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The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1994

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Madam Premier.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 53-12(5): Minister Absent From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I would like to advise the House that the Honourable John Pollard is ill today and will not be in the House. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 54-12(5): Northern Manufacturers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last October, the NWT Housing Corporation asked northern businesses to indicate their interest in supplying made-in-the NWT building components for the corporation's housing units. Madam Speaker, the response from northern manufacturers was very positive and encouraging.

In 1994-95, northern manufacturers will be providing more building components for NWT Housing Corporation units than ever before. This increase in volume will also generate new jobs in the manufacturing industry. The following northern manufacturers have been awarded multi-year

contracts: Fibreglass North of Yellowknife will supply water and sewer tanks. This will create up to 11 new jobs. United Furniture of Hay River will supply doors and frames and will mean four to five new jobs and Arctic Front Windows of Hay River will supply windows and create 8 new jobs.

What is more, Madam Speaker, these northern manufacturers are able to supply quality products for less than six per cent higher costs than southern manufacturers. The total value of these contracts is \$1,982,805 for 1994-95.

In addition, Madam Speaker, there are some building components now available from more than one northern manufacturer. The 1994-95 building program of the NWT Housing Corporation specified that certain components have to be supplied by northern manufacturers. The results are as follows:

-screw jacks will be supplied by Paul Brothers Welding of Yellowknife and Back Bay Welding of Yellowknife;

-fuel tanks will be supplied by Paul Brothers Welding of Yellowknife for the western Arctic and Kitikmeot communities;

-fuel tank stands will be supplied by Back Bay Welding of Yellowknife and Bearard Welding of Fort Resolution;

-cabinets will be supplied by Igloo Building Supplies of Hay River, using MC Woodwright and Sunrise Cabinets of Hay River. In the east, cabinets will be supplied by Frobuild Construction of Iqaluit; and,

-trusses will be supplied by Northern Homes 3000 of Yellowknife.

The total value of these contracts is \$803,000, Madam Speaker. This is less than six per cent higher than it would cost to buy these items from southern manufacturers. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the men and women in the northern manufacturing industry. Their investment efforts are creating jobs and generating economic benefits for their communities and for the northern economy as a whole. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 55-12(5): National Junior Curling Team

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The national junior curling championships were held last week in Truro, Nova Scotia and I would like to congratulate our junior men's and women's teams on their fine performances.

---Applause

As you know, our junior men's team was in the final against Alberta on Saturday, which is the only time that a curling team from the Northwest Territories has accomplished this. Despite a heartbreaking extra end loss to Alberta in the final, the junior men's rink has demonstrated to us and to the country what our Northwest Territories athletes are capable of.

I would like to make special mention of George Gibson and Ernie Comerford, the coaches of our junior teams for the 3M awards they received for being selected best coaches of the

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tournament, and, Kevin Koe, the skip for the junior men's team for his winning the all-star skip award.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, I'm sure our Members will join me in congratulating Kevin Koe and his team of Mark Whitehead, Kevin Whitehead and Jamie Koe for their fine performance in the Canadian Junior Men's Championships. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 56-12(5): Meeting With Allan Rock

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, this is a statement regarding my attendance at the Ministers of Justice meeting in Ottawa last week. The Honourable Allan Rock, Minister of Justice for Canada, hosted a two-day meeting of provincial and territorial Ministers

responsible for Justice and the Solicitor General portfolios.

The agenda was large in scope and with regard to the number of issues that we tried to deal with. I'm pleased to provide a summary of discussions and recommendations with respect to those issues of largest interest and concern to the north and its residents.

With respect to aboriginal justice issues, Ministers agreed that the justice system has failed and is failing aboriginal peoples, particularly in failing to take a holistic, multi-disciplinary and healing approach. The Ministers agreed that the values of aboriginal people must be reflected in the justice system and governments must work with aboriginal communities on community-based crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives.

The Young Offenders Act was a matter of concern with all Ministers. The present government campaigned on the red book and promises contained in it which included: to increase penalties to young offenders for first and second degree murder, for up to ten and seven years respectively; to expand provisions for transfer of young offenders to adult court; and to allow correction officials to determine the length of closed custody incarcerations.

Some of these proposals caused considerable discussion and differences of opinion. It was recommended that the federal government introduce a spring bill with amendments which had consensus support while amendments lacking consensus should be referred to a broader review process, by way of a parliamentary committee.

The preliminary inquiry has always been an integral part of the criminal process. However, all Ministers were unanimous that the preliminary inquiry should be drastically curtailed, if not altogether abolished. Ministers agreed that this criminal procedure can be replaced by other means for disclosure of evidence. Such a reform could save significant court time and witness costs, we believe up to 20 to 30 per cent in most jurisdictions. All of us agreed and urged the federal Minister to implement this reform as soon as possible.

Violence in Canada and Canadian society was also an agenda topic. Saskatchewan outlined the essential features of its proposed Victims of Domestic Violence Act. The act gives statutory sanction to mechanisms for emergency and other intervention,

particularly for spouses who have been assaulted by someone in the immediate family and who need an urgent remedy. I will forward a copy of this proposed act to the interdepartmental committee that is formulating a violence strategy for the north, for its information and consideration.

A national strategy on community safety and crime prevention is being developed by Canada. To ensure a consistent and coordinated approach, Canada is proposing the establishment of a national crime prevention council. The Department of Justice will monitor proposals for the development of such a council, to ensure its mandate and representations reflects the reality of the Northwest Territories. We all agreed, as Ministers, that it was important that the momentum for reform should not be lost and proposed a follow-up conference in the fall of this year.

I also had an opportunity, as I said last week, to meet with the Minister of Justice, Allan Rock, the evening before the conference and discussed justice issues and concerns particular to the Northwest Territories. Ethel Blond-Andrew, the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, was in attendance. It had some very important results.

With respect to the firearms acquisition certificate, Canada had proposed that the Criminal Code amendments relating to the mandatory firearms training program be proclaimed in the Northwest Territories on April 1 of 1994. Such proclamation would have compelled anyone who wanted to acquire firearms to take a course and pass an examination in order to obtain the firearm acquisition certificate. The course and examination are, in the view of my department, not reflective of the requirements of the north and its residents, and should be significantly modified.

In addition, neither the Northwest Territories government or Canada had a system for delivery of this program. As a result of representations made to the Minister of Justice, Canada has postponed implementation of this program...

---Applause

...until September 1 of 1994.

---Applause

Considerations indicate that the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories should have a fourth judge

appointed to it in the foreseeable future. I advised the federal Minister that it was the view of this government that a new judge appointed to the Supreme Court should be required to reside in a community situated within Nunavut.

---Applause

The federal Minister indicated he would be prepared to give favourable consideration recommending to the Prime Minister

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that a chief justice of the Supreme Court be named. I requested that such a recommendation be delayed until decision and appointment of a fourth judge was made.

Lastly, as Members know, responsibility for the administration of criminal justice in the north rests with the Minister of Justice for Canada. Again I asked the Honourable Allan Rock if Canada was prepared to consider discussions as to the feasibility of transferring or devolving such responsibility to this government in the foreseeable future. Without predicting possible or likely results, the Minister said he was prepared to enter into such discussions. Mr. Rock indicated a desire to initiate these discussions here in the Northwest Territories. Accordingly, I will be inviting Mr. Rock to visit the Northwest Territories within the next few months to commence what I hope will be positive and productive discussions in this area. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Applause

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Congratulating Junior Curlers At National Championships

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and congratulations to the eight junior curlers and their two coaches for their excellent representation of the territories at the

Canadian Pepsi junior national curling championships, which just concluded in Truro, Nova Scotia this past week.

The junior women's team of Tara Hamer, Kerry Koe, Kim Barraclough and Sheena Yakaleya won five games and lost six. With a little bit of luck, they easily could have made the play-off round. They curled excellently and demonstrated a big improvement over last year's showing. This team has a very good future. This team was coached by Ernie Comerford.

The junior men's team was skipped by Kevin Koe and was supported by Jamie Koe, Kevin Whitehead and Mark Whitehead and coached by George Gibson. They finished the round robin play in first place with a record of eight wins and three losses. This ensured them a spot in the final championship game. This game was played on Saturday afternoon and was televised by CBC Sports. Madam Speaker, in that game, and after the final stone was played by skip Kevin Koe, an unfortunate incident happened. The officials ruled against our Northwest Territories team, which denied them the Canadian championship.

However, in my mind, and I believe in the minds of the majority of the people across Canada who watched the game, our boys won that game.

---Applause

Given that they lost by a technicality, I know these boys can hold their heads up high because they are truly champions, in the true sense of the word. They demonstrated class, sportsmanship, excellent curling skills and a professional attitude. I believe many of us have tried all of our lives to be able to do what these boys showed us in front of a national audience.

---Applause

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. As the Minister of recreation had mentioned, Kevin Koe won the award as the all star skip, which was voted on by all the players and coaches at the tournament, for his play during the week. Our two

coaches, Mr. George Gibson and Mr. Ernie Comerford, won the 3M awards for excellence in coaching at this national event. This award is given to coaches who demonstrate dedication, commitment, sportsmanship and many other qualities which they need to coach junior athletes.

My congratulations go out to these champions. They thank all the northerners and all the people across Canada who expressed their support either through phone calls, faxes or other methods. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Tobacco Tax In The NWT

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as Members are aware, I went to Montreal last week to bring my wife and new son Tyler back to Yellowknife.

---Applause

I am happy to say we arrived back on Saturday evening as a complete family. Being a typical proud father, I had planned to carry on the long-standing tradition of handing out cigars to celebrate Tyler's safe, if early, arrival. So when I passed a cigar store in Montreal, I stopped in and picked up some cigars.

Now, Madam Speaker, I know there has been some concern expressed in this House of late, since the federal government and Quebec have reduced the tax on tobacco products, that there might be an enticement to smuggle tobacco products from Quebec into the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, I just want to assure both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice that it was not my intent to avoid paying taxes when I purchased the cigars in Montreal.

In fact, Madam Speaker, I have checked with the Department of Finance and obtained a copy of the relevant section of the Tobacco Tax Act. I found that 60 per cent of the retail price is

the tax rate per cigar. I also found that every person who resides in the NWT who bring cigars in for personal consumption or to give away, which is also covered in the act, interestingly, "shall immediately report the matter in writing to the Minister and she will supply the Minister with the invoice and all other pertinent information required by the Minister in respect of the consumption or use of the tobacco and shall pay to the Government of the Northwest Territories the same tax in respect to the consumption and use of the tobacco as would have been payable if the tobacco had been purchased in the NWT."

Interestingly, Madam Speaker, I also understand that no other individual has ever asked for this information.

---Laughter

---Applause

Madam Speaker, I have the invoice for the cigars, along with my cheque made out to the Government of the Northwest Territories, which I will now ask a page to deliver to the Premier to hand onto the Minister of Finance, please.

---Laughter

---Applause

Madam Speaker, with regard to the tobacco tax, I would like to make it clear that I support the principle of increasing tobacco taxes in order to cut consumption.

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Speaker, in fact, given the risk to people's health, I would urge all who might receive one of the cigars that I am passing out to recognize that it is done only as part of a long-standing tradition, and it isn't necessary to actually smoke them. I would be quite pleased, in fact, if the cigars I handed out were merely saved by recipients as mementos of this special occasion.

Madam Speaker, I understand that if amendments to the tobacco tax are not passed by the end of this week, the price of cigarettes and other tobacco products sold in the NWT will drop significantly on April 1. I am concerned that amendments have not yet been introduced and I urge the Premier to ask the Minister of Finance to move quickly to introduce such amendments. There are only a few days left before the end of this month. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Opening Of Facilities In Rankin Inlet

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to advise Members about the opening of the Ivalu Arts and Crafts facility and the Keewatin Meat and Fish Plant this weekend in Rankin Inlet.

The opening of these facilities was a celebration of the elders of our community who have worked so hard and so diligently to ensure the success of these projects. Among the elders who participated in the openings were Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Taparti, Mrs. Louisa Kaludjak, Arsene Paniyuk, Mr. and Mrs. Karlik, and Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Ittinuar.

It was the elders of our community who recognized that the skills and dedication of the crafts people, hunters and fishermen of the Keewatin region earned the potential in creating world-class products. I know that Mr. Lewis is familiar with the quality of the meat and fish from Rankin because he seems to keep asking me for more. I also understand that Mr. Koe had the opportunity to serve Keewatin meat and fish products when he travelled to southern Canada recently at the games.

---Applause

I am confident that the new clothing product lines that have now been introduced by Ivalu will be equally sought after by yourself, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would also like to publicly compliment the crafts people and the elders of Pangnirtung. They created extraordinary hand decorated exterior signs for the two buildings. I believe this signage is an exciting new product that makes full use of the local

skills of residents of that community, and the product will successfully compete with southern-made signages.

Madam Speaker, these facilities were tendered on a design/build and were constructed on time, under budget by local contractors. It should also be noted that the Keewatin Fish and Meat is the only licensed integrated meat and fish plant in the Northwest Territories.

Madam Speaker, my constituents and I are very excited about the employment possibilities that these two facilities will present to Keewatin people. I am confident that not only will Ivalu and Keewatin Meat and Fish provide ongoing employment to close to 20 to 30 people, but will also play an important role in enhancing the incomes of crafts people, fishermen and hunters in the Keewatin region. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Kitikmeot Youth Conference

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the week of March 21 to 24, 21 youths representing all Kitikmeot communities held a conference in Cambridge Bay to discuss concerns and issues which affect them. They discussed matters such as AIDS, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse; matters which have been discussed previously and continue to

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Madam Speaker, after having had the opportunity to meet with the Kitikmeot youth on March 23, albeit it for only one hour, I have gained a respect for their views on issues. I committed to pursuing their issues and concerns, just as I would for any other legitimate group or organization. These youths have passed resolutions which request funding for youth initiatives such as recreational activities, drop-in centres, counselling services and generally to provide funds to allow them the opportunity to address their own concerns.

Madam Speaker, I urge our government to identify the adequate funding to ensure the issues and concerns of youth throughout the NWT are addressed, by

supporting their meetings and by following up on resolutions as a result of their meetings. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Re Child Sexual Abuse

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to speak today on a subject that is both heavy and painful to many people in the Arctic. It has to do with child sexual abuse.

We are all aware, through media reports and statistics, that child sexual abuse is a major problem up here. I appreciate the work and courage of those who are trying to deal with the problems. I know it requires a lot of energy and causes much personal stress. We cannot ignore the issue, Madam Speaker, no matter how difficult and painful it is.

Some years ago there was a teacher in Resolute Bay who none of the parents suspected of doing anything wrong. We would not be aware today if the children did not tell us themselves what he was doing. Apparently, Madam Speaker, this teacher was, among other things, making the young children undress while taking pornographic pictures of them. I do not know what he did with the pictures, but to this day his actions have had a lasting effect on these children. The victims, who are now young adults, still feel the confusion, shame and pain. This, of course, has also affected their families in a negative way.

The reasons I am saying this is to ensure that we are doing everything possible to counsel and help the victims. We are all aware that child sexual abuse cannot treat itself if the vicious circle is not stopped.

I would like to put the Minister of Social Services on notice that I will be asking her questions later on this week to see if her department is doing everything possible to help victims of child sexual abuse. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Junior
Curlers And MLA And Media Hockey Teams

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like, today, to talk about two sporting events that took place over the weekend. The first was the magnificent performance of our junior men and women's curling teams. The Kevin Koe team and the Tara Hamer team. They showed a skill in curling that did us all proud. I think, more importantly, they showed tremendous grace under pressure.

I watched the junior men's match, and the shot that Kevin Koe made, the double knockout in the tenth end. When you talk about a pressure shot, he pulled off an unbelievable pressure shot. They actually won the eleventh end with another pressure shot. One of those ironies of sports is that sometimes things don't happen the way they should happen. These kids had to deal with a tremendous disappointment. They handled it with tremendous grace under pressure, and I think all of us in the Northwest Territories were extremely proud of how these kids handled an unbelievable disappointment because for a second they had it and then it was taken from them.

So I think all the people of Yellowknife and the territories owe a great vote of thanks to both teams and I think they really made people across the country very aware of the sort of place that we have up here and the sort of people we produce in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Another sporting event took place on Friday, which I also attended. Our MLAs' hockey team lost a triple-overtime heartbreaker to the media.

We had an opportunity here for a number of Members to be heroes. For a while it looked like Donnie Morin, who scored two goals, would be the hero, and his opportunity was taken away with one second left. The media scored to tie the game. In the shootout, Paul Jones scored a brilliant goal. In the media's last effort, they tied it up. Paul lost his opportunity to be a hero. And then the most unlikely prospect to be a hero was Kelvin Ng...

---Laughter

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---Applause

...who scored a goal in the second overtime shootout but, again, the media managed to score on their last opportunity, and our team, unfortunately, lost the game eight to seven.

But, as I look around, I want to salute a lot of almost-heroes here in our House.

---Laughter

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

Member's Statement On Congratulating Junior
Curlers And Their Parents

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to continue the expression of our pride in some young people -- some young role models now, I think, for the Northwest Territories.

I know that we have said a lot of good things about them, and I know that my colleague, Mr. Koe, who I have had the opportunity to curl against and curl with over the past number of years, ought to be very proud as a parent for the representation of his young children on behalf of the people of the north.

But I wanted to say that, sometimes, in this House, we have a tendency of maybe demanding a great deal from those who sit in this Chamber, and I don't think that Mr. Koe and his family and other parents who left the Northwest Territories should feel that they had a greater responsibility to the jobs that they had. Rather, I am proud of the fact that Mr. Koe and Linda, the Whiteheads, the Hamers and the Barracloughs, are the parents who actually went to see their children, because I think they were probably a great deal of support when that support was needed by the athletes...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

...and I think that it is sometimes an area that we overlook. I think we ought to be proud of the

representation that all the parents made on our behalf. Particularly, I don't think our colleague, Mr. Koe, needs to have any more campaign buttons or pictures posted, because they ran enough pictures of him on TV...

---Laughter

...you know, with the flag there, every time they made a great shot. I also wanted to say that, if anybody noticed in the game, there were other people from across the country from other provinces who were actually sitting with the Northwest Territories delegation, cheering for the Northwest Territories team, and I think that is probably the result of the convincing of our colleague and probably a number of the other parents.

So, with that, Madam Speaker, I wanted to pay tribute to the parents who went to Truro. Without their support, the situation that occurred may have been far more difficult than was experienced by those young athletes. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on March 21, 1994, regarding provisions for transportation for handicapped people.

The transportation assistance available to handicapped people from the Department of Social Services is limited to funds for local transportation needs through the chauffeur assistance program. Local transportation expenses are intended to cover taxi costs and similar forms of local transportation. The department does not have a program specifically to provide for the purchase of snow machines and ATVs for handicapped people. Madam Speaker, I have a second return, if I may.

MADAM SPEAKER:

(Microphone turned off)

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudluk on March 21, 1994, regarding Social Services programs available in small communities. In the smaller communities of the Northwest Territories, in addition to the transportation allowance, when required, persons who are disabled and unable to work are entitled to an extra \$125.00 per month above the basic social assistance rate. Home support services are also available through a referral from the health centre to Social Services. This service, delivered by local home makers, provides assistance with household chores and personal care as required. Home maker relief for family care-givers may also be available in the home if it is needed. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 388-12(5): Telephone Services To Small Communities

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Antoine on March 25, 1994, on telephone services to small communities. On January 20, 1994, the deputy minister of Public Works and Services met with Mr. Tavner, chairman of the board of NorthwesTel, and Mr. Dunbar, president of NorthwesTel, to discuss telephone service in the smaller NWT communities and the possibilities for future projects. NorthwesTel must prepare a service extension plan for the unserved and under-served communities as part of last fall's CRTC ruling. This plan must be filed by June 20,

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1994. The department will review the plan before determining its next steps. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 391-12(5): Gymnasium For School In Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. Madam Speaker, during my visit home a month and a half ago, I had the opportunity to talk to the community education council, together with the school principal. Subsequently, I received a letter from the community education council -- Mr. Sam Inaksajak -- and the school principal, regarding a very important subject matter to the community. It is my understanding from the meeting and from the letter that, some time in 1996-97, the government system is planning to expand the community's school, and they are requesting that a gymnasium be added to that community. My question to the honourable Minister is, does the honourable Minister have any formal request from the community to add to the gymnasium when the community school is being expanded in 1996-97? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 391-12(5): Gymnasium For School In Pelly Bay

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I haven't personally received any requests for that matter, however, I do want to indicate to the honourable Member that part of our long-term planning could consider the request that is made by the community that he's indicated.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 391-12(5): Gymnasium For School In Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Supplementary, to the same Minister, I would like to thank the Minister for stating that there may be a plan to add a gymnasium

to the school. My supplementary to the same Minister is, can the Minister assure the community's education council and the hamlet of Pelly Bay that he will, in fact, make a gymnasium addition to the school in Pelly Bay? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 391-12(5): Gymnasium For School In Pelly Bay

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to say to the honourable Member that it is difficult for me to indicate yes or no at this particular time. I want to inform the honourable Member that the divisional board in the region he represents has been very constructive in the way they've been doing business with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and I don't see any reason why we can't work out a solution to the concern that the honourable Member has raised in this House.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 392-12(5): Status Of GNWT's Response To Special Committee On Health And Social Services Report

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Premier. On Friday, March 18, the Premier, in a Minister's statement, advised the House that she would be tabling the government's response to the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services within a week. I note that more than a week has passed since the 18th. I was wondering if the Premier could advise this House when we will see that response tabled?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 392-12(5): Status Of GNWT's Response To Special Committee On Health And Social Services Report

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, tomorrow. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier, in my Member's statement, I talked about a youth conference held in the Kitikmeot. It is a sign of our youth becoming more active in trying to address some of their needs and wishes. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for youth, who I believe is Ms. Mike, what type of funding is available to support youth initiatives in the Northwest Territories.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The funding for youth initiatives is available for specific conferences, like the one the Member indicated in his Member's statement. One-time funding is provided for other programs, such as groups who are taking out-on-the-land courses. They are handled on a case-by-case basis in the department. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

MR. NG:

Thank you. I would like to ask, then, are there adequate resources available to hold regional annual

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conferences for youth throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Funding available now for youth initiatives has lapsed. In the past, there weren't large amounts. My department and myself have been having ongoing talks evaluating to see if some of our program funding is adequate to address all the needs in the NWT. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, then, is there also funding available to operate facilities that may be established to support some youth in their initiatives? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 393-12(5): Funding For Youth Initiatives In NWT

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Youth initiatives funding is available for one-time costs and start-up costs for youth programs. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 394-12(5): Changes To Preliminary Inquiries In The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. I listened with interest to the Minister's comments on preliminary inquiries. This discussion has taken place for many years and there

has been a consensus a couple of times before among federal/provincial/territorial Ministers. The problem has always been that there is some very strong opposition to changing that fundamental part of the system. I totally agree with the Minister, it is costly and it victimizes the victims again. But, I think the Minister will find out that there might be some reluctance to change it.

Would the Minister suggest to the federal Minister that if it is difficult right now to change it for the whole country, he might offer the Northwest Territories as a test area where they can try it for a couple of years? We already offer, as the Minister knows, full disclosure here by the prosecution to the defence lawyers.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 394-12(5): Changes To Preliminary Inquiries In The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the Ministers all agreed that reform should take place. It appears that Ontario, which has the largest percentage of lawyers resident in this country -- something in excess of 20,000 -- is the most reluctant to proceed with this in an expeditious manner. We hope that, in spite of the possible loss of 20,000 votes, the Government of Ontario will throw its weight behind this reform. We're almost unanimous in agreement that this reform should take place.

The lobby against it is primarily from, of all places, the legal profession. The objections and reservations have not been clearly articulated, at least to me. I do know that those who appear to gain the most from this rather cumbersome process are also the least enthusiastic about the abolition of it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 394-12(5): Changes To Preliminary Inquiries In The NWT

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's right. A simple element of this is that some defence lawyers have historically provided the most opposition to it. I'll ask the question again. If the opposition is strong enough

to prevent this initiative from happening on a national level, would our Minister offer the Northwest Territories as a jurisdiction where there could be a test run for how this could actually work? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 394-12(5): Changes To Preliminary Inquiries In The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I was perhaps indirectly suggesting that we should stick to the first approach. While we have near unanimous consent to proceed with the abolition of the preliminary inquiry, we should maintain that approach. If all else fails, then the Member's suggestion could be considered. But, that would be way of a lame hand offering help at a very late stage of defeat, and they may or may not be open to suggestions on that. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Safety a question. In view of the fact that there was an accident at Colomac Mine over the weekend, does the government automatically inspect this facility to make sure that no safety measures have been overlooked?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Nerysoo.

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Return To Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, the normal practice is we generally immediately inspect the situation that has occurred.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate this would be the normal practice, but can the Minister confirm that his department has gone into Colomac to see the nature of the problem?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can't confirm that. I was aware of the situation this morning, but I have not heard from the department as to whether they had sent in their safety inspectors.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

MR. LEWIS:

Since there are people who many of us know who work in that facility, would the Minister then make a commitment to get back to us on this issue?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 395-12(5): Safety Inspection Of Colomac Mine After Fire

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, I will.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 396-12(5): Inspection Of Sprinkler System At Colomac Mine

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for safety, under whose jurisdiction I believe the fire marshal comes. One of the reports indicated that it was a failure of the sprinkler systems. I know the department is quite anxious to see more sprinkler systems installed in commercial and industrial buildings. It's quite important, I think, for people who are going to be taking direction from the fire office that they know sprinkler systems do work, and I do believe they do. It may not have been a failure, but it may have been inadequate. I wonder if the Minister would have his department examine, very carefully,

that part of the fire protection in order to ensure the public that sprinkler systems are not at fault in a situation like this.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 396-12(5): Inspection Of Sprinkler System At Colomac Mine

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I'm not certain if the matter is related to the matter in Colomac. I'll certainly check the facts out and inform the honourable Member as to the real circumstances of that particular incident.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Communications. Madam Speaker, some time ago I asked the honourable Minister regarding apprenticeship programs in the territories which is not working in the remote communities. At that time, the honourable Minister indicated to me that he would

look into the policy. I would like to ask the Minister what is the status of this policy? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. I apologize, Madam Speaker, to the honourable Member. I got everything except the matter that he raised on the policy issue.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, would you clarify your question.

Question 397-12(5): Policy On Apprenticeship Programs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, some time ago I asked the honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding the apprenticeship program within the NWT government. At that time, the concern that I raised was regarding the program not working in the small communities. It is not designed for small communities because in small communities we do not have qualified electricians, qualified plumbers and so on. My question to the honourable Minister is what is the status of the policy in the system? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 397-12(5): Policy On Apprenticeship Programs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The whole matter of the qualifications for apprenticeship programs generally remains the same. However, I do want to indicate to Members of this House that the initiative that has been undertaken by my colleague, the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Minister of Public Works and Services, along with myself in dealing with the whole matter of construction, which allows us now to use construction projects to encourage people in the communities to get into certain trades areas.

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First of all, to get a general idea of trades, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and then to move from there into more specific training programs.

But, generally speaking, we are looking long term and not just at the short term. Once communities decide to participate with us, it's our commitment to try to work out an arrangement on a yearly basis that will allow us to seeing skilled trades people in smaller communities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 397-12(5): Policy On Apprenticeship Programs

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My supplementary to the same Minister is, since the profound concern is coming from the hamlet council of Pelly Bay, I would like to ask the honourable Minister if he would send his apprenticeship officer, some time in the near future, to that community and perhaps attend a meeting to explain about the program. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 397-12(5): Policy On Apprenticeship Programs

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Certainly, I will advise the appropriate staff to accommodate the request of the honourable Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Social Services. Madam Speaker, in an early January letter to the Status of Women Council,

which was copied to all MLAs, the Minister of Social Services advised that she had instructed the deputy minister to develop a human resource plan and a process for providing better support to workers over the next year. Madam Speaker, can the Minister advise the House on the status of this human resource plan?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will have to provide the Member, at a later date, with this information. The information that I have received is that we're going to have another regional superintendents of Social Services meeting this upcoming month. That may be one of the things that is going to be finalized. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I recognize that the Minister said she would get back to us with a more detailed answer. Will she commit to provide that this week?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the Member is asking me to provide this House with the plan, I think I already said that we've been having our regional superintendents involved in these planning sessions to get their input, and their next meeting will be next month. At that time, I will be able to provide a better picture for the Member as to how the plan will look. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just for clarity, perhaps I could indicate to the Minister that what I'm looking for is a report on the status of the policy. In other words, what stage the development of the policy is at right now, when we can expect the policy to be completed. I would hope that the Minister would be able to give us that sort of time line on the development of the policy this week, and not have to wait until the House is out of session next month when the regional directors meet.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your question was somewhat vague, it was more of a comment with regard to that. You did pose two questions in there, although you know a supplementary only allows for one. So, can I ask you to rephrase it and pose your supplementary question.

Supplementary To Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the Minister please advise if she will commit to get back to this House, this week, with a timetable for the development of the policy?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 398-12(5): Status Of Social Services Human Resource Plan

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly will do that.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

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ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Lewis' Reply

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Out of respect to Members, I will not keep you long, but I do have a few things to say, Madam Speaker. Lately, I've noticed the energy that characterized this Assembly over the first two years of its mandate has been somewhat diminished. It could have been the effect of this very brutal winter we've just endured or it could be that Members now realize that the next general election is only one and a half years away and they've become very, very thoughtful.

Perhaps they can't decide whether they should rest on their accomplishments and not risk making huge mistakes, or to keep the really hot issues until a month or so closer to election time. Anyway, Madam Speaker, I sense there's a lull and people are waiting for something to happen. Although I have some belief in fate and luck, I also believe that needed changes can be made to happen if people want them to happen.

I've been a Member of this Legislative Assembly for six and a half years and have spent a total of more than 30 years in some form of public service in the Northwest Territories. Over that period of time, I believe I've been a very good observer and have found ways of expressing things that go on around me in a clear fashion. The crisis facing governments everywhere, Madam Speaker, is the loss of public trust. It is clear to me that the public wants to be more meaningfully involved in the democratic process than the month or so leading up to a general election.

This was driven home to me by the number of inquiries I got from the public prior to the referendum on the Charlottetown accord. Those were busy days for all of us and, of course, we can all recall our own plebiscites on division. The public was interested and very much involved. As a territorial MLA, I find little comfort to hear, very frequently, on the streets that the territorial government has no legitimacy, that it has no real accountability, and that it is an interim government that will very soon disappear. This, Madam Speaker, is just not from aboriginal people. It is a much more general sentiment than we are, perhaps, aware of.

I've fought two territorial elections. In both elections, I promised to work hard for some form of government that will represent all northern citizens. My main interest over the past six years has been one thing,

Madam Speaker, and that one thing is accountability. I haven't done a very good job of expressing my concern about this issue since Members, for some reason, don't want to talk about it. It's about accountability that I wish to talk today.

Bluntly stated, Madam Speaker, this government has no real accountability. As long as there continues to be no accountability, the public will continue to be cynical about whose interests are being served in this Legislative Assembly. People are going to continue to question, whose government is this? Is it really a public government or is it just a government of MLAs?

For ten years, there's been much talk about the evolution of the consensus style of government to make it more accountable. Even minor changes, such as conducting voting for Premier and Cabinet by MLAs and the public was not easily agreed to by Members. Some who are still here will recall that. There was initial hostility to the idea that we should be doing what had been done in private in public. We seem to be much more attached to the idea that we should use the system used to elect popes, where we did it in a little back room and we blew a puff of smoke when we chose our Premier.

Since the passage of the Nunavut Act and the realization that the western part of the Northwest Territories will soon evolve separately, changes must be made to the current system of government if it is going to be acceptable to the public. One change often advocated, following the example of the Dene, is to have the Premier of the Northwest Territories elected by popular vote. It is only by having the Premier elected in this fashion that the public will have the opportunity to vote on competing views of government. It provides legitimacy and accountability to government if it is formed, following some process of public approval. The current system has no form of public approval and will remain illegitimate unless this is somehow remedied.

I shall, today, table a document outlining how this could be achieved. Members will recall that I tabled another document recently outlining the technical problems in electing a leader by popular vote. I intend to table a document which places two options before Members. One is the municipal model that is used to choose aldermen and mayors and one is a modification of the system that we currently use in this Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I should add that although I'm tabling this document, it reflects the thinking of many

Members of this Assembly, both past and present. Talk will go nowhere, however, unless the ideas of Members are put onto paper so that discussion can take place in response to a concrete proposal. We talk continually about reshaping northern government. The process will be absolutely meaningless unless the basic problem of accountability is solved.

I know some Members and some politicians enjoy the status quo. It gives each MLA a vote in choosing a Premier and Cabinet. Yet, this is precisely why there is no accountability. As long as Members insist on choosing Premier and Ministers and making up the whole agenda as they go along, the image of instability, incoherence, lack of vision, and all those words will persist. I made it clear that it is my interest in preserving some form of public government, and this is what drew me into politics in the first place, because I could see it was in trouble.

I believe it is essential for the well-being of all northerners that we address the accountability issue. Unless we do so, this public government will die a slow death. The federal government is hearing the same message, much more clearly now than ever before. The voices they here are these: We want nothing to do with the territorial government; it has no legitimacy; and it is not accountable anyway. It makes it very simple for the federal government to make cuts to housing, to fail to pay medical bills, to place a cap on the GDP for our financial agreement and so on. It makes it very, very simple to say there are all kinds of uncertainty and we will play it by ear.

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Madam Speaker, we must solve the accountability issue. It is no longer good enough that the public can see our Territorial Leadership Committee on television. It is not good enough that they can hear the same messages from leadership candidates on television as MLAs do in the leadership debates. They should be able to make their own choices, on the basis of competing visions of what government does or plans to do. The longer we delay this, the more vulnerable we will get, the weaker we will appear to the federal government and the less likelihood that public government will survive.

I urge Members not to sweep this issue of accountability under the carpet in the same way we did in Cambridge Bay. The longer this issue is delayed, the deeper in the mud, in my opinion, this government will sink.

I wish to raise one more issue of accountability, and that is recall. If we are to reshape northern government, we must look at the devices of direct democracy which keep people in touch with their government. Members should be reminded that they do not have a guaranteed annual income for four or five years. They should be aware that they are always accountable. Probably the single most persuasive reason for recall in the Northwest Territories was the adoption of a code of conduct by the legislature and the introduction of a motion by Mr. Kakfwi on zero tolerance towards violence. If these initiatives are to have any meaning, there should be some mechanism to enforce their provisions.

Recall is a political instrument that can be used for a wide variety of purposes to recall a Member who has lost the trust of the electorate. There is no more basic form of accountability than this, which would apply to all MLAs. I believe that these two elements, direct election of the Premier by the people and the subjection of all MLAs to potential recall by the people, would go a long way to making the Government of the Northwest Territories a public government which all northerners would recognize and respect as their government.

It frustrates me a little, Madam Speaker, that we have a mass of people working on reshaping northern government, yet no one, not a soul, is working on the basic issue of accountability, which is what government is all about. Unless you have accountability, you don't have a legitimate government. If this government is to survive in any form, that problem has to be fixed. If this public government of ours fails, it will be our fault, since we did nothing to make it acceptable to the public we serve even though the problem has been staring us in the face for many, many years. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a petition. It is actually a copy of a petition to the honourable David

Dingwall, the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, from the Kikitak Housing Corporation in Gjoa Haven. There are 128 signatures here. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Mr. Ningark, in reviewing your petition, it is to a federal Minister and carbon copied to our Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. It should be placed under tabled documents as opposed to petitions. Petitions, under our rules, only allow for petitions to our government or this Assembly. Thank you.

Item 9, petitions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central, Ms. Mike.

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have Petition 6-12(5) from the community of Clyde River, with 75 signatures, regarding the high prices of infant formulas and Pampers.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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 Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bill 18

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Finance has reviewed Bill 18, Write-Off Of Debts Act, 1993-94, and wishes to report that Bill 18 is now ready for the committee of the whole. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Report On Bill 10

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to report to the Assembly on the Standing Committee on Legislation's

review of Bill 10, An Act to Repeal the Metric Conversion Act. I wish to report that Bill 10 is now ready for the committee of the whole.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Pursuant to rule 70(5), Bills 10 and 18 are now ready and ordered into committee of the whole. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 53-12(5) which is a document called Improving Accountability, which I would also like to add to the documents prepared for the Caucus meeting.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 54-12(5). It is a letter from Kikitak Housing Corporation in Gjoa Haven regarding the community of Gjoa Haven's concern over the

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federal housing Minister's budget cut in aboriginal social housing projects. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 55-12(5) the resolutions passed at the Kitikmeot youth conference held March 21-24 in Cambridge Bay.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have a couple of documents I would like to table in this House.

Tabled Document 56-12(5) is from Terry Sieffert, project specialist, Kitikmeot Community Economic Development Organization from Taloyoak. It is regarding a business development centre in Taloyoak.

Tabled Document 57-12(5) is from the Pelly Bay Community Education Council. The community would like to have a gymnasium added to the school when the school is extended in 1996-97. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion 25-12(5): Appointments To The Advisory Committee On Social Housing, Carried

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

WHEREAS, the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing were amended by Motion 15-12(5);

AND WHEREAS, the terms of reference now require that two alternate Members be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that, notwithstanding rule 88(2), the honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson, and the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, be appointed as alternate Members to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Madam Premier.

ITEM 16: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Tobacco Tax Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your seconder is not in the House. Madam Premier, if you would name another seconder.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the Member for Sahtu.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 19 has had first reading. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Madam Premier.

ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 20: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, No. 2

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the second time. Madam Speaker, this bill amends the Income Tax Act to provide that the refundable

income tax credit for individuals is not available to trusts, estates or individuals who earn business income in the territories but reside outside the territories on the last day of the taxation year.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 20 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to committee. Item 17, second reading of bills. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I wish to request consent to move to second reading of Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 19. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Madam Premier.

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Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Tobacco Tax Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the second time. Madam Speaker, this bill amends the Tobacco Tax Act to change the rate of tax. The bill requires an importer of tobacco, other than a person who is a collector, to obtain an import permit and allow searches for and seizures of tobacco in smaller quantities. The bill makes it an offence for a person other than a collector to import tobacco without a permit, or for any person to possess tobacco that is stamped, marked, sealed or labelled for sale in another jurisdiction. The bill also changes references

from Comptroller General to Minister, and makes other minor, technical changes. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Sahtu, did you want to speak.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 17, second reading of bills. Bill 19 and Bill 20 have had second reading and accordingly those bills stand referred to a committee. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act; Committee Report 2-12(5), Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates; Minister's Statement 5-12(5), Session Business; Tabled Document 1-12(5), Towards an NWT Mineral Strategy; Tabled Document 2-12(5), Building and Learning Strategy; and, Tabled Document, 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to recommend the committee consider Bill 1, Committee Report 2-12(5) and Tabled Document 34-12(5). If we conclude those items, I recommend we move on to Bill 12.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent is suggesting we deal with Bill 1, Committee Report 2-12(5) and Tabled Document 34-

12(5), then Bill 12. Do we have the agreement of committee that we do this? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I meant to include in that that we should continue with Renewable Resources when we get to dealing with the budget and the committee report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Are we agreed?

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. Ningark):

Thank you. It is my understanding that the Chairs' Liaison Committee is going to be meeting during the break, so we will take a 15 minute break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will now come to order. Mr. Kakfwi, do you have any introductory remarks on behalf of your department, Renewable Resources?

Department Of Renewable Resources

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The harvest of fish, fur, wildlife and forests has sustained our people for thousands of years. As well as meeting subsistence needs for many, if not most, aboriginal people, the use of renewable resources has provided economic opportunities. Last year, for instance, more than 4,000 seasonal jobs employed fishermen and fish plant processing workers, guides and outfitters, trappers and wood cutters, forest fire fighters and tree planters. Additional employment was generated through meat processing, retail outlets and arts and crafts production.

I strongly believe that many more opportunities exist in this economic sector. That is why we have developed our new renewable resource development strategy. I would like to highlight how this strategy is guiding the department's 1994-95 activities.

Identifying economic opportunities is only one part of renewable resource development. You also need to know how many trees and animals there are, and how productive they are, to ensure the harvest is sustainable. That is why departmental staff spend a lot of time and money conducting these studies. As often as possible, local people are hired to conduct or assist in this work. Based on the information collected, subsistence needs are assessed and met before commercial quotas are established.

After determining the productivity and quantity of resources, co-management agreements can be developed in consultation with the harvesters. These agreements identify exactly how people want to use the resources and what studies or work need to be done to keep harvests sustainable.

The process used to develop our polar bear co-management agreements is being seen as a model around the world of how to provide users with a voice in management. We are following a similar approach in developing other co-management

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agreements, for example, in Liard with forestry, in Providence with bison, and in the central Arctic with grizzly bears. In this way, the expertise and knowledge of local residents can be included in management decisions.

A healthy economy also depends upon a healthy environment. Ensuring that northern activities do not pollute the environment is the rationale for establishing guidelines in 1994-95 for the proper management and disposal of hazardous wastes and an environmental protection policy. Environmental assessment activities, which include review of land use permits as well as project proposals, also have the same objective -- to keep the environment clean. Planning for all projects, even renewable resource development projects, such as a tannery, must consider environmental protection measures.

Once we know how many animals we have, how productive they are, and that we are doing what we can to keep their environment healthy, we can look at additional economic opportunities. One example

relates to commercial quotas for caribou and muskox. The lack of a meat inspection system in the Northwest Territories has long been recognized as a constraint to selling meat commercially. Currently, commercial quotas are larger than the commercial harvest. Options for meat inspection systems are being developed. A test muskox harvest in Cambridge Bay last year was very successful in testing some ideas for a meat inspection system suitable to northern conditions. The system is also being tried with caribou on Southampton Island. Once a meat inspection system is in place, consumer confidence in country food will grow and the demand to buy country foods will increase, hopefully.

Assuming Canada is successful in maintaining the European wild fur market, we are working to increase the value of wild furs by building on their reputation as a unique, high quality product. The increased demand should eventually lead to a higher price for our furs and more income for our harvesters. The NWT fur strategy, being released for public consultation this spring, will identify more initiatives to expand our northern fur industry.

More northern business opportunities will be created through forest management activities. Over the next two years, Fort Providence and Wrigley will be able to start small forest harvesting operations based on the inventory work that will begin this year. More tree planters will be needed, as twice as many seedlings will be planted in 1994-95.

The completion of the review of the forest fire management program has also created more northern business opportunities. We have expanded the types of forest fire management services that private industry can provide. Together with the Departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Public Works and Services, we will look at ways to increase opportunities for northern air carriers.

The renewable resource development strategy will promote the wise use of our resources. We must also ensure that they are used responsibly and this, at times, means enforcement. Wastage and illegal harvesting must not occur. The one factor that makes enforcement difficult is that we are patrolling one-third of Canada. For this reason, cooperation with communities is vital. We cannot be everywhere and people out on the land can assist by reporting incidents that may require investigation. We also must work together on the public education of responsible harvesting practices. The Department of Renewable Resources will be reviewing its

enforcement practices to determine how we can become more effective.

Mr. Chairman, I must emphasize that our renewable resource development strategy will also support subsistence activities. We intend to continue harvester assistance programs and have made it a principle that subsistence use will always override commercial use. The people of the Northwest Territories have a long history of using our resources wisely. I believe we all intend that this practice continues. I know that our future opportunities depend on maintaining a healthy environment and productive resources.

I look forward to discussing our approach to renewable resource management with you as we review the proposed activities for 1994-95. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. From the standing committee that reviewed the department, we have Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will present the Standing Committee on Finance report.

Renewable Resource Development Strategy

The Minister informed the committee in our meetings that the department is currently developing a comprehensive renewable resource development strategy. This strategy has now been tabled in the House and we will be dealing with it very shortly. We were told that the strategy will be consistent with the government's 1990 economic development strategy and will add two important elements: subsistence harvest activities and resource management activities. The proposed renewable resource development strategy will describe the value, objectives and potential initiatives within six renewable resource sectors: fur, wildlife, forests, fisheries, marine mammals and agriculture. Committee Members look forward to the opportunity to review this strategy later today.

Departmental Objectives

In the department's budget, over 30 definitive objectives were identified. In keeping with our earlier

recommendation that definitive objectives be specific, attainable, measurable, and should include milestone and target dates, we are concerned that this department's list of objectives might not be achievable. Committee Members encourage this department to thoughtfully consider their annual list of objectives and ensure they meet with the criteria recommended by the committee.

Forest Fire Management

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costs of fire suppression since the job of fighting forest fires was taken over from the federal government. It may well be that the yearly ups and downs in forest fire expenditures are balancing out over time. However, if we are continually spending more than we budget over the long run, we should know that now. We expect the Minister to respond with that cost analysis immediately, in order that the issue can be considered when the department's budget is raised in the House.

Environmental Protection

Committee Members expressed concern about the way in which the department is moving towards taking over the responsibility for environmental protection in north, such as monitoring air quality. The department must be careful not to take over tasks which are clearly the federal government's responsibility. The department must also work closely with the federal government in order to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and that the federal government carries out its legislated responsibility in the Northwest Territories. There should be no "grey areas" where neither side is clear about where the responsibility lies.

Meat Inspection

The committee is glad to see the department taking steps to control the quality of northern meat. We do caution the department, however, to avoid the possibility of creating a large bureaucracy around this activity.

Support For The Fur Industry

Committee Members support the ongoing work being carried out by the department in the area of renewable resource development, and, in particular, the fur industry in the north. We agree with the Minister's comments about the bias and unfairness

shown by animal rights activists towards this important element of northern culture.

The Minister's comments about high-quality northern furs having their value diluted by southern furs with which they're auctioned are supported by committee Members. We look forward to seeing initiatives from the department which would market NWT fur as a distinctive, high-quality product.

Committee Members are also glad to see the Minister making efforts to revive the market for seal fur. The destruction of the market by the activists has been a tremendous blow to residents of Nunavut, and restoration or replacement of that market would be a big step in the economic development of the new territory.

Environmental Studies

The committee is concerned that the department is devoting seven PYs to training positions for Renewable Resources officers in the eastern Arctic. Committee Members wonder why these cannot be trained in Arctic College as have been successfully done at Thebacha campus. We encourage the department to cooperate with Arctic College to ensure that the College's environmental technology program provides an adequately trained pool of environmental officers for both the western and eastern Arctic.

The Wildlife Act And Land Claims

Committee Members are concerned that the NWT's wildlife legislation has not been amended to take into account the changes brought about by recent land claims settlements. Further, there is concern about the incremental costs of wildlife provisions and other responsibilities resulting from land claims agreements being off-loaded onto the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation 30

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the committee recommends that the Department of Renewable Resources act quickly to amend the Wildlife Act and other necessary legislation in order to properly reflect the status of wildlife management in the north following the successful implementation of recent land claims.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the comments coming from the Standing Committee on Finance. I would now seek your permission to introduce the committee recommendation as a formal motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Proceed with the motion, Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 40-12(5): To Adopt Recommendation 30, Carried

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Renewable Resources act quickly to amend the Wildlife Act and other necessary legislation in order to properly reflect the status of wildlife management in the north following the successful implementation of recent land claims.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. 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, raise your hands. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Tabled Document 34-12(5): Tradition And Change, A Strategy For Renewable Resource Development In The NWT, February 1994

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Next on the list is Tabled Document 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994. Mr. Minister do you have opening remarks on this document?

Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will now provide some comments on the renewable resource development strategy that I mentioned earlier.

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Hunting, trapping and fishing have always been honourable occupations among our people. For thousands of years, these were the only occupations we needed to survive and in which everyone participated.

Today, we have many more choices for making a living and many of our people, especially our young people, cannot support themselves. Our government wants to review this.

In the Northwest Territories, we have an abundance of natural resources that provide many opportunities, and the challenge to our government is to help create opportunities and more opportunities encouraging people to take advantage of them in retaining these resources for our children and grandchildren to use and enjoy.

Our strategy is one step our government is taking to provide people with a choice of futures. The strategy recognizes that subsistence use can provide benefits similar to those in wage employment -- food on the table, wood to heat the house, clothing, building materials and so on.

The strategy also supports the commercial use of renewable resources. The focus of the strategy is on creating seasonal employment opportunities that are community based. I believe this approach is more suited to how our people live, especially in the smaller communities where other types of employment are few.

Through this strategy, we are examining the potential for growth in six renewable resource sectors: Wildlife, forest, fur, fisheries, agriculture and marine mammals.

We estimate that the annual value of the wildlife harvest can increase from \$37.4 million to \$57.2 million and still be sustainable. The value is based on the commercial harvest of meat, hunted/sold by outfitters, and the replacement value of meat harvested for personal use.

The potential growth results primarily from increased harvest of several abundant muskox and caribou populations. Over 400 residents are licensed guides for big game hunts, and increasing harvest could add another 100 seasonal jobs.

The forest sector is already demonstrating significant growth. In 1993-94, the value of the annual timber harvest increased from \$3 million to more than \$9 million. This growth is increasing the revenue to our

government from stumpage fees to almost \$250,000. Harvesting timber and conducting forest management programs provide over 300 seasonal jobs.

In recent years, the annual income in the fur sector has declined dramatically. We believe that this trend can be reversed. Already this year, fur prices have increased 30 per cent over last year. We are confident that we can increase fur prices even further by marketing our superior fur separately from other jurisdictions.

The first draft strategy will contain more opportunities for benefit to harvesters.

The fisheries sector has also been demonstrating growth, especially in the marine fishery. Already about 1,200 jobs exist relating to catching or processing fish and guiding sports fishermen. The challenge here is to ensure that fish harvesting remains sustainable. Through my participation in the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers, I will continue to remind the federal government of their responsibility for maintaining our fish stocks.

The agriculture and marine mammal sectors are currently valued at \$1.2 million and \$5.2 million respectively. The primary value of these two sectors is in reducing the import of food. At one time, the seal harvest provided a year-round livelihood for many people. We firmly believe that the market for seal products can be revived. Through this strategy, we will investigate options for achieving this.

The strategy contains actions that the Department of Renewable Resources intends to take over the next few years. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on proposed actions, as each sectoral strategy is released. We hope to hear, through public consultation of the individual sectoral strategies, like the NWT fur strategy, how people wish to use renewable resources and how our government can best assist them.

I'm prepared to work with Members of the Legislature to ensure that the strategy will support the needs of the constituencies. I believe the strategy is necessary to diversify and stabilize the northern economy. Its strength lies in taking advantage of what we have in our own backyard and in applying our traditional skills to develop new opportunities. We need to provide our residents with more choices and opportunities for earning a living that is suited to our unique northern cultures and resources.

I intend to work closely with my colleagues to ensure that opportunities in renewable resources are considered as part of the investing in people initiative. I will also provide Members of this Legislature with copies of the sectoral strategies, as they are prepared, so we can work together on our common future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Before we actually get into the details of the Department of Renewable Resources 1994-95 main estimates, we will discuss Tabled Document 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994. Do we have any general comments on this tabled document? I believe you have all been provided with a copy of the document. Mr. Minister, I believe you wish to have concurrence of the committee to bring in your witnesses?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that the honourable Minister bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Minister. For the record, would you please introduce the witnesses to the committee?

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is the deputy minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Joe Handley. On my right is Rick Feil, the director of finance and administration for Renewable Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To Tabled Document 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource

Development in the NWT, February 1994. Can we move on to the main estimates of the department? There are no general comments or concerns about the tabled document, Tradition and Change.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

To the 1994-95 main estimates, we are on page 12-10. Are there any general comments on the main estimates? Mr. Ng.

General Comments

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, there was an interesting broadcast on television regarding the poaching of black bear gall bladders in the United States, as a result of the high demand in foreign markets, primarily Asian markets. I would like to ask the Minister about some of the commercial quotas we have for polar bears and for barrenland grizzly bears. Has your department investigated whether there is a demand for those products as a result of hunts? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the market for bear gall bladders has been documented and publicized for a number of years now. We, as a department, do not indulge in the sale of animal parts and so do not have any response. Except to say that it is not an activity that we encourage or engage in. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister for Kitikmeot. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot, pardon me.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I'm bringing it up, Mr. Chairman, is in the broadcast they were quoting -- and I know it has to be substantiated and it may be exaggerated -- figures of about \$28,000

for an ounce of gallbladder. Obviously, if there was a market for the products of some of the animals that were taken already under commercial hunts or sports hunts, and these products are readily available, then there is substantial potential for additional economic benefits for our harvesters.

That's why I would like to ask, if the department hasn't investigated this, if they're willing to entertain looking into whether there is a market for these products? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difficulty is that we would be encouraging people to move into the area of poaching because of the amount of money that can be made by selling particular parts of an animal. It is not an activity that we want to encourage. I know that the Asian market, for instance, has a number of instances of controversial and illegal trade. Rhinoceros horns are one item. The selling of parts of the Indian and the Siberian Tigers are another. More recently, there was discussion about the sale of seal penises that grabbed the public's attention, both nationally and internationally.

It becomes very difficult to get involved in selling highly-priced parts of certain animals, because it could encourage the public to consider getting involved in those activities, much more than if we just maintain an outright ban on anyone -- including this government - getting involved in the selling of animal parts. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, then, is it currently illegal in the Northwest Territories to sell animal parts, besides hides of course, which are harvested from these commercial hunts? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I don't have an answer to that, Mr. Chairman. We would have to check.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it wasn't illegal, then I can't see a difference between selling a polar bear hide through a sports hunt for \$10,000 to \$15,000 versus selling a gall bladder that is derived from that same hunt for \$10,000 or \$15,000 or whatever the market will bear if there is a market for it. That is the point I was trying to make to the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I understand the point that the Member is making. I would suggest that, if we engage in the selling of gall bladders of black bears, for instance, we would wipe out the black bears in the Mackenzie Valley in just a number of years. There is a high price to pay in getting involved in the selling of animal parts. As the price goes up, the risk of over harvesting and poaching to the point of extinction of certain species increases. That is what the international trade on animal parts is dealing with right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question for the Minister on the five year fire suppression contract. On February 24, you said that it went to Cabinet and they should have made a decision within the next two weeks. What is happening with that? Is Kakisa part of that contract?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a new agreement that has been negotiated. Kakisa is part of that

agreement. Hopefully, we will have it signed within the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Mr. Ng's question, I don't get the Minister's answer. In Coral Harbour, there was a request made to Renewable Resources through an HTA that they were buying gall bladders for \$80 to \$90 a piece. Why is the Minister telling Mr. Ng that they are not encouraging or it is illegal to sell animal parts when you are doing that in Coral Harbour?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Perhaps we shouldn't be so categorical about it. If it is for research or scientific purposes, for instance, that is one thing. When it is for the use of an aphrodisiac or supposed medicinal purposes in the eastern Arctic and you have terribly inflated prices for parts of animals, then it becomes a real problem area.

I know that the Member says, what is the difference between selling the skin of a polar bear and selling off certain parts of it? The value of the fur is a trophy. It is kept for a few decades. A part of a polar bear, like the gall bladder, is probably consumed very quickly and the demand just increases. Pretty soon, the skin is worthless compared to specific parts of the animal. That is what is being found with certain species, like rhinoceros horns, where the demand for elephant tusks is gone to the point where these animals are on the verge of extinction. These animals are being poached relentlessly by people who don't even make \$300 a year and are being asked by people for so much money to go out and kill these animals and bring the horns or tusks back. That is the difficulty we face. It is not to say that they should be totally banned or even if it is all illegal. It is just that we have a certain point of view that, until now, has not been a problem. We could see the onset of poaching here in the Northwest Territories if we are not careful about the way that we approach these issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that it could be a problem in the open country, like the western Arctic, where you have access to anywhere where there is a road. But a remote island, like Coral Harbour, you probably can put to a specific program that it is unlikely that poachers will be flying in to start collecting... I appreciate what you are getting at, but regarding this, even if it is illegal, wherever they want to, they could fly in their helicopters and take gall bladders from polar bears from the moving ice. They could do that right now. Is this kind of question being placed so that a maximum amount of return can be had from what Mr. Ng is asking? If you have a quota on that island for the hunters with a tag, can you not make it a miniature tag or some kind of idea that, instead of wasting what could be valuable to the hunter, because hunters don't get very much, if you could help if you do it properly instead of outright banning it? Is it out of the question? Can it be discussed along that line, what is possible, controversial and what can be arranged if we do it properly or carefully?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the proper way to try to answer this question is through discussions with the various wildlife management boards that we are setting up presently. Since we are committed to the principle of co-management, we should put the question in front of the people who are asked to co-manage and see what it is. In my view, if you try to sell animal parts out of an animal that you killed for the hide and for the commercial hunter, you will wake up one day with the realization that you could literally throw the skin away because it would be almost worthless in comparison to the price of the gall bladder or an individual part of the animal, that you are better off to just forget about the wild hunt and just go after the sale of a particular animal part that you could stuff in your back pocket. Those are the dangers. I know that we feel we are isolated and we could monitor, but, as we have said, we are asked to monitor one-third of the land mass of Canada and it is huge. We cannot say with certainty that we can control poachers and illegal hunts at all. When you

are talking about the kind of money that can be made in the trade of animal parts and if the demand grows, there are some brilliant minds out there who will probably find some way to do it and to do it enough to make it worthwhile.

So it is, as I said, something that I would not encourage. Maybe the question should go to the wildlife boards, without cutting short the discussion here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

I don't know if this fits under general comments, but I have a question about section 2.6 under principles of the strategy. Can we go into that now, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Since we have not got into the details of the 1994-95 main estimates of the Department of Renewable Resources, by all means, Mr. Arvaluk, you can ask questions on the tabled document, Traditions and Change.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 2.6, line four, reads "Commercial development of renewable resources will be encouraged, where resources are surplus to domestic needs." I am not arguing with that, but section 2.6 does not really cover situations about the Sachs Harbour muskox overpopulation or the Coral Harbour caribou overpopulation. Is there any measure anywhere in this document that covers those kinds of things, so that the animals will not overpopulate themselves by means of isolation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That point points to the fact that when we get into the wildlife part of the strategy, we will be suggesting, as reflected in the various claim agreements, that the subsistence use of renewable resources will be the highest priority. If, for instance, the local domestic needs only take 500 caribou, and we estimate the

total harvest could be in the neighbourhood of 5,000 annually, then we can put the idea to the various boards that perhaps they can set a commercial quota that could create local employment and local business, a percentage that would provide for a healthy herd, one that can be harvested and still allowed to grow.

I understand there is sometimes a problem with muskox and caribou. We need to do something with these animals, otherwise they can become sick and overpopulated from lack of harvesting or predators. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, I believe that your concern is to a degree, in a broader sense, addressed under point seven of 2.6. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that this can be looked at. But we are being told right now, before the wildlife management board is recognized or active, that Coral Harbour can go ahead and start killing about -- I don't know, perhaps the Minister knows about the figure better than I -- 2,000 to 4,000 animals and if they don't start doing that, the same incident is going to occur that has occurred in Coats Island a few years back. I don't know if they got sick, but most of them starved to death there because they over grazed the island.

It is not strange or unusual, and they've probably been doing that for thousands and thousands of years. But we, who became landlords of the whole globe, don't want to see that happen because we should be able to manage the population by changing the old methods, and by providing animals for commercial products.

I understand there were 500 caribou harvested for commercial use in Rae-Edzo not too long ago. This population is not in danger of overpopulation. I haven't heard that the caribou population was in danger of overpopulation. Whereas, in Coral Harbour, you have that problem. Why didn't the department say that this population is not in danger, but they are in another area, so why don't we try to do something about it and have the commercial hunt in that area?

I guess I'm not a very good politician, but I see common sense in controlling the population at the same time, where it is needed. My question under 2.6, Mr. Chairman, is why is this kind of conservation program to control possible overpopulation not in the principle of the strategy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The caribou that the Member refers to is on Southampton Island. I am aware that the domestic annual take of caribou by Coral Harbour is about 750 animals a year. Based on our records, it is probably 200 to 300 either way. The commercial take is about 1,000 caribou a year. The actual quota is 3,000. So, we know that because there are no wolves on the island, that we know of, there are no predators for those caribou. They are in caribou heaven right now.

They will simply die of old age, disease or from starvation if they become so overpopulated that their supply of food runs out. Again, it is a question that we are worried about. We need to do something about the number of caribou on that island. It is not for us to suggest what the solution is. You either introduce predators or you have an annual harvest of animals from this herd. We just set the quota. We don't actually create the market or get people to buy. The NWT Development Corporation, for instance, buys meat, sets a price for it and decides how many animals they need a year. We just set a quota. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

I am not interested in the Minister starting promotion of commercial hunts and things like that. I am just talking about quota too. I think what we are looking at here is the department made a scientific mistake in the past by holding back so long in starting to harvest the animals over there, to the point where the growth rate was so fast. After that certain point, by the time they introduced the unlimited quota for subsistence hunting, the community was not big enough to sustain that or keep that population under control. That is why I think it is extremely important that the

department tell the NWT Development Corporation, Japan or other people. Some department should do something in stating that we have a very good and healthy caribou herd and we need to do something about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That was just a comment. I have Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, I have just a couple of other issues that I wanted to touch on. The Minister is aware that I did write him a letter regarding Albert Norwegian. He is in the wood cutting business. He has to get all of these different permits in order for him to be in that business. He also pays up front about \$1,000 for fees. I can't believe for a simple business like that, things are so complicated. I think he gets six different permits to cut wood that is no longer alive. I find that quite disturbing. I thought I would bring that up to the Minister.

In regard to general hunting licences, I realize all status people get them and other people get different kinds of licences too. For people who live up here, especially non-aboriginal people who marry aboriginal women, I want to make sure that many of those people who marry aboriginal women commit themselves to living up here for the rest of their natural days. For those people, I would like to ask them if they look at providing them with the general hunting licence that status people have when they get support of the bands or the hunters and trappers. I know I wrote the Minister on one individual who has asked to be considered for one of those general

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hunting licences that would allow him to harvest year-round. He is also married to a local girl.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of the number of permits and documents that a wood-cutter has to acquire, we can look at it, but it is complying with various regulations, some federal, some territorial, for different purposes, that are necessary right now. The Member is suggesting that, perhaps, they should be

simplified. I would be happy to review that and see if we can do it. Even if we could drop it by one or two, we could see if it can be done. If it can't be, I will be prepared to let the Member know why. We will look for remedies for that. I believe we should keep things as simple as possible for everybody involved, without compromising on the things that we are asked as a government to uphold.

On the business of general hunting licences, especially for non-aboriginal people who marry into a Dene community and a Dene family who are required by culture and by the community to provide for their families, then I am very supportive of finding ways in which to allow them to do that. I do know that, if you are a resident for a number of years, then you become eligible for a general hunting licence. If you are married before 1979, then you are eligible. As long as your hunters' and trappers' association or chief and council supports you, then it should not be a difficulty.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to speak on the Tabled Document 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994, since it is part of the discussion here. In that strategy, I had a chance to look at it and I had some research done. I want to make a number of comments on that.

In the principles of the strategy, it refers to the importance of participation of northern residents and states that local efforts to initiate and develop effective use of renewable resources will be encouraged. However, I just wanted to point out that it does not seem to recognize the aboriginal treaty rights of treaty Indians in the north where the agreement they have with Canada is for hunting, trapping and fishing rights. In a strategy like this, it should be noted as a principle, I think, because if you just go by it, we don't know what's going to happen down in the future years. It might just be ignored, and I just want to make it for the record that this should be as a point of principle.

The other principle in the strategy is that nowhere in this strategy does it recognize the community resource management initiatives taken on by a

number of communities such as Denendeh Resources in Fort Simpson, the Nahendeh integrated resource management project in Fort Liard, the Fort Providence integrated resource management plan development or the Wrigley integrated resource management planning strategy.

As you know, the Fort Liard project was intended to be a pilot project for mutual learning by both the community and the government to learn new ways of working together cooperatively. However, the only reference in the strategy to the co-management approach to working with the community is in the context of land claims which is in section 4.1.

This community resource management initiative shows that communities are being proactive in resource management. They are no longer content to play solely a consultative or advisory role. Their full participation in decisions in their community-based resource management initiatives must be recognized by the Renewable Resources department. The strategy should reflect this kind of partnership in resource management. In the integrated resource development, the strategy refers to integrated resource management in section 2.4 and section 5.3 in forestry, yet the strategy itself does not reflect an integrated approach to resources.

This strategy focuses on resource development with less emphasis on resource conservation. While the strategy refers to other tools used to achieve sustainable development, it is not clear whether this resource development strategy is a primary guiding document for the department, or if they intend to develop, for example, a resource conservation strategy as well. What has happened to the sustainable development policy from several years ago? The question is, I guess, does this new emphasis of resource development replace the more balanced approach of the sustainable development policy?

For example, the resource section 5.4 states that integrated resource management plans will address resource development potential and minimize land use conflicts. This narrowly-defined approach doesn't reflect integration of conservation and development of the forest. Taking a sectoral approach to resources makes integrated resource management even more difficult.

Integrated resource management is referred to under forests, although it should be considered a cross-sectoral activity with linkages with wildlife, fisheries,

agriculture and fur. The only reference to cross-sectoral initiatives is the inter-departmental committee on renewable resource development and the demonstration project fund committee. Although the action plan for these items states the department will work cooperatively with aboriginal groups, there is no provision for their participation on cross-sectoral coordination.

In traditional environmental knowledge, or TEK, although the importance of this traditional environmental knowledge is recognized, there is little mention in the action as to how it will be acknowledged and incorporated. One reference in the forest action plan, section 10.3, states that work will begin on the traditional resource maps of the North Slave to facilitate integrated resource management planning. Many communities in the Deh Cho are working on integrated resource management. Will the department support their efforts by assisting with mapping, if required? That is a question. The use of TEK in resource management planning is fundamental to community-based resource management initiatives mentioned above, and working cooperatively with these community initiatives would contribute to incorporating traditional environmental knowledge into resource management practices.

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In the forests area, particularly 5.3, the sector objectives, the move to integrate resource management in forests is welcome, particularly with decision-making based on the needs and objectives of people of the Northwest Territories. The Fort Simpson band council, in its comments on the forest management policy discussion paper, indicated its support for this approach, and it also should avoid the type of situation recently in Fort Simpson where Renewable Resources issued the timber license to Anderson Mills in spite of the objections of the band and families traditionally harvesting the area, although the band later indicated that they are willing to support Anderson Mills in another site. The longer term integrated planning approach should prevent the ad hoc and short-sighted decision-making that resulted in the Anderson Mills situation.

On the action plan, there was a recent Denendeh resource assembly in Fort Simpson which was attended by the deputy minister, Mr. Joe Handley. The subject of big game outfitting and caribou populations in the Mackenzie mountains were discussed. The traditional harvesters of this area

indicated the importance of knowing what is happening with wildlife in this area. The Fort Simpson band has indicated its support for a cooperative caribou study in the mountains with Nahanni National Park and Renewable Resources. The action plan does not make any mention of the importance of wildlife research, particularly caribou study in the Mackenzie mountains.

With fur, the NWT fur strategy will be welcome, particularly in dealing with the stabilization of trapper incomes. The community harvesters' assistance program and trappers' initiatives are not mentioned in the action plan. They should remain in place until any revised programs arising from the fur strategy are implemented.

The action plan refers to action by Renewable Resources for trapper training. In Fort Simpson, the Denendeh Resources has carried out successful trapper training, some in partnership with Interprovincial Pipeline Limited, in which experienced trappers take out young people to train them in trapping and bush skills. This community-based approach should be incorporated into the actions proposed by Renewable Resources.

Just a further comment on fur -- I know what Renewable Resources and the Minister are attempting to do in trying to deal with stabilizing the fur industry, and I said previously in this House in a Member's statement and through questions, that Renewable Resources has spent, to date, \$1.9 million, in dealing with the fur with the European markets. I totally support the move that the Minister has indicated in the department's document about trying to develop our own fur industry in the north, perhaps even looking into marketing the furs directly from the north, as an exclusive type of fur rather than mixing it with southern furs and competing with the world in that area.

I know that the Russian sable is comparable to our marten in the north. It is the same kind of quality, and some of it is even better yet the price for Russian sable, because it is Russian sable, the finished product is much more expensive than our fur. Why is that? Can we develop our own fur industry in the north so that we keep our northern furs up here and develop the industry up here right up to the finished product? Has the department looked at that? Is it part of the overall fur strategy that you are developing?

I think that's the direction we should go. It might cost a substantial amount of money up front, but I think that's an area where the other departments can get involved, particularly the department of Economic Development and Tourism. With the NWT Development Corporation money, they could develop institutions up here to develop the fur industry. Rather than looking at trying to save the European market, why can't we spend some money up front? It might be substantial, but in the long run, it might pay off and create a lot of jobs.

A lot of our trappers are not trapping any more because of the poor quality of fur and because of the instability of the whole fur industry. The whole direction of the fur industry is controlled in Europe and we seem to have very little influence over there and even in the southern auction markets. Why can't we develop something in the north? We have a good product and we could develop a marketing and production strategy. Even though we will be spending money up front, eventually it might save our fur industry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. I'm not sure whether the Minister would like to respond. There were a couple of questions in that comment, Mr. Minister. I wonder if you would like to respond to them?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, thank you. I tried to jot down all the points the Member raised. That's not to say that I am going to respond to all of them, because there is no disagreement with the comments made. The reason the development strategy seems to focus on the development side, as opposed to the subsistence side, is because, traditionally, we have focused on managing and to maintain subsistence use. We are now of the view that with the changing situation in most of our aboriginal communities -- and since our people are not flocking to work in the mines and government and they are largely unemployed -- it is our belief that aboriginal people will always elect first to work in the renewable resource sector, if that's possible. It is close to the land, close to the communities, and it based on activities about which they have the most knowledge and the most comfort working in.

We intend in this strategy to come up with ways, cooperatively with communities and regions, to create

jobs and opportunities for local people to engage in and that there be commercial activities that can be integrated into the renewable resource sector we have now. The department tells me that one of the best examples in forestry is the integrated approach taken by the development project in Fort Liard, where we are looking at the various uses of timber and harvesting timber in the forestry area. It is going to show us a lot of things about the best approaches to take and the best ways for communities to become engaged in this type of activity.

There is no mention of treaties in the principles, the Member is right. We'll make sure it is reflected in there, as claims are reflected. Claims are just modern day treaties. We will try to

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correct that. We will work, as the Member says, to come up with more ways to support trappers to make better returns. We will try to have a stable market for them and maximize the market they have. We can see if, within existing resources, we are prepared to support trappers for the fall trapping season. We will try to articulate, specifically, the kinds of ways we will support them, hopefully by August, September at the latest.

By the time trappers go back in the bush, they should have some idea of exactly what kind of support this government is prepared to give them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment and a question to raise. I'm not sure if it is more of a question or a comment and I'm not sure I'm directing it to the right Minister. But I have a concern about wildlife being used for food and clothing in the communities. There are often people from the smaller communities brought into larger institutionalized facilities, such as the hospitals or correctional institutes in the larger communities, such as Yellowknife or Iqaluit.

My question is, I wonder if the hunters and trappers in the smaller communities can be involved with Renewable Resources to provide country food to some of the institutions I have mentioned? I wonder if there's a policy that exists with regard to providing

country food to larger institutions, such as a commercial institution or the hospitals in the larger regions. Perhaps they already provide some kind of native food to these institutions, but I think there is always lack of country food in hospitals and commercial institutions. I don't know if there is a policy that exists that would provide these types of native food to the local people who are in these institutions. Sometimes, the people who are in these places, such as hospitals and boarding homes and commercial institutions, are there for a long period of time. I feel that they should be provided with more country food. I am concerned about the majority of native people who are in the correctional institution. Also, we had students attending the Ukiivik residence, the parents used to be able to send country food to the students there. I don't know if something like this kind of program exists through Renewable Resources. I wonder which department would be responsible for giving or sending native food to these different institutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I have a couple of short comments. There are discussions going on with Renewable Resources and Economic Development on ways in which we could make country food available for consumption to institutions like the hospitals and correctional institutes across the Northwest Territories. For instance, muskox, caribou, other wild meats that are not available because of regulations at this time. We are looking at the meat inspections system which we could implement. Economic Development is looking at some policies. It is something that is shared with everybody.

As a point of interest, people might be interested in getting copies of the weekly menu that we serve at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and compare it to what most of your constituents get on the table on a weekly basis and see if anybody is actually suffering. That would be something that we will provide. It is from the Minister of Justice. I will make it available to Members so we have it. That is not to say that we are against serving wild meat at correctional centres. This is just for Members' information. We will provide an overview of the kind of menu that we dish out at the correctional centre. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the response. I understand that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is planning on helping to provide country food to those institutions. I think that is what my understanding is. I would like to get some information from the Minister about the other correctional centres. What, in the way of country food, are they provided with as their meal? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

There is some country food for commercial sale, but they are very expensive. We will provide to the Member the menus and the type of food served at all correctional institutions across the Northwest Territories. I am sure that there would be some input at least by Members to the type of menus we should strive to provide at these institutions. They should more reflect a menu of local fish and wild meats. We will do that. At this time, it is just incredibly expensive to do. People run these institutions within an allotted budget. As I say, the menus will be provided to Members so they can see for themselves what is provided in these institutions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. People who want to do some commercial fishing in my area get confused because sometimes, we are told that it is Economic Development and Tourism which looks after the commercial venture in the area. Sometimes, we are told that we have to go through Renewable Resources. In turn, Renewable Resources will tell us that the federal Fisheries and Oceans has to be involved in this area. I would like to ask the honourable Minister if, in fact, we have federal Fisheries and Oceans staff in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are federal fisheries people in Iqaluit. They are also here in Yellowknife, as far as I know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that we have established that we have federal Fisheries and Oceans staff in

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the jurisdiction, I wonder if they make their community visits to all the regions, like Keewatin and Kitikmeot. Do they do their yearly visit to communities or regions at a certain time of the year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I'm not certain that they do, but I am sure, being federal people, they would try to at least visit once a year. That is tradition.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an individual in my community of Pelly Bay. His name is Guy Kakkianiun. He is a serious commercial fisherman, by his own right, but he is not able to get all the financial assistance and other help from the Department of Renewable Resources or the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Perhaps the honourable Minister would inform me and the House who is the lead department when it comes to commercial fisheries? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

It would be the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the primary reason why anyone who wants to start a commercial fishery is not too familiar with the system and how to go about getting financial and other assistance from the system, is that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans don't come to communities that often. They aren't even present in my region, the Kitikmeot region. What is the procedure if a person wants to talk to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans about regulations and other things the person is expected to follow, if a person wants to get into the area of commercial fishing? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

My suggestion would be for the MLA to direct his constituents to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. They are very happy to serve the public and do it in a very orderly and simple way. If there's no Department of Economic Development and Tourism person in the community, perhaps they can go to the renewable resource officer and we will help them get a hold of the department. I think someone in that department will provide a simple outline of the way someone should go about setting up their business and give them the required information in an orderly manner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a middle-aged person in Taloyoak. His name is Adam Totalik. Again, for the Hansard, I will spell it, T-o-t-a-l-i-k. He is a very, very ambitious person when it comes to fishing and hunting and so on. He is very anxious to start a small fishery in his community. The

idea he brought to my attention was that he wants to go out on the land, perhaps in an outpost camp, and do some commercial fishing. He not only wants to sell the fish that are gutted, but also dry meat.

I guess the honourable Member indicated to me, through you, Mr. Chairman, that the person has to talk to the economic development officer within the respective communities. I wonder if the honourable Minister would direct his regional staff, the regional superintendent of economic development to talk to the people I have mentioned, the person from Pelly Bay and the person from Taloyoak, formerly Spence Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, we will do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

General comments. Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few comments on the strategy for renewable resource development and how it ties in with the overall budget. In the Minister's opening remarks on the strategy, he talked about development of sector strategies. Looking at the document, Tradition and Change, I see pages of information and objectives on various sectors related to renewable resources and how to develop them.

But, I don't see in the strategy at this time -- and I would like to get some comment from the Minister on -- how the strategies are going to be developed? I know that two committees are going to be formed, two more government committees. I wonder how these strategies are going to be developed? What are the priorities, where are the dollars going to come from and what time frames are we looking at? Are each of these sectoral strategies going to be developed in isolation of everything else? I would hope they aren't, but somehow there has to be a big picture and a plan. There have to be some priorities and some dollars for this. I would like some comment from the Minister on the comments I just made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy was developed, keeping in mind what has been going on in the communities for a number of years, the expressions of interest in getting beyond just management and conservation, and recognizing that harvesting is an integral part of the management and wise use of resources. In that aspect, it means local commercial and subsistence use and how that can be balanced.

An example is the fur market strategy. There we have outlined the broad approach we would like to take. The strategy is, by and large, supported by everybody. The first area we would

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work on is fur. Then, during the next while, we will develop some ideas on how we should approach it. There will be a more detailed strategy specifically for this sector. That will go out to communities, keeping in mind that we will use existing resources and we will ask communities how we can make better use of existing resources allocated in this sector.

It will also recognize that claimant groups, in Nunavut for instance, have available to them new resources and institutions as a result of their claims. We have to work out how these things will be used and implemented in cooperation with the government. That's how we plan to do it. It will be done in consultation with groups and the public, through release of draft documents.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. Just another comment. There is development of this three year strategy, but I don't see any reference to the strategy in the objectives and the new program for 1994-95. How does it tie in with the current budget?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. The earliest this would impact on the budget would be this fall. It is my hope that we can provide some very clear indications of support to trappers before they head back out -- to encourage them to head back out -- on the land this fall by providing some certainty to the prices they can expect for their fur and the kind of support we will give them as trappers. This is going to be done using existing resources. Without having something definitive in mind, the budget is simply done using the conventional allocations, that is, the ones that we used before. That is the reason it is done the way it is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have another question to the Minister of Renewable Resources regarding fisheries. In the past, we have talked about whaling and it might not be in the papers, but Pangnirtung, Lake Harbour, Cape Dorset and Iqaluit were discussing whaling. They met in Iqaluit. The group that was called Qulugiaq dealt with whaling with regard to the studies that are conducted in the communities. They have to share the quotas within those communities. After they have finished with the studies of the whales, will it be put into legislation? The Fisheries and Oceans department said that they have to follow the quotas. For a while, the hunters felt that they should kill over the quotas that they were given. When was the last study that was being conducted in Baffin South? What has transpired from this study that was being conducted? This study didn't go too smoothly. They were having problems with helicopters. After that, I would like to know if the study has been completed or has it improved? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The business with whales is all federal responsibility under Fisheries and Oceans. The quotas are, in many instances, set internationally. The federal government is responsible for managing its quota. I have no idea when the last study was done in this area with

whales, but we can provide that information to the Member when we get hold of it. By and large, the best route to go is with the Nunavut wildlife management board when it is set up and running. It is probably the best forum for addressing these questions. Fisheries and Oceans and Indian and Northern Affairs will be represented on that body. That body will be primarily the body in the forum that is going to address all issues of wildlife and marine mammals in the Nunavut area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Renewable Resources development strategy, the Minister partly answered it in his response to Mr. Pudlat, on the use of renewable resources within our own institution. I know I have brought it up previously in a Member's statement and some questions to the Minister of Economic Development and he was pursuing the development of a renewable resource utilization policy that would encompass using the commercial quotas which we have out there. With the Minister's department being involved in that, is it the Economic Development and Tourism's lead role to develop this strategy, or is it within Renewable Resources, which has the mandate for renewable resources? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The Member is correct. The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism is taking the lead in developing that policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Renewable Resources is working in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, we are working with Mr. Todd's department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister is also the Minister of Justice and the correctional facilities are one of the possible end users of many of these commercial quotas, will he be fully supporting, not only encouraging but directing, his departmental officials to support this policy once it is finalized for the utilization of commercial quotas of renewable resources, in his role as Minister of Justice? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, there has been a conversation between the various Ministers including the Minister of Justice.

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There is total agreement that we should encourage our institutions as hospitals and correctional facilities to make more use of country foods and see what needs to be done in order to encourage that, such as making it more economical to purchase and consume these products.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. We have talked for many years that renewable resources was a fundamental part of any kind of economic development plan that we would have for the Northwest Territories. I am afraid that those were too often just words. It was like lip service. You said it because it was the right thing to say, but it wasn't said with much conviction because people believed that there were much bigger ways in which economies

could be developed which would have a far greater impact on people and provide greater wealth than renewable resources.

So I am delighted with this document. It is the first time, really, that this government, in my memory, has set out what you can really do about developing our renewable resource economy. I think that, in the past, we have just simply said, that is the thrust of this government, but you never saw much evidence of what government did. They always seemed to hope that the big bang would come along and there would be all kinds of wealth created, and these kinds of small things didn't matter.

But for those of us who worked on the economy committee some years ago, we certainly learned an awful lot about the real value of what goes on in communities as it relates to the use of the renewable resources of those communities. I remember Dr. Usher, one of our helpers, had compiled an incredible amount of information with regard to the value of meat, just simply as a replacement for imported products, and it was shocking when you tried to convert the value of that meat to the value of beef in places like Pelly Bay or some other places.

So the significance is obviously quite considerable, and the first to have an economic development strategy which looks at renewable resources as they relate to real things that could happen in communities. This is on the right track. It's the best thing I've seen in that area, and the department should be congratulated on it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any response to these nice, kind words of Mr. Lewis?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes. Thank you. The Member's comments are very welcome. I like the positive responses we get occasionally. It always does wonders for our self-confidence and knowing for certain that we are on the right track.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Any further general comments? If not, we can go into details. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, found the strategy interesting. I like what I finally see as a recognition that we have to tie the opportunities in the renewable resource sector to jobs and opportunities for people and break it out in these different areas.

I don't know about other people, but I see in the Northwest Territories, both east and west, the largest percentage of young people of any jurisdiction in Canada; I see the highest birth rates of any jurisdiction in Canada; and I see the desperate need for opportunities over the next ten years, because anyone who has looked at the population curve will recognize the unbelievable problems we are going to have a decade from now unless we develop all our resources.

I agree with the Minister that there will always be a good percentage of the population, especially the aboriginal population, who are going to feel a lot more comfortable in the more traditional pursuits, but I don't think there will be enough jobs just there. I think that we have to maximize our opportunities in every area - I think in the public sector; I think in the mining sector; I think in the renewable sector, and I think that, even if we do that, we are still going to have a problem because there is just an unbelievable number of kids who are going to be coming into the job market every year.

So what I see here is sort of the beginnings of a strategy, a pragmatic strategy, that looks at different sectors in the renewable resource side and starts to put those sectors together with opportunities, and a recognition that we are going to have to maximize those opportunities, I think, in the medium to the long term.

I also think that you have certain people in our society that say, well, renewable resources' side can never generate enough jobs, so we have to concentrate just on mining or we have to concentrate just on government or the other way around. What I see now is a recognition that we have to concentrate in every area, and there is no area in the economy right now that we have the luxury to ignore any longer. So, I for one, am happy with the approach the department is taking. I really like to see some practical solutions to these problems, and I see the beginning of that and starting to look at it in a practical way that there are a lot of things that we can do.

I just have one question of the Minister to do with the fur industry -- I agree with the stand the government and the Minister are taking on the animal rights

movement, especially in Europe, and I think it has to happen for a number of reasons. I mean, there is a big question about who is dictating the morality of the world now and we have to address it. So I agree that we should spend the resources. The Minister and the Minister's staff have to spend time and energy doing that.

But it also seems to me that we have to spend an equal amount of time and energy developing new markets -- I don't know if anyone's brought this up -- such as the oriental market. I am not talking about animal parts, I am talking about furs themselves. The Minister made some good points about animal parts. That's a tricky business. But for furs themselves, it seems to me that if you look at...I'll give you an example. In Hong Kong and the provinces of China that are adjoining Hong Kong, there is tremendous wealth being accumulated. I see a growing market for furs. Also, I see an area of the country in Asia, and once you get in, it's a difficult area for the animal rights movement to operate in. It would be very difficult for them to operate in. So I see lots of advantages to us aggressively pursuing that Oriental market for furs at the same time we are in a more defensive posture in Europe, and I just wonder, what are the Minister's thoughts about that?

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. There are going to be some discussions with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the next week or so to discuss a strategy on developing new markets.

The European market is a good market for us. It demands high-quality fur, but it also is causing a great deal of stress to our people -- the totally irrational approach that the percentage of Europeans take to wildlife and the management of it and, I think, the irresponsible approach they take to trying to resolve issues.

So the market there is worth about \$2 million to us now. We don't know what it is next year, but I am at a point where I think it has to stop at that level and, regardless of the European market, we have to give assurances to our trappers and hunters that it's not going to go any lower than it is now.

If anything, we have to find ways to give assurances to our trappers that the prices are not going to drop any more; in fact, we are going to bring them up, and this means we have to create a market ourselves here, locally. The government has to be prepared to support in various ways the trappers, and with Economic Development and Tourism, we will look at trying to maximize the access we have to the Asian markets for wild fur, and that work will be done.

One of the Members, last week, the Member for Deh Cho, was making some very good comments about the historical view that Europeans had taken to wildlife through their celebrated fairy tales like Little Red Riding Hood and the Pied Piper. I know we had commented on that during the last visit, and one of the people who was, perhaps, critical of the animal rights activists within the European Parliament remarked that Bridget Bardot would certainly not fly half-way around the world to kiss a baby wart-hog because it doesn't make a good photo. These are the kinds of people we deal with and they are the best in the world for media and mass communication. They are incredibly well financed.

We have an uphill battle, but after you get beaten up so much, it is hard to pretend that you want to do business with them any more. If we can, we will. If we can't, there are other places to go. There will always be Europeans who will want wild furs and good coats, and we are some of the few people in the world who can provide it to them. Whether they make it in Europe, US, or some other part of the world, it doesn't matter to us one bit. We intend to fight to maintain the market. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the Minister's comments and feeling about this. I guess I will ask something a little more specific. I understand, one, the frustration of competing with Europe and second, the necessity to maintain at least the market as far as numbers we have now. The Minister is going to be going on a high level trip to Europe. The Minister has been on one, and Mr. Antoine has gone on one, all of which I support. I think you should make trips like that because you have to and it's the right thing to do. But it is really worth the investment to do a proper trip to Asia seeking new markets. I mean a proper trip, with all the homework done before, so you know exactly

who you're talking to, you know exactly why and everything can be justified to the sceptical media and public.

I see as much, if not more, of an opportunity of something good coming out of that sort of trip than coming out of the trip you're proposing to Europe. Would the Minister consider that sort of high level trip through Asia to try to develop a market for furs there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, if we have good discussions with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and come up with a plan for Asia for opening up new markets and expanding on the market we have there, I will be certainly encouraging Mr. Todd to take the lead in setting up a well-organized business trip or tour with that purpose in mind. We'll be open to helping the Minister if that is felt to be useful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments from the floor. Do we agree, then, to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Line By Line

Directorate

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Page 12-10, directorate, total O and M, \$1.881 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Wildlife Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Wildlife management, total O and M, \$3.578 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Do all regions now have enough humane traps to fulfil the trappers' needs? Are there enough humane traps available in all regions of the north?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now in the north, we believe we are keeping up with the demand. The concern is in the short term, as other jurisdictions across Canada might move towards banning the leg hold trap and going all out for humane and quick kill traps, that the suppliers will no longer be able to keep up with the demand. But, right now, we're doing okay. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you. It has been several years now since humane traps have been introduced. In most regions and communities, there are trainers to train trappers to use these. Can you give us some evaluation on the use of these traps? What do the trappers who are using them think? Are they more successful or less successful? I would just like a status report on the use of these traps by trappers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I think there is a realization that we have no alternative, politically. Canada has been doing research on quick kill, humane traps for many decades now. It's not just European pressure that has caused us to move in this area. All it has done is sped us up to moving over to more humane, quick kill traps. The leg hold trap still has a lot of sentimental value. Many trappers, I'm sure, would have preferred if they had been able to stay with it, since change is always difficult. But, as we say, we know we have to protect our market and this is one way we're doing it.

There was a survey done last year that we can make available to the Members. We will have it circulated. By and large, those people who were trained and have mastered the new traps are generally satisfied with them. They have their limitations and they are aware of them. That is the general assessment. It is the best we have on the market, in order to maintain the present market we have at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mahsi. Wildlife management on page 12-11. Total O and M, \$3.578 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Conservation Education And Resource Development

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Conservation education and resource management, total O and M, 8.105 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Policy And Planning

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Policy and planning, total O and M, \$848,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Environmental Protection

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Environmental protection, total O and M, \$716,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Field Operations

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Field operations, total O & M, \$8.793 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, before we get on to the next page, forest fire management, because between my wife and myself, we own 51 per cent of the shares issued in CJCD Radio Limited, which has, in the past, sold forest fire prevention commercials to Renewable Resources, I would like to declare an interest in this page and leave the room while it is under consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree that Mr. Dent is declaring conflict of interest in this area and has left?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Environmental protection, total O & M, \$716,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Field operations, total O & M, \$8.793 million. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, I have a quick question on field operations. These renewable resource officers are trained either in some colleges or perhaps Arctic College in Fort Smith to uphold the legislation or regulation of the government. When I was coming back to Coral Harbour because I was told by my friends, you better come back quickly because we are pulling names from the hats of the eligible polar bear tag and your name is in it. I said, sure, I will try to come back there as soon as the committee meetings are over. However, when the tag was pulled, my name was pulled. Somebody complained that if I spend so much time in Yellowknife because of the meetings, how can I be eligible. The HTA agreed that they will not have my name on the hunters list until this is cleared. I packed up and went home hoping that I would get my tag. I didn't because there was a question on it. I went to attack the renewable resource officer verbally, Mr. Chairman, and asked him about the legal procedures or regulations for the GHL holders, if they are a resident of the community, which I am, and so on. Why didn't you, as a government employee, with a full salary and housing subsidy and VTA, with your responsibility to legally advise the HTA what is proper according to regulation and what is improper, tell the HTA that, legally, they have to grant it to me because I am no different from anyone else in the community?

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I am using me as an example, but I am worried that, sometimes, there is a political game played in the community that a hunter or trapper wants to be liked so much by the HTA in the community, he starts listening, not advising what the regulations are. What is the measure of those individual employees of the government who have no direct supervisor including the supervision from the GLO? What is the mechanism to ensure that the government's regulations are fairly practised and the HTAs are advised that this is improper according to law?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will ask for a briefing from the department on this specific instance. Members should know that, in cases like this, we respect the local hunters and trappers or the community itself to manage and make decisions on the allocation of tags. We have given in to allowing the HTAs to make those decisions. In this case, they had probably gone along since it is just a selection from a hat. It is kind of difficult to argue with the selection. If Members felt that other members of the community should have a chance, in the case of Mr. Arvaluk, I have no idea why or on what basis the decision was made. We, as a department, are going with the way that the HTA makes a decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk. Do you have the legislative power?

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not disputing what is the opinion of the HTA. I am disputing that the HTA, in their own meeting, went through the list of eligible GHL holders and chose which names should be put in the hat. After pulling it out, they had been advised by some jealous hunter that should not be because I was in a meeting in Yellowknife. That was what the dispute was. Why did they change after they informed me my tag had been pulled to come home quickly. Before I could arrive, I was no longer eligible. That is a great expense on my part because I was not eligible for some kind of travel home trip or anything like that. I found it ironic that inconsistency was practised and the wildlife officer did not advise that while they have authority and advisory capacity as an HTA, they also have to be consistent. He did not inform them of the consistency required by the government policies. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that was a comment or some implication for a reply from the Minister. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

As I said earlier, we will ask for a briefing on it from the HTA and the renewable resource officer involved. It appears that, at this time, we were just trying to go with what might be considered local custom. In the

case of harvesting of wildlife in my Dene communities, it is an annual activity amongst the trappers that they decide among themselves who is going to be harvesting and trapping in which particular area for the coming year. No trapper is encouraged to complain to the government saying that they did not get fair access to an area that was assigned to another family. We try not to mediate or arbitrate in some of these decisions. They are intended, in the first part, to be local. If

they deviate from consistency, then, at best, we can ask them for some clarification on it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I put that to rest. I was using that as an example. There must be other ones like that. I understand the Minister is leaving that all up to the HTA in the local communities, but there is an inconsistency. We take a leadership role in promoting education, and Mr. Nerysoo knows that very well. We also promote the home ownership program, and Donnie Morin knows all about that. What I find inconsistent in the government as a whole is that we encourage a student to go to university or college. There are not too many jobs in Coral Harbour so we give them training. They spend four years in an apprenticeship program and they go to work for Rankin Inlet, for example, where all the capital plans are, as we found out last year. They work for six months there. Six months plus one day and they come back after the construction season and they are denied allocations for polar bear tags, whales and things like that.

It is fine and dandy to give all kinds of authority to HTA, but I think the government should also take a leadership role in encouraging HTA to give consideration -- as part of the government's leadership role -- to encouraging education and finding jobs elsewhere if there is nothing in the local community. We should be able to welcome students back with the full privileges they previously held. I think we should take that role.

I'm not down-playing HTA, but most of the HTA membership so far have been hunters. They are not economists. They are not educators. They are not normally political leaders of the community. What they do fits them well as far as conservation is

concerned, as far as subsistence hunting is concerned, fair distribution, et cetera, but they can't see a global picture about how other populations of the community should be treated in terms of benefits that they, themselves, enjoy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, I believe the Minister is signalling you to go on. Mr. Arvaluk.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that the time is getting short. I would like to make a motion, Mr. Chairman. I move for an extension of the sitting hours for today to conclude this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There's a motion on the floor to extend the sitting hours, until we conclude the department. The 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

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We will sit until we conclude the Department of Renewable Resources 1994-95 main estimates. Mr. Minister. Fuel operations. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to continue my colleague from Aivilik's concerns, but I would like to say that the responsibility for giving out tags for polar bears, muskox, narwhal and walrus has been devolved from our government and Fisheries and Oceans to the local HTA, and I wish that to continue. I don't think departments should have control of it and I don't think we should get taxed for polar bears, muskox, narwhals and walruses. They are there to advise and I think it has been working very well.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Inuit -- even though they may be aboriginal people and a resident of a certain community -- cannot obtain polar bear and muskox tags if they don't have a general hunting licence. I don't know what sort of quota system there is the western Arctic. I think you need a tag to kill bison in the bison sanctuary out of Providence. Do the rules apply the same way? Does a person need a general hunting licence in order to obtain a tag, the same as applies in the Nunavut area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. The discussion is one that might possibly touch on the Nunavut claims agreement. As the Members pointed out, hunting and harvesting rights have been constitutionally guaranteed to all Inuit equally. We shall review that, but I also know that many communities give priority to subsistence hunters and trappers before they give consideration to people who have jobs and other, more visible, higher forms of income. That might be a case where the HTA is balancing subsistence needs with the rights of all Inuit, for instance, GHL holders having equal access to the harvesting of these resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think there might be a difference of view about the right to hunt and harvest wildlife. It had always been my understanding, and it is the understanding of most of the Inuit, that no one has the right unless there are enough animals. I have heard that there is an aboriginal right in this area. I don't think that has been pursued by the Inuit. It's a privilege, rather than a right for them. It might be different in the draft form of the law or the agreement, but it is basically the understanding of the Inuit that they have a privilege, rather than a right.

My question is, Mr. Chairman, because of that understanding, it has been practised in the past that I, as an Inuk living in Pond Inlet -- where there are 22 tags for polar bears and I don't know how many muskox and 100 narwhals -- don't have the right to harvest unless I have a tag. And, in order to get a tag, I need a general hunting licence. If I don't have a general hunting licence, then I don't have the right to

harvest them. Does that regulation apply to bison, because you need a tag to harvest bison in this area? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe the honourable Minister can only respond to what is in the regulations. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

In the case of Providence herd, you need tags. Tags are given out by Providence and Rae-Edzo HTA or the band gives allocation for harvesting bison in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I have Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

My basic question, Mr. Chairman, was did they need that, in order to get a general hunting licence?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I am sorry. I didn't catch the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

My basic question was that, in order to get a bison tag, does the aboriginal person living in Providence or Fort Rae need a general hunting licence in order to obtain a tag for bison?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, that is correct. All treaty people automatically have a right to a GHL, so it's almost one and the same. I think the Member related to a different perspective, from between the Inuit and other aboriginal people; I am not certain it's the case. The Dene, for instance, and Metis, I know, and the Inuvialuit, for that matter, may differ. At least with the

Dene and Metis, if they don't make the regulation and they have no part in the management of the resource, then they have little regard for the laws and the quotas that are set by this government. Whereas, now that we are increasing the area of co-management and local management, and local control and approaches to harvesting of wildlife is increasingly the way we do business, there is no difficulty. As far as I know, people see it as a right because it's like a right to live. They have a right to hunt moose and caribou and get fish as long as they are alive.

Where it becomes a privilege, I think, is when you mismanage it. Then you're right, I guess people feel like it's a privilege because they know it's dying out and it's not going to be around much more.

So it's integrated with the sense that, just as much as it's your right to harvest wildlife, it's equally your right, your responsibility and your duty to manage it so that you can always exercise that right, forever. I don't think it's any different, but in this part of the world, anyway, that's been the approach and the view. So, just some additional comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I guess if there was no mismanagement we wouldn't have any regulation. I have Mr. Arvaluk.

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MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you. One more question on the field operations. I have asked this question several times before, a couple of years ago and last year, but I haven't really received any answer yet. However, through someone else, the renewable resources officer was asked by the HTA member, if Coral Harbour organizes a hunt to fly to -- the only way to get to Repulse Bay, by the way, is flying -- Repulse Bay to hunt narwhal in Aqiarurnak Bay -- unless Mr. Todd would like to build us an access road there; just a hint. Mr. Chairman, however, he advised the HTA member that, no, you cannot hunt your quota from other communities. That was his answer. However, the Repulse Bay community and Coral Harbour have the same area for narwhal. Repulse Bay now goes to Aqiarurnak Bay to hunt narwhal, where Aqiarurnak Bay is in the Coral Harbour area, so they have the same hunting area, and of course we cannot go by boat because of the ice on the Hall Beach side or the east side. And the west side is so shallow that it is

awfully dangerous to travel on. It takes about a week to go through there. Can the Minister tell me, why is the policy or regulation stated in such a way that it is restrictive? I mean, you give Coral Harbour a quota, but you are not allowing them access to that quota by preventing them hunting from other communities, where Repulse Bay already completely welcomed them to go through their community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Most communities, I think, are charged with trying to manage their resources within a certain area as best they can, and we support that. That might be the case here, where there may be an objection or concern expressed that you should harvest your quota within your own designated area and, unless you get approval from your neighbour, your constituents in your jurisdiction, that they could not give their blessing to that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Field operations. I have Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Mr. Chairman, Aqiarurnak Bay is Coral Harbour's designated area, and Repulse Bay has completely welcomed them to use their airstrip, anyway. They are relatives. As we know, close communities are usually interrelated. The advice is from the field operations officer who advised Coral Harbour that, according to regulations, you cannot hunt from other communities. Period. There are no options given. I guess what I want from the Minister is, can there be options if Repulse Bay or a neighbouring community gives a blessing, because their designated area for Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay is one and the same location and are the same whale? The only difference is that they split the quota between Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, but from that zone there is one quota for that area. But they split it so that Coral Harbour could have some and Repulse Bay could have some from the same area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, I think the Member said this was raised two years ago. I hope it has been resolved. If not, then we will certainly make sure that we ensure that this is cleared up, because it doesn't make sense, as the Member says. I am not privy to all the facts so, as it comes out, it does sound like there is no basis for the objection in the first place. But we will look at it and see if we can recall the incident and deal with it so it doesn't occur again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe that is just a technicality. Field operations, total O and M, \$8.793 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Fire Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Forest fire management, total O and M, \$22.337 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This area is an area that (microphone turned off)...forest fire. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to get the correct page, forest fire management. This area is an area that receives a certain amount of concern from the general public when it comes to protecting forests. There are pros and cons expressed. Some people feel that they fight too many fires. Others feel that they don't fight enough or else they don't fight them in the right areas. There is a policy that directs that only certain fires be fought. There is a period of time from the time the fire starts or is originally spotted to the time they decide to fight it. There are a number of things that are controversial. It has been felt that it is a natural occurrence that fires happen and should be allowed to burn. It does good to the forests.

On the other hand, there are areas that are used by harvesters to collect both food and furs as part of their income. If that place is burnt, there is no more income because of the trap line areas being designated. It was not as if there was open territory. If it burns, you could move somewhere else. If it burns in your area, your trap line, it is burnt. It is finished. There are cabins and equipment that go up in the fire. Many times, trappers feel that, once the fire is spotted, it should be fought while it is small and put them out so they don't get out of hand and become a threat. It takes enormous amounts of money, manpower and equipment to fight a fire. If attacked as soon as the thing starts while it is still small, it would not result in such an enormous cost to Renewable Resources to fight the fire and to the hunters and trappers in that area who lose everything.

In the current policy at the moment, is there a set policy that there are certain areas that they will fight fires in and designated to be top priority? What is the policy on initial strike, that is, when the fire gets started, they go out and put it out and not wait until it gets a good foothold?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the fires that are fought are done, not with zones, but more with the idea that we should protect those things that we value out there. If there are people out on the land who are at risk from fires, then that

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would take priority. If there is real property, like trap lines, outpost camps, cabins, property or people, once we identify them, we assign resources to protect them. If we identify fires as they start, if they are in the area rich in wildlife, prime registered trapping areas, again, those are the ones that would take precedence. If they are in a good timber area, then we will fight them.

If a fire starts in the middle of muskeg, for instance, I don't know if the community will want to fight it, then again they might. It is a judgement call that people have to make depending on the value of it. In some cases, people have no objections to certain areas burning. We are looking at doing prescribed burns. Some areas, like Mills Lake, which is just south of

Providence on the Mackenzie River, we could get rid of many willows that are starting to overgrow so that it is cutting into the habitat of the ducks and geese that fly through there in the spring and fall. There is a need to let burns happen in some of the prairie areas that are the habitat of buffalo. We don't do it according to zones.

There is much local involvement, as much as we can. There is always the suggestion that, sometimes, if a fire is too small, you leave it. Half a day later, it is an enormous fire. You thought it was going to rain, it doesn't. You think the wind is not going to pick up and it does. The wind changes direction, sort of driving it towards a lake and it drives it the other way. Those are all conditions people are always beating on the department for making the mistakes. There have also been some good decisions made in some cases. We just never bothered to mention them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments the Minister has made, but I recognize the fact that forestry operations do a good job in fighting fire and protecting our forests, and that does not necessarily mean that there can't be improvements. Each year, across the territories, they base water bombers in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and various places. In many people's opinion, if they were to send out one or two water bombers to make one or two trips and kill a fire rather than sending the same two water bombers on a hundred trips to try to fight a fire after it has gotten away, it makes good economic sense.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure Renewable Resources people in the game management part of the department will recognize the fact that certain animals are victims of habit. They continue to migrate through a certain area if the conditions are right. I am sure many Members here will recognize the fact that caribou, for example, will not cross an area that has been burned. They don't cross that for 25 years. In some areas near Fort Smith, when I was a child, we saw caribou all the time, before fires had gone through. You never saw a caribou in there again because fire burns off the lichen as well as the stuff that they eat. Caribou will not cross a burn. It doesn't matter how old this thing is until there is much regrowth. That takes many years. So, these two things fit together. Using the caribou migration as an

example that have fixed patterns, if there is an area that has a fire, no matter how small it is, it kills the lichens in that area, there is going to be no caribou, regardless of whether it is an area that is outside of where a trapper has his trap line. The caribou just don't go into the trapper's area.

Those kinds of things are areas of concern that people certainly want expressed. I am sure they have been expressed before. They will be expressed again. I think this is a forum to let the department know both, what kind of a good job they are doing and, as well, to express the areas of concern by the people who are affected by it.

I don't expect any kind of major changes from this debate, but I think the other area I wanted to touch on when it comes to forest fire management is the fact that it is becoming very mechanized. There used to be a time when they had many fire crews. People in the community would be trained to fight fire and taken out to fires where they fought them by hand; a great deal of work that people in seasonal occupations depended on, they trapped in the winter and went out and fought fires in the summer. They would go battle these things and there was some pocket money there, enough to get them over the tough times -- like farmers in the prairies working as welders during the winter time -- not in their main occupation, but in some other area.

Subsequently, we've become very mechanized now. We have water bombers all over the place and we spend a tremendous amount of money. I got some information on the amount of money we spend on water bombers to fight these fires. We have DC6s and CL-215s, and each of these planes require a fire crew. There is nobody here in the territories who own these things. They even bring birdogs from the south. Helicopters and water bombers are brought in from the south. Where local people are wanting employment in what could have been considered a traditional area, they are now being unemployed because of money going to southern companies that own this equipment.

While I recognize that we need to keep up with the times and have the necessary equipment to fight this problem, we are moving away from what used to be traditional areas. I just wanted to bring to the attention of the Minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, that people are concerned about it. The business community in the north is also concerned that a lot of equipment is being brought in to fight fires and contracts are going to southern firms -- in BC for

example -- when there are a lot of planes and helicopters here in the north that could provide that same service. They seem to be locked into a pattern where if you hire the water bomber, you also have to hire the birdog from the same company, or a related company. We have good northern businesses that need that kind of work.

I also wanted to use this forum to point that out. Perhaps the Minister has other information, Mr. Chairman, that contradicts what I'm saying, but my information is we spend a lot of money on both fixed and rotary winged equipment to fight fires that are not of Northwest Territories business connection. I want to point that out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. I have nothing to contradict what the Member has said. It is the intent of this department to suggest ways, along with other Members of the Cabinet, to maximize returns on money spent by this government on forest fires to northern communities and businesses. This is currently being discussed. We are going

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to try to find ways to do that over the next few years, in terms of contracting local companies for aircraft.

There is some aircraft that is not available except from a few, select companies at this time, so we are using them. There have been similar expressions made by people in the valley, that for the millions of dollars we spend on aircraft, why don't we pay people outright to fly out in large numbers and fight fires the way they used to in the 1940s and 1950s. I know that some of the Dene have expressed that view. They say that we spend \$10 million on fires and they all get away on us anyway and that we might as well pay them for fighting some of them, since your aircraft can't put them out any better than I can.

I don't argue with that. I know that we try to put out fires as quickly as we can, but during some days -- for example in the Sahtu last year -- there were 50 fires starting up in the span of a few hours. You can't fight them all. You decide to go to one 20 miles away and it takes off on you. In some cases, you can't do anything but let them go.

The Member should know that departments place priorities on caribou ranges and make sure fires are fought as far as 200 to 300 kilometres outside of communities to ensure the ranges are given some protection. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the response. While I'm pleased to hear that forest fire management is going to be looking at northern operators for equipment, I think there's a lot of room for just the very thing other departments are doing right now. This morning, I heard the Minister of Government Services, or whatever it is, talk about how happy he was to have northern firms starting to do things, like building tanks. We never used to build fuel tanks here in the north before, but now we are doing all these things.

Maybe now we will have to start looking at northern companies in these areas. The reason there are only a few companies that provide forest fire fighting expertise is because they think the government will go back to the companies that have the specifications they want. It perpetuates the notion that no one else can do it. I have information, Mr. Chairman, that there are aircraft in the Northwest Territories now that were used formerly to fight fires in the United States, under US regulations. I don't imagine they're too much different from Canadian regulations when it comes to water bombing. But, they will go to others. Why? Because they have specifications specific to one company.

One company that provides a certain type of equipment, and that is where the specifications are drawn up from. They go out to tender and say what we are looking for has to be this, this and this. Nobody else can provide that equipment, because nobody else has it. But, if they were to allow northern contractors to tender and say they can provide another type of equipment which is just as good, they might be successful. They might have to use a different type of aircraft, perhaps a little bit smaller, that used to be used for fire fighting in the first place. Then, I think the government would be meeting its buy north, hire north policy to greater efficiency.

I want to point this out, Mr. Chairman, because northern business people bring this to the government

and for one reason or another, they're not listened to. They have a stock answer sometimes that they require certain types of expertise and certain types of equipment and it can only be purchased here or there. It eliminates the establishment of northern contractors to be able to build the equipment and to be able to put money into purchasing the types of equipment that fire fighting requires.

I want to point this out, Mr. Chairman, because just this morning I heard how excited the government was about establishing northern business in areas that had not traditionally not been able to supply these things. Next year, I would like to hear the same response from the Renewable Resources people, especially in forest fire management, that they've reviewed their policy and now have located northern contractors who not only can do the job but can provide the equipment because specifications have changed to accommodate northern businesses and contractors.

Mr. Chairman, I would certainly like to hear that next year and see that some steps have been made in that area. If we give northern business an opportunity, people who stay here 12 months of the year and spend all their money here -- or most of it anyway -- in the Northwest Territories as well, and not go to some firm that bases their equipment in sunny climates or takes opportunity to make tremendous amounts of dollars here in our territories at the expense of the people who need the kind of work that we ask for. With that, I don't expect massive changes, but I certainly want the new Minister to know these concerns are out there. All he has to do is to contact some of these northern operators and talk to these people. Get the people who are based in those little offices somewhere in communities south of us, and go to talk to these northern operators and find out what they can provide for us in that area. How much of this stuff can you provide to us so we don't have to go south? Don't put tenders in there that are multi-year so nobody else can get into this field. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We will continue with the details.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Forest fire management. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

I agree with some of the comments my colleague from Yellowknife South said with regard to supporting northern businesses. I totally agree and I certainly hope the Minister would encourage, particularly in the contracts area for fixed and rotary wing services. A number of aboriginal organizations across the territories are getting into those types of businesses. I would strongly urge the Minister to support those businesses that want to get into fixed or rotary wing services.

I agree with my colleague for Yellowknife South encouraging the Minister to do so in that respect. I agree with my friend. If it is for a multi-year contract right now. It has been years since aboriginal organizations got into these types of

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businesses. It has always been concentrated only to a selected few, but now more and more the department has been opening up and giving these types of contracts to these types of organizations. I would encourage the Minister to continue to do so in respect to supporting northern businesses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That was a suggestion. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I agree with Mr. Whitford's comments and suggestions. There will be a meeting with northern carriers in May. We will hear from them again, first hand, their views on the way we do business. I also agree with Mr. Zoe that what Mr. Whitford said is totally agreeable. We are all on one side and agreeable today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree with the agreement of the Minister?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Forest fire management, total O & M, \$22.237 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Forest Management

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Forest management, total O & M, \$566,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Grants, \$3.615 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Contributions on page 12-20, \$2.021 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Grants and contributions. Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was referring to page 12-19, the details of grants and contributions. Under the regional wildlife operations, I am told that there is a discrepancy between the regions, and the largest region in the whole Northwest Territories gets less per capita than the two regions. I wonder if that has been rectified and what the

government is planning to do if they haven't rectified it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. The suggestion that I have made in this House a number of times now in response to questions from Mr. Pudlat and others is that there has been no consistent basis for the funding given to regional HTAs. No one has addressed it for a number of years. It came up in January to this novice Minister and I was asked in very short order to fix what has been an historical imbalance in the consistency of funding allocation. I don't propose to do it. I have been suggesting, in rather flattering terms, that the new wildlife management board of Nunavut should be the one to suggest ways to remedy that, since they will also be receiving funds for management of wildlife from a number of other areas. That is the role of this Nunavut wildlife board. Next week, there will be a meeting of this board and we will be asking this question to be put to them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Mr. Alloofoo.

MR. ALLOOFOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That responsibility has been traditionally with GNWT. I hear the Minister saying that it should be a wildlife management board that comes up with a difference. To me, the wildlife management board will be dealing with the land claim money that is allocated to Nunavut. We have been, as territorial MLAs and Ministers, telling the federal government that they have been off-loading to us, to the GNWT. If the Minister is saying that the balance should be coming out of the wildlife management board, the GNWT seems to be doing the same thing that they have been complaining about, that is off-loading to wildlife. I would encourage the Minister to seek some sort of formula to deal with the regional HTAs to see that there is a consistency in giving out the regional HTA funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, if we just take it on a territorial-wide basis, the allocation for Baffin would drop dramatically because we don't do it all across the territories, just primarily the eastern part of the territories. As I said, we would give this total allocation to the public board. The Nunavut wildlife management board is a public institution that is set up to help this government manage wildlife and carry out its responsibilities. It does have a very broad role. Because there is claim money and other money and resources coming in, this block allocation should be suggested to this management board. They will manage it. That was a suggestion. I don't think it is possible for me to fix it. I can go raid the Keewatin and Kitikmeot to top up what the Baffin has been getting. Other Ministers before me didn't do it.

---Laughter

I am very reluctant to get up and try to raid what is not really mine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Perhaps there were less hunters in one area and that is why they get less money.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Details of grants and contributions. We are on page 12-20, grants and contributions, \$5.636 million. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Regarding the grants, there is the Nunavut hunter income support trust for \$3 million. This is the biggest grant that this government gives to any group. Last year we gave it and this year we are giving it again. It is going to go on for about five years in a row. It comes from the claims negotiations. One of the questions SCOF asked was how many more of these are we going to expect for the future? We find claims money tucked away in all of these departments throughout this process. We asked the government to see if they could add it all up to see how much it comes to, but we haven't received that yet. On this one, is there anything there for other groups or is this

the only group that gets \$3 million a year for five years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money is for the hunters and trappers within the proposed territory of Nunavut. It is part of an agreement we made to support the program that was originally proposed and needed support when the Nunavut claim was being finalized. This commitment was made by the previous government. So the Member is correct, this is the second instalment of \$3 million. The total is \$15 million over five years. There is no other money like this allocated anywhere in the government. The understanding was that at some time down the road, the people of the western part of the territory, other claimant groups will make similar requests and we will be prepared to at least entertain the requests at that time. We should be expecting it fairly soon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Is there any accountability for the \$3 million? That is a lot of money to be giving away. I would like to know if there is any accountability to see if this money has been spent wisely. What is this money used for? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, the way that the agreement reads with regard to this is there will be a trust fund set up which will receive the money. The money has to be matched by NTI, the new organization. So every dollar we give is matched. This trust fund will be administered by a board and this board will oversee the administration of this trust. There will be an appropriate program drafted and implemented by this board for the disbursement of this money that comes out of the trust fund. Not counting interest in five years, the sum total of this money will be \$30 million that will have been injected. That is not an accurate figure because we don't count in the interest. The

administration of this trust by the board and the staff is going to come off of this as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. That covers a big area. Grants and contributions, \$5.636 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Information item, fur marketing service revolving fund and details of work performed on behalf of third parties. The total of details of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$652,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Please go back to the program summary on page 12-09. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, before we approve the total O and M, I have something to say about environmental protection. This is with regard to a task underneath environmental protection, which is air quality. I raised the issue of air quality in the House. In this task there is one PY. There is a total O and M of \$117,000. I just wanted to ask the Minister if this one person has all the responsibility of planning and coordination of studies to establish regulations, standards and guidelines for air quality and designing and maintaining programs to monitor air quality, so that resource development projects may not affect air quality through the discharge of pollutants. Is there a group of people working on the development of standards and guidelines? It shows only one PY. Is it one person who is supposed to be doing all of the monitoring for all of the big developments coming into the north, such as diamond exploration? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. There is only one person who is assigned specifically to doing work in this area. The Member is correct. There is a total of five staff who are assigned to monitor and review developments with regard to environmental controls on land, water and air. They all work in one section together, but specifically there is one person assigned to air quality monitoring.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

The Minister indicated, when I was questioning him about air quality, that there were standards and guidelines being developed so the air quality is good in the north. Who is developing these standards and guidelines?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, it is the section I just referred to. The draft guidelines have already been developed and have been sent out for public discussion. We have sent it out to a number of groups including industry for their comments. We should see some agreement fairly soon on what are acceptable guidelines to be adopted by this government.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Program summary, total O and M, \$46.824 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Department of Renewable Resources is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Now we have Tabled Document, 34-12(5), Tradition and Change, A Strategy for Renewable Resource Development in the NWT, February 1994. Does the committee agree that this is also concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee. Thank you, Mr. Handley. Thank you, Mr. Feil. I will now rise and report progress. Okay?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, Committee Report 2-12(5) and Tabled Document 34-12(5), and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted and Tabled Document 34-12(5) being concluded. Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine. 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 unanimously.

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Madam Premier.

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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

Bill 15 has had third reading. Item 20, third reading of bills. Madam Premier

Bill 17: Loan Authorization Act, 1994-95

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu that Bill 17, Loan Authorization Act, 1994-95, be read for the third time.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. 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

Bill 17 has had third reading. Item 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Madam Speaker, there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance immediately after adjournment. There are meetings tomorrow at 9:00 am of Caucus, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Finance. Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 29, 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

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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
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills

18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95
- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act
- Committee Report 2-12(5), Review of the 1994-95 Main Estimates
- Minister's Statement 5-12(5), Session Business
- Tabled Document 1-12(5), Towards an NWT Mineral Strategy
- Tabled Document 2-12(5), Building and Learning Strategy

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 29, 1994, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT