was received for. Again, there is a check and balance system there and, generally, Mr. Chairman, if it is in place then it is pretty hard to beat. There are times when people want to beat the system and invent ways to replace funds -- and that has happened to us just in the last year with cheques -- and then remove the paper trail so that it looks as if we didn't receive those funds. There is a danger at that point that if somebody wants to beat you and they know the system, they can get after it. That is why it is so important that there be checks done by other people and two or three people involved in the transactions. That is the area that we are impressing upon departments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. So, where there is a will, there is a way. Audits and evaluation. Operations and maintenance, total O & M, \$3.337 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Details of grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$4.354 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just out of curiosity, we have people living in HAP houses, packaged units, in the system. I understand they are given some subsidy because of the high cost of electricity, utility bills and so forth. How does the system pay for these? Is the money paid directly to the Power Corporation or is it given to people living in their own homes? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, on the domestic bills, the credit is given right on the bills so, in effect, the customer receives the net amount of the bill and pays that to either the power company in Yellowknife or in Hay River, or directly to the Power Corporation. With the commercial subsidy program for businesses -- and that is for small businesses with gross revenue of less than \$2 million -- that has to be applied for by the business to the government, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Pollard. We were in grants and contributions and it was agreed upon. We are on to page 02-31, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. It is information. On to page 02-32, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total program, \$7.832 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Back to page 02-25, program summary, total O & M, \$43.011 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree that we have concluded the Financial Management Board Secretariat?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

What is the wish of the committee? I am sorry, can we excuse the witness now? On behalf of the committee, Minister Pollard, I would like to thank you and your witness for appearing before the committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Department of Executive has three separate and distinct programs which make up that department. We have already dealt with the Executive offices and now we have concluded the Financial Management Board Secretariat. There is another program department, that being Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. I believe the Members on this side of the House and those three in that corner agreed that we should proceed with the last program department within the Department of Executive. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have agreement. If you would proceed, Minister Kakfwi. Minister Kakfwi, would you have a statement you would like to deliver to us? Thank you.

Intergovernmental And Aboriginal Affairs, Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs remains part of the Department of Executive for administrative purposes.

I should start out by saying that I believe there have been some significant achievements this past year.

The TFN claim settlement legislation came into effect on July 9, 1993, as well as the act to establish a Nunavut territory by 1999. Implementation of both has now begun.

The new Liberal government has promised to review the federal land claims policy. It is prepared to create an independent claims commission to speed up and facilitate the resolution of all claims. It will seek mutual acceptance with treaty First Nations on a process to give contemporary interpretation to treaties and to take the lead in trilateral negotiations involving provinces to determine responsibilities for Metis and off-reserve Indians.

The Sahtu Dene and Metis claim was ratified by the Dene-Metis on July 9, 1993, and we expect that the federal settlement legislation will be considered by the federal government in Cabinet early this year.

The North Slave -- that is the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council -- has proposed their regional claim to the government and it has been accepted by the federal government and the negotiation process has begun. Documents, including draft interim protection measures, have been tabled with the Dogrib and the first formal negotiation session will be held in Rae Lakes during the week of February 21, 1994, which is this week.

The NWT Treaty 8 First Nations have been negotiating a framework with Canada to guide their treaty land entitlement process and it is expected that this will also outline the participation of this government in such a process when programs, services and jurisdictions are affected.

The Deh Cho Tribal Council has recently written to both governments proposing a memorandum of understanding on a process for resolving various aboriginal rights issues in the region. The federal government has rejected the MOU stating there are two processes presently available for the Deh Cho: a comprehensive claim process or treaty land entitlement process. The proposed MOU appears to go far beyond what the federal government is willing to negotiate in either process, so we do not anticipate any further progress prior to the review of the federal land claims policy.

A framework agreement to negotiate the Inuit of Nunavik offshore claim has been completed between Canada and Makivik Corporation and this was signed in October of 1993. Negotiations for the establishment of interim protection measures are

under way. Formal negotiations on the claim itself will begin after Makivik tables a comprehensive position, expected in April of this year. The framework agreement anticipates a three year time frame to complete this offshore claim. As a government, we will participate as a member of the federal negotiating team.

In 1993, Cabinet approved and signed the Inuvialuit land usage and access agreement which was negotiated between ourselves and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. In addition, implementation of the final agreement is proceeding well. The second ten year omnibus treasury board submission for implementation funding is currently being negotiated.

While the settlement of claims has been and remains a top priority of Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the rational development of public regimes for land and water management has become an important aspect of claim implementation.

It has been this government's position that these boards should be implemented with territorial legislation in the context of a transfer of overall responsibility for renewable resources and minerals, consistent with the political constitutional evolution of the north. Consequently, much of the burden has fallen on this government to protect the rational development of public land and water management regimes. We believe this can be accomplished without prejudice to provisions outlined in the land claims agreements.

The Prime Minister's statements at the opening of the new Legislative Assembly building in support of an accelerated pace of devolution to this government was encouraging and is consistent with our government's comprehensive approach, long-term plans and efforts, to date, for the transfer of remaining provincial-type powers, programs and responsibilities. The ministry has been coordinating the development of GNWT positions, priorities and consultative measures with departments, agencies and organizations and this work will continue over the next year.

In response to the passage of the Nunavut Act, the former federal Minister of DIAND made a commitment to amend the NWT Act, including the extension of the term of the Assembly to reflect the provincial powers. We will encourage the new federal government to act on this commitment, as it would provide another opportunity to coordinate amendments necessary for western constitutional development and devolution.

In developing a comprehensive approach to political and constitutional development of the NWT, a Constitutional Development Steering Committee, was created to replace the former Committee of Political Leaders, in February of last year. Membership consists of leaders of aboriginal organizations, western MLAs, a representative of the women's organizations and three non-aboriginal representatives.

The CDSC mandate remains the same as the Committee of Political Leaders: to design, implement and guide the process

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of developing a constitution and structure of government for the western territory. The committee will deliberate how substantive decisions on the constitution will be made and how a final proposal will be formally ratified.

Nine-member organizations are completing research on means to implement self-government in the context of establishing a new western territory. The CDSC has approved a work plan and twelve principles to guide the western constitutional process. The work plan provides for constitutional conferences in September 1994 and February 1995, completion of a constitutional proposal by May 1995, a plebiscite on the proposal in September 1995, and the establishment of a western implementation commission to make recommendations for the establishment of a public government for the new western territory. It is currently negotiating with DIAND for federal financial support and participation in the CDSC process.

The community transfer initiative is in support of this government's commitment to recognize and encourage community self-government. It is a comprehensive approach to enhance community authority and provide maximum local flexibility in delivering programs and services. To date, more than 20 western Arctic and 20 eastern Arctic communities have expressed interest in the initiative. Regional bodies such as the Keewatin Regional Council, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in, Sahtu and Dogrib Tribal Councils have also expressed varying levels of interest in the community transfer initiative. The working group has conducted community-based workshops in over two dozen communities and at a number of regional council sessions.

The goal of the community transfer initiative is to pave the way for communities to restore local responsibility and independence by transferring responsibility for government programs, services and equivalent resources to enable community governments to address local problems while incorporating "home grown" strategies. It is anticipated that more efficient, responsive and cost-effective northern government will result in the long term.

This initiative is community driven and priorities for transfer are established by communities. It is a cooperative process that will be formalized through community transfer agreements which will describe both the programs and services being transferred and the scope and authority that communities wish to assume after transfer.

Aspirations for self-government continue to affect the strategic planning of all aboriginal organizations. The Liberal government is acting on the assumption that the inherent right of self-government is an existing aboriginal and/or treaty right protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Minister of DIAND has begun six months of consultation with governments and aboriginal leaders regarding means for implementing the right.

The Gwich'in and Sahtu final agreements include self-government framework agreements which commit governments to negotiate self-government agreements with the claimants at their request. The Dogrib claim will likely include similar provisions. This government has indicated its willingness to participate in self-government negotiations with the Inuvialuit on a similar basis as the Gwich'in and Sahtu.

No self-government negotiations have begun and none are anticipated in the immediate future. Research papers being prepared by all the western aboriginal organizations for the Constitutional Development Steering Committee should provide a good idea of where each group is coming from on this complex subject. Self-government negotiations have the potential to be affected by the promised federal land claims review and by the federal government's assumption that the inherent right is protected under section 35.

The Nunavut Act, as I said, was given royal proclamation last July, thus creating, among other things, the Nunavut Implementation Commission to provide advice on the establishment of Nunavut. Appointment of the chairman and members of this implementation commission were announced in

December 1993. The commission had its first meeting in Rankin Inlet in January and met again in Ottawa on February 1, 2 and 3, 1994. Simon Awa has been appointed as the executive director for the Nunavut Implementation Commission and several subcommittees of commissioners have been assigned to review specific issues. The commission's head office is located in Iqaluit.

Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated, the federal government and this government agreed to continue the tripartite Nunavut Steering Committee, which was established in 1990 to oversee the implementation of article four of the TFN agreement. The steering committee recently changed its name to the Nunavut Liaison Committee to more accurately reflect their new role. The liaison committee met with the Nunavut Implementation Commission to provide background information for the commissioners and to offer interim administrative assistance to the Nunavut Implementation Commission through a small tripartite transition office, located in Ottawa.

The ministry continues to provide advice on policy development relating to the political and constitutional aspects of the creation of Nunavut and division in general. It will continue to monitor the work and advice of the Nunavut Implementation Commission to ensure there's a balance between the creation of two new territories and that the interests of all residents are taken into account.

Over the last year, the ministry has provided support to the Legislative Assembly for the strategic planning workshops, the Nunavut leaders' meeting and the Caucus working group on division. I believe both the government and the Assembly has benefitted from this cooperation.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has become a full participant in meetings involving provincial colleagues and the federal government. The ministry provides support for the Government Leaders' office for NWT participation at all First Ministers' meetings, the annual Premiers' conference and the western Premiers' conference.

The ministry hosted Ministers with responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs and national aboriginal leaders in Inuvik in July 1993, to provide a forum for discussion of aboriginal political and constitutional issues. This meeting acted as preparation for aboriginal participation at the annual Premiers' conference in August 1993, and a subsequent meeting with the

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in Toronto in early

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February. It also provided the impetus for ongoing, annual meetings of this nature.

Finally, the ministry is coordinating a review by senior GNWT officials of circumpolar and international relations, initiatives and priorities in an effort to take advantage of opportunities for this government and for the north to strengthen its relations with other northern regions in a cost-effective way and to foster opportunities for northern businesses in other circumpolar countries.

Those are the opening comments I have at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Representation of the Finance committee, Mr. Zoe, I believe.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, the Standing Committee on Finance was unable to proceed on two separate occasions to review the Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs operations and maintenance budget. Mr. Chairman, this was due to the inability of the Minister or a representative to appear before the committee. Therefore, these estimates will be considered on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, in committee of the whole. That, basically, Mr. Chairman, concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Finance pertaining to Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and also concludes the overall Department of the Executive. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs. General comments. Mr. Lewis.

General Comments

MR. LEWIS:

I have a few comments to make about this activity. Probably, over the next two or three years, there is

going to be a great deal of debate over the treaties. We have discussed this several times in committee and in our Caucus meetings, too. I realize, as the Minister has pointed out, that when we deal with treaty matters, it was a bilateral thing involving the aboriginal people themselves and the federal government. But, it bothers me a little bit that we seem to be reverting to the period around 1975, when there was a great deal of discussion about treaties. I still have, at home, a large red sheet called the Dene Declaration. I have two or three copies of it.

I was reminded of it when we were in Fort Simpson with the Standing Committee on Legislation, that the room where we were discussing the powers of municipalities was, in fact, the room in which this declaration first saw the light of day. Many people recall it very vividly because it stated very clearly that the Government of Canada is not the government of the Dene, and certainly the Government of the Northwest Territories wasn't their government either.

It seems to me that we find the discussion of treaty rights comes up from time to time, and it seems as if we are back now in that same period of 1975 when we haven't seen all attempts to enshrine in our constitution things that would satisfy people, then people are obviously going to revert to those obligations that ensued from treaties that were signed at the end of the last century to the end of 1921. I am going to be quite brief on this, Mr. Chairman, but there is a lot to be said about it. It may be that, over the next two years, what has to be said will be said. It is very clear to me, from my understanding of where we stand in relation to land and aboriginal rights, that we are again at that very critical point in our history. What is going to happen over the next two or three years is going to certainly determine the final outcome.

As far as I have been able to ascertain from my own understanding of the events that led up to both the treaties that concern us, was always the question of jurisdiction and whether, in fact, you could apply Canadian law if you did not have jurisdiction over the land, that your claim was part of your territory. In 1899, when there was a tremendous interest in the gold fields of the Yukon and the concern about the rule of law and order, the fears that people were going to come up from California and cause chaos, that you would have a wild west much in the same way that the Americans had a wild west, would also occur in the Yukon. It was very important, then, to establish posts like they did in Fort McPherson, for example, in Dawson, and later on in Herschel Island, when there

was a great fear about Americans coming in and flouting Canadian traditions, customs and laws. It was important to establish this was your land, your territory, so that Canadian law would apply in that territory.

The whole history of the establishment of jurisdiction in Canada has related to the ability of Canadians to be able to apply its laws within that jurisdiction. From my reading of what happened in 1899 and also in 1921, there was a tremendous fear that you could get the kind of chaos in the west that had happened in the western United States, when they had a lawless society. There was tremendous difficulty to get people to recognize law. Canadians were concerned that that shouldn't happen in Canada. For those reasons that is why, from what I can make out, treaties were entered into in 1921, simply because the very first oil fields in western Canada were discovered in Norman Wells. Suddenly, it was an amazing phenomenon that, here in western Canada, we have our first discovery of this new black gold. There was the same fear that it was going to be chaos and we had to establish that this is our territory. We had to establish that we could, in fact, enforce our own laws under Canadian jurisdiction.

What I have heard recently is that there is a different interpretation of what those laws are all about, what they meant and so on. I can't argue with anybody who says that they have a different interpretation of why things happened the way they did that long ago. I wasn't even born then. Nobody in this Assembly was born at that particular time. So, we have to go by what we read or what we are told. It is probably the wrong time to begin a debate on this subject, but I am concerned that we have begun a process anyway, without any debate in this House, without any discussion in Cabinet, about the major issue that is in front of us on how we are going to deal with the issue. When is this government going to deal with it? It's fine to go off to Edmonton and to show support and so on, but we have to have a good understanding of what it is we're showing support for. What is the position of our government? We've never had a full debate as to where we stand on all this in our

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Assembly. It is just something of an exercise, if you like, that we have to go and visit and show support.

I agree that if you sit in the wings and don't say anything or do anything, things will take off without you and you will eventually get lost. But it seems to

me that before we begin major commitments to anybody in this part of Canada, it should be clear what the position of our government is, what exactly it is that we would like to see happen.

If we begin assuming there's going to be a different way of doing business and a different description of reality, let's hear what it is. Let's get a clear definition from our own government about which way it's going, and what it's understanding is of the jurisdiction of the Canadian government. It seems to me that's the root of the issue. I would be much happier if we had these kinds of discussions in the Assembly itself, because it's a huge public issue. I would be very concerned, for example, if suddenly next year we had a whole lot of school boards in Yellowknife. This is the biggest aboriginal community in the Northwest Territories. Are we now going to have a whole lot of boards here in Yellowknife deciding what's going to happen? Is this the vision we have or is it something different that we don't know about?

We have to think ahead about what the commitment is that we have in terms of jurisdiction and how that jurisdiction is going to be mandated. Because, let's face it, there is no federal Department of Education. It doesn't exist. That's just one example of where we have to be clear thinking about what it is we want to take as a position with relation to jurisdiction, as a public government in this part of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

General comments. The chair recognizes Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Mr. Chairman, the area I would like to comment about and ask questions about is the area of devolution of programs from the federal government. It is a program goal to have devolution of federal programs to the GNWT and that the GNWT move toward provincial-like authority in all areas, and there are a couple of other references I'll get to later on. I, for one, support this and I support it quite strongly.

Over the past decade, as we have taken over as a government more responsibility from the federal government, I think the respect and impact that we have with the provinces and the federal government has increased a lot. I think our efforts during Meech Lake and the Ministers' efforts during the Charlottetown Accord discussions raised the profile of

the NWT and, I think, raised the level of our credibility with the provinces and with the federal government. I think the Minister did an excellent job in representing us at discussions leading up to the Charlottetown Accord.

I think it was very unfortunate for the Northwest Territories that both Meech Lake and the Charlottetown Accord failed because if either one of them had gone through, even though we didn't get anything we wanted, the reality is we would have been recognized as a viable political entity for all time. I see the danger of us staying in the situation we are in now, as half province, half municipality, where a lot of parts of the NWT are carrying on their own little negotiations with the federal government, whether it is on treaties or self-government agreements that flow out of land claims. Division is also going to happen and so what was already a relatively weak jurisdiction -- economically and politically vis-a-vis provinces and the federal government -- unless we're very careful, is going to be a very weak number of jurisdictions.

In fact, the way the world is changing, with the globalization of the world economy and with the increasingly competitive nature of the world, there is every danger that we will become a small backwater on the federal and international scene. I think it's very, very important that our government aggressively pursues the remainder of the provincial-like powers from Ottawa. There are, obviously, a lot of internal negotiations that are going to have to take place. We're obviously going to have to take into account whatever self-government agreements that flow out of land claims, and we have to respect and take into account whatever treaty arrangements are made.

But, I don't think any of us in the NWT should lose sight of the fact that we are a very weak, very dependant jurisdiction. If we don't aggressively try to increase our self-reliance and to pull away from our overwhelming dependence on Ottawa -- and 85 per cent of our funding comes from Ottawa -- if we don't get these powers from Ottawa and we wait until we work out our own internal politics in the NWT, by the time we work it all out, there may be nothing more to be had. There is every danger of that. With all due respect to the various regions and the groups that are negotiating their own deals, the reality is that a Nellie Cournoyea who speaks for the Northwest Territories is a much more influential politician than a Nellie Cournoyea who speaks for her region. A Steve Kakfwi who speaks for the Northwest Territories is a much more influential politician than a Steve Kakfwi who speaks for his region.

I think that regional leaders in the constitutional process that we've embarked on, will hopefully recognize that there is a very important and realistic approach that we have to take. We have to speak with one voice. I'm concerned that if we back away from the approach we've had in the past of trying to pursue devolution that it will be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Not only will we never become a province, we will become essentially irrelevant in the constitutional family of Canada.

My question to the Minister is, how does he see his role as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs pursuing the goal of trying to get as many powers from the federal government as we can? And how does he see his role coordinating with the Minister of Finance, who obviously has an important role to play in devolution, with the Premier, who is going to have an overall and large role to play dealing with the Prime Minister and Premiers, and with other government departments? For example, Mr. Todd is aggressively pursuing the mineral and northern accord which I, for one, support wholeheartedly. I just wonder where the Minister sees his department fitting in and what sort of positive direction can the Minister give to the whole devolution exercise?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The Member asks a question that I think probably addresses, as well, the questions and

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concerns expressed by Mr. Lewis. The reason that the Dene Declaration came out in 1975, which Mr. Lewis referred to and suggested that it appears that we may be revisiting old issues that may or may not have been addressed at that time, that is, the meaning of treaties, Treaty 8 and Treaty 11, and in relation to devolution and the kind of power and responsibilities that people in the Northwest Territories will have, is a timely question. It was never addressed back then.

It was certainly brought to our attention that the Dene, at that time anyway, did not accept that this government was legitimate and that it was, at best, an interim government, that it was not a government that had been created and blessed by the Dene, and that

was the reason the Dene Declaration said the Government of the Northwest Territories is not the government of the Dene. It went even further and said that the federal government was not the government of the Dene, as well, which the federal Minister of that time took to mean that we are all separatists. In fact, it came to mean that the Constitution of Canada did not adequately reflect the relationship that aboriginal people thought they had with the Crown.

So when we talk about getting more power and responsibilities in this government, we cannot really get into that unless we first address a clear understanding with the aboriginal people. So with the Dene, at least, first of all, they need to settle outstanding claims regarding their traditional lands and resources, whether it is done through claims, comprehensive claims, specific claims or treaty land entitlement. Those are the processes available right now. Somehow they have to have formal title to some of their lands. I don't think they are talking about 100 per cent of the lands. They need ownership and management over some of their traditional resources, as well.

Again, I don't think they are talking about all of it. But once that happens and once there is a clear understanding of what they want in the area of self-government, that is, what is the jurisdiction of the governments or government that they want to set up and what kind of power and responsibility it is going to have, then it becomes easier for us as a public government to address whether we can take over land and resources, for instance, or minerals or oil and gas, and what the terms and conditions for support will be from the aboriginal groups. My role as a Minister, basically, is to ensure that these options are made available to all the groups and all the aboriginal peoples, and that there is some certainty through some process for them to arrive at an agreement with the federal government and ourselves regarding land and resources and provisions for self-government. Once we get certainty there, then we will know how we can pursue further powers and responsibilities for this government.

Once we get the Constitutional Development Steering Committee rolling and we explore all the options that are available to the non-aboriginal people and the aboriginal people together, about the kind of nature and character that a public government could take, or even to go beyond that and take up the notion which was suggested most recently by Mr. Gary Bohnet that an aboriginal government can, by definition, also

mean a public government. That is, an aboriginal government can be a creature that would allow for participation by the general public.

So these are the different options and processes that we have for us. I think that as long as we work fully to ensure that the aboriginal groups have some real practical processes to achieve results themselves, we can expect much more of a positive relationship and a willingness to move in the areas that the territorial government, as a public government, wants to move, as well. So that is my view of how we get this job done.

When Treaty 8 says they want to look at ways to take over programs and services from this government through a tripartite agreement, I support it, one reason being simply because, on a practical level, it is not for us to object. It is the prerogative of treaty peoples, specifically, but all aboriginal people as well, that if they want to govern themselves -- and that is what supporting the inherent right means -- that, in principle, at least, we should be fully in support of aboriginal people exploring ways in which they can govern themselves. Whether that is specifically through running programs and services exclusively for themselves or through an arrangement through a public government, we have to support a process that explores all these options to the fullest, so in the end it is their members who make the decision.

I believe that a debate, as Mr. Lewis says, to see if all agree on what is the best position this legislature and this government should take, may be a good suggestion, because it is a huge undertaking and everything regarding division, western constitutional political development, the community transfer initiative, self-government, all the big processes that we have under way are almost contingent on all of us having a good appreciation for, I think, as Mr. Lewis says, some of the historical background to it. I would suggest that there is a very simple way to explain why Treaty 8 and 11 were negotiated. Perhaps there were some people who were afraid of chaos and the wild west taking hold up here, but I know people came up this way with a very clear idea of what they wanted and that was to have some peace and order and they got that, but I would say, much, much more than that, and that is what is at the crux of the difference between the written version and the oral version of Treaty 8 and 11. This government is of the view that there is a need to support the aboriginal people in their view that their version of the treaties is right. It certainly makes common sense and would be difficult for this government to suggest that the written

versions of Treaty 8 or 11 are the true versions simply because it goes way beyond what a good person with common sense would say makes sense. It does not make sense, so there is a need to get it clear. We support Treaty 8, for instance, going to the federal government to say, let's clarify the terms and conditions that we are going to live under together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Minister for that response. I don't have a lot of argument with what the Minister is saying. I generally support his approach and I think so far he has done a pretty good job. This whole area of devolution, aboriginal rights, self-government and treaty rights is not a black and white area, there are many grey areas. It seems to me that there are going to have to be many trade-offs in this whole area between different groups that have different aspirations at different times. For example, would the Minister agree that this Legislative Assembly and government

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is sympathetic to finding ways whereby we can assess those people who are seeking recognition through a treaty process, that, at the same time, we hope that they would be open to support certain initiatives that would benefit other regions? I use the examples of mining in the Dogrib area, oil and gas in the Inuvialuit area or the Gwich'in or even in the Sahtu area. Somewhere, through all this process, there has to be some reasonable trade-offs between reasonable people. I wonder if the Minister shares that view, that there will be some flexibility in all these processes when they converge, in order that something that may benefit one group could hold up or take away a benefit to other groups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

One of the messages that has been very consistent over the years came from -- not so much the younger leaders -- but from the older leaders, the elders, the more senior chiefs and those elected by the Metis and

the Dene Nation with regard to treaties and the fact that the relationship between the federal government and this government has moved toward being more neighbourly. There is less indication of a hard line approach to resolving issues. I think you would find that even through the testimony given to the Berger inquiry and any records of statements given by elders.

The preoccupation is one of trying to reach an agreement to treat each other well and to make sure that people are not denied those things that they need. First of all, we have to recognize that many of these people have been, in many ways, denied some basic recognition. I think we have to make a big effort. We have been very positive that way.

I think this government has been taking the lead for years in supporting the major initiatives and positions taken by aboriginal leaders across this country. At First Ministers' conferences taking place in the early 1980s, it was this government that was almost first to take positions in support of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the other groups at the constitutional table. There is some appreciation for the progressive moves we have made in that area.

I would say that it is almost premature to put forward to groups like Treaty 8 whether they would support initiatives like mining development and other initiatives at this time. I think we have to make sure that we support them in every way we can to make sure that they are able to deliver some basic things to their people, such as the recognition of the provisions of treaties, whether or not we can help them find a way to deliver their own programs and services, whether or not we can make sure that they have some role to play in the co-management of some of the land and resources in their traditional territory, whether we can find ways to get them involved in those issues that they have felt, historically, they have been ignored in.

I think the goodwill is starting to develop. Once they feel like they have their feet under them, they have some sense of control and confidence that they can venture into development and that they will be able to sustain themselves in the wake of things like this, then it should follow quite naturally that they will

be interested in taking part in development that they can participate in and benefit from. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to be a bit more specific, though, one of the definitive objectives of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs is to conclude a negotiation of a devolution free memorandum of understanding. This is sort of the framework within which most, if not all, devolution initiatives will fall. This discussion, as the Minister knows, has gone on for a long time. The actual wording of the definitive objective is to "conclude negotiation." Does the Minister feel that there is a will within the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs? Is their new mandate, at this point, clear enough that the Minister is able to say with some degree of certainty that there is some realistic hope that this sort of agreement can be concluded, if not in the next year, at least within the life of this government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government, in the last year, suggested that we should take a large framework approach to further devolution talks. So, we have been working on that. They have been insisting on it. They, I think, feel that, in view of division and what is going to take place in the creation of a Nunavut government, in the wake of land and water regimes being impacted by the regional claims, the prospects for oil and gas taking place again in the future and the many little issues that can prop up in these kinds of talks, they want the broad umbrella under which to capture all of these elements. So, they want a framework agreement.

We have always felt that it is fine to talk about that, but the most productive way to do things right now is just by dealing with specific issues. For instance, let us do land and water, or let's do oil and gas. Members will know that the former Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, personally signed an agreement saying that they would work on a northern accord and would have thrown his support behind it, a political accord that would have seen this government taking over oil and gas management. But for all his political weight, that never got finished. So, it is my view that we can continue. If the federal government says that is a precondition to specific talks going on, then that is the way we have to do it, since they are the other party.

But, I'm also of the view that we should specifically move on individual transfer agreements if we can do it and if there is sufficient support of the aboriginal organizations to do so. I think between the two, we can get some things done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the course of the past few years there has been a tremendous amount of work done in the area of land claims in this particular jurisdiction. There has been a lot of frustration on the part of people, a lot of discussion on land claims, and there has been some joy and celebration. This is due to the different types of land claims in this current jurisdiction and the diversity and the

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different kinds of people living in this area. There are Dene, Inuit, regional groups, et cetera, who all want to have their own little deal with the government.

There's nothing wrong with different kinds of people with different backgrounds who want to have their own claims. I'm not going to dispute that. It is up to the people. According to my understanding, Mr. Kakfwi has been involved from the outset, for the past 20 years or more. I think the jurisdiction is very sensitive to the different people. I think we have been more understanding than not. Mr. Kakfwi is himself of aboriginal descent. He has been very instrumental in the area of the Nunavut land claims settlement. On behalf of the people of Nunavut, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the Minister for a job well done. Although everyone is not satisfied in the area, the majority of people are satisfied with the claim that will be a reality in 1999.

Mr. Chairman, I think we are very lucky that there has been no blood spilled in this jurisdiction over disputed boundaries. There is no jurisdiction in this world that has settled land claims without having to fight with weapons of war over the area of land. So, I would like to commend the Minister for a job well done, especially from my area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I would just like to thank the Member for his good comments. I think there has been good work done by a great many people over the years. Certainly, there have been a great number of aboriginal leaders who have found the capacity to work well with each other, whether we are Metis, Dene or Inuvialuit. All of us have made a great effort to understand one another and to support the goals and objectives that each of us set out for ourselves.

I know that there are some difficulties, as always, with boundaries. The Member made reference to that in his comments. I can say that I've been involved with the settling of the Inuvialuit settlement area boundary and with the efforts that were made prior to it being finalized. I was aware of and directly involved in the talks between the Gwich'in and the Sahtu in settling their boundary. Certainly the big one, of course, is the boundary, one of the longest boundaries in the world I think, that Mr. Ningark refers to, the Nunavut boundary. It still needs to be revisited by the Inuit and the southern Dene who will come to some sort of agreement. In some cases, it left some hard feelings and feeling unresolved.

But, as the Member says, I think we've done remarkably well in the settling of boundaries considering the intense feeling all of us have for traditional lands. Where lands overlap and where contemporary and historical use overlap, the feeling intensifies tremendously and takes a long time to go away. We still have boundary talks pending between the Sahtu and the Dogrib, though that's been largely settled between the Sahtu and the Deh Cho, the Dogrib and the Deh Cho as well as the Treaty 8 people and their neighbours. The job with regard to settling boundaries, you might say is only half done. But, considering the implications and the difficulties, we've done remarkably well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be making a number of general comments. The first one I will make is with regard to constitutional development. Mr. Chairman, one of the objectives of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs is to develop a process for assessing the political and constitutional implications

of the Nunavut Implementation Commission's recommendation for a Nunavut administration. We know, Mr. Chairman, that the federal government has a six-person secretariat devoted to Nunavut in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. I would like to ask the Minister if we have anybody from our government devoted to the implementation of Nunavut? I want to know if we have anyone doing the same thing that the feds are doing. Are we set up to do something like that on our end, too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the ministry is presently planning to fill three positions to work on implementing the TFN claim. We hope by the end of next month that these positions will be fully staffed to help us do the planning and coordinating work for the implementation of the claim.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. General comments. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

I know that the Nunavut Implementation Commission is funded by the federal government to develop the constitution and structure of the Nunavut government, yet our government still funds the Constitutional Development Steering Committee and their process. Has the Minister approached the federal government for funding on the western constitutional end of things yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, this government is a member of a group called the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, which is made up of all the aboriginal groups of the western territory plus all of the MLAs from the western part of the territory. We have taken the last year to put together a draft work plan. We have agreed to work on a process that would see us coming up with a draft constitution for consideration by all of the people in the western territory in the next three years. We put together a budget and a work

plan and submitted it to Minister Irwin in December. The budget is a few million dollars. It is a very well thought out plan for how to go about the work we want to do.

We should make a note that it is a different approach trying to pacify those people who get very squeamish about feeling left behind by Nunavut people. While Nunavut is an establishment of a public government, like the territorial government as it is now, the Constitutional Development Steering Committee is planning to set up a public government that will very likely be a very different character. So it is not just a territorial government as it is now for the west. We are hoping to come up with something that is very different,

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possibly with elements of an aboriginal nature, perhaps a marriage of aboriginal and public government. We hope that the federal government will respond to us in the next few weeks. We had anticipated a response by now. But perhaps with the development of a position by Treaty 8, which says they want to set up their own aboriginal self-government, the federal government will see the need to respond very quickly to a group that wants to explore a greater option and not just leave us frustrated by individual groups trying to vie for their own regime without any group trying to put a large overall scope to political and constitutional issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I need more clarification from the Minister with regard to the definitive objective pertaining to the Royal Commission. The department has objectives that would indicate that the department will coordinate all GNWT departments involved in an assessment of the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People and would recommend a response strategy for Cabinet consideration. My understanding is that the final report is not even in the making yet. Definitive objectives are a one year thing that should be measured after the year is over. It is something that should be achieved with this budget year.

How can you put in an objective indicating this is what you're going to do when we don't even know when the Royal Commission's final report is going to be concluded? I need clarification as to what the department is saying here. What does it mean? How is the GNWT involved with the Royal Commission? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Merci, Monsieur Zoe. Monsieur Ministre.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. I'm of the view that this is the year the Royal Commission is going to wrap up its work. In fact, it is starting to draft its final report. I can't tell you the specific date the report will be final, but I know that in some areas, they have pretty well wrapped up their work and it is a matter of drafting their final report. Certain sections may be finalized before others.

In any case, there will be recommendations made that will have implications for social services, health, housing, education, training, culture and for the ministry in the area of intergovernmental relations and certainly aboriginal issues. We've taken the lead from the beginning, as a ministry, to assist in coordinating and keeping abreast of the work that the commission is doing and to help provide input and information to the commission by working with other departments and agencies. That's the intent of this objective. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, another one of the definitive objectives of the Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs pertains to the community transfer initiative. They are going to establish, in cooperation with communities, a process to assess community capability to accept responsibility for the delivery of programs and services. We know that some communities have been favoured and given money to do work and others have been told they're not ready. I want to ask the Minister, what is the process and how do communities have a fair say in it to determine, as stated in your objectives, if they are capable of taking over programs and services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

This is a rather sensitive point in the approach that our ministry is taking to talks with communities. It is difficult for us to tell you in very clear terms how we go about the assessment except to say that we try to set up a process that is done jointly.

First of all, you assess what it is that you want to do. For instance, if you want to take over housing, you assess and the community can do that itself. What is it that they have to do the job that is outlined jointly? Then, there is a discussion about what is required. For instance, we know that in some communities we have people who can do electrical work, plumbing and other maintenance work of a general nature. But, very often, in some housing associations, for instance, they may have no maintenance procedures or overall work plan on how to do maintenance in the long term. You may have workers who are capable, for instance, but at a management level you may require that you have management capability that would make sure doors are checked, for instance, not when they are hanging on the hinges, but as a periodic sort of maintenance approach. You may have a need for inventory of the equipment and update of equipment, for instance, hot water tanks. Unless you date them and have some replacement items after they hit the five year mark, if that at all, you run into difficulties. In the middle of winter, you may end up having to fly a whole lot in because they have all corroded in the same year. Without insulting anybody, you try to scope out how the federal or territorial DPW provides these services.

On the other hand, the housing maintenance associations, in many communities, have many things to offer this government in terms of how they go about carrying out the responsibilities. So, it is a mix between the two that helps us in the end to decide what we require to get the job done. For instance, if there is training required, then we support it. So, there is a positive approach taken to these things.

I think, if the Member is aware of communities that have been told in a very negative way that they are not ready and left at that, then I would say that this is certainly not something that we, as a ministry, have set out to do. If this has been conveyed, I would like to know about it so we can correct that immediately. The intent is, if we feel communities need some assistance to do their job, we will be there with them and work with them to make sure that they are

confident, prepared and well-organized when they take over transfers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

I understand what the Minister is saying. When you have the departmental staff holding workshops explaining what the community transfer initiative is all about, and if the community expresses a strong interest and says, we want to seriously look at housing or any other program within that

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community transfer initiative, then the department has to, in cooperation with the community, come up with a process to determine if their capability is there or not. How do you establish that? Who has the final say? It is supposed to be a joint venture.

For instance, if I am the municipality and I am saying, I think I am capable of it," and I give you all my strong points, but the department may say, well, we don't think you are capable of doing this, or you are weak in this area. We figure you require training. In order to determine their capability, it could come up and say, we think we have the capabilities, but if you don't think that we do, then let's get an independent person or consultant to determine what capabilities are there or not. That all takes money.

How are decisions made about who gets the money and who doesn't? That is the bottom line. Who makes the ultimate decisions? My understanding is that you are supposed to go there and say, this is available to you. We are both supposed to do it together to see if the municipality is capable and try to assist them, if there is good likelihood that they are capable. Perhaps they are weak in some areas, but through their negotiations, perhaps they can incorporate training and these other things into their negotiations to cover their weak areas. In order for them to start developing this, it requires money. How does the ministry give them money? On what basis? Do you understand what I am trying to get at? Although the definitive objective says that, I don't know if that is being followed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. The definitive objectives point to the fact that we need to work with communities if we find what would be an acceptable process for doing these assessments. The objective points out that it is not finalized yet, but we are working on it. What I have stated earlier is the intent. My view is that, it is not this ministry that says, for instance, to the municipality, we have some difficulties with your administrative and management structure because of previous dealings in other areas. That would be the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The Department of Social Services might suggest that we have some concerns about confidentiality of clients and, therefore, we need some assurances that it is going to be handled properly. It is not this ministry that is going to offer up these sorts of objections. Our job is to coordinate and make sure that an assessment is done. It is not to say, sorry, but you are not one of the communities we are willing to do business with. We will try to set it up so we do business with everybody. At the same time, we need some sort of a process that deals with outstanding concerns: how do we do it without being paternalistic or condescending; how do we do it without insulting people; and, how do we do it without hard-lining it? That is saying, this is our assessment and we don't agree that you are capable. We need some sort of a process that can be done well, keeping in view that we are dealing with public concerns, public programs and services. As a government, we are providing programs and services of a certain quality and nature that, at the very least, should not diminish as a result of transfers. So there is an obligation to give that reassurance to the public and the members of the individual communities. I think that is the intent of this. We don't, as the Member knows, have it written down in black and white, so we are still working on these but if, for instance, the Member has specific communities that he feels haven't been treated properly, then, as I say, the best way is to bring it to my attention. I can check them out personally, which I try to do anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same area of community transfer initiatives, one of the department's objectives is to complete at least four community transfer agreements -- two in Nunavut and two in the

new western territory. Could I ask, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister can indicate to us which four communities they are looking at? I hope that the department is not limited only to four. If they can successfully do six, then I would encourage the department to go ahead to achieve six. Do they have these four communities earmarked already? Which four communities are they looking at? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

(Translation) Mr. Zoe has a question for Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't earmarked communities but, keeping in mind that this community transfer initiative has been a high profile priority of this government and Members are wanting some sort of a commitment as to specific achievements they can expect over the next year, we have said that aside from the things that we are hoping to do by April 1 of this year, we should have at least four transfer agreements finalized this year, two in the Nunavut area and two in this area. For instance, we hope to have an agreement signed, even a partially complete transfer agreement, with Cape Dorset, by April 1. I have given a commitment to the mayor and the MLA, Mr. Pudlat, that this is what I will do.

We have possibilities to complete an agreement, perhaps a specific agreement, in places like Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, Fort Liard and Fort McPherson. We hope that some of these communities will be done in the course of the year, and the economic development officer positions, economic development transfer agreements regarding specific positions like that, have been done already. I would expect other communities will be following and these shouldn't take as long as the initial ones to complete. There should be some more work done to finalize talks regarding renewable resource officer positions. There are social services and social assistance positions. Inuvik is looking at taking over lottery licensing. There has been some work. It is my view, and the view of the staff, that once we take some leaps of faith in certain areas that involve the different departments, other agreements will follow much more quickly. The Member is asking if we have already identified the communities. We have not. We are just saying we are going to take the high road and say at least two in each part of the territories by the end of this coming fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to what was just said, I would like to ask the Minister if there is an overall plan or approach to these community transfers or if it is dealt

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with currently on a community-by-community basis, which seems to be the way it is going from the Minister's comments. I just wanted to clarify that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

It has been almost community-by-community. We spent a great deal of time strategizing on the approach we want to take, but we have also been very careful to keep it away from a prescribed menu approach to transfer talks. That is, we did not want to walk in there with a prescribed process, a prescribed sequence of events that are going to take place and a prescribed scope of what is available and place it in front of a community and they can tick it off as they want. For instance, in one community, they may just want to talk about having an economic development officer report to them on a weekly basis and share information about what they are doing. In another community, they want total devolution from the same position. We know what the general scope of the talks are going to be and we have, for instance, in Fort Good Hope, drafted a transfer agreement on the economic development officer. It started about four years ago and we just finalized it during Mr. Pollard's term last year. We use that as a draft position that is available for other communities if they want total devolution of that position. In other communities, they are asking simply for them to have a reporting relationship. There is no prescription because, again, we think communities can define that and we will work with them so that they are not afraid of us having a predetermined conclusion to the talks. We get into it, but as we are developing them, I think people are going to see a range of what is available under Economic Development, Health or Housing. As more and more communities start to define what it is they want, then communities will be able to decide. But, initially, there weren't any of the prescriptions that people feel we should have had. They've been

developed jointly and that has been the key element in community transfer. They are all being developed jointly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

I would like to ask the Minister, is there a backlog now of communities wishing to take on initiatives? Is there a big demand out there? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

No. What I find -- and I mentioned this in response to an earlier question -- is the settlement of claims, like the TFN claim and the Nunavut Act, is going to have a profound effect on how much time and resources the Nunavut communities are going to have with initiatives like this. This is simply because of the enormous demands that settlements of claims, planning for division and the set-up of the Nunavut government are going to make on the leadership and people who work for communities in the eastern Arctic.

In the Gwich'in claim, for instance, the Gwich'in leadership have found that the implementation of their claim and the planning for it is taking up a tremendous amount of their time, and they have been one of the most interested in exploring the options under the community transfer initiative. The Sahtu communities are going to find that, as well. We haven't been developing a backlog of communities who are interested and we haven't been keeping communities waiting, no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said in a statement last week that Cape Dorset is planning on being on line with some of their community transfer initiatives on April 1 of this year. Is that target date realistic? Will there be agreements in place? What is the status of Cape Dorset?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

What I've committed politically to Cape Dorset is that we will sign a transfer agreement covering their move to take over Social Services, Economic Development, Housing and Public Works, by April 1. There is an overall agreement that this can happen but there are specific outstanding issues we need to work out. The departments still have some concerns in specific areas and so does Cape Dorset. What we've agreed is that we will sign the transfer agreement by then and the agreement will be general in some areas.

It will require a joint leap of faith to say that outstanding issues left unresolved will be taken care of in a cooperative spirit. If there is anything in the transfer agreement that comes up later to the detriment of the community, it will be interpreted to mean that this government did not intentionally negotiate it to be that way.

There will be a political understanding that it was intended to mean good things for both sides and it will be negotiated to reflect that as we go along. They do need some kind of definitive package fairly soon to keep the morale of their community up. They've been hoping for this for well over a year and we appreciate all the hard work they've done so we've said we would be prepared to do that. We can't dot every "i" before we move into this. There has to be some demonstration of goodwill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister how much money has been spent on community transfer initiatives to date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Antoine):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I don't have the numbers here with me that indicate amounts since we started. I would have to look it up in last year's budget and in my books to find that figure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make things quicker, maybe when the Minister comes before us again with his

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departmental staff, we could get a breakdown of expenditures by community and the amounts for things like community travel, consultants and that sort of thing. It would provide a lot of information that will probably be requested.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The total amount of money we spent to date is \$429,900, of which \$335,400, or 78 per cent, has been spent in what we call western communities. A total of \$94,500, or 22 per cent, has been spent in the east. We've held 37 per cent of the general workshops in the east, and in the west we've held about 39 per cent of them. In the preliminary talks for community transfer initiatives, they've been held in 79 per cent of western communities and about 67 per cent of the eastern communities.

For more specific program workshops, for instance in Social Services and Economic Development, about 11 per cent of eastern communities have had them. So, three out of 27 have gone to the stage of having specific program workshops to discuss, for instance, the transfer of Social Services or Housing. In the west, nine out of 33 communities, or 27 per cent, have had this type of workshop. The differences between the east and the west is there are 27 communities in the east and 33 in the west. That shows a big expenditure for western communities and not as much for the east. But, as we say, we respond to specific community interest and it has been dominantly in the west that they've taken this initiative at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. LEWIS:

I would like to move that we report progress, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 20, report of committee of the whole.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Western Caucus at 6:00 pm this evening and of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee

Working Group at 7:30 this evening. At 9:00 am tomorrow morning of Caucus, at 10:15 of the Striking Committee and at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 22, 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 an NWT Mineral Strategy

- Tabled Document 2-12(5), Building and Learning Strategy

- Tabled Document 3-12(5), Towards a Strategy to 2010: A Discussion Paper

- Tabled Document 11-12(5), First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT for the Year 1992-93

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 Tuesday, February 22 at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT