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**The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):**

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 52-12(5): Education Week - Technology In The Classroom

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this is Education Week in the Northwest Territories. This year's theme is "technology in the classroom."

We've all heard about the electronic super-highway and how it will shape communications in the coming years. The development of this highway has implications for education in the Northwest Territories and the world.

First, if the Northwest Territories is going to keep up with the rapid pace of technological change now and in the future, it is essential that our students learn how to use new technologies as they emerge.

Secondly, the electronic highway is potentially an excellent teaching tool, enabling Northwest Territories students to access information from a wide range of sources, and to communicate and collaborate on projects with other students in the rest of Canada and throughout the world.

For example, a few days ago students at Samuel Hearne School in Inuvik, Ecole St. Joseph School in Yellowknife and a school in Hillsboro, California were linked by computer to participate in a unique pilot

project. They were testing the capabilities of communications technology for an international expedition which will take place next year. Students and staff in the three schools worked with computers, scanners and a computer tablet to learn more about the international Arctic project from the expedition team which was working out of Ecole St. Joseph School.

Next year, this team of international explorers and scientists will conduct a major expedition to increase understanding of the Arctic and its role in the global environment. They will use an international computer network to interact daily with students in grades four through 12 in classrooms around the world.

The team is currently on a practice expedition into the central Arctic, and their progress reports are posted regularly on the North of 60 electronic bulletin board system and internet.

Northwest Territories schools will follow this project on a daily basis through the bulletin board system, which my department established last year. Their participation in the international Arctic project teleconference was made possible through the cooperation of NorthwTel, which contributed a good deal of the equipment and staff expertise.

To ensure all students in the Northwest Territories have access to the bulletin board system, Education, Culture and Employment has provided all schools with a computer and a high-speed modem. Schools in every community and the department can exchange messages, transfer files and access data banks and distance learning materials. During Education Week, schools will participate in a number of projects using the north of 60 system.

The department is also developing a distance education strategy which will provide communities in the Northwest Territories access to an electronic information and distance learning system.

All communities will be electronically linked and connected to national and international information networks. The department will provide programming for these networks using television, radio, libraries and computers.

Through consolidation of programs, a new information networks division was established in the department which brings together staff with expertise in this area. Information networks coordinates Government of the Northwest Territories participation in Television

Northern Canada supports regional, community and private broadcasters; and, provides library services in partnership with communities, library boards and school boards. It also produces, acquires and distributes learning resources for school-based and distance education programs.

Madam Speaker, my department is already working in partnership with other government departments and agencies, aboriginal broadcasters and the private sector on the development and use of new communications networks.

To ensure that the distance education strategy is developed with input from all of these partners, as well as the residents of the Northwest Territories, the department has contracted the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation to plan a symposium on distance learning and new communications technologies. The symposium will be held this summer on TVNC, so it will be

Page 720

broadcast in communities from Labrador to Yukon. Presenters at the TVNC uplink sites in Yellowknife, Iqaluit and Whitehorse will facilitate discussions, while people from all communities will be able to phone in with comments and suggestions.

Madam Speaker, access to electronic sources of information will play an increasingly important role in the development of the Northwest Territories in the coming years. Education, Culture and Employment, with the cooperation of our partners, is developing an interactive networking system for the use and benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories. I am pleased that the theme of Education Week reflects and promotes this innovative direction. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Appreciation For Conference Sponsored By Yellowknife Association Of Community Living

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the weekend, Madam Speaker, I attended a conference at the Yellowknife Inn which was sponsored by the Yellowknife Association of Community Living. This association attempts to find ways in which mentally handicapped adults can integrate themselves into our society, and there were people from all over Newfoundland, from Manitoulin Island, Toronto and various other places in southern Canada. But, more especially, there were very large delegations from northern communities. From Tuktoyaktuk there were half a dozen people who came, from Rae-Edzo there were at least half a dozen people, from Cambridge Bay, Fort Smith and many other communities right throughout the Northwest Territories to try to find ways in which people, in fact, who have handicaps, can find ways of living on their own independently, with their own small place and look after themselves, and also to help them to find ways in which they can provide some kind of satisfactory work, preferably, in the long run -- and this was part of the vision -- in the place that they would like to call home.

I would like to, on behalf of the association, thank, especially, the Department of Social Services that sponsored a banquet on Saturday night. The highlight of this banquet was the fact that people were forced to get together, but also to listen to some wonderful northern entertainers. I had not heard this young lady sing before, but there is a young lady in Yellowknife by the name of Amber Lemouel who I had heard a lot about. She is 15 years old and has a voice that will tear your heart out. For those people who are looking for a young singer who has obvious vocal talents, this is the person they should be looking to, I believe, as someone who has a good career in front of her. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Financial Assistance For Students Attending High School In Provinces

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak on the lack of reasonable policy by the Department of Education in dealing with the issue of NWT students attending high school in the south.

In my constituency, there is one student whose parents decided was too advanced to take the general high school courses as offered in Pond Inlet. The only option given to this student to receive the advanced high school courses was for him to attend high school in Iqaluit. Madam Speaker, his parents did not want to send their son there because of all the social problems and the low rate of graduation by the aboriginal students.

Madam Speaker, this family has enrolled their son in a school in Ottawa at considerable expense to themselves. When they asked the Department of Education for help, they were told that there was no policy covering this, and ultimately it was the divisional board's responsibility to deal with this situation. The Baffin divisional board says that it is the Department of Education's responsibility to provide direction in this matter.

Madam Speaker, I'll be pursuing this matter during question period. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Transportation Services For Special Needs Persons

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) I will be making a statement today regarding problems with transportation services for a person with special needs in my constituency. Concerns have been brought to my attention from both Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq regarding this issue. In both of these communities, there are a number of young people with either physical or mental handicaps who require assistance while going to school or other places in the community. I have been asked to bring up this issue by both parents and care givers.

I understand that in Cape Dorset, there has been some effort to provide rides to people with wheelchairs in regular vehicles, but this has proven very cumbersome and impractical without a proper wheelchair lift. They would like assistance from the

Page 721

government for obtaining a properly equipped vehicle. Madam Speaker, I am also informed that in Sanikiluaq, there is no formal arrangement for

providing transportation assistance for those with special needs in that community. Parents have to do their best by using snowmobiles in the winter or all-terrain vehicles in the summer, which causes a lot of hardship to them.

During question period today, I will be asking the government for information on what programs are presently available to help these people and to find out if we are, in fact, doing everything we can to assist those with special needs in improving their mobility. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Kids' Help Phone Bowl-A-Thon

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thought today I would bring Members up to date on the results of the Kids' Help Phone bowl-a-thon which took place on Friday night. Members will recall that Mr. Morin, Mr. Dent and myself canvassed Members for support for this particular event. The Kids' Help Phone bowl-a-thon was held in cooperation with the Yellowknife five pin bowler's association and the Bank of Montreal and they raised close to \$25,000 for a national Kids' Help Phone line.

For the record, that phone number is 1-800-668-6868. I think it's a very important service that is being provided across the country to kids in trouble. Your MLA's team consisted of Captain Charles "Pinball" Dent, Donnie "Crash" Morin, my eight year old daughter Alexandra "Hawkeye" Ballantyne, and myself.

---Laughter

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

What was your score?

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thanks to the generosity of Members, we raised over \$1,000 for this cause.

---Applause

The actual details I can share with Members. My daughter's best game was 107. She did very well with an unorthodox two-handed technique. Charles Dent was really the star. He had the best score of anybody. He bowled 277 with five consecutive strikes, a cult hero among certain people in this town. Donnie and I went head to head and at the very end, due to bad luck on my part, Donnie won 204 to 200 when I missed the head pin in the last frame. But, we have a rematch for next year. I would, again, like to thank all Members, members of our staff and even the media who supported this very worthwhile cause. Thank you, very much.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Opposition To Privatization Of The NWT Power Corporation

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the past year, my constituents have raised concerns regarding the possible privatization of the NWT Power Corporation. Madam Premier has stated that she intends to bring forward a proposal on privatization for discussion before the end of this session. Madam Speaker, I, along with many of my colleagues, have also raised and discussed many concerns which must be addressed by the government prior to any consideration of our support to sell off the Power Corporation.

Some of these concerns and issues include the status of the rate subsidy program, how a continuation of the program can be ensured, and the justification for disposition of the NWT Power Corporation, why it is necessary, besides generating a one-time revenue from the sale which will be used to offset other fiscal requirements of the government on a short-term basis. The current NWT Power Corporation operation is profitable, generating a positive return to our government which is used to finance a rate subsidy program to assist higher cost communities while also paying back the long-term debt.

Madam Speaker, if operated efficiently, this GNWT asset will be one worth holding on to, unlike other privatization initiatives undertaken to save our government money. The other issues which must be

addressed as to what effect privatization of the Power Corporation will have include the status of the current employees, power rates as a result of the corporation becoming a taxable entity, affirmative action initiatives, buy north initiatives, and the current responsiveness and accountability of the Power Corporation to the public through the GNWT and the Legislative Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the government is aware of these issues. I certainly hope they will be addressed in the proposal coming forward for discussion. At this time, I will not even consider supporting privatization of the Power Corporation until I am assured that these issues are dealt with to my satisfaction, to that of my colleagues, and most importantly, to the satisfaction of my constituents and all northerners who will be directly affected by the initiative.

Madam Speaker, I believe that privatization of the Power Corporation is a government initiative that lacks any political support from Members of this Assembly. If this is the case, I hope it's demise will be quick in order that our government can focus on matters which our constituents fully support, such as providing housing, education, training, and developing employment and income-earning opportunities. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Film Production Commencing In Iqaluit

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this week two major made-for-TV film productions are commencing production in the Northwest Territories: Frostfire, in Yellowknife, which some Members know about, and The

Page 722

Trial at Fortitude Bay, in Iqaluit. Madam Speaker, these productions, I'm sure Members appreciate, provide sizeable economic benefits to the communities in which they shoot.

The Trial at Fortitude Bay, like Map of the Human Heart and Agaguk and other recent productions

filmed in Iqaluit and many others filmed there over the years, will employ Inuit as actors at generous wages, many more local people as extras, as set builders, people who rent their snowmobiles and Komatiks, their vehicles, provide caribou clothing and artifacts. This is a well established industry in the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, so is the Canadian film industry.

Most provinces, and even the Yukon Territory, have film development corporations or policies to provide the financial incentives these productions sometimes need to make the shoot viable in their jurisdiction. I believe a program of this kind is now even more important for the Northwest Territories, since other provinces, and even the Yukon, have programs to offer incentives. I know for example that Churchill, Manitoba, with the support of the Manitoba Film Development Corporation, was actively bidding with the production consortium of the Trial at Fortitude Bay for the opportunity to have the economic benefits of shooting outdoor scenes on location in Churchill.

I would like to thank the Honourable John Todd, his deputy and his regional superintendent for some financial assistance that was provided to help tip the balance so the Trial at Fortitude Bay could be filmed in Iqaluit and in the Northwest Territories. We need a proper policy, proper programs and a more orderly approach to attracting these important benefits to the north. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement On Inaugural Youth Conference In Rankin Inlet

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to inform the House of a meeting that will be held in Rankin Inlet from March 22 to March 24 this week. Starting tomorrow, the youth of the Keewatin region will assemble at the Nanuq Inn in Rankin in the first-ever youth conference of its kind to be held in the Keewatin region. For the information of Members and the public in the Northwest Territories, I will list out some of the topics to be discussed from the agenda: youth coordinator support; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated code of conduct; youth, the forgotten

beneficiaries; finding solutions for our future; elders' traditions; social issues such as peer pressure and self-esteem; suicide; drugs and alcohol; and, there are many other issues to be dealt with which I did not mention. Madam Speaker, the youth of today face great challenges and we, the adults of today, must remind ourselves constantly that whatever we do becomes our legacy and falls into the lap of the youth when they become adults, good or bad. (End of translation)

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues. (Translation) I would like to remind the participants of the Keewatin inaugural youth conference not to be overwhelmed by all the issues that they face. Although the issues before them are serious and may seem daunting, remember to enjoy yourselves. Madam Speaker, I would ask Members of this House to join me in congratulating and wishing the youth conference participants best wishes in the Keewatin region. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Chief Joseph Judas

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Chief Joseph Judas from Snare Lake in the gallery this afternoon.

---Applause

He is here observing the proceedings of the House today, but the leadership of the Dogrib nation is scheduled to meet tomorrow all day and I know they have a number of issues they are considering. I wish

them the best for the meetings that are scheduled for tomorrow. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation For Actions Taken Re Mother And Deceased Child

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On Friday, March 18, I asked the Minister of Social Services about a mother having to carry a deceased child in a coffin at the airport. This morning I received a transcript of the 7:30 CBC news. I would like to commend Mary Broussard and I quote from the transcript, "We immediately realized that it will be in our best interest to convene a meeting with the people who are involved. That would include Social Services, the airlines and we also spoke to the Status of Women and we will come together and talk about it and put procedures in place to ensure such an incident doesn't occur again in the future." I think Ms. Broussard deserves to be recognized publicly in the House and I hope this will not happen again. Again, I am thankful for the quick action upon this very sad issue. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arnagna'naaq.

Page 723

Member's Statement On Election Of President For Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to remind Inuit in the city of Yellowknife that there is an election being held today for the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated president. The election booths are at the Yellowknife Inn in annex "B." They were open at 10:00 am this morning and they will be closing at 7:00 pm. I would encourage all Inuit to go and make their vote count. There should be six names that they

should be able to select from. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

Question 331-12(5): Premier's Actions To Protect Sanikiluaq In Great Whale Project

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. The recently published details of the agreement between the Makivik Corporation and Hydro Quebec over the Great Whale project, looks like it is a money deal as opposed to a deal that will look after the interests of all Inuit in the Hudson Bay. Can the Premier tell us what this government is doing to protect the interests of Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I have not seen the details of that agreement. I know there was discussion, so I will take that as notice and report back to the Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi. On Friday, the members of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee met with the Minister of DIAND, Mr. Irwin, for about half an hour, between 5:15 and 5:45 pm, and tried to get some idea of the federal government's commitment to helping establish some aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories, and also in helping us with our

constitutional development and the renewal of our act. He indicated some support for this process, but he didn't indicate what kind or how far. I would like to ask the Minister, in subsequent conversations with the Minister, could he tell us what exactly the federal government will do to assist with this process in the Northwest Territories?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minister has indicated that he wants to support the Constitutional Development Steering Committee process as the one visible and viable process here in the western territory for trying to get all aboriginal people and non-aboriginal people to work together to articulate what their political and constitutional vision is for the future of the western territory. In that respect, he has finally indicated he is prepared to talk in terms of dollars, and in terms of support by way of defining statements of what is and what is not acceptable with regard to political and constitutional development in the western territory.

There is no specific dollar terms that have been articulated. Hopefully, that will be done in the next few days. We have had some discussions with his staff to try to refine a budget and a process that would be acceptable to the Minister. We hope to finalize that this week. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you very much. During this visit, the Minister has already given us an indication he is prepared to also sit down with treaty groups, Treaties 8 and 11, and also to come up with some arrangement for the Metis. I would like to ask the Minister, does this indicate to him that he expects the territorial government will be involved with aboriginal

institutions, or will there also be money from the federal government to do that?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, the discussions that Treaty 8 is having with the federal government and ourselves regarding a bilateral relationship for programs and services to Treaty 8 are intended to be set up as a tripartite process, that with the expectation in the end, if everyone is satisfied with the talks and the negotiations that Treaty 8, probably on the establishment of reserves, can take over programs and services and have a bilateral relationship directly with the federal government. As to whether we can realize that or not is the prerogative of the federal government. We're supporting the initiation of those talks and have given that strong indication to Treaty 8 and the federal government. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**MR. LEWIS:**

Since our government is committed to working with this process -- and it's to be commended for doing that -- I would like to ask the Minister, in these areas where there may be other arrangements, will this have any impact on the

Page 724

community transfer initiative that this government is engaged in to give powers to communities even while this other process is going on?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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



Further Return To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, the Minister had indicated that he doesn't want to talk about jurisdiction and authority, at this time. He wants to get on with the administration. What it appears to mean is that he wants to get into the practical measures of communities, and in this case bands, to take on the day-to-day task of administering and running the programs and services. In his view, that is what is going to make a day-to-day difference in the lives of people, and not signing agreements that recognize theoretical terms like self-government and sovereignty and those types of things. That appears to be what he is saying.

In that regard, we have indicated to Treaty 8 a number of times that if they wish to talk community transfer initiative, we're prepared to talk. We know that in the case of at least one community, Lutsel K'e, it is very possible for us to get on with the administrative set-up of transfers, because Lutsel K'e is almost 90 per cent treaty Dene. It's the notion of trying to make it bilateral that would make community transfers not realistic for the Treaty 8 groups. They are not interested in doing administrative set-ups at this time, but they want to establish that programs and services will flow between the federal government and the First Nations.

So the community transfer initiative, as it is now, is not in the interest of Treaty 8 to engage in. Regardless of that, we're prepared to help them with getting on with negotiations with the federal government. We don't expect that we will be funding any of these initiatives since it is bilateral and Treaty 8 has shown very little interest, other than getting us to help by coordinating and supporting their initiatives of asking for funds. We see it as largely a bilateral process. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**MR. LEWIS:**

Since the funds for programs for the residents of the Northwest Territories sit within the budget of the

Government of the Northwest Territories, what would be the process to ensure that those funds, when the arrangements are made, could be handled on a bilateral basis since we already handle those funds?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 332-12(5): Federal Government Assistance With Western Constitutional Development

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, the federal government, as I understand it, is bound by a policy to deliver all programs and services in the Northwest Territories through the Government of the Northwest Territories. I understand that to be a policy of the federal government. One of the obstacles is how do we negotiate with that obstacle, which is why I say I think it's largely the federal government's responsibility to try to figure out how they can respond to Treaty 8. They can say yes or they can say no. If they say yes, they have to be prepared to set up a bilateral relationship that bypasses and leaves out the GNWT for programs and services. That might mean a change in Cabinet policy. They have to decide whether they're prepared to provide that in the absence of reserves or other land-based definitions.

There are a number of things that the federal government has to respond to. Our view is that, politically, it is the right way to go. If First Nations want to take over their own programs and services, if it can work to their advantage, if their membership supports them in it and there is actually improvement in prospects for the delivery of programs and services, we will support it 100 per cent. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs or perhaps Renewable Resources, they are responsible for environmental matters. I guess it is very handy it is the same

Minister. Madam Speaker, I want to know if the Minister has heard about this deal between the Makivik Corporation and Hydro Quebec?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, I only know of it through the media and a brief report I received from the staff. We don't have the actual agreement that is being talked about at this time. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will he be tabling the hard material or anything like that, so that all Members can have information about this deal?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, we will try to acquire whatever documents and information there is available,

Page 725

circulate it amongst Members as early as possible, and arrange for a tabling, if that's the request of the Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also have a newspaper clipping. I had hoped the Minister would have a little bit more detail and information than I have. However, my question concerns the preamble by my colleague, Mr. Pudluk, in his question to the Leader, is the Minister prepared to do something to protect the interests of the residents of Sanikiluaq and the Hudson Bay communities?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arvaluk, Madam Premier took the particular question as notice, the one your friend Mr. Pudlat had posed. I regard your question as similar to the one he posed. Would you like to attempt to rephrase your question?

Supplementary To Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The basic tenet of this agreement between Makivik Corporation and Hydro Quebec, according to the paper, is Makivik Corporation has agreed not to impede the completion of the Great Whale River Hydro Project in any way, shape or form. When the project has finally reached the environmental review hearing stage, is the Minister prepared to take part in these hearings and represent the interest of the people of Sanikiluaq and the Hudson Bay communities?

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 333-12(5): Agreement Between Makivik Corporation And Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, the Quebec government has historically taken the view that they are pro development and pro aboriginal in the sense that they have made deals before with northern Cree and northern Quebec Inuit, which has resulted in the settlement of their claims some years ago. This is another phase of hydro development that they have been engaged in. They make no bones about the fact that they want to make the Inuit and the Cree, if possible, partners and supporters of the project. In that sense, the compensation package that was

announced and trumpeted in the media can be seen as a deal to go partners.

As partners, I suppose in any environmental hearings, you expect your partner not to be so critical of your plans. The businessman would say that is a good way to proceed because everyone is happy. An environmentalist would say it is compromising your responsibility to take care of land and resources and undermines the credibility you have as a member of the panel reviewing the environmental impact of that project.

Those are valid points and observations to be made. These are just thoughts I have, resulting from the media focus and the brief comments I've received from the staff today. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of the Environment a question. My colleague was saying that there seems to be a cash deal between Hydro Quebec and the Inuit of Makivik of northern Quebec. According to press reports, this was a \$500 million deal over a 50 year period. The first year, Makivik would receive about \$30 million. If, at some point during the environmental review process, it appears that all the questions are not answered -- the answers that people of Sanikiluaq and the Keewatin people are seeking, about whether there is going to be environmental damage because of the Hydro Quebec project -- is the government willing to take legal action if it seems Hydro Quebec will proceed with the project? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo, I have some problems with the question you are posing. It appears to be somewhat hypothetical and that is not allowed under our rules. I would like to ask if you could rephrase your question? The honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo.

Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Member of the Environment, if the Hydro Quebec project is going to proceed without answering all the concerns of the residents of Sanikiluaq, is the government willing to represent the people of the Northwest Territories and take legal action? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, I go on the assumption that the environmental hearings, set up by the federal government and the Quebec government, will go ahead. That the Inuit will participate. That the panel will be charged with doing a fair and objective assessment of it. We will see and fight for the community of Sanikiluaq to get maximum participation in it, to work as hard as we can to ensure that they are happy, or as happy as we can make them, in seeing the hearings take place. That is about as much as I can do. I go on those assumptions. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Cree residents of the James Bay area have great misgivings about this project and do not appear to be even contemplating entering into an agreement with Hydro Quebec. Would this government consider entering into a joint defence agreement with the Cree to stop the project if it was thought to be environmentally dangerous? Thank you.

Page 726

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, I have trouble with the "if" so I would say that we will be monitoring the environmental review and watching how the project and the review takes place. We will certainly be aware of all our options in the event that things don't go exactly the way we would want them to go. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The chair also had trouble with the "ifs." I would like to caution Members that questions posed to the government are questions with regard to knowledge within their responsibility. Questions should not be in any way on a hypothetical basis. Therefore, I would like to caution Members in formulating their questions posed to the government. The honourable Member for Amittuq, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for that advice. As all Members know, it is in the knowledge, I believe, of the Minister that the Cree residents of the Hudson Bay have always opposed the James Bay project because they know that their hunting grounds and their traditional grounds would be flooded. They have been opposing this project very vigorously. I wonder if the government would consider joining their forces to defend the people of the Northwest Territories, especially Sanikiluaq and Hudson Bay communities. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Further Return To Question 334-12(5): Government's Willingness To Take Legal Action Against Hydro Quebec

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, we will consider the suggestion made by the Member.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Last week, the Canadian Centre for Justice issued three reports concerning violence against women. One report compared sexual assaults across the country. Quebec was the lowest with 64 per 100,000. Newfoundland was the highest province at 229 per 100,000. The Northwest Territories was a shocking 895 per 100,000. I think we recognize that the statistical base may have some effect on those statistics. Reporting success in provinces might have some effect. But, my first question to the Minister, has the Minister had an opportunity to see these reports?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

No, Madam Speaker, I haven't gone through these reports, but I do know that they are out. I have seen a brief summary that outlines the main points much the same way that the Member just laid out. The statistics for the Northwest Territories are ones that always jump out at everybody. It simply reinforces what has been said by women and the organizations representing women, for many years, that there is a tremendous amount of violence in the north against women. It is just starting to be reported in recent times. My view is that it's not all reported yet. That the incidence will continue to climb. It does not mean that the violence down south is less than in the north, it may only mean that it's suppressed just as much, maybe more, than it is in the north. The statistics do jump out at us. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister. Would the Minister make these reports available to Members, and with those reports a commentary by the department explaining some of those statistics and putting them in some context? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Yes, Madam Speaker, I think that's a good suggestion to make. The staff ordinarily do that for me since I don't take the time to read these volumes of documents that come across. I ask for brief summaries and highlights of the interesting points that I should look at, and that easily guides my interest and sometimes I do actually open the big books to look at particular sections. I will have that done for the Members, and perhaps provide them with copies of the big books as well. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. I think this report and other reports really highlight the seriousness of the problem here in the Northwest Territories. All Members supported the Minister and the government's initiative on zero tolerance for violence in the territories. What I would like to know is, what is the Minister's next step? We have a number of initiatives happening in the bureaucracy, but this is going to take some very strong

Page 727

leadership at the political level. What does the Minister see now as the most important thing that the Minister can do to deal with this?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, one of the first things we have done is sit down with the representatives of the women's groups. We have asked for them to advise us on what would be the approach to take from here. That is, there is a commitment to involve from the start the representatives from the women's organizations, like the Status of Women, Pauktuutit and the Native Women's Association to tell us as a government how we should proceed. For instance, on the money we use now to deal with violence in the Department of Justice, in Social Services and Health, to advise us whether we have our priorities straight, where we should be focusing, on the type of approach we should take to selling and promoting this policy of zero tolerance. For instance, in our relationship with municipalities, with the aboriginal organizations, with the regional groups, the hunters' and trappers' organizations and the many organizations that we fund and do business with in the north today. That is what has been worked on for the last couple of weeks, following the adoption by this House on the policy of zero tolerance. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

My final supplementary, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that consultation is going on. The Minister is aware that there are countless reports and studies that have been done. I think that we have reached the point where we have to come up with a very concrete plan. The question I will pose to the Minister is, before this House rises, can we expect a

comprehensive statement from the Minister as to a specific approach that the Minister and the government will follow to follow up on the zero tolerance policy, with potential budgets attached? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 335-12(5): Canadian Centre for Justice Reports On Violence Against Women

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, I would like to be able to answer in the affirmative to the Member, but there are only two to three weeks left in the session. I am not certain I will be able to meet it. But, I do know that I would like to be able to have a document that will show a commitment by this government in cooperation with the women's groups. A commitment in terms of policy and in terms of existing dollars, at least how we can make better use of the resources we are presently allocating to combat violence and the many root causes that it results from, and the kind of initiatives and approaches this government can take in promoting that policy. I would like to be able to do that, and that is the objective we have. I am not certain I can provide it in the next three weeks. But if it is after the session, perhaps before the end of the session I can advise Members of when I can expect to have some sort of a definitive document that can be shared with MLAs as they are out in their constituencies. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, the Premier. Madam Speaker, the Government of Yukon acquired the Yukon assets of the Northern Canada Power Commission at about the same time as the GNWT purchased the NWT assets of NCP. The Union of Northern Workers has recently asserted that the sale of, I believe it is called the Yukon Electrical Corporation, to private interests in Yukon

provides an example of how power subsidies will disappear if NWT Power is privatized. Although I have taken note of the UNW views, I would like to ask the Minister for the NWT Power Corporation, in her view, what lessons does the Yukon experience have for us in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, often times, when one goes before the other, the types of mistakes that are made or the decisions that are made are not to the benefit of any given decision, and these learning experiences are good for everybody. It is difficult for me to answer because I have read a lot of articles that have been put out by others than the Power Corporation itself. My plan is to present, to this House, a comprehensive paper on many of those elements such as the questions that were raised earlier by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot.

First of all, there is a misunderstanding that the Yukon Power Corporation has been privatized. It has not been privatized. What has been done is to move the power corporation under the Yukon Energy Corporation which is all owned by the Yukon government. Yukon Energy then, which is owned by the Yukon government, owns the assets of the corporation, but their present arrangement is that they are contracted out to the Yukon Electrical Company, which is a company that is owned by Alberta Power. So the Yukon Energy Corporation, their power corporation, has contracted out the management of the electrical company or the power corporation to Alberta Power. So this is a present arrangement.

At the time of the transfer, the employees retained their salaries and their seniority, and the employees' pensions were transferred to a new private pension plan. The new pension plan was approved by the federal Treasury Board, and no funds were permitted to be transferred until the Treasury Board was satisfied that the new pension plan was, at least,

Page 728

equivalent to the public service superannuation plan. This has covered all the employees prior to transfer.

Like I said, the Yukon Energy Corporation really is a subsidiary company of the Yukon Development Corporation. I guess one of the things done when they put the power corporation under the Yukon Energy Corporation was that about \$15 million to \$20 million that the power corporation had made went into other economic development initiatives, such as, I think, the Watson Lake sawmill. So they were able to move the profits from the power corporation into other economic development opportunities. But the dollars that were used, plus the profits in excess of the loan payments made to pay off the YTG debt for the purchase of the assets, are annual dividends required to pay the power subsidy program. So they are doing a number of things, and they can move that around because it is under an energy corporation, unlike the Power Corporation, not being housed under any other development corporation.

So I guess one of the things that we would have to learn from that is whether we would want to move in that direction or not, or deal with exactly what is going to be done with the sale of the corporation, if it should happen, at that time. But I think there are a lot of questions that get raised out of this type of arrangement about whether it is good for us or not. I would hope that all the questions that have been raised in the general public and in the experiences of the Yukon would take into account where we take our next step. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that detailed information about precisely what happened in Yukon. I guess I would like to ask the Minister, and I think the public needs to know what is being proposed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the NWT Power Corporation. As I understand it, in Yukon, the government retained ownership of the power corporation through a holding company, the Yukon Energy Corporation, but it basically subcontracted the management of the electrical company to a private concern, and this, I think, has been described as privatization by the UNW. I would like to ask the Minister for the Power Corporation, if this model, where you would subcontract the management to a private company, is what is being

proposed for the NWT Power Corporation? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I believe that is one detail that really hasn't been taken into consideration or even really been discussed that much. At this point in time, according to the Abbott report, the Power Corporation is to stay intact. It already has all its employees who are situated in various communities.

In the Yukon, because Alberta Power is a very large institution -- I would say it is so large, you can call it an institution -- they really didn't have any need to build up some of the higher technical engineering capabilities that we have in Hay River. They would just import them from their more senior companies. Any area of expertise would just be drawn from a very large firm and brought into the Yukon.

At this point in time, we have the people who we require for planning. It is maybe not a large component, but for the day to day operations. What should be understood as well, is that in the Yukon, it is mainly a hydro energy corporation. There are very few communities on diesel. They have an ability, in a better way than we do, to have lower-cost power generation.

I know from discussions that Yukon Energy has to a certain degree, like the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, improved the level of service since the transfer. They have also invested quite a significant amount of dollars to improve the plants and also to install some new upgraded equipment. But, unlike the Northwest Territories Power Corporation -- and this relates to how a company operates -- the investment and new capital plan has been difficult for them because the cash flow and working capital has been depleted by using funds for other purposes. At this point in time, it's not anticipated that the employees or the work would be sub-contracted and neither, at this time, with the Abbot Report, would there be the flexibility to use the Power Corporation's profits within an energy corporation for purposes other than power generation. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Do I understand, Madam Speaker, that if the Yukon Power Corporation got into trouble, it was because the government had basically raided the profits from the corporation to put into ill-advised economic projects? Does that describe the situation in the Yukon? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson, I would ask you to rephrase your question. Your question is based on a hypothetical situation, as you said, "if the Yukon Power Corporation got into trouble." Can you somehow rephrase your question, stating that whether it got into trouble, or whether it did not get into trouble? The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My understanding is that the Yukon electrical corporation, which inherited the assets of NCPC did get into financial difficulties. I understand from the Minister that money was taken from the profits of that corporation and put into various economic development ventures, such as a controversial sawmill in Watson Lake. Is that description of the situation, where profits were basically taken and used in ill-advised ways, describe what happened in the Yukon? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Page 729

Further Return To Question 336-12(5): Privatization Of Yukon Power Corporation As Example To GNWT

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I don't have the intelligence of the situation to determine whether their investments were ill-advised or not. I know that there was \$15 to \$20 million taken out of the corporation to redirect to other economic developments other than energy development. Some of these investments have not worked out. But the Yukon government made a conscious decision to put the Power Corporation

under the umbrella of the Yukon Development Corporation which gave them the flexibility to make decisions about what to do with dollars that were available from the Power Corporation, if there were any available.

That was their decision. I believe that some of the issues surrounding that have been considered negative, and perhaps taking away from the proper development of energy resources in the Yukon Territory. I think that these events can only lead us to make better decisions about where we go from here. We can learn from mistakes and profit from good decisions. The issue is somewhat like what the honourable Member is outlining. There have been concerns about how they pay their dividends and the power subsidy program, which is somewhat less than ours, because they are somewhat short of cash.

These are all areas I think we can learn from. We haven't made those decisions or decided to go in that direction, but I think whatever we do, we should do things for the benefit of Northwest Territories residents. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is again for the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Our government has policies which encourage their staff and businesses doing work on behalf of the government to use local business resources, such as taxis, hotels, and those kinds of businesses. I would like to ask the Minister if the NWT Power Corporation has similar policies for their staff and contractors engaged in work on behalf of the corporation, to use these same services in the communities? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**



Madam Speaker, to my knowledge, as much as possible, the use of local businesses and services has been the policy of the Power Corporation. I know of a lot of instances where the type of work they do is difficult for NWT residents or residents to take advantage of, because of the particular area of expertise that is required. However, to my knowledge, staff and workers of the company are dedicated to, as much as possible, support the basic principles of the NWT government in using northern businesses and operators. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if she could give an example of some of the policies that the Power Corporation currently has to support local enterprises. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I would be pleased circulate a series of those policies. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**MR. NG:**

Thank you. I would like to ask also, then, if she could provide some information regarding how these policies are monitored or enforced, to ensure that benefits are being derived by the communities. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 337-12(5): Policies Of NWTPC To Support Northern Businesses

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I will be more than pleased to do that. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 338-12(5): Invitation To Minister To Keewatin Youth Conference

**MR. ARVALUK:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Social Services with regard to the conference in the Keewatin. Has the Minister been asked to attend that meeting? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 338-12(5): Invitation To Minister To Keewatin Youth Conference

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have not received any correspondence to invite me to attend that meeting in the Keewatin. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Page 730

Question 339-12(5): Discussions With Federal Minister Re Contract Awarded To Southern-Based Company

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am aware that the Honourable Ron Irwin was in Yellowknife this weekend, and held a number of meetings with our Ministers. My question is to the Premier, Madam Speaker. It relates to the recent awarding of the core camp contract by the federal government to the southern-based company, Laval Fortin, rather than to

Avati. Did the Premier and her Ministers have a chance to discuss this matter with the Minister and, if so, what was the outcome? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Allooloo, you asked two questions in one, but I'm sure the Premier will only answer one at a time. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 339-12(5): Discussions With Federal Minister Re Contract Awarded To Southern-Based Company

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, no, there was not a meeting to discuss that particular subject. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 339-12(5): Discussions With Federal Minister Re Contract Awarded To Southern-Based Company

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask if the government is going to approach the federal government on this particular issue. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 339-12(5): Discussions With Federal Minister Re Contract Awarded To Southern-Based Company

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Economic Development has already made a commitment to move that ahead and have a discussion on that particular subject. So, the short answer is yes. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 340-12(5): Policy For Sole Source Contracts

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice. It's a question I asked on Friday, but in reviewing Hansard, to my surprise, the Minister didn't answer the question and I would just like to get an answer from him. He didn't take it as notice either, so I will re-ask the question. Would the Minister be able to tell this House whether his department has any policies regarding the awarding of contracts to former employees in his department. The Minister replied that he couldn't answer the question, so he left it at that. I would like to ask the Minister whether his department has any policies that govern the hiring of former employees of his department.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 340-12(5): Policy For Sole Source Contracts

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't review that part of Hansard. I understand the issue that the Member is bringing up. I will see whether the department is acting properly. I'm going on the assumption that it is. But, for the assurance of the Member and all Members of the House and the public, I will enquire into it and look specifically at this particular incident to make sure that I'm convinced of whether there are policies that comply with that or that are being set aside in order to give contracts to particular individuals. I will ensure that the staff read Hansard, both Friday's and today's, and answer the question to the full satisfaction of the Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Question 341-12(5): Policy For Sole Source Contracts

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Madam Speaker, the question...Maybe I'm not directing it to the right Minister because the public is a bit confused as to whether there is a policy within the government that deals with the contracting of certain works to people who were employed in the department. At one point in time there is and at

another point in time there isn't. At certain levels there is and at other levels there isn't. It seems to be fairly flexible and I just wonder what the government's policy is on this because it is confusing. Perhaps I should direct the question to the Government Leader to find out whether there is a policy that directs former employees on whether they can work for a department within a fixed period of time, or something like that. Perhaps I can direct the question to the Premier.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. That's not a supplementary question. It is a new question. There were other Members who did want to ask questions, but I will let your question proceed. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Madam Speaker, the Member is quite correct. In certain levels of government, we do have stricter criteria for awarding of contract work under a certain period of time. I will take that as notice and provide the policies to the honourable Member. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

Question 342-12(5): Provisions For Transportation For Handicapped People

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. However, before I ask the question I would like to recognize my family of three generations: my stepfather, Patrick; two of my daughters, Louise and Stella; two of my grandsons, Walter and Jonathan.

---Applause

**MR. WHITFORD:**

He's worse than I am.

Page 731

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you. Up to this point in time...(inaudible)...

---Laughter

My question is to the honourable Minister of Social Services. When I travelled throughout my constituency, I had the opportunity to talk to a gentleman who is in his middle age, and he is medically handicapped. His wife is mentally handicapped and here in the hospital. The young man I am referring to is handicapped from the waist down, but able to walk, though not very well. He has a family to support in that community. He indicated to me that he needs some form of transportation in terms of a snow machine and an ATV during the summer-time. My question to the honourable Minister is, is there any provision within her department to give assistance to handicapped people who want to buy some means to travel around the community, perhaps going out camping? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. That was quite a long preamble. Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll take his question as notice. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 343-12(5): Social Services Programs Available To Small Communities

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services, even though she just mentioned she will take the question from my colleague as notice regarding transportation problems for people in my constituency. Could the Minister tell me, in general terms, what kind of programs are available in the smaller communities?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

**HON. REBECCA MIKE:**

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. The question you raised about handicapped transportation problems, I will take as notice and get back to you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question posed by Mr. Pudlat was somewhat different than the question posed by Mr. Ningark. It was asking with regard to programs available, and not particularly specifically to transportation. That's why I allowed it, but the question has been taken as notice. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I see an old friend in the gallery, but I will refrain from abusing my privileges here.

---Laughter

I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, who I am sure is listening attentively to these proceedings. Madam Speaker, we heard very positive news reports today about the recognition of the Metis as equals with other aboriginal organizations in the NWT for the purpose of land claims by the Minister of Indian Affairs. There is talk of improved funding. The president of the Metis Nation described this as a breakthrough. His vice-president said it was historic. I would like to ask the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, who I presume had observers at the Hay River meetings, what will be the impact of this new status for the Metis in the eyes of the federal government on programs for the Metis in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Just before I refer it to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, I allowed Mr. Patterson to proceed with his question because there were at least five seconds left on the time clock when I started to make a ruling with respect to Mr. Pudlat's question. Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, there is indication that the federal government is giving serious consideration to dealing with the Metis question, at least in the southern part of the territories, with regard to the issue of land

resources. That is, I think they are looking seriously at setting up a process whereby the Metis could negotiate a land claim for themselves and look at a question of self-government, probably in that context, if policies are changed accordingly.

So the impact of that, I would say, is not earth-shattering for the north. The Metis were included, since 1973, with the Dene on the negotiation of the Dene-Metis comprehensive claim, and, until the collapse of the comprehensive Dene claim, the Metis were involved in a process to acquire land resources together with the treaty Dene of the Mackenzie Valley. In the Gwich'in claim and the Sahtu claim, the Metis are included, and in this part of the territories where the Metis may be excluded, specifically the Treaty 8 area, those leaders are suggesting that they want to set up programs and services just for treaty people to gain lands through the process for treaty people only. The Metis are left out. The federal government has always thought that they will give the lead to Treaty 8 first to see how they are going to proceed to gain land resources before averting attention to the Metis question. I think that more than two years has passed. They are prepared now to, as it appears, give serious thought to letting the Metis proceed to acquire land and resources without it being overly contingent on whether or not the treaty people are going to make progress or take initiative to acquire land resources as well. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank you for letting me slip under the wire. Madam Speaker, I

Page 732

would like to ask the Minister a supplementary question. Now that it seems possible that the federal government will be giving recognition and status to the Metis as aboriginal people equal with other aboriginal organizations in the Northwest Territories, at least in the area of land and resources, I would like to ask the Minister if he believes it is possible that the federal government may now also provide programs such as core funding and health benefits to Metis locals and the Metis Nation? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, in the original Dene-Metis comprehensive claim, and as well, in the Gwich'in and Sahtu claim, there have been no discussions or negotiations regarding programs and services. I am not certain that the federal government has ruled out that area of negotiations. The Metis may like to check out the prospects at the negotiating table about negotiating programs and services with the federal government. But as to whether or not there are things like core funding and other capital plan projects made available here in the north for Metis, some of the southern programs for treaty people are not available for treaty people here in the north, and it is very difficult to give any categorical response to that question except it is largely between the federal government and the Metis, and we will see if substantial progress is made in setting up a negotiating process, and there is defining of a scope of what is negotiable and there is some workable timetable set up to accommodate it. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**MR. PATTERSON:**

A final supplementary, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, is it the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories that the federal government should be responsible for core funding the Metis Nation and Metis locals the same as it provides core funding to other aboriginal organizations in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 344-12(5): Impact Of Recognition Of Metis By Federal Government

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Madam Speaker, some of that is a question of what is constitutionally the responsibility of the federal government, and I am not certain that we are going to be angrily or strongly demanding that the federal government accept this responsibility at this time. We have left it dormant for some time, hoping that, through constitutional talks and claims negotiations, some of these questions will be answered. It is my view that the Metis are first and foremost an aboriginal people, just as aboriginal as the treaty First Nations of this country, just as aboriginal as the Inuvialuit and the Inuit of this country, and, unfortunately, they are treated differently and they are accorded different types of treatment in the eyes of the federal government. It has been long the fight of Metis leaders across this country to try to get a definable, acceptable type of respect and recognition that they think they deserve. I think the process and commitment for the federal government to negotiate with them is a substantial start to address those. I think those will be self-defining as progress is made on this question. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

**ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Written Question 21-12(5): Sole Source Contracts Entered Into By Department Of Justice

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a written question I would like to direct to the Minister of Justice. Could the Minister please table in the House the following:

A list of:

1)all sole-source contracts entered into by the Department of Justice in the last two years; and

2)all equipment provided to sole-source contractors by the department in the same time period and its ultimate destination;

and can the Minister provide this information when the House reconvenes after the Easter break?

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

#### ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bills 9, 11 And 12

#### **MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, and would like to report that Bill 9 is ready for committee of the whole. The Standing Committee on Legislation has also reviewed Bill 11: An Act To Amend The Safety Act, and would like to report that Bill 11 is now ready for committee of the whole. And, Madam Speaker, the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Wildlife Act, and would like to report that Bill 12 is now ready for committee of the whole. Thank you.

#### **MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

Page 733

Report On Bills 15 And 17

#### **MR. NG:**

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Finance has reviewed Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, and Bill 17, Loan Authorization Act, 1994-95, and wishes to report that Bills 15 and 17 are now ready for committee of the whole.

#### **MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Pursuant to rule 70(5), Bills 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 are ordered into committee of the whole. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. Motion 23-12(5) will stay on the order paper as the honourable Member for Deh Cho is not in the House. 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; Committee Report 2-12(5), Report of the 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 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

#### **MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to propose that we continue on with consideration of Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95 and, in particular, the Department of Public Works and Services.

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Did I hear you also mention Committee Report 2-12(5)?

#### **MR. NG:**

Yes, Committee Report 2-12(5), Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates.

---Laughter

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Does the committee agree?

#### **SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Committee Report 2-12(5): Review Of The 1994-95 Main Estimates

#### **CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We shall first deal with the Department of Public Works and Services after the short 15 minute break.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

--Agreed

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee will now come back to order. We are waiting for the Minister responsible for DPW, who is on his way in, as I speak. Is the Minister prepared to give his opening remarks on his department?

Department Of Public Works And Services

Introductory Remarks

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the Department of Public Works and Services 1994-95 main estimates. The proposed operations and maintenance budget is \$127.154 million and 511 person years. This represents a 2.2 per cent funding reduction and a 1.2 per cent PY reduction from 1993-94. In addition to this appropriation, the department manages \$71 million through the petroleum products, community granular and public stores revolving funds and the systems and communications charge-back account.

The department's major initiative this year has been to implement the initial phase of the building and learning strategy. As this Assembly knows, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and I have spearheaded the development of the building and learning strategy. This strategy uses GNWT capital projects to train northerners in the building trades. This year, 58 residents in six communities took part in classroom training under the strategy. Of those, 32 went on to take on-the-job training. In addition, 59 residents in seven other communities participated in the construction worker training program which is a joint effort with the NWT Construction Association.

The department will be seeking funding to add five more communities to the building and learning program in 1994-95. They are Baker Lake, Coppermine, Igloodik, Lac La Martre and Fort Providence. In this way, the communities now in the strategy will be equally distributed between the four regions and the three areas south of the lake.

In addition to the building and learning strategy, the government has supported using negotiated contracts to increase the involvement of local businesses and residents on construction projects. Many local development corporations have benefitted from the GNWT using negotiated contracts. They have developed new business skills and gained more local control over community projects. I am confident that this approach has increased the benefits from our construction program to many northerners, who otherwise might not have had such an opportunity.

Construction management responsibility for capital projects has also been decentralized to the regional and area offices. Ten positions have been transferred from Yellowknife. Project managers will become more familiar with the capabilities of community residents and businesses. This will help the department to use more local people on construction projects.

The petroleum products division is now decentralized to Fort Simpson and Rankin Inlet and located in new offices built by local companies. At the Fort Simpson office, all eight employees are from the Fort Simpson area. At the Rankin Inlet office, three employees relocated from Yellowknife, four were

Page 734

hired from the south for three year term positions and 11 are from Rankin Inlet.

The government's decentralization initiative has required new offices in Rankin Inlet, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Iqaluit and new housing in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Fort Simpson. I am happy to report that all new contracts for offices and housing in these communities were with northern companies.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for selling staff housing under the staff housing strategy. As of February 21, 1994, we had sold 123 houses, with revenues of \$10.5 million. GNWT staff purchased 92 houses and the public bought 31 units. Also, 70 sales were pending. Because of this successful first round of sales, Cabinet has directed the department to conduct another round of sales to tenant employees in Level II and III communities, directed that multi-plexes be offered for sale, and set a process for MLA consultation about what to do with any surplus units in their communities.

As part of the staff housing strategy, user-pay for electricity was implemented on August 1, 1993. Employees in GNWT housing now pay directly for these services. User pay for water and sewer services will start on August 1, 1994.

Public Works and Services now has 252 aboriginal employees, representing 40 per cent of all employees. The department's affirmative action training strategy for 1993-94 included cross-cultural training courses, post-secondary education, short-term educational leave, achievement awards and on-the-job training for decentralized positions. In 1994-95, we will continue with the headquarters' aboriginal employees' support group and provide improved career counselling for regional aboriginal employees.

Changes to the tendering methods for 1993-94 fuel resupply to the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions saved approximately \$1.5 million. Following the 1993-94 expenditure reduction exercise, Cabinet directed the department to review the pricing structure for petroleum products, particularly capital costs of infrastructure, inventory carrying costs and cross-subsidization between communities. That review will be completed by March 31. Petroleum products will also be replacing its three year community fuel delivery contracts with ten year contracts, each with a five year renewal option. Contractors will then be required to provide garages and fuel delivery vehicles. The longer term commitments provide better economic viability for the contractors.

As committee Members are aware, the business incentive policy is currently undergoing a review and we anticipate some significant improvements to it. The review is being done by the senior management preference committee, which is chaired by Public Works and Services but includes the three major contracting departments as well as Economic Development and Tourism. The SMPC was established in the last rewrite of the policy, approved in June 1992, and has resulted in the senior management of those departments gaining a much better understanding of the problems with administering the policy. A report will be provided to Cabinet by April 1994. Subject to Cabinet agreement, there will be a period of consultation, procedure development and training for both the private and public sector before full implementation in early 1994.

There are significant increases and decreases proposed in our 1994-95 estimates, resulting in a net reduction. One increase relates to new office and residential leases to support decentralization and for

the new Legislative Assembly building. Another increase is for maintenance and utility costs for the new Assembly building and for new assets identified in the capital plan. The decreases relate to leases expiring that do not need renewing, to utilities funding from user-pay for electricity, to utilities and maintenance funding because of staff housing sales and to privatizing the publications and production activities.

In 1994-95, the department will complete community transfer agreements for maintenance activities with the hamlets of Holman and Cape Dorset. The Sanikiluaq power plant, the last plant still operated by the department, will be transferred in April to the NWT Power Corporation. Privatization of departmental warehouses will be implemented in 1994-95, subject to Cabinet approval of a plan now being prepared.

In response to a recommendation from SCOF, the department will prepare a plan to transfer the community dust control program to MACA in 1994-95. Mr. Chairman, Public Works and Services has undergone major changes this year. Next year will give us a chance to adjust to those changes. The department will continue to deliver its programs and services in support of overall GNWT priorities and objectives, while maximizing local and northern employment and business opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, that completes my opening remarks. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Morin. The report from the Standing Committee on Finance will be presented by Mr. Ng.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

Government Contracts And Local Employment

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee is in favour of initiatives that will maximize opportunities for local employment on government contract work. However, the Department of Public Works and Services must work with other departments to improve the policy and procedures surrounding negotiated contracts, and consider possible alternatives to negotiated contracts. We also look forward to seeing the results of the review of the business incentive policy (BIP), and encourage the government to strengthen BIP -- and,



in fact, the entire public tender process -- in order to maximize local

Page 735

employment. This issue of government contracts is discussed in this report in the section on the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

#### Privatization Initiatives

Committee Members were glad to see the department's recent privatization initiatives, including the publications and printing division. The committee encourages the department to continue examining possible areas for privatization, such as warehousing and records management.

Specifically, some concern was raised about records management and its apparent disarray. Committee Members expressed frustration and discouragement at the difficulties and delays seen in the reform of this important area. We urge the Minister to address this problem immediately and not to be put off by the apparent magnitude of the task. Even if the government's records must be organized slowly, one year's worth at a time, any initiative in this area will be an improvement. And, if the private sector is more willing to tackle this job immediately, then they should be given that opportunity.

#### Office Accommodation

The committee expressed concern at the drastic reduction to plans for office accommodation for headquarters employees. Office accommodation standards directly affect the productivity of government employees and we are concerned that these reductions will have an adverse affect on that productivity. This concern was also noted in the Standing Committee on Finance's report on the 1994-95 Capital Estimates.

In addition, committee Members noted during the capital review that by going to public tender rather than over-holding leases, the government could most likely accommodate headquarters personnel much more cost-effectively. The committee recommended, following the capital review, that the department review the Yellowknife office plan and resubmit estimates for office renovations and tenant improvements for 1994-95.

The Department of Public Works and Services provided the committee with another briefing on office accommodation for headquarters personnel during

the committee's review of the departmental operations and maintenance budget. The briefing included a description of two different versions of the accommodation plan and the associated costs, but did not include a reassessment of renovations costs based on the current commercial real estate market.

#### Recommendation 29

The committee recommends that the Department of Public Works and Services develop the office accommodation plan that most effectively and efficiently houses headquarters personnel. The cost-benefit analyses which accompany the plan should be based on a consideration of savings that could be achieved in the current commercial real estate market. This plan, along with the cost-benefit assessment, should be made available to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to review of the department's budget in committee of the whole.

The committee further recommends that the department go to public tender for all aspects of rationalizing office accommodation in Yellowknife, including moving and improvement in addition to the space itself, starting with the 1994-95 fiscal year.

#### Upcoming Studies

The committee notes the studies forthcoming which relate to this department's mandates, including warehouse privatization, Keewatin resupply and informatics. Committee Members would like the Minister to arrange briefings to the committee when these studies are complete. This will allow the committee to make informed recommendations to the government, based on the results of those studies.

#### Committee Motion 25-12(5): To Adopt Recommendation 29, Carried

Therefore, I move that the Department of Public Works and Services develop the office accommodation plan that most effectively and efficiently houses headquarters personnel. The cost-benefit analyses which accompany the plan should be based on a consideration of savings that could be achieved in the current commercial real estate market. This plan, along with the cost-benefit assessment, should be made available to the Standing Committee on Finance prior to review of the department's budget in committee of the whole.

The committee further recommends that the department go to public tender for all aspects of

rationalizing office accommodation in Yellowknife, including moving and improvement in addition to the space itself, starting with the 1994-95 fiscal year. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Kitikmeot. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Question has been called. We don't have a quorum for a vote. Sound the bell. We now have a quorum. We have a motion on the floor. The motion was in order. Discussion had taken place. Question had been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? One is opposed. Motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you want me to bring in my witnesses?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The Minister has requested permission to bring in witnesses to assist him with the matter at hand. Is the committee in agreement?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 736

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):** The committee is in agreement. Please sit at the witness table. Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses to the committee, please?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bob Doherty, deputy minister. To my left is Dave Waddell, the director of finance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, Mr. Doherty and Mr. Waddell. We are dealing with matters in the main estimate book. It begins on page 10-09. General comments, Mr. Allooloo, Member for Amittuq.

General Comments

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to commend the Minister and his staff for doing a good job in terms of addressing the requirement of the local contractors to negotiate most of the time in the smaller communities that enables the smaller companies to be able to hire local people and to keep the money inside the community. I think they have to be commended for the work that they have done.

Mr. Chairman, the concern I have is in terms of allowing a local preference under the business incentive policy and also the territorial preference that still has to be ironed out, although I know the Minister is working on it to improve the business incentive policy. I would like to suggest that, in order for the companies to be allowed or to be eligible for local preference, the company owners should be on the voters list in that particular community. I would like the Minister and his staff to look at that option to see if that is possible. I know, in some cases, there are certain companies that have local preference in more than one community, and sometimes that creates a problem. Overall, Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister and his staff are doing generally a great job in this particular area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. I will convey that to the Minister. Mr. Minister, would you like to comment on those comments?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are in the process of reviewing the business incentive policy, like I said in my opening remarks. Once we get it together, we will be taking it to Cabinet. The department has very good advice and we will look into that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off by saying, generally, I am quite satisfied with the performance of the Minister and the deputy minister. They are doing a competent job in tough times and a difficult area. I have three specific concerns that I would like to put on the record at this particular time.

One, there has been an ongoing discussion about the public tendering process as opposed to negotiated contracts. I want to, first of all, say here publicly that I am not one of those who is *carte blanche* against negotiated contracts. I think they definitely have a place, and I think they have an important place as a tool that the government can use. I have a concern, though, in the future that the use may become more widespread. I will go into some of the concerns that I have. It is very obvious that negotiated contracts are filling a need here in the territories. There has been frustration, especially in the smaller communities, that the dollars that are spent on construction are not staying in the community. There has been a concern that outside companies have been taking advantage of whatever construction happens in communities. I think everybody can sympathize with the desire for communities to take advantage of opportunities in their own community, whether those opportunities are business, jobs or an opportunity for companies to start off. I, like any fair minded person, will see that negotiated contracts are playing a role and do have a place.

But, for a moment, I would like to just talk about the public tendering process. It is flawed. There is no perfect system, but it is one that has developed over many years and there are some very important principles that underlie the public tendering process. The first and most obvious one is, there is no doubt in my mind, that you ultimately get the most competitive price by having companies bidding against each other, especially knowledgeable companies that really understand all the ways to perform a service at the best possible cost knowing that they are in competition with some pretty sharp competitors. I don't think there is any argument there. The public tendering process, over the long haul, will save you money.

Another factor, which has given me a bit of difficulty with negotiated contracts, is the whole bonding element. We have spent many years trying to put

together a process that protects suppliers and companies in the event that a project goes over budget or bankrupt. I am the first to acknowledge that, not only with negotiated contractors, but there have been our share of failures with the public tendering process too. I don't think we should forget that. What has happened over the years, at least in most cases, is that at least the public tendering process does have some built-in protection to safeguard companies.

Another factor, to get a little bit into the intangibles, is that, over the last 20 years, a viable construction industry has been built in the Northwest Territories, and because most companies can be assured that there will be a public tendering process, they know the rules of the game. As they get more skilled and better at what they are doing, they can start to predict, with some certainty, their future. They can start to make capital acquisitions of equipment. They can start making commitments to office space. They can start making longer time commitments to staff, knowing that there is a very good chance that year in, year out, they are going to have a certain volume of business. So what you do is build stability into the system, and, again, it is part of knowing what the rules of the game are. The problem is that, even though there are advantages to negotiated contracts, there are advantages to other approaches. What it does is take some certainty out of the process, and it makes it more difficult for long-term planning.

Another advantage of the public tendering process is that you have scenarios where a small company from a small community or a large community can grow from a medium-sized regional company and then finally into a territorial-sized company, and you can start building critical mass, start

Page 737

building expertise so that you are able to handle a range of jobs and you start to develop some of the contacts and what have you in various communities. There is no doubt that what has happened is that some individual companies have not taken advantage of local opportunities and haven't taken advantage of local hire or local business opportunities. That has happened and that has given industry, in some quarters, a bad name, and there is a frustration level in communities who are looking for an easy, quicker way to deal with it rather than go through this process, which, in some cases, has not worked.

I think that one thing we have fallen down on over the years in the public tendering process is that we haven't included, in a meaningful enough way, credit for that local spending. I mean, we have done some of it. We have given some credit for a local preference or a regional preference but we haven't really said, okay, if a company sets up a joint venture, for instance, with a local company, that may be worth something. If you hire over this percentage of local labour and you demonstrate at the end that you have, that is worth something. If you have spent this much money in the community, that is worth something. I don't think we have gone far enough in doing that, and I think that if you started to build in all of those factors, it could, at the end of the day, probably accomplish as much toward local involvement as you do with negotiated contracts.

I'll give you some examples of where I see it happening, and I am not doing this now as a criticism of the Minister for using them, because they have served, I think, a valuable purpose. I am looking a little bit into the future of what could happen. What is invariably going to happen is that more and more companies are going to want to have negotiated contracts, and you are going to have more difficult situations to choose from. I will just put down one scenario. Let's say, for instance, you have company A in Iqaluit, company B in Rankin and company C in Whale Cove. They all want to do a negotiated contract on a project in Whale Cove. That is one scenario. Let's say you have a project in Rankin Inlet and you have company A from Iqaluit, company B from Rankin and company C from Whale Cove. Assuming that Whale Cove got the experience on this one, they may want to now bid at the regional centre. Thirdly, you have a project in Iqaluit, again, with the three companies, one from Iqaluit, one from Rankin and one from Whale Cove. The problem is going to be, how do you choose? You say, well, only the one in the community where they reside is allowed to get it. So that means you take away the potential from company C in Whale Cove to grow. If the company in Rankin Inlet cannot bid in Iqaluit, you take away the potential of it to go from a medium-sized company to a larger-sized company.

The danger I see, if you do too many of them, is that you essentially put walls around communities, and what will inevitably happen if you put walls around communities just because the stream of projects in a community is not necessarily consistent enough to sustain companies over the long haul, is make it impossible for smaller companies to grow and would

mean that the larger companies would die on the vine. It would seem to me that there is a very good chance

that ten or 15 years down the line, you will be going south for a lot of your contracts.

So I put it forward as a warning, and I have been happy to hear both Mr. Todd and Mr. Morin say that they are not looking at this as the panacea, because it isn't. They are looking at it as a creative tool, which definitely has its place. But I guess I just want to emphasize that when all is said and done, the public tendering process, with some changes, still has proven to be the sort of approach that has the best chance to work in the majority of cases.

There have been criticisms by people, and I have heard a very valid response from the Ministers. Why doesn't anyone suggest something positive? Why does everyone just complain all the time? So I am trying to just throw out some ideas that might or might not be helpful, but perhaps some ways so that along the line, I think that the Ministers are going to have to say, look, these are the rules.

If you have a hundred companies coming at you all ready to negotiate contracts and you try to decide -- you over you and you -- then everybody is going to be right down the Minister's throat at some point. A possibility, adding on to the things I have said earlier, is to say there will be, in the course of the year, a twelve per cent of the budget limit on it. Maybe that is one way of doing it.

The second way is that there might be a limit on the size. Maybe there will be negotiated contracts for contracts up to some figure. I don't know, maybe \$1 million. I don't know. It is the concept that I am talking about.

The particular issue I want to leave with the Minister is that negotiated contracts have their place, but I still firmly believe that in the long term, if handled properly, the public tendering process is where I think the majority of the contracts should go.

My second point is on privatization. Privatization is an area which is always a tough area because of what invariably happens with the private sector. In any kind of a government service, you normally have an economical component of it and an uneconomical component of it, and, inevitably, the private sector just wants the economical component, so when you have had a situation where the part that makes money

subsidizes the part that doesn't and then the system pays for itself, you turn over part of it to the private sector and you have to pick up the tab for the other part. So, although I agree with privatization, I have also said we have got to be quite careful of how we do it.

Page 738

There is one area in the government that I would ask the Minister to have a good look at. It seems to me, in this age of technology, that this government is swamped in records and paper. There are offices full of records and paper. There have been a number of initiatives over the years to try to do something about that, for whatever reason, but the government, because of the fact that the government has never considered it a priority, seems almost paralysed to deal with this. I think an objective analysis of the cost savings would show that there could be a pay-back in a relatively short time. This is one area where I would like to re-emphasize what the committee has said. Either deal with it as a government or seriously consider privatizing this area. One or the other. It is quite amazing the tons of paper we have stored. Really, you don't have to do that in the 1990s.

The last comment I have to make to the Minister is about the office space in Yellowknife. When I speak, I'm obviously speaking about my community. I've been involved, one way or another, with the different proposals that have come forward. It was interesting, and the Minister was there, that the discussion in committee on this issue didn't take on a pro or anti-Yellowknife tenor at all. It was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the ultimate decision to provide office space should ensure we get the most efficient use of our space and people.

The feeling was, the last proposal to come forward had compromised some of those efficiencies. So, the Minister was asked to have a good look at some of the previous proposals. I'm not quite sure exactly where the Minister is at this point, but I know that myself and the committee would really like to see an approach that is an improvement on the last one, that would try to maximize the office space with a major view to staff efficiency as well as straight dollars and cents. With that, Mr. Chairman, again, I would like to thank the Minister. I think he and his staff are doing a good job and we wish him the best in the year to come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. I must remind the committee that, under rule 79, there is a time limit to comments. I was a little generous with Mr. Ballantyne because I was trying to find the rule. There is a ten minute limit, just so you know that I'm not being mean by cutting you off. Mr. Minister, there were several comments in Mr. Ballantyne's remarks, if you would like to respond.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Could I get him to repeat them? Just kidding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the negotiated contracts tendering process and the business incentive policy, we are in the process right now of reviewing those. Mike must be reading my mind on the BIP. When that policy was developed, it was to help businesses develop, not to create jobs in the communities. Some of the northern businesses are more guilty than southern businesses. Because they have a BIP, they may win a contract and then they'll bring in a bunch of people from southern Canada to do the work.

The BIP never addressed that issue. The new policy will. It will have more teeth and it will also hopefully address local hiring versus southern hiring, how much investment a person has at the local level compared to the territorial level, and whether it is a joint venture with the south. Other concerns it will address are what real benefit is going to northerners and to the NWT, and where they're paying their taxes, for example. We're looking at all that. Hopefully, in April or May we should have it tighter so we can start consulting with businesses, as well as with MLAs and communities.

Negotiated contracts do serve their purpose. The vast majority of negotiated contracts that Public Works has been involved with have been a great success. We also use project management, and that has also seen a fairly good success rate in most of the communities. I would never go as far as saying that the tendering process would be the only process to use in the future. But, I agree that we shouldn't be doing 50 per cent or 75 per cent of our contracts by negotiated contracts. The majority of them have to go to tender and they are going to tender.

I guess the government does take some risks when they go with negotiated contracts because the bonding is normally waived. Through the tendering process, as well, sometimes the bonding is waived to help northern businesses get started. If you don't take any risks, then people don't move ahead. We

take on that risk and so far, we've been fairly lucky. There is never any security in construction. It goes from year to year. You're never guaranteed any contracts so people have to make investments and bid wisely. That's how they get contracts.

Right now, we are working on privatization of records management. Hopefully, there will be recommendations regarding that completed by the fall. I must admit, privatization of this has very low priority to me. There are a lot of things on our plate and it has a very low priority. We will move it up in the priority list; it will be within the first 100, guaranteed. Hopefully, by the fall, we'll have more work completed on that. There are problems we have with records in general, we don't only have to deal with privatization.

I think I've addressed everything. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ballantyne.

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

That addresses my concerns and I thank the Minister. I just have a comment about BIP. I don't know if this has been considered or not, but I just wanted to say it here. I think I brought it to the attention of the Minister already. I heard that one of the concepts that was being considered

Page 739

was putting a value on supplies that come from the north so that if anything comes from the south, a northern contractor doesn't get a credit for it. I heard that one happened. I will give you a couple of examples where that concerns me. There are many things that you can't get in the north.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you are 100 per cent right. When you do change one, it has an effect on everything. That is why it has taken some time to redraw this policy. There are so many loopholes and so many ways getting around the other policy that we have to try to make it tighter but we have to also try to make it so it equalizes northern businesses with southern businesses. We will attempt to do that. The

concern you raised is on record. We have it and we will try our best to address it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 10-6, definitive objectives, under the activity of accommodation services, one of the objectives of the department is to transfer the leasing and property management functions of staff housing to the NWT Housing Corporation. Most of the time, when I travel to my communities, I will take the time to talk to as many people as I can. On one of those occasions, I talked with one of the teachers, and she was very concerned about what happens if the staff house is turned over to the Housing Corporation. She feels that she is going to have to pay more rent. I think some of the teachers who have come up here, especially the young ones, are new up here, have just come out of college and have some loans to pay back. We should take the time to look after our staff. That is very important in the area of management. Secondly, when the teachers come up, another civil servant of this jurisdiction, if they find that it is too costly to live in small communities and work, subsequently, there is a high turnover of staff which can be very costly to the system. I just wanted to point that out.

Under the same definitive objectives are utilities. One of the objectives of the department is to plan and implement user-pay for water and sewer services costs for staff housing. Again, I would like to caution the system, not only DPW, but all the departments, that we should really try to look after the staff we have. If it is not too costly, we should try and maintain a good relationship with the staff we have in the system. I know we are running into difficult times. We have had a very bad fiscal situation within the last few years now. I recognize that, Mr. Chairman. Secondly, I hope the Department of Public Works and Services will try to be very sensitive to the community transfer initiative. I know there are municipalities within the system that would like to take over some of the operations and programs of the Department of Public Works and Services.

In my community of Pelly Bay, DPW is maintaining a pump house. Water is delivered to the users in the community and a water truck is driven to the pump house, and from there, they pump the water into the

truck and deliver to the users in the community. The hamlet council of Pelly Bay has indicated to me that they are interested in taking over the management of the pump house. I know there will be other similar operations in other communities that want to take over the operations and maintenance of pump houses.

Also, Mr. Chairman, when I used to work for the hamlet council of Pelly Bay, during the summer construction of roads, airstrips, site developments and so on, we, in the community, especially at the municipality level, used to get confused about who would be looking after the management of the summer projects. Sometimes, we were told that DPW was looking after it. Sometimes, we thought that MACA was looking after that. I hope there is no duplication in this area.

Mr. Chairman, basically, having said that, I would like to commend the Minister, under the petroleum products. I read the objective of the department, "To replace short term community fuel delivery contracts with longer term contracts." This initiative would allow the community contractors to be able to plan for the long term. I think this is a very positive step forward by the department. Although, just about everything I say here should be considered with caution.

I would like to recognize the department, especially the Minister for the very positive initiative for the future. I hope that he will be able to implement all the things that he wants to do. I know I will be backing the Minister in some of these cases. But, with regard to the staff houses, the turnover to the housing association, I would caution the Minister to keep in mind, the teachers and other staff of the government are human beings like all of us. Secondly, in the area of municipal services, delivery of water, I hope the department will also keep in mind not to charge too much money to the people who are, in fact, the staff employees of the system.

I mentioned earlier that some of these people who come in from the south to the communities are young and they have dreams and plans. Some day they would like to be able to pay off their loans. Some of the young people who do come up have loans to pay for education. I think we are very lucky,

Page 740

especially native people, that we don't have to pay for education. I would like the Minister to be very

sensitive to that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was just a comment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Those were just comments, unless the Minister would like to respond. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transfer of staff housing to the Housing Corporation, leasing and property management, are all economic concerns. My understanding is the way the rent is, it will not get any higher than 25 or 30 per cent of the employees wages. Protection is there for the employee, as well as for user-pay services. It is what they agreed to and what this House agreed to in the past.

We've moved ahead quite well with the community transfer program. We are up and running with that. We've transferred some maintenance responsibilities to Cape Dorset, for example, and Holman as well. We're meeting with McPherson, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Arctic Red River, Inuvik, and the Hay River reserve. Things are starting to move on that. We are open to and fully supportive of the community transfer program and we will continue to be. We're also replacing short-term fuel delivery contracts with long-term ones. That should mean better economics for everybody. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I think the Department of Public Works and Services should also be commended in the area of amalgamation between the Housing Corporation and Public Works. I think this particular department is always ahead of the other departments in trying to amalgamate two or three departments together. The department should be recognized for that. Not too long ago, I asked the Premier which departments were amalgamated and how many more there were to go. According to my humble understanding, what I read in the definitive objectives, the department of Public Works and the Housing Corporation are almost at the end of putting these two departments together. I think Mr. Minister should be recognized for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The chair recognizes Mr. Patterson, then Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The praises of this Minister and his department have been oozing through the Chamber this afternoon. I guess I could have some good things to say about the department and the Minister, and I will start off with some positive comments, but I have a fairly strong criticism to make about the handling of personnel matters in the department. These are general comments, and I know they'll be taken in the spirit of constructive criticism that they're offered.

But, getting to the positive first, I do want to underscore the Minister's opening remarks about what I think is a remarkable achievement in the intervention of the NorthwTel rate increase applications. I think the department and its policy group deserve credit and I would like to say that, as an MLA, I appreciated the cooperation I received from the Minister and his officials to ensure the intervention which came from my constituency -- notably that of the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce -- was assisted by the resources of the department and was complementary.

I think, together, a very effective job was done by the government and by various private intervenors, including the city of Yellowknife and other people. It was a remarkable accomplishment. Any less humble Minister would have been arranging great publicity for the feat of having held off a rate increase. I think Mr. Morin was relatively modest about his accomplishments, considering that these days, prices usually go up. It's not often that price increases can be held off. I think it was a very commendable job and I think, really, NorthwTel was outgunned in those hearings by intervenors, including our government, and that's to our credit.

I also want to say that whenever I have complaints and problems, I am impressed that they're dealt with promptly by the Minister and his officials and taken seriously. I also want to make that positive comment.

However, Mr. Chairman, if the day ever came that I no longer received complaints from employees in DPW in Iqaluit, I would be very surprised. I think it's my observation over 14 years as an MLA, that of all the employees in all the departments -- and there are

four or five hundred in Iqaluit -- that I've ever had to deal with, DPW heads the list for labour relations problems, poor management of labour relations, and just ongoing morale problems.

I'm going to take a minute to discuss these, because I think it's an area that the Minister will undoubtedly want to improve. First of all, Mr. Chairman, although I acknowledge there is progress in employing aboriginal people in DPW -- I think the Minister cited a figure of some 40 per cent -- it is not at all clear that this success is resulting in any progress in the management area. Yes, we are hiring Inuit tradesmen, but are we hiring Inuit foremen, superintendents, or project officers? The progress is poor.

Mr. Chairman, let me put flesh to this. I'll just tell a small story. Recently, a very senior long-term employee of DPW in the Baffin region -- and I think Mr. Doherty and perhaps Mr. Morin will know who I'm talking about, he need not be named -- retired. For many years, this senior manager in the department had been working quite closely with a journeyman Inuk in the particular area in which they worked.

When that vacancy arose, I would have thought that a department that would have been conscious of the need to bring forward aboriginal managers, would have said to this long-term Inuit employee with -- as far as I know -- a good employment record, "This competition is coming up. You should know about it," or perhaps, "Make sure you apply," or something like that. Instead, what happened?

The job was put out to competition almost exactly coincident with the Inuk employee's annual leave in a community some distance from Iqaluit. No one in the department ever informed that person the job was coming out for competition, let alone encourage that person to apply. He happened to hear the job

Page 741

was advertised in the newspaper, through talking to a friend from his home community. He happened to apply, and the good news is, he got the job.

But, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this a small example of a department that is not making that extra effort to at least inform northern native people and long-term northerners of management opportunities that come forward. I suspect that reflects an attitude that is sometimes typical in this department, at least in my region.



Mr. Ningark just complimented the Minister on how the amalgamation was handled. I heard a very sad story about a twenty year employee, again in the Baffin region, who, first of all, was asked to take a \$22,000 pay cut to get a new position within the amalgamated department, accepted that decision, albeit reluctantly, and then got a call from the policy group in Yellowknife saying, "You are back in the Hay Plan after all. Your old salary will be restored and you have been PIO'd." I guess bureaucrats know what that means. I think it is "present incumbent only". The salary was retained. He asked if the information would be confirmed by fax. This was back in May, 1993. He was told, yes. He waited and waited. All other Hay Plan employees got a 1.8 per cent performance increment. This didn't come. The employee was concerned and curious, but his concern was answered in January when he got a notice in the mail saying that this was all a mistake. You have been overpaid. There is a retroactive claw-back. Since there is nothing in writing, we won't honour what you say you were told orally. We are going to claw back the increase over the last six months or so. The bottom line is, the employee got disillusioned, resigned, and came to me to explain the situation after having given notice.

These are two examples, Mr. Chairman, to suggest that, at least in my experience -- and there are many other stories I can tell -- this department needs to do more in the way of good personnel management.

Sometimes, I wonder why there is such a high turnover in the Baffin region. It has been a phenomenal turnover in recent months. Many employees I have talked to feel under seige. Relations between management and workers have always been bad. There is a lack of respect. I think it is reciprocal. I think it is not just the labourers and tradesmen don't respect managers, I sense evidence that it is the other way around. I hear there is an aboriginal support group in headquarters. That sounds like a good effort. But, I wonder whether managers need training in basic management techniques, how to inspire greater efforts through praise and encouragement, not by taking negative action. I don't know what the sources of these problems are, Mr. Chairman. I have, over the years, tried to deal with them, although I feel very awkward because they are usually labour relations matters.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest this is an area that should be looked at. I think the department is good at building, fixing and contracting, but there is this whole human side of managing.

Perhaps it is an example of the axiom that a good engineer does not necessarily a good manager make. I just want to make those comments because I think this is an area in which there could be improvement, affirmative action and just general management-employee relations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. You have gone over ten minutes, however, the penalty is, the next time you watch how long you speak. Mr. Minister.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We, as a department, have gone through many changes these last two years, more than any other department because of everything this government does touches us or we get involved with it in some way: consolidation, downsizing, privatization, decentralization, staff housing transfers. I guess Iqaluit, Baffin region, has seen its share of problems while we were going through this transaction period. But, I hear the Member's concerns. We are going to work to make it better. We have also done other things that encourage aboriginal people to stay on in this department or encourage them to work for the department. Even that high school student participation in the introduction to architectural and engineering, that summer program, had 65 per cent aboriginal employees. The Yellowknife region developed a training program for maintenance officer positions. That is a management position, and there are two aboriginal employees in that one. Three aboriginal employees successfully completed the billing operator air course. That is the power engineering course. But, I look around this government, and not only in this department, but if I meet with senior management of the Housing Corporation, I see very few aboriginal employees. It is the same as this department and other departments. It is an issue that I raised with my deputies and an issue that I will continue to work with them on to try to address that. I would prefer to see more aboriginal people in management positions. We will work to achieve that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Mr. Pudlat.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my comments brief. It won't be so much of a question, but more of a comment. I wish to thank the Minister of Public Works for his endeavours and for his planning for the future, especially in the Nunavut area, when contracts are tendered out. Mr. Chairman, there is an example that I can cite. For example, if someone wanted to have a contract with the Housing Association, even though the ten per cent will be a benefit to the community, this ten per cent is very small. People coming from outside of the NWT to work as labourers under the contractors, I am aware that people are becoming more able to take on contracts. I also know of some people who are able to do the contract work because I have spoken to them. This is very good to see from your constituency. It is good to see more contracts being taken over by the local people.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge the Minister of Public Works to make available building and learning strategies, especially when local people are getting into taking over contracts and providing local employment. It would be good to see on-the-job training. I would encourage the Minister to provide as much training as he can, especially on-the-job training. This has been beneficial to many people. For those of us who cannot speak English, back in the early 1960s, we used to work as labourers. At that time, we were just learning the construction trade, even just as helpers and labourers. I encourage people to get the adequate training required. This can greatly benefit the local people, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see more employment and training provided, especially

Page 742

when contracts are open to tender. It should be that local people be hired first whenever they are able to do the work. If there is a contract being tendered out, the local people and people within the NWT should be kept within the NWT, otherwise all the benefits and profits will flow out of the NWT down to the south.

I meant to make my comments short and I might exceed my time limit, but I will be observant about the building and learning strategies, especially in relation to possible contracts. If it is not too difficult, it should be a policy that local people and people within the NWT be given contracts on a priority basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. The honourable Minister, would you like to respond to the honourable Member?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Yes, thank you. I hear the Member's concerns. They are basically the same concerns I have. We are working to accomplish that. We do have incentives or priorities that local communities get 20 per cent, northern 15 per cent preference, and the training strategy has been in place. This year, it is going to be in Pangnirtung, in the Baffin region. Like last year, it is a continuation in Igloolik. If possible, I am working with the Minister of Education.

The Minister of Education is trying to get funding from the federal government. If we get more funding for the training strategy, then we will expand it immediately into other communities. So, hopefully that will address the issues he has raised. Training is the only way to go. We have to get our people trained to do the jobs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. General comments. Clause by clause. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Directorate

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

All right. We are on page 10-10, directorate, total O & M, \$6.795 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Project Management

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Project management, total O & M, \$6.897 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Accommodation Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Page 10-12, accommodation services.  
Mr. Ng.

Committee Motion 26-12(5): To Defer Estimates For  
Accommodation Services, Carried

**MR. NG:**

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Standing Committee  
on Finance, because we haven't received the  
information from the department yet that we have  
requested for our recommendation, I would like to  
move that we defer consideration of the estimates for  
accommodation services, recognizing that we may  
have a problem in getting a quorum, but it is a motion  
that I would like to put forth. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

Buildings And Works

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Page 10-13, buildings and works, total O  
& M, \$26.266 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Vehicles And Equipment

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. On the next page, vehicles and  
equipment, total O & M, \$3.772 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Utilities

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Next page, utilities, total O & M, \$28.368 million.  
Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Supply services, total O & M, \$8.082  
million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Operations

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Operations, total O & M, \$1.683 million.  
Agreed?

Page 743

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Communications

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Systems and communications, total O &  
M, \$4.581 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions, contributions, \$70,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Grants and contributions, \$70,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-20, information item, schedule of lease budget requirements. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

The next one is also an information item, schedule of lease budget requirements. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-22, information item, petroleum products revolving fund. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-23, same thing. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-24, information item, public stores revolving fund. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On the next page, same thing. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-26, information item, systems and computer services. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Same thing on the next page. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-28, same thing. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-29, information item, granular program revolving fund. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

On page 10-33, total department, \$11.851 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you. Because we deferred page 10-12, we are not able to conclude this particular department. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

What is the committee's wish to do from here? I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. Mr. Minister, I take it that you wanted to say something here.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my department for preparing this budget. I would like to

Page 744

thank the Members for passing the majority of the budget, and deferring one item. So that there are no surprises coming closer at the end of session, I am not going to be able to supply that information before this House recesses. It is in the works, and we'll try our best to get the information before the fall. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. I hope we'll be able to do our program under this department. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ng.

**MR. NG:**

To get into the Department of Transportation, if that's agreeable.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Does the committee agree that we go on to the Department of Transportation?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Transportation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, very much. Minister Todd, we have the direction of the committee that we go into the Department of Transportation. If you have opening remarks on behalf of your department, this is the time to do them.

Introductory Remarks

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to present you today with the Department of Transportation's operations and maintenance budget for the 1994-95 fiscal year. The proposed 1994-95 O and M budget for the department is \$47.6 million. This represents an increase of \$1.9 million over the department's 1993-94 budget of \$45.7 million.

Most of the budget increase, \$1.2 million, is a result of the 1994 opening of the Mackenzie Highway

extension from Fort Simpson to Wrigley. The extension adds 220 kilometres of all-weather highway to the territorial highway system, as well as a new ferry crossing at Ndulee. The budget provides \$850,000 for the increase highway maintenance requirements and \$400,000 for the operation of the Ndulee ferry.

The 1994-95 budget begins to show some of the tangible benefits in highway maintenance savings, resulting from the Department of Transportation's highway reconstruction and paving program. Funds the department has spent annually for dust control on highways No. 1 and No. 3 are now available for dust control on other sections of the highway system. In 1994, the department plans to make highway No. 8 between Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River entirely dust free. This will make the Dempster Highway a safer and more comfortable drive for motorists.

Through internal reorganization of the Department of Transportation, we have established regional offices in the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot regions. The new regional presence of the department will bring its operations closer to the communities and the people where it delivers its programs and services. I should point out to Members that the new regional offices do not involve the appropriation of new money for the department. The \$544,000 in salaries and wages and 4.5 person years have been identified through the internal reorganization of the department and the reallocation of its budgets.

The 1994-95 budget year will mark the opening of the Baker Lake training centre. I believe this centre will provide long-term benefits for air services in the Northwest Territories. The centre will train northerners in the specialized techniques and procedures necessary for the safe and efficient maintenance of our Arctic airports, including maintenance of runway surfaces, navigational aids, lighting systems and the air terminal buildings. The centre will also offer a separate program on airport management and administration for municipal officials and staff who manage our airport operations.

The Baker Lake training centre should produce immediate benefits in improved community airport services. In the longer term, by graduating personnel who are skilled and knowledgeable in airport operations, the training centre should facilitate the transfer of our territorial airports to community ownership and control. I think there is little doubt that

the \$250,000 in this budget for the Baker Lake training centre will be money well spent.

As the Members know, the Department of Transportation is involved in negotiations with Transport Canada for the transfer of the nine remaining federally-owned airports in the Northwest Territories. To make sure that a successful transfer will result in positive benefits for the Northwest Territories, the 1994-95 budget dedicates \$110,000 specifically to the transfer negotiations. The target date for completion of the Arctic "A" airports transfer is April 1, 1995.

In the Assembly on December 13, 1993, I tabled the Northwest Territories' transportation agenda. I hope that Members of the Assembly will see in this budget real progress towards achieving several of the objectives put forward in the transportation agenda. The Mackenzie Highway extension, the Dempster Highway dust control, the department's new regional organization and the Baker Lake training centre are all elements contained in our transportation agenda.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is essential, particularly in these times of fiscal constraint, that the department has a well formulated set of goals and objectives to give it clear direction and to guide the allocation of its limited resources. In this regard, I hope Members find that the Department of Transportation's budget for 1994-95 is on course to accomplish the goals set out in the transportation agenda. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Todd.

---Applause

Does the Standing Committee on Finance have any introductory remarks? Mr. Ng.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee was generally pleased with the Department of Transportation's presentation. Some concern was expressed that the recently tabled Transportation agenda does not provide the committee

or the Assembly with enough information about the department's long-term strategy. The department has to give the committee a clearer picture of medium and long-term plans, including priorities and deadlines for proposed projects.

#### Government Contracts

The issue of contracting, in general, and specifically negotiated contracts and the business incentive program, are discussed in this report, under the Financial Management Board. The committee is in favour of initiatives that will maximize opportunities for local employment on government contract work. The Department of Transportation must work with other departments to improve the policy and procedures surrounding negotiated contracts and in considering possible alternative to negotiated contracts.

We also look forward to seeing the results of the review of the business incentive policy (BIP), and encourage the government to strengthen BIP -- and, in fact, the entire public tender process -- in order to maximize local employment. It is important that the Department of Transportation work closely with other departments, especially the Department of Public Works and Services in their examination of the BIP, negotiated contracts and other issues affecting northern employment and economic development, so there will be maximum benefit to the north.

#### Arctic Airports

Members of the committee suggested that smaller airports be given more attention. There is a feeling that the department is concentrating on the larger airports in large communities -- especially on the negotiations to take over the "A" airports from the federal government -- to the exclusion of airports in smaller communities. The committee noted that the Transportation agenda suggests that all but one northern airport will have at least a "D" classification by 1988.

#### Recommendation 34

The committee recommends that the Department of Transportation increase the priority of improving air service in smaller communities, and that the department respond to the committee with a plan of action in these areas by August 1, 1994.

#### Emergency Response

The committee also expressed a desire for the department to take an active role in emergency

response and safety throughout the transportation system. From regular highway patrols to airport safety, the department should be leading the way in making the Northwest Territories a safe place to travel. Some suggestions offered by the committee include training highway maintenance crews to be able to handle emergencies encountered by highway travellers, or building emergency airstrips at intervals along the highway system. There are numerous imaginative ideas which the department could use to achieve the goal of safer travel.

The committee encourages the department to consider ways in which the department could best use its resources to provide emergency response throughout the NWT transportation system.

#### Budget Documents

While there was a great deal of movement from last year's departmental estimates to this year's -- that is, movement of PYs and funds from one task or activity to another -- the documents, themselves, contain very little explanation of what was moved where. We were quite disappointed with this, as it made it difficult for committee Members to follow the changes in the department. The committee strongly suggests that this department (and all departments) clearly describe the movements involved when funds or personnel are moved from one task or activity to another.

#### Funding For Large Projects

With large and important projects on the horizon, including the transportation corridor from Yellowknife through the Slave geological province to Coppermine, the government must find new and innovative means to find funding support for such projects. The government, in fact, should be working to alert possible investors to the enormous potential for development here in the north, and encourage them to invest in the north, especially to create a much-needed infrastructure.

#### Engineering Services And Privatization

The committee encourages the department to examine the engineering services provided in-house by existing staff, and carefully consider whether these services could be successfully provided by the private sector.

Committee Motion 27-12(5): To Adopt Recommendation 34, Carried

That's it for the report, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Transportation increase the priority of improving air service in smaller communities, and that the department respond to the committee with a plan of action in these areas by August 1, 1994.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

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

---Carried

That concludes your presentation, Mr. Ng?

**MR. NG:**

Yes, it does, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

General comments in the area of the Department of Transportation. Mr. Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Would you like me to move to the table and bring in my witnesses, Mr. Chairman?

Page 746

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

Mr. Todd, if you are planning to bring in witnesses, you have to move to the table. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that Mr. Todd bring in his witnesses? Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Todd. Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring in the witnesses. Thank you. It's the routine that you introduce the witness for the record.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Gamble who is the deputy minister of Transportation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):**

And on your left? There is no one there. We are now open to general comments from the floor. The Department of Transportation. Is there anyone who would like to lead off? Mr. Arvaluk.

General Comments

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several points I would like to make, although they are in different pages of the O and M, that are for the purpose of transportation planning division to do. However, I cannot see a specific thing that I would like to place here, so I guess I will categorize them in general comments.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Todd that he has been active with the transportation strategy since he became the Minister. I went to one of his planning meetings in Rankin Inlet, although it was short we were able to see there are some problems being presented and how they should be dealt with. There is a process that would take place.

Specifically, what I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, we have not been told exactly how much the winter road that was built from Rankin Inlet to Whale Cove cost. Secondly, is the Minister of Transportation planning to do similar types of initiatives in other communities, especially in isolated places like Coral Harbour? Because Coral Harbour has been economically deprived, other than with their own local initiatives, Coral Harbour is known for creating or being active in trying to have an economic base for themselves and that is the only way that Coral Harbour has been able to survive. Other than that there have been very few support or leadership initiatives from the government or private sector, other than local people.

With that note, I would like to know is there a plan for other Keewatin communities, like Coral Harbour, to get a road, especially an access road from Coral Harbour to Duke of York Bay to make the place more economically viable for the community for a number of reasons. Some of them being access to the wildlife area, commercial fishing, tourism and other economic activities that could be had if the access road could be built. The access road is necessary because you cannot travel around the island on the east side because of the ice floe pack that comes down Hecla



Strait through Igloodik and Hall Beach. It is not possible to travel through there.

Secondly, the west side cannot be used because there are dangers on arrival because is too shallow. Either way, that north part of the Southampton Island has not been utilized by the Coral Harbour people, but rather by Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet because they have direct access by boat. That's one of the things we have been working on. If the winter road like Rankin Inlet to Whale Cove can be done, and if the winter road can be done from Norman Wells to Fort Franklin on a year to year basis, surely there should be a very attractive investment on the part of the government to build a very, very cheap access road from Coral Harbour to Duke of York Bay. Is there a plan for that one?

There are those two questions I have, Mr. Chairman. I will make another comment after Mr. Todd has responded to my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Todd.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you. I appreciate the Member's questions. If I can address the ice road issue in terms of cost, this is the first year of actually completing the ice road between Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet. That road is still active and we haven't completed the cost estimates and the value of it. But I want to assure the Member, I've said from the very beginning that that's what we intend to do.

The obvious extension, if this thing was to be successful and if it can be cost-effective -- and the only thing we have to compare it to, of course, is the ice roads that are built in the west -- would be the possibility of an extension into Chesterfield Inlet, Arviat and that immediate area in terms of ice roads. One, it's part of the linkages that are a natural part of the community. From a dollars and cents perspective, we're looking at an insignificant amount of money.

I want to say that this ice road is very much an experimental idea. We're trying to, as I say, evaluate whether it's cost-effective. Personally speaking, I hope it turns out that way because I do think with some of the experiences we've had that we can expand it into other communities.

With respect to the access roads -- and I believe this issue was raised previously by the honourable Member, with respect to Duke of York -- we do have a policy in place now which was approved by the Legislative Assembly. That's the access road policy. This access road policy came about primarily by the political lobbying that was done a year ago by Mr. Ningark and some others. In the need for some kind of four-wheel ATV vehicle-type of roads into areas as Mr. Arvaluk suggests, whether it's a tourist area, a fishing area or areas that local people and visitors could access. The access road policy currently has a budget of about \$650,000, next year it has a budget of \$750,000, subject to approval and the following year of \$1 million, again, subject to approval.

The way we have been approaching the access road with the municipality is to say to them if you can give a little, we can give a little. In other words, discussions are under way right now with the Baker Lake hamlet, we have the Whitehills and in Arviat we have Maguse. I know these two well because we have been in discussions the last six or seven months. We are saying if you are prepared to come forward with some contribution in kind, let's say it is the utilization of equipment, perhaps we can put a program in place that would provide the municipality with some of the wages necessary and maybe some of the operational costs of the equipment necessary, over a three or four year period, to build those types of access roads. It is a question of sitting down with the municipality, working out an arrangement between what they are prepared

Page 747

to contribute and what resources we have and seeing if we can fund access roads of this type over a three and four year period. The policy is in place. There are limited dollars, but I would be only too happy to instruct the department to initiate discussions in Coral Harbour with respect to this. Departmental people will be in Coral Harbour soon anyway on the issue of the strategic planning money with respect to the wharf and the snafu road. So perhaps we could add that to the agenda and see if we can work out an arrangement with the municipality.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Todd. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked the specific question is it does not qualify for the access road he is talking about. I think the access road he is talking about would be between Rankin Inlet and Meliadine that was already built. We are talking about 80 miles and we would not qualify under this. Although the quality of the construction is probably similar to that of an access road, it would be 80 miles long.

The community of Repulse Bay has been saying to the departments of Public Works and Transportation that they don't want the rocks blasted any more. We are opposing Hydro Quebec and blasting our own communities at the same time, which drives away marine life. The community wants that to stop and rather concentrate on an access road to Northpole River so they will have an unlimited amount of gravel supply once that has been done. Is there any study being provided under your transportation strategy to correct that situation, to stop the blasting and crushing of rocks to avoid the disaster to marine life?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Member for Aivilik. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

While we are limited in resources, I think it is important to point out that if we can work with a municipality, the access road with respect to the Duke of York Bay, even though it is 80 miles away, it would still fall under the policy of access roads. Again, it is resources. We would have to take a look at what it would cost, et cetera.

On the issue of Repulse Bay, in some ways it is the same thing. What we perhaps need to do is sit down with the Repulse Bay council and try to work out how we would jointly fund, between the municipality and the department, the possibility of this road to this area where they have significant gravel finds. We do have new superintendents. I would like to suggest, if it is all right with the honourable Member, that I ask the superintendent to go into Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour to see if we can make an arrangement with the hamlet council, at least to get on paper what they require, look at the costs and see if it is fiscally feasible. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Minister Todd. Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to prolong this, but I have one more question. I find this extremely difficult because some of the communities are not in receivership, but are in a deficit recovery program which makes it very difficult for them to match dollar for dollar, like the Minister is suggesting. I think we could have a discussion without going over their heads, such as, if you don't contribute, we are not going to fund anything at all. I think we have to be broader than that. Most of the small communities cannot afford any kind of a capital contribution, like the Minister is suggesting. I don't want this discussion to be limited to that kind of attitude whereby we will match you 50-50 in order for the access group to materialize. I hope the superintendent who will be visiting Repulse Bay will not have that strict order that there will be no negotiations unless Repulse Bay is ready and prepared to contribute the other half of the dollar. With that, I should thank the Minister for taking action on Repulse Bay district.

I read a paper the other day that there was a miracle landing in the United States. The front wheel would not lower. Because of the pilot's skill, they landed without any disaster or accident. That was a private plane. I laughed at that one because we always get flat tires in Repulse Bay when we are landing and nobody ever talks about it. We never make the newspaper. I thank him for putting extra gravel on that one. Every second week, we always get flat tires there and it is not called a miracle if we land. Is there a plan of activity or, at least, government leadership to get those placed in these communities before any disasters happen, especially that Boeing 748 Calm Air uses. I think that should be scrapped.

Is there any initiative that the government is taking telling the companies or, at least, the licensing or transport board, to watch that they be more careful, that some of those aircraft that are not supposed to be carrying passengers sometimes still carry passengers. I would like to get some action in this area because hospital patients especially get very nervous flying in those old war planes. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

I think, in recent discussions with the Honourable Doug Young, the federal Minister of Transportation, he said to me that the primary focus of the federal Department of Transportation is going to be safety.

That is going to be the number one priority, particularly in aviation. It compounds itself even more when you are in the Arctic because it is the primary mode of transportation. We really have no other way of getting out on long distances. We recognize the importance of safety. In some ways, with the limited resources we have, we are trying to do the best we can. We did do a major upgrade, as Mr. Arvaluk said, in Repulse Bay last year. It is our intention to do as much as possible to improve the conditions of the runways. We are limited in terms of resources, but we do recognize the importance of safety for all of us and all our friends. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair recognizes Mr. Pudlat, Member for Baffin South.

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Transportation not just from my constituents, but from people all over the territories. In 1994 the Cape Dorset runway will be improved. They will also be getting a new terminal. I would like to thank him for that.

Page 748

I have a comment to make and a question. You said that you went to my community of Lake Harbour, but I don't remember when you were there. We have a lot of hills. It is one of the communities with the most hills. In the winter time, they have to put gravel on the snow in my community. A lot of times, there is not enough sand to go around in the winter time. The quarry sites we have are quite far and the equipment we have is not suitable for that work. People have asked for a boulder crusher.

Even though that's not one of our major priorities, it is one of them. Hopefully, within five years, this can be considered because there isn't enough sand from the quarry sites. I think you are aware that we have requested a boulder crusher in the capital projects. It should be one of the priorities in the capital budget. If we don't have any more sand, we won't have enough for our roads or for the runway. We have to make plans ahead of time. I want this to be considered in the capital budget.

Everybody is aware that there is not enough money to go around for everybody, but one of the priorities we want to keep is for a runway. When the weather is

not very good, and if there is an emergency and the planes have to come in, we have to have safe runways. I know you've heard this before, but we are not sure when this will be put in the capital budget. We definitely need a new runway. If we keep postponing it and something happens, that wouldn't be very good. There have been studies of where an ideal site would be for such a runway. I'm sure you will be bringing this up in your plan. I want this to be in the plan.

In Sanikiluaq, the runway was improved and I also wish to thank you for that. I have a lot of concerns that I want to bring up, but I will keep bringing them so they can be dealt with in the main estimates and the capital budget. That's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Minister, do you want to comment?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I do want to commend the honourable Member for keeping the transportation initiatives in his area, whether it is in Cape Dorset or Lake Harbour, front and centre in terms of our agenda. I think he should be applauded for that and I'm sure his constituents will agree.

---Applause

I'm glad that in some small way, we were able to help both in Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset. We have a full program to assist both those communities.

On the issue of Lake Harbour, again, I found that the honourable Member has never asked for anything that is outrageous. He has been fair in his debates on the Department of Transportation's budget in the past. We know the cost to move a new airstrip in Lake Harbour would be very high. I've assured the Member before and I want to assure him again that we will try to fit that in somewhere. I don't know whether it will be in the life of this Assembly, or the next one, but we are certainly going to address that issue. We will try the best we can. But, as he says, we are working under fairly restrictive fiscal conditions.

I do, however, think that there is a crushing program, not run by Transportation, but run by Public Works, which has a revolving fund. Perhaps I can discuss with my colleague, Mr. Morin, and see where we can

fit the possibility of a crushing program in Lake Harbour during the next two or three years. I can't make any commitments. The only commitment I'll make would be to discuss it with the honourable Member who is responsible for Public Works to see if they can fit it into their long-term plan for crushing in these communities.

We're going to do the best we can. We're taking a hard look at Lake Harbour. It is recognized, both by myself and the honourable Member, that there is an enormous cost to building a new strip there. Hopefully, we'll be able to show it, in the long term, sometime in the capital budget down the road. That's what we're working towards at this time. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MR. NINGARK:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that we sit until we conclude this department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Mr. Ningark, the request has to be in the form of a motion.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we extend the sitting hours until we conclude the Department of Transportation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. I need a quorum, however. We need to sound the bells. We now have a quorum. There is a motion on the floor to extend the hours from 6:00 until we conclude the matter at hand, the Department of Transportation. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

We shall continue on. Mr. Ningark.

**MR. NINGARK:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, like my colleague, Kenoayoak Pudlat, I recognize the honourable

Minister for being very straightforward in dealing with our communities and our concerns. I know that the honourable Minister is not able to provide every request from the Northwest Territories, but he is trying his very best given the means and ways that he has within his department.

One of the things that I would like to recognize or commend the Minister for, is that there is an endeavour in Gjoa Haven to construct a road to 30-Mile Lake. I hope the Minister will consider this very seriously. For one thing, it's going to facilitate recreation in the community. There are no parks in the community as is the case in the larger centres. Also, a tourism facility would entail extra income for the community and also facilitate hunting. Subsequently, would provide subsistence for the community within the limited opportunity in that community.

Page 749

There is another request from the hamlet of Pelly Bay to build an all-terrain vehicle access road to Barrow Lake which is about 12 kilometres from the community. Also, Taloyoak, I think is planning to upgrade the road to Meadow Lake which was built many years ago. It is usable by trucks, but it is not very far from the community. I hope the honourable Minister and his staff will keep that in mind. Other than that, I don't have too many comments on this department.

I would also like to thank the Minister and express the appreciation of the community of Pelly Bay for bringing the barge into the community during the summer-time. They were able to bring in over one million litres of heating fuel, and I think this is providing a saving to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Sometime in the future, I hope we will be able to bring general supplies to that community. It gets to be very expensive bringing things by air. Also, I think we are very lucky because in the past we were able to get some fresh produce to the community from other points, in ways other than by air. I think bringing in supplies by barge is another way of transporting general supplies into the community. I don't want to prolong discussion on this matter, so thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no question. Maybe it was question regarding access roads to hunting areas, tourism areas and so on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. There was something in there about 30-Mile Lake, if the Minister would care to comment about it.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

As I said earlier, this access road policy...The credit really belongs to the honourable Member, Mr. Ningark. He raised the issue a year ago. The previous Transportation Minister had \$200,000 in the budget. We've managed to move some more money in the budget. Our ability to build these access roads, and the amount we can build, is going to be based on our ability to find the appropriate funding. I want to assure the honourable Member that these issues are just as important as it is to build highways in the west.

On the issue of the sealift, we're pleased as punch that we were able to do our thing last year by bringing a shipment to Pelly Bay for the first time. I am told that there will be some dry cargo on the ship this year. In fact, there will be two ice breakers in the area. We're optimistic, that we can move some dry cargo, I believe the housing will be in Pelly Bay as an experiment. Perhaps, in the following years, all of it will be able to come that way, providing significant savings to this government. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. General comments. Details.

Line By Line

Directorate

Page 11-07. Directorate. Total O and M, \$2.948 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Transportation Engineering

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Transportation engineering, \$3.098 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Marine Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Marine services, \$4.384 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Highway Operations

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Highway operations, \$19.783 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Arctic Airports

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Arctic airports, \$13.703 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Motor Vehicles

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Motor vehicles, \$2.520 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

Mr. Chairman, is there any plan or idea that Transportation may consider for having a government insurance program for remote communities? For example, in my constituency we have to go to Churchill and Hyska's Insurance Agency, with the outrageous prices. Actually, it's not too bad if you're not living in Yellowknife, I learned that too. Are there any plans in the future to serve the communities with an insurance program? There are more and more vehicles now coming into a community, and the hamlet councils demand there be insurance for snowmobiles and four-wheel vehicles, ATVs. Qujannamiik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

There are no plans to have this government involved in delivery of any insurance programs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. Motor vehicles, \$2.520 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 750

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):** Highway Transport Board. That's scratched.

Transportation Planning

Transportation planning, total O and M, \$1.153 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, that's information. Total department, detail, \$3.810 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Program summary, department as a whole, total O and M, \$47.589 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Does the committee agree that we've concluded the Department of Transportation?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. With that, Mr. Minister, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you and your witnesses for availing yourselves to assist us in this very important work. Do you wish to comment?

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the expeditious way in which we've handled this budget. Clearly, it is a reflection of the needs of everybody around the table. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you. I think the thanks goes to the department for a job well done. Mr. Arvaluk.

**MR. ARVALUK:**

I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

We have a motion on the floor. The motion is to report progress. It's not debatable. All those in favour? We don't have a quorum. I'll have to sound the bells, sorry.

There is now a quorum. I couldn't recognize the clock because there is a motion on the floor to continue on. You make my job tough. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. I shall rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Is there a seconder for the motion? It is seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk. 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

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

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 are meetings tomorrow at 9:00 am of the Caucus, at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of Striking Committee. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 22, 1994.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions

6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. 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

Page 751

15. Motions
  - Motion 23, Special Order of Reference to Standing Committee on Agencies, Board and Commissions of the First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
16. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Arctic College Act
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 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994
19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

**MADAM SPEAKER:**

Thank you. This House stands adjourned until  
Tuesday, March 22, 1994, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT