



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 42-12(5): Child Welfare Reform

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As my colleague, the Minister of Justice, has stated, our departments have developed a plan of action to implement the changes recommended in the family law review. The Department of Social Services will work closely with the Department of Justice in revising the Child Welfare Act. However, in addition to these legislative changes, there will be a requirement for major changes to existing policy and procedures.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Ms. Mike. I believe one of our Members is not receiving translation. Sorry. Member for Baffin Central.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I will try again. Madam Speaker, as my colleague, the Minister of Justice, has stated, our departments have developed a plan of action to implement the changes recommended in the family law review. The Department of Social Services will work closely with the Department of Justice in revising the Child Welfare Act. However, in addition to these legislative changes, there will be a requirement for major changes to existing policy and procedures. This will, of course, require retraining of existing staff.

Here is a brief outline of what will have to be done to make the legislative and policy changes a reality:

- Assist in drafting the revised Child Welfare Act;
- Develop and train local child welfare committees wherever communities want to take on this responsibility;
- Negotiate agreements delegating ministerial authority to communities for child welfare;
- Revise child protection policies to recognize the role of child welfare committees and to give them the scope they need for innovative solutions;
- Revise child apprehension and placement procedures;
- Restructure budgets to provide funding to communities and local child welfare committees;
- Develop and train local bodies to take on this responsibility;
- Revise custom adoption procedures;
- Revise adoption policies to institutionalize the open adoption concept and recognize community roles in the process;
- Revise placement criteria and procedures in line with the recommendations of the family law review;
- Develop and fund local counselling resources to provide pre-adoption counselling;
- Clear custom adoption backlog of 1,500 cases and deal with annual volume of 400 applications.

Madam Speaker, these changes will start the process of family law reform. However, the task will not be complete at that point. The real work is the ongoing implementation by communities as they adapt to their new roles and responsibilities and determine solutions that respect local traditions and values. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 43-12(5): Arctic Winter Games Results

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our athletes, coaches, officials and cultural performers who participated in the Arctic Winter Games in Slave Lake last week.

---Applause

It was great to see how the Northwest Territories athletes were making friends and providing encouragement to athletes from other contingents when language was a significant barrier. I'm sure there were many friendships made last week that will last a lifetime.

I am pleased to inform you that the Northwest Territories athletes brought home 151 medals, the most of any contingent.

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---Applause

This is the first time in ten years and we are all very proud. Very shortly, I will be distributing to Members a comprehensive summary of Arctic Winter Games results.

The residents of Slave Lake also deserve a medal for the excellent job they did in hosting this international event. I'm told that over 2,000 volunteers were involved from a community of only 6,000 people. The Northwest Territories uniforms stood out in both the opening and closing ceremonies and were in great demand as trading items throughout the week. I would ask that all Members join me in showing our appreciation for the athletes, coaches and officials as well as the host community of Slave Lake, Alberta. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

Minister's Statement 44-12(5): Minister Absent From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the Honourable John Todd will be absent from the House today. This is because of a flight cancellation in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Todd will be back in the House tomorrow. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Congratulating Arctic Winter Games Participants From Lake Harbour

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this time today to congratulate the people of Lake Harbour who recently participated in the Arctic Winter Games in Slave Lake, Alberta. I'm very proud to inform the House that three young athletes from my community all emerged from the games with medals, proving their excellence in the area of Arctic sports. Madam Speaker, Olitua Judea won a silver and gold ulu in Arctic sports, Julie Oolayou won a silver medal in Arctic sports and Julie Mingeriak also won a silver medal in Arctic sports. Once again, congratulations on behalf of the Legislative Assembly for representing your community and the Northwest Territories so well in the 1994 Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Prospectors And Developers Of Canada, Mining And Trade Show

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On March 7 and 8, I, along with my honourable colleagues, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Dent, Mr. Zoe and the Honourable John Todd, had the opportunity to attend the Prospectors and Developers of Canada mining and trade show in Toronto. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the City of Yellowknife/Chamber of Commerce had booths at the trade show which certainly received their fair share of attention, as the awareness of the NWT and the ongoing diamond exploration developments were a major topic of discussion.

In addition to the numerous amount of business people participating in the conference trade show, Mr. Charlie Lyall, president of the Kitikmeot Corporation

and Mr. James Eetoolook, acting president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, also attended the conference as delegates.

Madam Speaker, during our stay in Toronto, we had the opportunity to meet privately with Dr. Klaus Zeitler, president of Metall Mining Corporation and his staff respecting their plans with the Izok Lake project. We also met with Mr. John Stephensen, president of Kennecott Canada Incorporated respecting their plans in the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, our Minister suggested and received support to form a steering committee of senior officials with DIAND, GNWT and of mining companies to explore the area of options for identifying, financing and establishing transportation infrastructure requirements for the mining industry for the Slave geological corridor.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. NG:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, during our meetings with mining industry representatives, they outlined their acknowledgement and commitment to develop any proposed mining developments with the full involvement of northern and aboriginal people, the need to address environmental concerns and to satisfy northern interest. Their acknowledgement of these concerns is a positive sign. However, one must keep in mind that they have faced these issues before. Madam Speaker, once again, I will stress the need for our government, in full consultation with aboriginal groups, to continue pursuing the devolution of mining responsibilities from the federal government in order to ensure the interests of all northerners are respected. We, as legislators, must show our support to the GNWT in assuming these responsibilities as there is a

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possibility of mineral developments in all of our regions in the future.

Madam Speaker, it will be a lot more responsive dealing with our government instead of the federal government to address any concerns respecting mining activities in the NWT, whether it be now, a

year from now or in 1999 upon the creation of two new territories. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Proposed Rent Ceilings On Public Housing

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to be back here in the Assembly after a wonderful week at the Arctic Winter Games. (Translation) I would like to congratulate the athletes. (End of translation)

However, here is my main concern. There are many Inuit in my riding who live in very crowded extended family situations. The sons and daughters are not living on their own because of a shortage of single or smaller housing units. Often you have whole families in a room.

Also, Inuit families are willing to live together in conditions of considerable overcrowding because of their tradition of family closeness. Often, several sons and daughters will hold low income jobs and contribute to the operation of the household. The total household income may be higher than a single or double income household, but I am concerned that the proposed revised rent scale may not take into account the unbelievably crowded conditions in which many of these families live.

I am also concerned that rents in Nunavut must take into account the extraordinary costs of living in these communities which don't have wood and roads. I am, therefore, suggesting to the Minister of the Housing Corporation that the revised rent scale, if it does not already, must consider the degree of crowding in a unit along with total household income. There should be a significant discount built in where families are living in more crowded conditions than the ordinary standards.

Secondly, I am going to suggest that the cost of living and condition of the unit must be taken into account to reduce rent so as to provide for equity and fairness. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Arctic Winter Games Athletes

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would also like to add my voice to congratulate all of the NWT athletes who participated in the Arctic Winter Games. I, unfortunately, was not able to attend in person, but I watched games on the television and I also listened on the radio to some of our northern broadcasters informing us of the events that were taking place, not only in the gymnasiums and out in the field of competition, but from a social point of view as well, Madam Speaker. By the sound of things, everyone who had the pleasure of being there and participating, had a good time. We owe a lot to the people who helped coordinate and sponsor portions of the games. Without their participation, we certainly would not see an event like that. I think the Northwest Territories did extremely well this year and it's with that that I would like to say to them even if they didn't win the medals this time, they had the pleasure of participating in those games. Everyone who attended and participated came out winners. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Erosion Of Aboriginal Culture In The NWT

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak on a subject that is close to my heart. I have always been concerned about the erosion of the aboriginal culture in the Northwest Territories. I believe that some of the programs that this government has introduced over the last ten years may look good on paper, but have done little to support the people's aspirations at the grassroots community level.

Madam Speaker, the attempts of the divisional boards to incorporate cultural and traditional instructions in curriculum may be a noble effort. But I ask, Madam

Speaker, how do you teach a child about their heritage, about our close ties with mother earth, in a classroom? The whole concept of traditional knowledge does not lend itself to the institutional setting such as school. By taking responsibility away from the community and legislating the cultural and traditional knowledge that is to be taught in school, we, as a government, are seen to be interfering in an area we have no jurisdiction in.

Madam Speaker, we, as a government, have signed a language agreement with the federal government. This agreement gives us money to spend on the promotion of aboriginal languages. The problem I have with this, Madam Speaker, is that it seems to me all the money we receive under this agreement is being spent on bureaucrats. I do not see this money filtering down to the community level, to the people it most affects and is relevant to. This, in my opinion, is another example of the top-heavy Government of the Northwest Territories.

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Madam Speaker, there has been much talk over the past couple of sessions on the issue of custom adoption. The government has promised to introduce legislation to deal with this important issue. The problem I have with this, Madam Speaker, is that if we legitimize custom adoption, that is if we, as a legislature, adopt a Euro-Canadian set of laws and recognitions to deal with custom adoption, we are not just defeating the entire cultural rationalization for the practice of custom adoption.

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and honourable Members. Madam Speaker, I urge this government to remember that by formalizing the process for custom adoption, they are in some cases interfering with the process that has remained unchanged for hundreds of years. The government has a responsibility to the people of the Northwest Territories. The people of the Northwest Territories prefer to deal with the issues of custom adoption at the local and family level. The

legislation should not be so all-encompassing that it interferes with the process at the local level.

Madam Speaker, legislating traditional values and customs may be seen as legitimizing them. What I am saying is why do we have to do this? These practices are already legitimate. Madam Speaker, we have started down a road where we, as a government, are becoming too involved in deciding what we feel is good for aboriginal people, instead of the aboriginal people being responsible for what is ultimately their own tradition and customs. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 82-12(5): Number Of Housing Units Required For New Positions

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Alloo on February 19, 1994 regarding the number of housing units required for the new positions.

It is too soon to say how many housing units will be required for the new positions in level II and III communities. Some of the positions will undoubtedly be filled locally by candidates who already have their own accommodation, but we will not know until we have had a chance to review the position descriptions for the new positions. All housing needs will be considered during the community staff housing assessments in the next few weeks.

The majority of the new positions are for divisional school boards. The Department of Education is still working with each divisional board to finalize the location of each new position. This information will then be reviewed by Personnel to determine which positions will require housing. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 226-12(5): Legislative Changes Re Family Law Review

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Dent on February 28, 1994 regarding legislative changes re family law review.

Both the departments of Social Services and Justice have recently circulated discussion papers on the recommendations made in the family law review report. This report proposed sweeping changes to family law and child welfare, and the discussion papers set out suggestions for comprehensive legislative and policy changes.

My colleague and I recognize the tremendous amount of work that will be involved in responding to the report. However, we also place a high priority on the changes that are needed. Therefore, we have agreed on a plan of action that will commit the resources needed to do the job.

Madam Speaker, the legislative changes needed for family law reform will be brought before this House in the winter session of 1995. We feel it is important to bring forward the entire package of legislation at one time to give the public and the legislature the full scope of the proposed reforms. Given the volume of work involved in drafting three major pieces of legislation, we do not feel we could do it justice in a short time frame. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 282-12(5): Payment Of GST By Social Assistance Recipients

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Social Services. When I travelled to my area I met with people who receive social assistance from the system. There are a number of cases whereby the social assistance recipient goes shopping in one store and the store charges GST, but in another store they don't charge GST. In the area of social services my question to the honourable Minister, Madam Speaker, is that, is

there a policy within the Department of Social Services that the recipient of social assistance does not pay GST when they go shopping? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will have to take his question under notice. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 283-12(5): Minister Morin's Absence From House

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure if I was paying close attention, but I didn't hear the Premier talk about the Minister of Housing being absent from the House. I would like to ask the Premier, will the Minister of Housing be available this week? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 283-12(5): Minister Morin's Absence From House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the issue of Mr. Morin's absence was brought up, and I believe that it may be that the honourable Member was away. As well, a letter was distributed saying that he is attending a housing meeting, again, and being very hopeful that that will perhaps have more positive results than in the past. He will be back a little later this week. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 5-12(5): Status Of GNWT Leased Units

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, Return to Written Question 5-12(5) which is a provisional return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Personnel on the status of Government of the Northwest Territories leased units.

Mr. Gargan's written request for information on leased housing units has proven to be more difficult to prepare than expected. To provide a factual response, my staff were required to obtain assistance from the Department of Public Works and Services staff at both regional and headquarters locations.

While I had hoped to present a response today, I will be unable to do so until Wednesday, March 16, 1994.

Return To Written Question 8-12(5): Purpose Of Madam Premier's Trips

Return to Written Question 8-12(5) asked by Mr. Ng to the Premier concerning the purpose of Madam Premier's trips.

The following is in response to the Member's question relating to trips taken to Alaska and to Yakutia, Russia:

The trip from Inuvik to Barrow, Alaska, September 20 to 22, 1993, was to assist a delegation in promoting business opportunities between the NWT and Alaska.

The delegation included:

- Pat Lyall, Ike Haulli, Peter Raddi, Fred Hunt, Paul Quassa, Russel Newmark, Eddy Dillon, David Connelly, Frank Hansen and Roger Gruben, representing the board of directors of Norterra Inc;
- Ken Stevenson, David Burnett, Paul Prevelle, Gunner Anderson and Ramont Gillenus of Norterra Inc;
- Knute Hansen and Kathy Cockney of IRC;
- the mayor and deputy mayor of Inuvik;
- Charlie Furlong, Bob Simpson, Larry Firth and Wanda MacDonald of the Gwich'in Tribal Council; and,
- the Delta Drummers.

The government's share of the cost for a chartered aircraft was \$611.41. In addition, a total of \$452.55 was spent on accommodation, meals and incidentals.

The trip to Yakutia, September 24 to 28, 1993, was in response to an invitation to participate in the official opening of the new village that was designed and constructed by the NWT firm of Ferguson Simek Clark. The Government of the Northwest Territories played an instrumental and ongoing role in facilitating the project that resulted in over \$11 million in benefits flowing to northern firms and business during the construction phase of the village with prospects for additional contracts being a distinct possibility.

Travel to the official opening by charter aircraft (Adlair Aviation of Cambridge Bay) was arranged by Ferguson Simek Clark. Passengers on the charter included Joe Auge of Ferguson Simek Clark; Scott Hunt of Clark Bowler; Rick Volivar of Ryfan Electric; Larry Elkin, who was president of the NWT Housing Corporation at the time; Walter Slipchenko, a consultant specializing in relationships with the former Soviet Union and Russian states.

The government share of the charter cost was \$15,926.93 for two seats. Per diem expenses related to the trip totalled \$607.01. In addition, there was a cost to government of \$2,789.08 for gifts purchased in the NWT for presentation at the opening ceremonies.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 35-12(5) which is a letter to the honourable Minister of Health, Mr. John Pollard, from the chief and council of Deline, Mr. Raymond Taniton, with regard to health services delivery from Stanton to the Sahtu. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Tabled Document 36-12(5), Annual Report of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, 1992-1993.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I evidently didn't have my hand up high enough. I was trying to get your attention under notices of motion. I seek unanimous consent to go back.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

REVERT BACK TO ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 21-12(5): Tabled Document 3-12(5) "Tradition And Change: A Strategy For Renewable Resource Development In The Northwest Territories" To Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 16, 1994, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Tabled Document 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, a Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the Northwest Territories, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST
READING OF BILLS

Bill 10: An Act To Repeal The Metric Conversion Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 16, 1994, I shall move that Bill 10, An Act to Repeal the Metric Conversion Act be read for the first time.

--- Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95; Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; 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; and, Tabled Document 11-12(5), First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT for the Year 1992-93, with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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 recommend that the committee consider Bill 8, followed by Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), specifically to deal with the Department of Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

That is Mr. Dent's proposal. Are we all agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay, if we can, we will turn to our legislative agenda with Bill 8. I believe it is Mr. Pollard's bill so I wonder, Mr. Pollard, if you would like to introduce the bill for us?

Introductory Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few brief remarks concerning Bill 8, which would amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. The bill before you, Mr. Chairman, simply amends the act to require that indemnities paid to Members for the fiscal year 1994-95 will not be adjusted to accord with changes in the consumer price index.

My responsibility, Mr. Chairman, for this amendment is to introduce the bill in the House and carry it through on behalf of the Management and Services Board. The Management and Services Board approved the principle of freezing all indemnities for the next fiscal year only and recommended it to Caucus. Caucus considered the matter and, with the consensus of the Members in agreement with the principle, the bill was introduced.

The initiative, Mr. Chairman, of not proceeding with an increase equivalent to the consumer price index is not new to this Assembly. The Members have done this on two occasions, once in the fiscal year 1992-93 when there was a zero increase and once when the federal and territorial governments implemented the six and five per cent in the 1980s.

Mr. Chairman, this bill does not affect the annual increase to Members' living allowances and constituency allowances, which will be increased by 1.8 per cent effective April 1, 1994. The Management and Services Board and Cabinet fully support this amendment and trust all Members will be equally supportive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard, for your introductory remarks to the bill. Is there a committee chairman who would like to report on this bill? Mr. Ng.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, we reviewed Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, on February 28 and on March 2, 1994. Committee Members discussed this bill at some length and agreed that it should be moved into committee of the whole for further discussion and action. Individual committee Members may take this opportunity here in committee of the whole to raise any remaining concerns regarding this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much, Mr. Ng. Mr. Pollard, do you have any witnesses who can help you deal with this bill in front of our committee?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to bring in witnesses if I might, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Aitken. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do Members have any objections to the Minister bringing in his witnesses? Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you make sure the witnesses are comfortable at the table? You've identified your witnesses for us, Mr. Pollard. If there are Members who have questions, you may ask them now. Mr. Zoe.

General Comments

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a few general comments before I make a motion pertaining to this bill. Mr. Chairman, to my understanding, the Executive Council who is sponsoring the bill initiated this anticipated freeze and it was brought forward to the Management and Services Board for consideration in the fall. At that time, it is my

understanding that the board agreed to bring forward this particular bill and the Minister of Finance has done so.

But, Mr. Chairman, I have concerns about this bill. As Members will know, I am disappointed that our own board, the Management and Services Board, in my view, didn't properly consult the Members to see if this initiative should take place or not. Mr. Chairman, the intent is to soften up the union. We all know that. It has been said that the only way to soften up the union is to do this type of thing. Members weren't canvassed to see if this was the proper method and that is my concern. The Management and Services Board didn't consult with the ordinary Members with regard to this issue, although it is only a freeze.

After that, Mr. Chairman, the Executive brought it forward in our Caucus meeting. That is the only time we were advised that this bill was coming forward. They didn't give Members the opportunity to discuss it amongst themselves. I am disappointed with this particular bill, Mr. Chairman, because the Executive Council had other methods they could have utilized, rather than using Members, if their main objective was to soften the union. To get from point A to point B, the Executive Council had many options, but they chose to use this method. Since that decision was made and every time you talk about Members' salaries or indemnities it is controversial to the public. In the territories or in southern Canada, every time you talk about Members' salaries it is a controversial issue. Members are afraid to talk about it.

Mr. Chairman, I am not afraid to talk about salaries. If this is the method they are going to use, then I think they should have gone further than what is being proposed. The current bill only proposes a freeze within our salaries. One must not forget that the main objective of the Executive Council is to soften up the union. We know that. The 1.8 per cent increase totals only \$27,000. If we are going to be serious and try to soften up the union, then I think the Executive Council should have done more than just freezing our salaries. We should have taken a cut. Let's make amendments to the bill.

Mr. Chairman, since this method is being agreed to by many Members, even the Finance committee agreed to it -- I sit on this committee and I agreed to it -- but the government should have done more. If we are going to show the leadership, I think we should have done more than that because \$27,000 isn't a big drop in the bucket. If we are really serious, we should have taken a more drastic measure. Since this

method is being used, we should have gone further than what is being proposed now.

On top of that, to be even more serious, I think the Executive Council should have taken an extra cut. But they just want to freeze our current indemnities which won't change it much from what we are getting now. The Executive Council is hoping that with this method it would soften up the union. We know that has been reported in the paper. But I say to Members in this House if we are going to be serious and our objective is to show the way, the Members should consider taking a cut rather than a freeze.

Mr. Chairman, I will be moving a motion to that effect after other Members have had a chance to make their comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin my comments by expressing my concern that although this issue undoubtedly will have some impact, perhaps a small impact, but nonetheless some impact on collective bargaining that will soon be going on with the public servants of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I believe strongly in the collective bargaining process and I think it would be unwise if not irresponsible of elected persons to now begin discussing that independent process in public in this legislature. I want to say at the outset that I am not going to play into the hands of one party or the other by speaking about the collective bargaining process in this legislature even during this debate. I think we should let the collective bargaining process take its own course.

There are some who have advocated fishbowl negotiating going on. I believe that most people who respect the collective bargaining process would agree, even strong labour leaders, that interference from politicians is not welcome nor is it at all helpful. So we should let that process take its course.

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I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, in responding to another part of Mr. Zoe's comments, that I am a Member of the Management and Services Board, I don't pretend to speak for that board today, but the board has been criticized for the method in which it consulted MLAs about recommending this legislation.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that we can learn from this experience and, in future, the Management and Services Board can find better ways of consulting with MLAs and giving them notice of legislation that will affect their own benefits and also will have other implications.

The fact remains, as Mr. Zoe said, the matter was taken to Caucus. Caucus could have deferred or chosen to further study the bill and it was instead recommended for passage, partly with the new fiscal year in mind. So that happened. The process may not have been perfect, but we now have to deal with the bill today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, can I get a copy of section 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) and 28(1)? Can I get a copy of those sections?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Maybe the Clerk could make those sections available to Members. Do you want to carry on, Mr. Gargan, while we arrange to get those sections or would you rather wait? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, Members are requesting that we get copies before we debate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay. I would like to call a break for a few minutes and we'll come back with those sections.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I'll call this committee back to order. At the break, Mr. Gargan, you had the floor. We now have copies of all the sections the Member requested, 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) and 28(1). Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for my request was to see what sections of this act we are looking at, those sections referred to that put a freeze on salaries and indemnities. Mr. Chairman, these are the

sections that deal with ordinary Members, as opposed to Ministers, right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard, would you like to answer that question, please?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the act freezes the indemnities to ordinary Members and the basic salary that Ministers receive as MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Which section concerns the Ministers' salaries?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, you would refer to 24(1). Section A is with regard to the Government Leader, section A1 refers to Ministers, A2 to the Speaker, and 1B refers to the Deputy Speaker, et cetera. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, it refers to 23(1), but it doesn't say anything about 24(1). It skips 24(1) and then goes to 25(1).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, a couple of years ago, the Ministers took a reduction in their basic ministerial pay. At the same time, when legislation was changed with regards to COLA, the Ministers' portion of this particular act was not subject to the 1.8 per cent increase. It is in there at a flat rate. It does not automatically change and that's why it is not affected, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

What is the flat rate then? Nothing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, could I seek clarification? The flat rate with regard to ministerial salaries?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Gargan, would you clarify what you mean by flat rate?

MR. GARGAN:

When the Minister refers to flat rate, are we looking at zero per cent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Ministers receive pay for being MLAs and they receive pay for being Ministers. Under the present act, the pay for all MLAs, including Ministers, is covered at the rate of 1.8 per cent increase. The monies that Ministers receive for being Ministers is not covered under that increase. It does not automatically increase each year. There is a zero increase per legislation with Ministers' salaries. If Ministers' salaries were going to be raised, then the legislation would have to be changed and brought to this House, Mr. Chairman. It does not go up automatically. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Is that clear, Mr. Gargan?

MR. GARGAN:

Yes. So, by accepting this, we are in fact freezing everything and we're not going to get the 1.8 per cent increase, right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, that's correct. It covers the basic indemnity, the chairpersons, committee indemnities and constituency. All of these would receive no increases in this particular fiscal year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Gargan.

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MR. GARGAN:

But that does not include the Executive, the Ministers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it is not included in the piece of legislation we have before us because it was not going to go up anyway. The Ministers' salaries remain the same as well. There are no increases in Ministers' salaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

The 1.8 per cent did not apply to Ministers' salaries anyway. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

So, it wouldn't hurt then, to make section 24(1) part of this bill then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Would that have any effect, Mr. Pollard, to include it?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, it would be redundant, simply because the 1.8 per cent increase did not apply to 24(1) anyway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

It's outside the legislation anyway. So, are you finished, Mr. Gargan?

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I guess most Members got a letter about some of the deductions that are going to affect the Members and staff. The Canada Pension plan for Members was raised by 2.6 per cent. The unemployment insurance premium for staff and Members was raised by 3.7 per cent. The superannuation doesn't affect us but we are getting increases in what we pay. I just wanted to say that for the record.

Last Friday, while I was watching the news, there was a report done for Parliament about MP salaries. The timing is all wrong but in the report, there was a request to increase MP salaries by up to 37 per cent because of the time they spend away from home. I wanted to let you know that. And they want to reduce the pension and double dipping. There is a lot of stuff happening at the local level about this.

For the record, I would like to say that Members up here spend a lot of time away from home. I've been a Member now for ten years, Mr. Chairman, and on the average, I've been away from home for six of those ten years. I'm not complaining about the salaries we get, but we're going to freeze everything while other jurisdictions are not doing that. I think the Ministers have taken a \$5,000 cut in their salaries but no other jurisdictions have done that. We are trying to set an example, but I don't think that at the national level MPs care one way or the other what we do up here, but I think it is at our expense and at our families' expense. We have to make sacrifices as well as our families have to make sacrifices. It is not fair, you know. But, because we are pressured by the public, we sort of put ourselves in a situation where whatever we do is noble and right and where we do the public justice. But, what are we doing to ourselves as Members? Are we denying our families by doing what we are doing? It certainly sounds noble if you look at it from the public hearing you say that, but what are our families saying? We have mortgages, finances, loans that we have to pay off, and students that are going off to universities and colleges. Those all cost money, you know. Mr. Chairman, I am in a situation right now where I have to support my own children away from home. This doesn't help me one bit. Perhaps other Members have younger families that they really don't have to concern themselves about at this point in time. I want to tell the Members that putting on a freeze does have an effect on me as a Member. It does have an effect on my family, but I could live with it. I just have to tighten up my belt and live within my means, I guess.

---Laughter

But I thought I would make that point, Mr. Chairman, because I have a very difficult time doing what we are doing and thinking that maybe it is right for the public, but I certainly don't agree that it is right for me or my family. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To this bill, which removes the 1.8 per cent cost of living increase from all MLAs' indemnities. That is really what the bill is. Before I recognize anybody else, do you have any response, Mr. Pollard, to Mr. Gargan's general comments?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Mr. Chairman. If I might, though, I would like to respond to Mr. Zoe. Mr. Zoe gave the impression that the Executive Council was driving this particular bill. I am the only Executive Council Member who sits on the Management and Services Board, and, certainly, we weren't driving it. This is coming from MSB, Mr. Chairman. Believe me, if I had been driving this bill, Mr. Chairman, there would have been a ten per cent roll-back in everybody's salary, not just a request to give up the 1.8 per cent increase this year. Madam Premier and I had discussed that and we didn't think that was attainable. So, if we had been driving it, it would have been a roll-back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of quick questions. According to Mr. Gargan, there were some other freezes that, according to Mr. Zoe, still come up to only \$27,000 savings to the government. Is that with all the travel and everything else that will be frozen? Is that \$27,000 the right amount?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard, could you verify whether that figure is accurate or not with regard to the effect of this bill?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there is certainty in \$24,259.68 on those items that we can guarantee. For instance, we know how many MLAs there are and we know how

much the basic indemnity is and so forth. What we can't predict is the amount of sitting days of committees and where those committees will sit, et cetera, so we would guesstimate some \$50,000 overall, Mr. Chairman. The only certainty I can give you is the first number until we find out how many days committees will sit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that very small amount, I hope we are not seen by the public as hypocritical in trying to show the public that we are instituting

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a freeze and making a big saving. I don't think that is the case. However, in the spirit of the thought, my question to the Minister is, are we doing this for the purpose of showing the union that we are serious about this and that we'll do the same thing if they will freeze their salaries, too, by the fall?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think there is the general perception across Canada that politicians are fat cats who live well. I think we must look at the amount of unemployed people across Canada who say, I could handle an \$85,000, \$100,000 or \$50,000 a year job. We have seen this crusade across Canada towards politicians and the increases that we can vote ourselves. I think that there is some justification on behalf of people. In some jurisdictions, MLAs and MPs are well paid and taken care of well.

I admit that we work long hours and we spend a lot of time away from our families. I admit that we have odd hours and travel at a moment's notice, et cetera, but when you use that kind of argument, Mr. Chairman, the people on the street say you didn't have to run in the election anyway. You knew what you were doing when you signed on. I think there is not an MLA in this House or in any House across Canada who did not phone, first of all, to the Clerk or to the Legislative Assembly and say, what kind of a deal am I getting myself into? What are the conflicts of interest? What

salaries are there? How do I get reimbursed, et cetera? So, I think it may not appear to be a lot of money, Mr. Chairman, but I think there is a message from constituents to elected Members that they don't want to see any more. It may appear to be a small dollar amount but, certainly, the intent is there. We are not going beyond what is there at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the spirit or the intent is to show the union that we would like them to do the same thing by fall. If that is the case, then why not just direct MSB -- if bargaining is successful in a zero freeze -- to move that the MLAs' salaries will be frozen along the same line as what is attained at the collective bargaining in the fall?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Patterson was right when he said that we should not be negotiating a collective agreement with teachers, the UNW or any of our unions on the floor of this House, and for that reason, on this rare occasion, I would rather not comment on that suggestion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is what I wanted to hear, because I do want to show the UNW that we are making a prejudgment as to what we want to do with them. I think that is wrong. It is very hard to think and understand to save \$24,000, we are spending...I don't know how much it is costing us so far. If you take the Legislative Assembly staff and time, we are probably spending close to \$14,000 to go...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. ARVALUK:

I don't understand why this bill should be introduced if it is going to cost us more in the long run. I just wanted to tell the public by introducing this bill, we are not saving any money at all because we are already spending it.

However, I guess we have to show we are going to be saving \$24,000, but don't be fooled that we are going to be saving any money.

My last comment is I will be supporting this bill, on the pretence that we are going to pretend to save some money. But I think in the future, we should let the public know if we are saving money, we should be introducing a bill. Qujannamiik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. There were no questions there, but there were several comments. Next is Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Merci. When you are talking about salaries and benefits for MLAs or politicians, generally, it hits a raw nerve. Before I get into my own feelings about this particular bill, I want to put a few things on the record to put this into some perspective. One is what we have heard and will hear is comparisons between the salaries of MLAs and Ministers in the Northwest Territories with those in southern jurisdictions. But I want to make three observations about that specifically.

One is you are not comparing apples and apples. The salaries have to be discounted by the cost of living in the north, which is probably 25 to 50 per cent compared to southern jurisdictions. That is the first point people should keep in mind. The second point is we are the only jurisdiction, or one of the very few jurisdictions, that doesn't have a big tax-free component to our salaries. In other jurisdictions, they range from \$15,000 to close to \$30,000. The third criticism I have heard, and I have heard this in Yellowknife, is we are really not as serious a jurisdiction as others. Having been involved in this jurisdiction for many years, I don't buy that. The actual complexity of being a Legislative Assembly Member, Minister or Premier in the Northwest Territories exceeds, if it is not equal to, any other jurisdiction in the country.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Few jurisdictions have the cultural complexity, the huge area we have or the political problems we have. So I think anyone here who buys into the argument that somehow we are less worthy than politicians in other jurisdictions are not doing this Legislative Assembly or Cabinet service. In my experience, the work-load of Ministers and of the Premier in this jurisdiction is as much, if not more, than any other jurisdiction in the country. The complexity of their duties, because we have so few Ministers, is such a wide assortment of duties that it is incredible. The work that our Cabinet does is recognized everywhere else in the country. Also the work that our committees do is not done by committees anywhere else in the country. So before I carry on with this bill, I want to put it in some perspective. I don't think anyone here has to apologize for the remuneration they are getting compared to other jurisdictions in the country.

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I was a Member of MSB and I want to reiterate what Mr. Pollard said, this was not government driven, this was from the Management and Services Board. Secondly, it never was part of the discussion of the Management and Services Board that this is some part of a strategic plan to soften up the unions. That was never the intent. It was never the reason that the Management and Services Board put this forward. In fact, I would say the opposite. It was the feeling of the Management and Services Board that it is important to have a professional negotiation between the government and the union and we should try to take the Legislative Assembly out of that process by having a zero increase. I hear the arguments now about whether we should have a freeze or cut. We tried not to get into that because at this time, though it is politically expedient for people to say I should cut ten per cent and we can all prove to each other how responsible we are, but the reality is if you are going to do it, there has to be a reason for it. My feeling is -- and this is personal -- at this point in time, we are not in a totally desperate, drastic situation, though we might be a year from now.

My suggestion to Members would be to support this particular bill, as it stands with a freeze, we go into negotiations and we have a look at the end of the year how Mr. Pollard and the Premier have made out with all the big package negotiations they are doing.

If, at that point, the situation looks drastic, then we revisit it and look at what we have to do in a real sense to set an example in the territories. But I don't think it is appropriate at this point to do that. So I am prepared to support this bill, as it is. I think it sets out the proper message, that the Legislative Assembly is out of these negotiations. We are not taking a symbolic stand either way. We are going to allow the government and the unions to do their job without us being involved and I would be the first one, if the Finance Minister says in a year from now we have some very serious problems, to say let's look at this and if it is appropriate to take a bigger cut, so be it. I would be the first one to support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. To the bill. It is a simple bill. It is to take off the 1.8 per cent increase to cover the cost of living on all Members' salaries and indemnities. So I would like to ask Members if there are any further general comments on this bill? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Since no other Member wants to speak to the bill, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion.

Mr. Chairman, I move...Maybe we should go through the details of the bill before I make my motion. I will wait until you get into the detail of the bill, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I was going to hear your motion before I decided whether it was in order or not.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay. Bill 8, clause 1. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

We are on clause 2 now? My motion is pertaining to clause 2, Mr. Chairman.

Committee Motion 19-12(5): To Amend Clause 2 Of Bill 8, Ruled Out Of Order

I move that Clause 2 be amended by adding the following subsection immediately following 32.1(6):

(7) For the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1994, the amount of an indemnity paid under subsection 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) or 28(1) is reduced by five per cent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We'll keep your motion in mind for the next section, Mr. Zoe. We're on the second clause, item number two, in Bill 8. Okay, your motion is to amend clause 2, Mr. Zoe. We'd have to have a copy of your motion and have it translated. So, we'll take a short break while that motion is being translated.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I'll call this committee back to order. Mr. Zoe, would you like to state your motion, please? Every Member has a copy of it, I presume. Mr. Zoe.

Committee Motion 19-12(5): To Amend Clause 2 Of Bill 8, Ruled Out Of Order

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 2 be amended by adding the following subsection immediately following proposed subsection 32.1(6):

(7) For the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1994 the amount of indemnity paid under subsection 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) or 28(1) is reduced by 5 per cent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Now that we have a printed copy of your motion, it is pretty clear that what the motion intends to do is to go beyond the principle of the bill, which was to establish a reduction of the 1.8 per cent COLA clause. Although it doesn't violate that principle, it goes beyond the intention of the bill. It goes beyond the scope of what was intended in the bill and for that reason, I would have to rule it out of order. Clause 2. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I challenge your ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Zoe, you are within your rights, obviously, to challenge any ruling of this chair. Therefore, I will rise and report to the Speaker that my ruling on this amendment has been challenged.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In committee of the whole, Mr. Zoe moved a motion that would be an amendment. The motion reads, "I move that clause 2 be amended by adding the following subsection immediately following proposed subsection 32.1(6): (7) for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1994 the amount of an indemnity paid

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under subsection 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) or 28(1) is reduced by five per cent."

Madam Speaker, upon examining the printed motion, I ruled that this motion was out of order because, although it didn't violate the principle that the 1.8 per cent would now be eliminated, it went beyond the scope of the bill. Under our rules, I believe, any amendment which goes beyond the scope of the bill has to be ruled out of order. I was challenged by Mr. Zoe and, therefore, have referred the matter to you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. I would like to advise the House that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, provides that indemnities paid to Members under the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act for the 1994-95 fiscal year will not be adjusted to accord with changes in the consumer price index. I believe the principle, the intent, was to freeze the salaries under this particular bill.

I reviewed your ruling, Mr. Lewis, with regard to the motion that the clause be amended by adding the following subsection immediately following proposed

subsection 32.1(6): (7) for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1994 the amount of an indemnity paid under subsection 23(1), 25(1), 26(2), 27(1) or 28(1) is reduced by five per cent. In accordance with Beauchesne's section 698 under the admissibility of amendments in committee, section 698 reads: "An amendment which is out of order on any of the following grounds cannot be put from the chair: (1) An amendment is out of order if it is irrelevant to the bill, beyond its scope or governed by or dependent upon amendments already negatived. (2) An amendment must not be inconsistent with, or contradictory to, the bill as so far agreed to by the committee, nor must it be inconsistent with a decision which the committee has given upon a former amendment."

So, therefore, Mr. Lewis, I rule that the scope of the proposed amendment is not within the scope of the intended bill put forth before this House and, therefore, I agree with your ruling in this House. This House will go back to committee of the whole, with Mr. Lewis in the chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We are still considering Bill 8 and we were on clause 2. Mr. Minister, do you still wish to go back to the witness table and have your witnesses assist you if required?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I'll take my chances from here at the present time but at the slightest provocation, I'll yell for help. I'll stay here, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Right. Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We're finished clause 1 and we've finished clause 2. The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Bill 8 is now ready for third reading. What do you want to do next? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I recommend that we resume consideration of Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), specifically dealing with consideration of the budget of the Department of Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

It has been quite awhile, colleagues, since we've dealt with this department. If you recall, we had just heard a presentation on education 2000 and we were still on general comments with regard to the departmental budget. Any general comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the House if I could invite witnesses into the Chamber?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo would like to have his departmental staff assist him. Any objections?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Everybody agrees. Mr. Nerysoo, maybe you could take the witness table then. Sergeant-at-Arms, maybe you could assist the witnesses or make them comfortable at the table. Thank you very much, Mr. Nerysoo. For the record, since it is awhile since we met here, would you like to identify your witnesses, please?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left is the deputy minister, Mr. Hal Gerein. On my right is the director of finance and administration, Mr. Paul Devitt.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Just to help Members, we are in the book, on 18-11, program summary. We haven't gone into any detail yet. We are still on general comments on page 18-11. Mr. Arvaluk.

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General Comments

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, at the beginning of last year divisional boards of education were given quarterly funding. The money was put right into the bank and they collected interest. After collecting interest, that interest was used for Inuktitut curriculum in the Baffin and Keewatin. But after that the government established monthly funding for the divisional boards, and they were not generating interest any longer and it was not replaced by any extra funding for the Inuktitut curriculum. Is there still no funding to teach the Inuktitut curriculum in the schools for the Keewatin and Baffin regions divisional board funding? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The resources that are allocated to the educational programming are intended to respond to the program and the curriculum that is being offered, and, as such, that is the basis on which we provide the financial resources. If the decision is that you teach in an aboriginal language, then the resources could be used for that particular purpose as well, or in that context.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they were developing the Inuktitut curriculum, I think it was every two months that there were some educational programs in Inuktitut. Is there timely development of Inuktitut curriculum in your department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is work being done on the Innuqatigiit Inuktitut curriculum that would apply across the board, to all boards. It would be the base curriculum in which the Inuktitut language would be taught or, in fact, it would be used as the teaching language. We have done that in the same context with the Dene Kede curriculum, where there is a basic core of instruction that would be offered. In that sense, the resources that are being provided to the divisional boards will be used, in fact, to teach that core program to the students.

If I might respond to the honourable Member regarding the method of payments, he is correct that several years ago we changed the method by which we provided financial resources and payments to our boards. We went from quarterly payments to monthly payments, and that was the result of a decision that was made by Cabinet upon instruction by the Auditor General that that was the method by which we should be making payments. In spite of that, the department still provides levels of financing based on need, in some cases. For instance, the greatest need for some of the resources is at the early stages of opening their schools, and as a result of that there is a bit more money being paid out at those particular junctures. So, even though we pay on a monthly basis, there is an effort on the part of the department to provide resources earlier to respond to immediate

needs of our boards. That is the method by which we are responding to the financial requirements of the boards.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question to the Minister is, under the definitive objectives on page 18-7, under the objective, "To review the implications..." if you are going to improve the NWT curriculum, where are you going to be getting the funding? Under the main estimates in 1994-95, will you be able to tell us how they are going to be funded to improve the NWT curriculum?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to suggest to the honourable Member that no additional resources may be required to improve or provide additional support services to our students. But, the fact is that what we have tried to do is assess from the initial math exams, some of the additional considerations or options that are available to us without additional resources; in other words, improving how we actually deliver the programs with the resources that we have at present. We are trying to address it in that context because we have two more exams to write -- one this year, which is the reading and writing, and the other is science. The honourable Member knows that we wrote the math exam a year ago. We did not do as well as we had anticipated and probably we knew that would show up in the results. We needed to do an assessment of where our students were. From that, we could then decide and determine the most appropriate methods of response, whether or not it is resources or, in fact, changing the way in which we delivered and taught math in the Northwest Territories.

While I appreciate the comments about additional financial resources, it may be that we can deliver the programs better without additional resources. That is not to suggest we may not, in the end, require it. There have been already a number of initiatives that we have responded to, such as, even for this particular year, I believe the employee termination issue, student transportation, we are dealing with the

question of board payment schedules. We have dealt with additional resources for administration. We are dealing with the whole question of funding in a number of other areas. There is a final phase of this review which is to be completed in this particular fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am still missing a firm definitive objective. In the contributions to the CEC or the divisional boards, we have been talking about involving the parents for the purpose of being successful with their children's education. Where in the budget or in the O & M will we be seeing at least some contribution where the community education councils will take an active role in promoting the parents involvement in having their children be successful, not so much in assisting them in what the materials are, but rather assisting them in parenting for the school children. Parenting not so much in how to bring up a child, but how to make the child be interested in getting their education.

I think some of us watched a program last night about how the immigrants, before the depression, came to the United States and Canada. Because they came from unwealthy families in

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Europe, when they came to North America they had their children go to school to succeed as much as possible at that time. The parents supported them 100 per cent, even financing their education or special education when they needed it.

I stated quite a while ago that I found education or going to school so easy because I had the training from my parents on how to work hard and they supported me. Is there anything along this line recognizing that the parents need to be taught -- especially young ones -- some parenting for students, not just children? Is there anything in the budget that will assist community education councils in promoting at least guiding the young parents how to parent the school children so that the school children will be encouraged, properly fed, properly clothed, guided and loved for the purpose of success in the schools? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of issues that have to be considered in responding to the honourable Member's comments. Number one, the strategy that is being developed will, in fact, allow for that kind of discussion to take place in terms of the role of parents in educational programming and meeting the programming and service needs of our children. The other issue is that the Brighter Futures funding which the federal government has provided to this jurisdiction will allow us to access some resources and allow aboriginal people to access program funding for that particular purpose.

Another initiative that I believe is very successful, and perhaps because it became a real important factor in the success of the Arviat school, is the whole concept of introducing child care programming in high schools. I think, while we have to work with our parents to have them encourage their young children to remain in school, we also have to recognize that there are young people who are having children in many of the communities where we don't have those parenting skills that they should have because they are having children at such a young age. I think it is incumbent upon us to introduce programs that will allow them to become good parents despite their age, and allow them to take on the responsible position that the honourable Member has pointed out. That is to encourage their young children on how important education is in terms of the success of their children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it is always a bit dangerous for our Minister of Education to get too involved in this debate, but I do have some comments I want to make, some plaudits to offer the Minister before I raise my concerns. I want to say, generally, that I think this is the key department mainly because of Nunavut, from the point of view of my constituents. I think we have always said if Nunavut has to be run by people from the good city of Yellowknife, or even worse people from southern Canada, then we are going to turn around very quickly in April 1999 and say why did we do this? Nunavut is to bring government closer to home and to involve northern

people as never before in their government. I think the Minister of Education has the most critical portfolio for the next decade, if it hasn't been critical up until now. It is the most important.

This is a very imperfect list, but there are some good things that have happened. I am sure I may miss some. I think that the day care policy is now being seriously reviewed and can only be improved. I am pleased with the profile that has been given to this long neglected issue by this department since it has taken over the responsibility. I want to note that the location of an officer in the region has been of tremendous assistance, not just to my constituents but to others. I want to note that as progress. There's a lot of interest in the new policy and I think a lot of good advice has already been given to the department.

I think the changes in the teacher education program to basically make what has already worked in the Baffin region apply to other regions is great. We are going to see the impact soon. This is the best way of dealing with the issue of aboriginal culture and languages in our schools, to get trained aboriginal people from our communities in those schools as role models and teaching whatever is being taught with sensitivity and preferably in the aboriginal language, where it is a priority in that community. I think good progress has been made already. The results in the Keewatin are astonishing. If we can clone that process in other regions it will have an untold positive impact.

The commitment to grade extensions is a good one. I know the Minister has suffered some criticism about closing Akaitcho Hall and about some of the other problems that have resulted with grade extensions, but I'm confident it's the right way to go. It, too, will produce dividends. It is already producing dividends. Without appearing to be biased towards the Baffin, I think the Baffin has led the way in this area. We now see success in communities like Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and even now Sanikiluaq. It is the way to go. It has worked in the Baffin and it will work in other places. There will be some hiccoughs, but it is the way to go. I congratulate the department for squeezing the necessary funds out of the miserly Minister of Finance to make this continue to happen because I know it is difficult to get new money these days.

The Minister has achieved an historic first in actually engineering a bussing policy. I congratulate him for that. It is something that has been tried by others

before and has failed. Now, having given him some praise -- I don't want to give him too much praise -- I want to say that he did the politically smart thing and passed the buck on to the divisional boards. I noticed that but I congratulate him because at least there is a policy in place to deal with this area where demands will never cease. I think it is good that some money has been allocated and it is obviously an issue in many communities.

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First of all, I'm very concerned about the apparent federal cutbacks in skills training in the Northwest Territories and Canada and I want to ask the Minister a little about that, perhaps when we get to that area of his budget. I'm specifically wondering where the federal money has gone. Has it been reallocated or has it been snatched? I would like to have the benefit of the Minister's understanding of that.

Secondly, I would like to say that the investing in people program looks great. It is in tune with national trends and is in tune with what has apparently worked successfully in New Brunswick. But my concern is this, I don't think we're going to see any results from this new initiative this coming fiscal year. Training for Nunavut, especially, was required to happen yesterday. I'm not sure that the delay in getting the investing in people program going -- which is necessary, I understand, to get a new program designed -- coupled with apparent reductions in overall core funding for Arctic College, is going to lead to progress in the coming fiscal year for education through the college for those other than the K to 12 population.

I would like to say that, in my experience, K to 12 has always been the sexy side of Education. It has always been an area that has been the subject of attention in committee of the whole. It's very important, of course, but it is often that K to 12 get the lion's share of funding and attention and we fail to support the equally important, if not more important, college, post-secondary and adult training responsibilities that we have.

I realize, Mr. Chairman, that the college is reorganizing. There is preoccupation now with new legislation. There are going to be two boards and all of this has to be done by July. I understand that. I also understand the amalgamation of the Science Institute is preoccupying people in the Minister's department who are dealing with Arctic College. These are important initiatives and they have to be

done. But I'm wondering if this is only going to be a year for reorganization or whether the college can keep moving and can be there, ready and waiting to respond to the increasing pressures to train people for Nunavut.

So I will have some questions for the Minister about that. Specifically, I would like to ask him about -- and maybe this will be my closing comment, Mr. Chairman -- the Standing Committee on Finance recommendation of February 24, 1994 -- and I think it was approved by the committee of the whole -- that the department provide a detailed report on the anticipated impact on programs of the reduced 1994-95 budget allocation to the college. The committee further recommended that the report be provided prior to the department's main estimates being considered in committee of the whole.

I'm not aware, Mr. Chairman, whether that information has yet been provided to the committee or the House. I would like to ask the Minister if that information can be provided. I would also like to ask if it is a fair criticism to say that the college budget seems to be reduced. Comparing the mains from the previous year to this year, it looks like a reduction. If this is true -- and it may not be true -- it seems ironic that with land claims being implemented with the Gwich'in and the Sahtu, with the pressures of development in the Mackenzie Valley in the western Arctic with mining prospects and other development pressures in which northerners want to participate and with Nunavut coming, that this is the very year when it seems that overall global funding to the college is declining. When you add the hit of the federal reduction in skills training, it looks even more serious. I know this is something beyond the Minister's direct control, but that is a strong concern I would like to mention here and ask a response on.

I'll just mention a couple of other issues relating to the college, Mr. Chairman, and I think I can bring them up at the appropriate time. One is student housing, particularly married student housing. There is a critical need and I know it is a capital issue but it can be an O and M issue if the department is willing to look at leasing or making other arrangements to make this housing available to our most mature students. These are the people who succeed. They have been out of school, had a few children, perhaps have been in the work place, but they are ready to go back to school. They have stability through their families and there is a huge waiting list at Nunatta Campus for this kind of housing. I suspect it is true of other campuses, but I don't really know for sure. I suspect

it is a problem in Inuvik, Cambridge Bay and perhaps even Thebacha. I think it is a critical issue that has to be dealt with.

The other issue I would like to mention is nursing training. I know the department and the college have made a good start with the program that is up and running now in Yellowknife. I wish to commend the department for that. I would like to see what we have been able to do with educators duplicated in the health professions, beginning with nursing. My big concern is, even though there was a high degree of interest in nursing and the nursing professions identified in the survey that was conducted before this program was established from students in the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions, they don't have access to that program unless they go to Yellowknife. I think our experience over the years has been, it doesn't work very well to expect people to travel that far from home and family to access this program. So, I am going to want to ask the Minister about that issue and what plans are in place to give the other regions of the territories access to this very important program.

Those are a couple of issues that I want to explore as we go into the details, Mr. Chairman. I wonder, in closing, if I could ask the Minister to comment on this global issue of funding to the college and to tell this committee whether we will get a detailed report on the anticipated impact on programs of what appears to be reduced funding to the college before we finally deal with this budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Minister, that was notice of quite a few questions which you can expect as you do your homework over the next little while, but the specific question that Mr. Patterson has asked is about funding for adult education.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the problems that I think people have when you review budgets and when there is a need for us to respond to the potential for deficits, is that we have to find resources where it is, in our view, most appropriate to reduce. In that context, the resources that have been identified to respond to what would have been and still could be a serious financial problem for us, we were able to identify in this particular area. I don't like to be difficult, but let's be very honest about the million

dollars that the honourable Member is talking about which has been

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identified for cost-sharing with the federal government. The federal government removed their million dollars. As a result of that, there is no cost-sharing right now with the federal government.

In the investing in people, which is the \$4.5 million that we are looking at over the next three years, which will increase the total number of dollars spent by \$3.5 million, those dollars are to be cost-shared with the federal government moving toward signing arrangements, agreements with the federal government to implement that particular program. While the honourable Member is correct in saying that we have removed the money, we are still moving to implement programs that would cost up to \$4.5 million for college programming.

The other important consideration that Members must have, and we must continue to remind ourselves, is that there are already training dollars that have been made available to aboriginal organizations through the claims agreements. If we can work in partnership with the aboriginal organizations, we can access some of those dollars to deliver actual training programs to the aboriginal people.

If I may go back to one experience that we had -- and I keep mentioning this one -- is with the Gwich'in. The Gwich'in themselves wanted to proceed with a business program with the University of Lethbridge. Through Arctic College, I intervened in that process. What was interesting is they had already spent \$70,000 of development money on trying to develop the program with the University of Lethbridge, which they really, in my view, didn't have to do. We could have worked it out through the Arctic College and would have used that \$70,000 to actually deliver the program. They have agreed, through Arctic College and in conjunction with the University of Lethbridge, that we would deliver that program through the Aurora Campus in Inuvik. My view is that we can work with the other aboriginal organizations to deliver programming. We can, as the honourable Member has stressed so many times in the House, use Arctic College as a vehicle for delivering post-secondary community-based training programs. I think it is the best vehicle available to us. I think we should continue to promote that as the institution of training.

The other element is that there are already available opportunities for us to access training educational dollars under the CAP 3 for which we have already submitted proposals to the federal government from communities that will allow us to train various communities, and to utilize CAP 3 money in ways other than social assistance or welfare payments. The possibilities are there.

The other issue is that we should access the unemployment insurance program much better than we have been accessing it previously and utilizing those resources. It is my view that we will be able to access more resources.

On the matter of Arctic College, we have invested \$1 million in the decision to separate and have two colleges in the north. The names will end up as Arctic College, Nunavut and Arctic College West. Those decisions have been made.

On the matter of the nursing program, I think we don't disagree with the honourable Member's comments that we should make it as accessible as a teacher education program but, like every other program, my honourable Member will recall how difficult the initial decisions were to move the teacher education program to the community-based program. We needed some additional experiences. I think, without any question, we can use that experience in the health programs. It is our first year of delivering the access year for the nursing program. I think from that we will develop some additional experiences that we might be able to promote access programs in the various campuses. It all costs dollars and we have to look at the program in terms of the resources that we have at hand.

The honourable Member made mention of the fact that we may not be able to access the dollars. The federal government has announced two particular programs, one for \$200 million and the other for \$800 million over the next three years. We can access those dollars immediately, at the earliest opportunity for various pilot projects that we might be able to consider in terms of training and education. It is going to take us some time but I think that we can access those dollars this upcoming fiscal year. The criteria and the basis by which we are going to utilize those resources is an issue that is being discussed right now between the Ministers. I have had an opportunity, as the honourable Member will note, to make a statement in the House indicating a number of the issues that we have to address. We are moving

on those, and we are trying to respond to the concerns that the honourable Member has raised.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I received more answers than I expected. I appreciate that. I would like to get back to my perhaps naive question about the college budget, and I would like to ask the Minister for a simple answer. From the point of view of GNWT contributions to the college, is the budget less in the coming fiscal year compared to the previous year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I am not sure how I can answer that question because the allocation made to the program, which was cut by the feds, was based on the fact of cost-sharing. What we are now doing under the investing in people initiative is, in fact, cost-sharing, not a million dollars but \$4.5 million. So, the fact is that if we get an arrangement with the federal government, the dollars will go up. But it depends on what the arrangements are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Member for Iqaluit.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I am very excited about these new federal programs. There is Brighter Futures. There is Ethel Blondin-Andrew's Youth Corps or whatever it is called. There is CAP 3. There is a new program announced every time Lloyd Axworthy has a press conference, it seems. I am excited about this, and I hope that we get our fair share. I hope we get more than our fair share in light of the priority we place on education.

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I would just like to ask the Minister what I think is a simple question. Putting aside the federal government, on which I know we are very heavily dependent, is the projected GNWT contribution to

Arctic College for the coming year less than what was spent last year? That is my question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Iqaluit. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. You can't get more precise than that.

--Laughter

General comments. Next on my list is Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the Minister for his initiative on education in the Northwest Territories. I understand that this is the most difficult department to deal with and I appreciate his work done in the Northwest Territories, particularly in the Baffin region. I know that O and M for the schools in the regions is always small, but we can understand that, in light of all the budget cuts by the federal government. However, I wanted to comment on a few items.

In the fall of 1985, I went to Lake Shore for a training program. While I was down there for training, I became aware of how a program is easily run in the southern institutions. I was having great difficulty in my training program due to the fact that I couldn't speak English. It was very difficult for me to be able to speak and participate in that classroom setting due to the fact that I was unilingual. I know all the negative impacts that can have on a unilingual person. I wanted to bring that up just to let you know that we have come a long way in the Baffin region with regard to education and training.

I was also a member of the divisional board of education in the Baffin region, and we had to deal a lot with the curriculum that was put in the schools at the time. This has helped a great deal in the curriculum area.

We all know that education is very important to us and it is becoming more and more difficult to get funding for various training programs. However, we have been trying hard to better our lives and the future for the younger generation and we encourage the

younger students to stay in school so that they can have better opportunities in the future.

I don't want to dwell on the negative impacts of schooling and what kind of impacts they can have on married students' families. However, I can see positive impacts on it also. These are the comments that have been put forth, as well.

People were dealing with the fact that the parents have to be more involved in their children's schooling and I appreciate that fact. I also want to encourage other parents to be fully involved in the schooling area, particularly in the smaller communities, because we all know that education is a very important part of our lives, whether we come from smaller or larger centres.

I also wanted to let people within the Legislative Assembly know that we are trying to deal with education, with the resources we have, to the best of our abilities.

In dealing with another subject here, schools were allocated some funding quarterly and we had to deal with proposals every three months or so. The divisional boards of education had to put out proposals every three months and this was causing a little bit of difficulty in our board. However, I wanted to ask a question to the Minister. When you allocate a certain amount of funding for three months, and I am not trying to look at just the Baffin region, we have to put this money into a bank so that it could collect interest for the Inuktitut curriculum in the schools in the Baffin region. This has helped us a great deal in the curriculum area. We have also had to hire a staff member to make up the curriculum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Baffin South. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One decision that was made prior to me becoming Minister, and I think it is important, because some of the results are beginning to show, first with the Dene Kede curriculum and I think with the Inuqatigiit curriculum which deals with the Inuit culture and language. There has been a real need for us to develop and deliver a basic curriculum. That's not to suggest that each region shouldn't implement their own ideas within that curriculum, but there has to be basic curriculum available.

I think that will alleviate some of the individual expenditures that have been made separately by divisional boards because with the development of the aboriginal curriculum, we have found that the divisional boards are working together to develop a core curriculum. That's very, very helpful. Another important issue in the Nunavut area, which I think should have excited a lot of people, particularly the Nunavut Members of this Assembly, is that for the first time all the divisional boards got together. The chairs of those divisional boards got together to begin talking about the direction of education in Nunavut for the younger children.

They also take a great deal of interest in post-secondary programming because they don't feel post-secondary training can be offered in isolation of high school programming or elementary school. You need children to go through the school system in order to graduate and meet the standards set by Arctic College in Nunavut. I think that is very, very important. I'm very excited about the way things are beginning to work in Nunavut. I think we all should be because the leadership of education has come together now and I think you're going to see some exciting things being developed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Ningark and then Mr. Gargan.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, looking at the departmental overview of the department's budget and the definitive objectives of the department, I'm very pleased to note that there are language programs and services within the system. Culture and heritage are still included. College, university, other programs and other training programs, which are very important to the people of the NWT.

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are still in there and career and income support programs are very important as well.

I would like to share this comment with my colleagues and also remind the Minister not to lose sight of those people who really need this program. This legislature should really look at this because the generation who are not yet of school age may have some special needs in the future. I think this is very, very important for people who are going to be at a disadvantage. I

would like to remind the Minister and my colleagues that we should really look at this seriously. It doesn't matter who you are, whether you're in Nunavut, the Dene communities or in others, if you have a problem, you need the help of the legislators in the system.

Mr. Chairman, another important point I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister is day care programs within the system. Since education is a priority within the Department of Education and also of this government, I think we should try to make sure that people who were at a disadvantage during the time they were growing up and were not able to attend school for one reason or another, once they grow up and would like to get better education, they should be able to do so. Most times, they are women who are not able to get it because of a situation they are in. Either they're single mothers or are not able to get a babysitter. That should be addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Natilikmiot. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to note, Mr. Chairman, I take the comments that the honourable Member has made seriously and that other Members have made in this House. If the Member will recall, when we were making the presentation of Towards a Strategy to 2010, there was an indication that we are presently funding about 11 per cent of our needs for special needs education. The percentage requiring our assistance runs around 25 per cent to possibly 30 per cent in some locations. It was also indicated that it was the one area that needed to be addressed in the final documentation of our strategy. We think it's important. Mr. Chairman, it is also an issue that is being addressed in part two of our funding review for schools across the Northwest Territories, so that matter is under consideration at the moment.

There is not much I can disagree about with the honourable Member on the matter of child care programming or early childhood care and development. I think it's necessary for us to ensure that we provide the most accessible program possible. I'm not sure if we can do it in every situation or that we can respond to all the requirements. Maybe there are options available. I think the symposium really pointed out to us that there is certainly a need for us to be more flexible in how we provide financing to parents. Not all parents or communities will agree that a central day care centre

is the best idea. They may be more in favour of single child care situations or community programming. I don't have any problems or concerns about that. I take it very seriously and I think the success of our child care programs in our high schools are beginning to show very good results. I think we will continue to promote that concept, particularly if the parenting programs are all part of the courses that are being delivered. It only teaches young people to be better parents. That is what we need, for sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Member for Natilikmiot.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we should really look after our staff, who are doing an excellent job in providing education within the system, not only in teaching, but in communicating with parents as well. I have no problem in my community. The school principals are working very hard. I know that all of the school principals in the territories are working equally hard. I would like to note that we should provide the best benefit package to our teachers that we can in the system. Within the last two or three years now, teachers have been very concerned about their staff housing, rent, et cetera. I think we should really try to keep that in mind. It is not only the parent who provides education, the ability for the student to come out with a good education comes from the teacher, initially. Are we trying to take something away from the teachers and yet we expect that they will produce a good quality education for our children? We should keep that in mind. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the last few weeks, I have listened to the media with regard to the interpreter training program. I believe the program is being reduced or eliminated. What is happening in that area? I know there have been reports done on that. I am sure the communities are just as concerned. Some people were even expressing an interest in taking an interpreter training program, but because of that announcement, there has been some discouragement on their part to even consider pursuing that as a career.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel obligated to answer that question. I believe some of the concerns which were raised were related to the new language agreement and some of the various programs that are conducted in the different departments. There is going to be no reduction. For example, the Department of Health has a program where there is a training component in their department. There is a training program in the Department of Education as well. We are trying to rationalize it so that the training programs are conducted by Arctic College. It is not taking anything away from what is available. If there is anyone who has a concern, that concern should be eliminated. We are talking only about how best to deliver. We have an Arctic College, it is well set up to provide the training. We see no need for duplicating training programs within departments as there is a program in the Department of Justice as well. So, they all conduct their training programs. If we can provide better use of funds by having the Arctic College conduct those training programs for those departments, it probably would facilitate more people, so it is not taking away. We are trying to work together so the dollars are best used for the programs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could supplement the response by the Premier, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will complete a review of the interpreter/translator training programs in the next fiscal year. In other words, we are doing an assessment of them. In the terms of reference, the review will be circulated to the departments of Justice, Health and other official languages units for comment. We also plan to consult with other partners through their review, such as clients, our instructors, students and graduates of the programs. That is basically what is going on. The Premier is correct that there is no diminishment of the program. It is a rationalization and improvement to the training that we are offering.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, the program is no longer going to be operated by Arctic College, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, that is not what is being suggested. In fact, we are trying to rationalize training that is being offered by other departments through Arctic College. That is what we are trying to accomplish. Presently, there are a number of departments that have their own training programs separate from the Arctic College itself. We are delivering those programs almost in isolation. As a result of that, we are sort of tripping over each other. We are trying to make sure that we have one delivery mechanism so that we provide the best service possible. That is generally how it is being proposed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. General comments, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I requested from the Minister a listing of the courses and what is being offered in the communities with regard to high school. The Minister has provided me with some of it. I have noticed that all of the smaller areas, like Fort Good Hope, Coppermine, and Cambridge Bay, have about 15 programs as opposed to places like Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Yellowknife, where you have about two pages of programs. Why is it that there is such a vast difference in the delivery of programs between the smaller communities and the larger communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs and the courses that are offered in the communities are

determined by the communities, parents, boards and CECs. That is who determines them. We, then, respond to the requests that have been made by the communities. If they, for instance, request other programs, then we will respond to them as well, but we are just responding to the requests that have been made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I am getting confused with regard to what the Minister said previously, Mr. Chairman. He said previously that all the programs that are delivered here or in the smaller communities are consistent with what is being delivered in Alberta. Is the Minister now suggesting that that is not the case and it is determined by the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Chairman. We are consistent with the Alberta curriculum in high school. Level 15 courses are offered in high schools across Alberta and we are implementing them because that is the program area that has been requested. In some of the communities the honourable Member notes, for instance, I believe it is in Pond Inlet that we are introducing 10, 20 and 30 programs and those have been requested by the communities. If the communities request that we deliver that, we will deliver that, but that is all part of the core program and we respond to whatever request is made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. The Member from Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, under all the listings I have received, I have not received anything on what is being offered in Fort Providence. I would like to know what is being offered in Fort Providence as far as high schools.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I apologize to the honourable Member if that was not provided. I will provide the honourable Member immediately with a copy. I don't have it here with me. I was under the illusion that somehow that was provided to the

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Member. We will get back to the honourable Member as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. The chair recognizes Mr. Gargan again.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this morning I made a statement with regard to culture and the existing laws regarding aboriginal traditions and customs. One of the statements that I have made for the last ten years is we keep putting in what is very unique, what is very separate from white, Euro-Canadian laws in order for it to be recognized and I am always put in a situation where I disagree with that absolutely. One of the reasons is that you have taken away what was the responsibility of aboriginal people, aboriginal parents, aboriginal grandparents and aboriginal children; basically, what is rightfully theirs. We plan it in a school system which is totally out of whack with the way things are being learned, the way it is being carried out. I know that the Minister is going to be doing a review of the Education Act and I am hoping that as a result of the public hearing we will be able to say to the communities we have tried cultural inclusion programs in the act for ten years, since 1982, I believe, when the Special Committee on Education went around. Thanks to Dennis, I have been fighting that section since it was made a part of the Education Act. I want to tell the Minister that this is one area in which I do hope there are some changes made. If custom adoptions are legally recognized in the courts by virtue of section 35, I would hope that all aboriginal languages, music, stories and everything else are recognized and that you allow and encourage the communities to take on those responsibilities and provide the resources necessary for them to carry them out. I would say that the results would be more positive than if we left them in the schools. Somehow it just doesn't seem right to communities. Mr. Chairman, that was the comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member from Deh Cho. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to argue with the concern of the honourable Member. I think that it is legitimate, except that I would ask the honourable Member to also consider the possibility of the educational system being somehow restructured so that it is based on aboriginal culture. The foundation by which we teach our children, whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal people, could, in fact, be based on aboriginal cultures. That is not to suggest we do not consider or respect the programs that are being offered, but I think we all know that heritage and language programs, for instance, support the actual culture itself. School programs are components that are founded on culture. In other words, the way we teach our children, the language in which we teach them and the history of our communities are all important in terms of making sure that we don't lose those aspects. So, in the development of the direction we take for education, we should consider that possibility. I think Dene Kede could be the foundation on which we make the change and restructure our system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

I agree that some things should be maintained in the school system. My only problem, Mr. Chairman, is that if you are going to have it as part of the educational system, it has got to be part of the subject matter. It has got to be just like the history of Europe, the history of the United States or whatever the history may be. As such, I do not have any difficulty with that. I have difficulty when you start putting in the music component, the language component, the arts and crafts component and components like the skinning of animals. Those are the responsibilities of the community and we should keep them separate and allow the communities to develop their children and those skills with your help. That is all I am suggesting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. General comments. Are we prepared to go in to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Directorate And Administration

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The detail begins on page 18-12. Directorate and administration, total O and M, \$3.565 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--Agreed

Culture And Careers

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Culture and careers, total O and M, \$64 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister is aware that the Standing Committee on Finance expressed some concern about the \$1 million reduction in the Arctic College budget. I have a copy of the letter that was sent by the chairperson of Arctic College to Mr. Koe, chairman of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions in which she mentions that the college has used its own funds in the past to provide adult educators and to enhance their operations in communities when these funds haven't been available as part of the core funding coming from the department. Has the Minister considered that this \$1 million that has been reduced from the core funding could perhaps be better used by expanding the extensive community education system and providing a better service, rather than clawing back some money that the college has managed to make on its own through third-party billings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Well, I guess we all have to make some choices. In part of our Arctic College strategy, we are considering how we are delivering programs in Arctic College.

The other thing is, some of the additional initiatives that we've undertaken will increase the total number of dollars that are going to be available for training. I would really be careful about how one reads the comments that have been made. I've not taken the view that Arctic College programming is unimportant. But, at the same time, we also have to look at

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the potential resources that are available and try to access them. If it means the government cost-sharing those programs, I have to go back to Cabinet for the additional resources.

We just can't have resources out there that were initially cost-shared with the federal government when we don't have a cost-sharing arrangement. I would rather have the Cabinet approve additional resource on clear agreements rather than just having the resources out there. I accept the concern of the committee but, at the same time, what are we going to base the expenditure on? The initial expenditures and the commitments made by the Assembly were a result of an agreement and the federal government withdrew their share of that arrangement. If you're talking about the extra surplus, the fact is the college still has a \$3 million surplus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a bit of clarification, I believe the Minister, in his answer, just said that there had been an increased commitment to training. Specifically, how many dollars in this budget reflect that increase in training that he's talking about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two major ones, including \$400,000 for the nursing program and \$1.5 million for the teacher education program. The \$1 million for the program everyone refers to was based on a cost-sharing arrangement with the federal government. The federal government withdrew their funding so the expenditures and the commitments that were made by this Assembly were based on that

arrangement that was made. We don't need that particular commitment at this time. What we are now proceeding with through the investing in people program is to get a new arrangement with the potential of up to \$4.5 million with the federal government. Those are resources that we will eventually have to vote and get the approval of this Assembly for.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so the Minister understands, while I am concerned about the \$1.5 million less that CEIC is spending and the \$1 million reduction, what I'm really most concerned about is the one-time reduction in contributions which requires the college to reduce its accumulated surplus. I mentioned that over the past year the college has funded, from its own resources, four community adult educator positions. I think without having that surplus, the college couldn't afford to do that kind of good work and I think it's very important that we have these community educators in the small communities where this government right now is not putting them. The college has seen fit to spend some of their surplus in order to fund that.

My concern is that by the government clawing back this surplus -- which, by and large, was generated through the sale of programs to third parties -- they are providing a disincentive to Arctic College to continue to fund these sorts of positions. I think it is very important that we encourage that kind of activity. If the college has been able to sell programs that they can make a profit on, I would just as soon see them turn that profit into providing educators in smaller communities where they are not present now. That's what I think we are cutting here. I'm questioning the decision to make that cut because I think it's wrong.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess I would have to disagree with the honourable Member. Why wasn't the Arctic College board doing more? Why did they have a \$4 million surplus? What were they doing with the \$4 million so that they had it as a surplus when communities out there require our support? The fact

is right now they will still have -- despite the one-time adjustment down -- a \$3 million surplus. The other point is that not all the revenues they've accrued have come from third-party arrangements. It has also been the result of the investment of dollars that we provide to them and where interest has built up over the last year. This is a one-time initiative on our part where we are saying we can use those resources elsewhere for this upcoming year.

I agree with the honourable Member, if the case is they should be investing those dollars in adult educators, then my view is why aren't they investing all of it for adult educators, if that's the important initiative? I agree with you. There is still a surplus of \$3 million. I can't argue with the honourable Member on that issue. But there is still a \$3 million surplus there and part of the question of investment or expenditures of those dollars is going to be based on the final strategy that is brought forward to us. That has to be considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. The chair continues to recognize the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister then saying that if the college were to commit to use these funds to expand the number of adult educator positions, he would agree not to touch the surplus again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I'm not clear on the hypothetical situation. However, I'll say this, Arctic College was already spending the surplus on programs and services, then there would not have been a surplus. But, they weren't spending money in these areas. If the case is that they are prepared to do that with no surplus, there wouldn't be a reason for us to cut any money. It's very simple. And, we would be prepared to accept that is where it is being expended. I don't disagree with the honourable Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the detailed hearings of the Standing Committee on Finance on the budget, we were told that the majority of the surplus came

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from third-party funds. Today, the Minister has indicated that some of the surplus has also come from investment proceeds. I want to point out that if you take surplus funds and use them for operating expenses, you're eventually going to run out of those funds and then, all of a sudden, you're left with positions that you can no longer pay for. Would the Minister not agree that it might be a worthwhile use of those funds to invest them and use the interest proceeds to pay for expanding the number of community adult educators? Perhaps, if the college was gaining interest in order to provide ongoing funding, that wouldn't necessarily be a bad move. If, in fact, as we were told in the Standing Committee on Finance, the majority of these funds did come from third parties or sales of programs to third parties, then I would respectfully disagree too with the position put forward just now by the Minister, that they weren't doing the job properly by having a surplus. I would say that government or arm's-length agencies like this should be encouraged to raise funds, where possible, by making sales of their programs or services to the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact is that they are a task within a department. While they are an agency of this government, you cannot isolate Arctic College from its accountability or the expenditures in this House. You cannot dissociate the Minister's responsibility for the resources that you vote for that institution. That has been the problem that has existed in this country, right across Canada, for post-secondary institutions. It is a very big discussion issue that is resulting in some very serious questions about how post-secondary institutions operate in isolation, in many respects, from government with no accountability for the public funds that are allocated to them. I don't disagree with the concept of independence, but independence without

accountability is a very significant risk that we take that one should be cautious about.

The other point is that, in the final analysis, when we get to the strategy and approve the strategy for Arctic College, it may be that many of the questions the honourable Member is raising may be better addressed in that document and upon the approval of that document, but I would be very careful about the concept of an absolutely independent body of authority with the Arctic College board because they, in the end, have to be accountable here. It is a very significant issue across the country, as I pointed out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If, in fact, I am on the wrong page and talking about this \$1 million dollars, then I apologize. It was my understanding that would show up on this page. That is why I had brought it up. If you can advise if I am in the wrong spot, then I would be quite happy to carry this on at whatever spot it should be done. My concern is that, if we agree to this budget right now and this is, in fact, the place in which that \$1 million cut has taken place, I am not happy with seeing that agreed to before I have had a chance to have my say. Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has just suggested that I may be talking about something that isn't proper here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, I didn't say anything about him not reading the page. I said clearly that, you have to remember that Arctic College is now a task and it has to be seen as being part of the accountability. It is not simply an independent board operating on its own. We have to be very careful about that issue. It is the same and no different than the question of divisional boards of education. There has to be some accountability for the resources. That was just generally what I was saying earlier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had thought that I had heard the Minister suggest I should bring this up at a different place. If this is the place, then I would like to continue pursuing this issue. The Minister has opened another door. This is now shown as a task. What was the reason, in the first place, for setting up a board of governors for Arctic College?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

We do have a board of governors for Arctic College, if that is what the honourable Member is asking. Whether or not I appoint them, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can clarify my question. Why was a board of governors set up for the college, if in fact it is to be considered just another task in this activity?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Minister Nerysoo, does that help clarify the question?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I guess that is no different than school boards being set up. For instance, we set up school boards to manage the schools on our behalf. We generally give the direction, lay out the direction to those boards. We let them manage the institutions. The Arctic College board of governors is generally now considered to be in that context. They still have the right to raise money through third-party arrangements. That is the basis upon which they have been established. It is not an institution for which they are not accountable for public funds. I think that is a bit of a problem across the country, where you have institutions off on their own expending public money with no accountability to the Minister or to the Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Nerysoo. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding, when Arctic College was set up, was that the act was brought in to make sure that they were at arm's-length from the government. One of the goals was to enhance their ability to attract donations and to go after third-party funding. It would seem that the Minister today is saying that the change, like

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bringing them into government and perhaps not encouraging them to be as aggressive at seeking third-party funding or donations, is something that he feels is worthwhile. I am not sure that I would agree. Has the Arctic College Act been changed to reflect the different perspective that this government now has for Arctic College?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Arctic College board has always reported to the Minister. That is not a change. The fact is that post-secondary programming and the Arctic College board is now a task in culture and careers. We are placing them in a position where they are now accountable. They are not independent. They are accountable for publicly-expended resources. If the honourable Member doesn't want that to happen, that is a different issue. My direction, in reorganizing the department, is to make them publicly accountable, as they should be, to the Minister because that is the basis on which their act was originally set up.

The other thing is that the honourable Member indicates that all the third-party arrangements have been worked out simply through Arctic College. Not all of them have been worked out through Arctic College. The department has been involved in coming up with some of those third-party arrangements. In other words, it is basically money interminably going around in circles. We are basically trying to say that there has to be an accountability. That does not mean that we have changed any legislation. We have not changed any legislation to suggest that the Arctic College board should not be able to raise their own funds. I would, in fact, encourage that. But, at the same time, there should be some accountability. They should not be so

independent that they're not publicly accountable to the Minister. If the suggestion is that, then we have to change the legislation to give them absolute independence so they're not accountable to the Minister. My suggestion to you is that the best way to approach this is to put them in a situation where they are accountable through a section of the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Comments, Mr. Ballantyne and then Mr. Ningark.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I don't know whether Mr. Ningark has something to say, but I was going to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

We're in a bit of a dilemma here. I recognized Mr. Ballantyne, therefore, he has the floor. If he wants to report progress, it is his prerogative. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I would be willing to defer to Mr. Ningark. If he nods his head, I will defer to him and he can ask his question, otherwise, I move that we report progress. Okay, Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8 and Bill 1 and would like to report progress and that Bill 8 is ready

for third reading. 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 Inuvik, Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there is a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus at 6:00 pm this evening. Meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Caucus, at 10:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance, and at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 15, 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. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

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

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15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. 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 11-12(5), First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the NWT for the Year 1992-93

19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
21. Orders of the Day

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 15, 1994, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT