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The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Speaker

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. Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

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

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 63-12(5): Inter-Agency Training

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The honourable Member for Iqaluit asked me a question in the House yesterday about inter-agency training on family violence and sexual abuse in the Baffin. I indicated that the training for the Baffin was provided at the end of January of this year. Unfortunately, that was an error.

It was my understanding, Madam Speaker, that the training had been delivered as it was originally scheduled. My officials have now informed me that it was not possible to deliver the training at the time. There is still a strong commitment to provide the training and it is now planned for the fall of 1994.

I apologize to the Members for providing incorrect information. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Yellowknifer Article "If It's Not Broken, Don't Fix It"

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I realize it is Thursday and not Friday, but we have a long weekend in front of us. I will try to get through this in my two and a half minutes.

Around 50 years ago, Madam Speaker, the Germans introduced a vehicle called the Volkswagen. In English this means people's car. It was cheap, economical on gas and easy to fix. Yesterday, an editorial appeared in the Yellowknifer headed "If It's Not Broken, Don't Fix It." The editorial referred to comments I made in this Assembly about fixing some problems with the way our government is running.

Madam Speaker, this government is very much like an early model Volkswagen. It may still be on the road, but it wouldn't pass a mechanical inspection test. It is a little like those vehicles you sometimes see advertised in the newspapers for less than \$500. They're called mechanics' specials. The bodywork isn't bad, there's just a bit of rust and the tires are very good. At least that's what the ad says, the tires at least are good. Some of these old Volkswagens, Madam Speaker, are incredible machines. The steering is loose, there's a knock in the engine, it burns a lot of oil, the muffler is full of holes, the headlights go on and off whenever they feel like it and you can only open the passenger's side door. It makes an incredible amount of noise but, amazingly, it still runs.

Of course the car isn't cheap to run any more. The price of gas has gone up and the car needs a fill-up every few hours, not once a week like in the good old days. In fact, last week Ronna Bremer wrote a well-researched article on just how expensive it is to keep this car on the road. I believe that was the point of the article.

Madam Speaker, the public knows the car is still running because they hear it wheezing and rattling along from time to time. The media watches it very closely and continually reports on its failings and shortcomings. In fact, that seems to be its major preoccupation, how things are so bad. So, I find it odd that the Yellowknifer now finds that there's nothing to be fixed, after all these years of complaining.

Madam Speaker, I've owned several old vehicles...

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, I would like to get consent to finish my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, colleagues. It is very rare that I ask to have an extension. Madam Speaker, I have owned several old vehicles. It is a frightening thing to see a mechanic turn on the ignition, lift the hood of the old car, start shaking his head and start making loud, long, moaning noises. Your heart begins to have a terrible, sinking feeling. You don't really want to hear the news because you know it's going to be bad.

Madam Speaker, reporters, for all their training, don't look under the hood and that's why they don't know what has to be fixed. Madam Speaker, when your vehicle is in bad shape, you don't wait until 1999 to take it into the garage. Madam Speaker, when your vehicle is driving all over the road, you

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don't drive very far and you would be better leaving it parked in your driveway. You wouldn't want to end up in a ditch or breaking down in the middle of nowhere at 40 degrees below zero.

Madam Speaker, the fear I have is that a final trip to the wrecking yard may not be very far away, unless we do something. I don't agree with the editorial in the Yellowknifer. The staff should look through past editions of the local newspapers and make a list of all the things they have found wrong with the way we have operated in this Legislative Assembly over the last several years. Better still, they had better ask the public, because that's not the story I'm hearing when I talk to my constituents. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Throat Singing Duo "Tuujat"

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to use my Member's statement today to familiarize Members of the House to the throat singing duo known as Tuujat. Tuujat is made up of two cousins, Madeleine Alakariakaluk of Resolute Bay and Phoebe Atagataluk of Inoucdjouac. The duo performed last weekend at the annual True North concert in the Yukon.

I was informed by George Tuccaro who was master of ceremonies that they were given thunderous ovations for their traditional throat singing and old age aya-ya songs. According to Mr. Tuccaro, they stole the show.

These two cousins met for the first time six years ago, when they were 12 years old. They have performed ever since and sometimes had to rehearse through long-distance telephone calls. Tuujat is a source of pride to myself and the youth of High Arctic. I want to give the suggestion to the government that they should be included in partnership agreements, similar to the one that was signed with Susan Aglukark. They have become excellent ambassadors of the Northwest Territories and an example for other young people. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On The Mackenzie River Basin

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. The Mackenzie River Basin, or in my language the Deh Cho Basin, is the largest water basin in the world. It covers about 20 per cent of Canada. The Deh Cho Basin has a lot of industrial economy upstream. The products of the economy flow downstream to the Northwest Territories where people are more dependent on a traditional life-style and more careful with what they do to their environment.

There are many things which impact upon the basin as the Deh Cho runs towards the Arctic Ocean. There are ten pulp mills discharging waste into this water. Municipalities along the basin also flow the

water through their sewer and storm systems. In the provinces there are run-offs from farm chemicals and industrial waste, which also impacts on the water quality.

On March 22 of this year, I attended a meeting of the Mackenzie River Basin Committee and the First Nations representatives. Although this committee has been meeting for ten years, only in the past few months has there been any involvement of First Nations. There were chiefs from the western provinces and the Northwest Territories at this meeting. They passed a resolution indicating the strong desire to be more involved in the committee. The resolution indicates that the existing water management regimes, established by the western provinces and proposed master and bilateral agreements, do not adequately address the rights and interests of the First Nations people.

First Nations groups should be active participants in the management of the basin and signatories to the master agreement in their own right. The resolution also states that the federal government should enter into negotiations with First Nations regarding the development of a master agreement. First Nations does not want to kill the agreement. Instead, they want to enhance it by bringing the contribution of the First Nations people who have always worked and lived with respect for water and the land.

Water is a precious resource to all people. However, to aboriginal people the river has always played a crucial role in who we are and how we work with the land. The Deh Cho River is important to those who live along it. Northern people are concerned about the quality of the water in the mighty Deh Cho. Those who use the water have noticed changes in the past few years. These changes showed themselves through the wildlife which relies on the water. An example is fishermen are finding that the fish have deformed fins and deep sores in them.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to support the First Nations in their bid to be an integral part of the Mackenzie River Basin Committee. Mahsi.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On The High Cost Of Infant Formulas

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. A situation which presently exists in my constituency as well as other northern communities has been brought to my attention. I have spoken to some people in my constituency including health workers. It is clear to me that there is a serious problem that exists regarding the health of our children. Parents in the communities cannot afford to feed their babies infant formula that they require to develop strong and healthy bodies. These formulas are priced very high in the local grocery stores. People have no alternative but to use a cheaper alternative known as Carnation, which has poor nutritional value according

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to the health officials. This is a cause for real concern as I have been informed that the use of Carnation as an infant formula has been known to stop absorption of iron, so the babies on this formula are anaemic. In fact, mothers in the community of Repulse Bay cannot even purchase an iron fortified formula, which has been recommended by a visiting paediatrician. They can only obtain this type of formula when it is authorized by Social Services following a written letter by the nurse saying the baby is ill.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Your time has lapsed, Mr. Arvaluk.

MR. ARVALUK:

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to finish my Member's statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Like I said, they can only obtain this type of formula when it is authorized by Social Services following a written letter from the nurse stating that the baby is ill. This makes it very difficult, to say the least, for single mothers and parents who are unemployed. They are unable to provide their

children with suitable formula and the recommended formula is only made available after their children have become ill. Madam Speaker, this situation is unacceptable and it must be addressed immediately. I suggest that we provide a subsidy for infant formula sold in communities of the Northwest Territories. I was thinking of a subsidy similar to the one put in place for naphtha fuel. When it became clear that naphtha was not affordable for hunters in the Northwest Territories, such a subsidy was provided. Surely the health of our children deserves the same consideration, so they can have a healthy life-style. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Wishing Everyone A Happy Easter

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, since this is the last sitting before Easter Sunday, I would like to take this opportunity to wish my family, especially my wife, and the people of Pelly Bay, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, all my colleagues in this House, and especially you, Madam Speaker, and the staff of the legislature, especially Mr. Hamilton, who has worked very hard for the benefit of the Members and staff of the legislature, a very happy Easter. I hope my colleagues will take the precious time to spend time with your family on Easter weekend. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I am sure all Members wish you a happy Easter as well, Mr. Ningark. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Urgent Requirement For Iqaluit Municipal Election

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On Monday, I held a public constituency meeting in Apex, in my constituency. This is a special place with special

people. Among other issues raised at the meeting were some very strong opinions expressed about the need for an election in Iqaluit. I would like to share with Members of the House what several of the bright, young Inuit constituents said at this meeting. What we have in place is undemocratic. If the government believes in the democratic process, what's stopping the calling of an election and an elected body overseeing the financial problem solving? This delay suggests that an elected council can't be trusted.

Another young person at my public meeting suggested that I should tell the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq, democracy made you a Minister.

Another young constituent offered the following analysis: there is no council in Iqaluit, the many residents of Iqaluit have no leader because of the mistakes of a very few short-term residents who have left town. We need a quick election. Long-term residents are suffering and this is very unfair. We are at a crucial time in the political development of this territory and this community. A very few people are holding back development of this community.

Madam Speaker, yesterday I talked a little bit about growing frustrations being developed by the good persons appointed to the Municipal Advisory Committee in Iqaluit. They have even been told that they should not contact the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, they should communicate only through the municipal administrator.

On the calling of an early election, the Municipal Advisory Council ignored that advice and they have written directly to the Minister. I think I know why they did not rely on Mr. Beaumont, the administrator, to carry their message, because he is quoted in the March 18 local newspaper as saying, "We are not ready to have a council next week. There are so many things to look at." Then he is re-quoted in the article as reciting some of the things he feels need to be looked at. Get this...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Sorry, Mr. Patterson, your time has lapsed.

---Laughter

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I seek consent to finish my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to continue. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Continue, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, it appears there is also a paper flow problem on my desk.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Beaumont was quoted as referring to the many things that have to be looked at. He said there's a paper flow problem and there's an ancient computer system which

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needs to be replaced. Then in the interview he went on to talk about the need for street signs.

---Laughter

Paper flow. A new computer. Street signs. Is this now all that's standing in the way of restoring democracy in Iqaluit?

---Applause

Madam Speaker, the matter requires the urgent attention, I respectfully suggest and request, of the honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs himself. I'm asking him to make a visit to Iqaluit as a priority, meet with local citizens, meet with the Municipal Advisory Committee, as a high priority, and discuss this very pressing, aggravating issue of the need to call an election in Iqaluit. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Inadequate Freight Services Provided To Sanikiluaq

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I would like to follow up on the Minister's statement. There is a problem in Sanikiluaq with regard to the supply service through Great Whale River, which is the only source of supply service we have in Sanikiluaq for store supplies.

I heard from Sanikiluaq that the plane that is coming from Great Whale River, if there are no passengers

will not carry supplies to Sanikiluaq from Great Whale River. Only if there are passengers will the airplane arrive. They just pass by Sanikiluaq, even if there is freight on the airplane destined for Sanikiluaq.

For that reason, Madam Speaker, I was told earlier that Makivik Corporation should meet with the Sanikiluaq hamlet, as well as the board of directors of Makivik who operate First Air. Maybe they can make better arrangements for the freight plane because mail and also supplies are always late in arriving. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Turnover Of Fort Providence Water Treatment Plant

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday afternoon, the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, his officials and I travelled to Fort Providence to celebrate the official turnover of the Fort Providence water treatment plant.

Madam Speaker, the idea of this water treatment plant began back in 1982 by the previous Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Gordon Wray. This was the time when the government considered the piped water and sewage facility in core communities a priority. However, since the inception of the idea, the project has undergone some rough spots, with changes of Ministers and the fiscal restraints this government had to go through during the process.

After several years of delay the plant officially began operating in January 1993 and celebrated the official opening on February 17, 1993. The official transfer of this facility from the government to the hamlet of Fort Providence occurred yesterday. I was proud to witness this event, along with invited guests, as this was the fruit of long labour which I had to endure.

The facility included the truck fill station and a water storage, as well as the treatment facility. The facility treats water from the Mackenzie River in order to meet the guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality established by Health and Welfare Canada. The truck fill rate has also been increased to meet fire protection requirements. Madam Speaker, the plant has been designed to meet the projected 20 year water demand of the community.

As I stated during this ceremony yesterday, it is difficult to travel to communities during session due to the demands on Members of the Legislative Assembly, like myself and the Minister. I believe the Minister would agree that it was a worthwhile trip because by being there we were able to give special recognition to the hard work done by the hamlet and many residents in the community.

In return I would like to recognize and thank successive Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs, from Gordon Wray to the present Municipal and Community Affairs Minister, the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq, for starting and concluding the project and for...

MADAM SPEAKER:

Excuse me, Mr. Gargan. Your time has lapsed for Member's statements.

MR. GARGAN:

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members. In return, I would like to recognize and thank successive Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs, from Gordon Wray to the present Minister, the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq, for starting and concluding the project and for taking the time in his busy schedule to be there yesterday. I would also like to recognize his officials, Mr. Maurice Evans, Mr. Moheb Michael and Vern Christensen for overseeing the project to the end.

Madam Speaker, a special thanks must go the residents of Fort Providence for accommodating us yesterday and those who have forged on with determination to go through the training in order to learn the skills necessary to run the operations independently. I am proud to say, Madam Speaker, that the facility is currently being run by local aboriginal residents without any supervision from outside sources.

Finally, I would like to say that piped water and sewage in core areas of the community is still a dream of my community and by no means gets this government off the hook. I would hope that in the not to distant future, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will reintroduce this worthwhile venture and that Providence will be considered a first priority. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 360-12(5): Information For Communities On WCB Process

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two returns to oral questions. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudlat on March 23, 1994 regarding information for communities on WCB process.

The Workers' Compensation Board recognizes the difficulties in communicating with residents of smaller communities in the NWT and in providing them with quality service. The WCB has already taken a number of steps to reduce these difficulties:

1. During 1993, board members visited all regional centres seeking advice from local stakeholders and hunters' and trappers' associations. The board committed itself to repeating those visits in 1994. Last week, the chairperson of the WCB attended the meeting of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce.
2. The board has arranged for short information items -- public service announcements -- to be broadcast on CBC North. These announcements promote the board's 1-800 number, which is accessible from all NWT telephones.
3. WCB's quarterly newsletter, Directions, is mailed directly to over 3,500 employers, industry associations, labour groups and other interested parties. Copies are sent to the GNWT's GLOs (government liaison officers) in every community, as well as to all town, hamlet and city offices. The regional directors of the Department of the Executive also receive extra copies for additional circulation.

The newsletter is produced in a bilingual format, with English and Inuktitut.

4. Inuktitut is given priority in the board's official languages plan, which recognizes the obligation to provide services in aboriginal languages. Along with the Directions newsletter, the board's pamphlets and information sheets are being reviewed and rewritten. These pamphlets will be translated into Inuktitut. Each letter written by the board's employer services and client services divisions is sent on special letterhead. The back of the letter contains a clear explanation of appeal rights in English, French or Inuktitut, as appropriate.

5. The safety education program pays particular attention to the communities. WCB's training materials for WHMIS have been translated and produced in Inuktitut. The board's safety advisors have been travelling extensively to offer "preventative medicine" in local communities. In 1993, over 1,000 northerners received training from the WCB. Training is planned for Coppermine, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Cambridge Bay, Fort Smith, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. A delegation from WCB returned recently from the Nunavut trade show in Iqaluit and the board will be attending the great northwest trade show in Hay River.

6. Recent amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act will affect traditional harvesters. The WCB will work with regional renewable resources officers and superintendents to ensure that beneficiaries of the program receive efficient service.

Further Return To Question 424-12(5): Minister's Knowledge Of The Closure Of Weather Reporting Stations

My second return to oral question is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Alloo on March 30, 1994 regarding closure of weather stations at Clyde River and Pond Inlet.

Yesterday, the elusive Member for Amittuq, sorry, the Member for Amittuq...

---Laughter

...expressed his concerns about disruptions in weather reporting services as a result of Transport Canada transferring the operation of its Community Aerodrome Radio Station (CARS) service at Cape Dorset, Clyde River and Pond Inlet to the Department of Transportation.

The Member was correct in his concerns. Negotiations over the final details of the transfer continued until even as late as yesterday afternoon between the Department of Transportation, Transport Canada and Environment Canada's atmospheric environment service. Transport Canada had instructed its contractor to cut the power supply to the weather station buildings at Clyde River and Pond Inlet as of midnight tonight.

This will not occur. The Department of Transportation will assume control of the service as of midnight tonight and there will be no disruption in services at these airports. To make doubly sure there will be no service disruption, Department of Transportation officials spoke with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation officials in the Baffin yesterday to confirm the details of the transfer. I can assure the honourable Member for Amittuq that the NWTPC will not cut the power to the weather stations at midnight tonight.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. I have a return to an oral question asked of the Premier by Mr. Whitford on March 21, 1994. It concerns the policy for sole source contracts.

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Madam Speaker, section 003 of the government human resource manual describes conflict of interest and outside employment. Paragraph 13 of this section states that "for one year from the date their employment ceases, senior officers may not own, operate, control or be employed by any business enterprise within the community in which they were employed and in which they may be in a position to unduly exploit knowledge they gained while employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories."

Madam Speaker, a senior officer is defined in this section as a deputy minister, assistant deputy minister, regional director, assistance regional director, head of a secretariat of the Executive

Council, chief executive officer of a government corporation or agency, executive branch staff, regional superintendent, director, or a person appointed by a Minister to serve on executive staff who is paid out of public funds.

Madam Speaker, in conforming with the above guideline, the government, as a general rule, will not, for a period of one year, contract work out to a senior officer in the community in which the senior officer was employed and in a position to unduly exploit knowledge gained while employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Dent on March 28, 1994 regarding a human resource plan.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Social Services will finalize a human resource plan by April 1, 1995. As a first step, the department is developing a skills inventory for all existing staff. This will be followed by the development of detailed training plans for staff utilizing the skills of our regional staff development officers who will all be hired by June of 1994. The training plans will be complete by September of 1994.

In conjunction with that, a recruitment strategy will be developed to introduce higher numbers of aboriginal northerners into the work-force of the department by April 1, 1995. Finally, the performance of every staff member will be assessed over the course of the next year to identify those with the highest potential for promotion. This will result in a departmental success plan by September 1, 1995 to eliminate the gaps in service that result from inordinate delays in filling management jobs.

The regional staff development officers will also work closely with individual staff members to assist them in preparing career plans that will allow them to achieve their career goals. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 427-12(5): Reason For Highest Rates For Water Delivery In Fort Providence

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

I have two returns to oral questions. The first is a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on March 30, 1994 on the reason for highest rates for water delivery in Fort Providence.

On March 30, 1994 I made a Minister's statement on the water and sewage services subsidy policy amendments, and described the impacts of the changes in terms of some typical residential and commercial water and sewage accounts. The Member inquired why the overall costs for water in Fort Providence would appear to be the highest, compared to costs in Aklavik, Pond Inlet and Pelly Bay. The differing costs to household and commercial users in different communities which I described in my statements are the costs to specific household and commercial accounts. They are meant as typical examples. Other examples could just as easily have been chosen.

The Member's question suggested that Fort Providence had been designated to have the highest rates for the delivery of water. Let me make it clear that under the water and sewage services subsidy policy, a common subsidized residential rate is established for all hamlets, settlements and designated communities. Another common subsidized rate is established for residential users in towns and villages. However, the rates that will be charged to commercial users will be dependent on the economic rate for the community in question.

The difference from community to community for residential users will be dependant only upon the respective individual metered consumptions, and whether they reside in the towns and villages category or the hamlets, settlements and designated communities category. The cost of water and sewage services to each commercial user will vary from business to business, and depend on economic rates for municipal water and sewer services in each community and on the overall consumption of water by that business.

Further Return To Question 374-12(5): Impact Of Rate Increase On Commercially-Owned Residential Units

I have a second response, Madam Speaker. It is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ng on March 24, 1994 on the impact of rate increases on commercially-owned residential units.

Under the water and sewage subsidies service policy, tenants of residential units owned by private companies are not subsidized. If a private company and the occupant were to make arrangements for the occupant to pay for his or her water and sewage bills directly to the municipality, he or she would then be eligible to benefit from the subsidized residential rate established under the policy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, there was a meeting between the Mackenzie River Basin Committee and a number of First Nations chiefs on March 21 and 22 of this year.

The majority of the First Nations representatives at the meeting passed a resolution calling for their direct involvement with this committee. I have a number of questions about that. But, first of all, I would like to ask the Minister if he could explain to the House the current status of the water management agreement that the Mackenzie River Basin Committee has been developing during the last few years.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I understand it, the Ministers who are involved with the master agreement are committed to signing the master agreement as early as possible and the bilateral agreements that are to be attached to the master agreement, with Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, are close to completion and will be finalized once some consultation has taken place. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister what is the position of the Government of the Northwest Territories on the resolution that was passed on March 22 with regard to the First Nations calling for their direct involvement in this agreement? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the First Nations that met are of the view -- some of them -- that we should not go ahead with this agreement until 50 per cent of the management board for the water basin is comprised of aboriginal people. They also believe there should be some signature involvement of First Nations, including the 32 First Nations that signed the agreement, before the agreement can be executed.

I'm of the view that this is a management document committing governments to work cooperatively, share information and to deal with concerns about water quality and monitor upstream activities. There is strong reason to go ahead with the signing since it has taken over 20 years to get respective governments, for example the governments of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan, to agree to such a cooperative approach in the first place.

This is not a forum to resolve constitutional and treaty issues. There is simply a vested interest on

everybody's part, including the First Nations, that we have all-party commitment to work together. That is what the document is about. The people who are the furthest downstream, the Inuvialuit, the Sahtu and the Gwich'in, are the ones who are in favour of going ahead with the document at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. The Minister mentioned the bilateral agreements and the master agreement that is going to be signed by all the Ministers. I understand that at the meeting, the Members of the committee will take the requests of the resolutions of the First Nations to their respective Ministers who are responsible to see if the First Nations could be involved in this committee. With the reply the Minister is giving, is it that he is not in favour of having First Nations who want to be involved in these negotiations, as signatories to this agreement? Is that what the Minister is saying? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the negotiations have been going on for a number of years and it's unfortunate that First Nations were not directly involved in those discussions, or at least to the extent that they should have been. I think it's shared by all First Nations that the master agreement should not be killed, as they say, but that they would like to negotiate some changes to the provisions. Namely, to see if we could put off the signing until there is clarification on the rights of First Nations with regard to water and the management and control of water.

As I said, there are some 32 First Nations that may possibly be required for signatures of such a document. I'm not certain that waiting to get those things clarified at this time is going to see the master agreement survive. So I'm not certain that the first interest, which is to see the management agreement

as outlined in the master agreement survive such a condition. I think we are faced with either going ahead with it as is, with a political commitment to see what we can do to ensure that First Nations are more intricately involved in the execution and ongoing implementation of that agreement may be the compromise. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

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Supplementary To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. I have some concerns about that because I'm in an area where the First Nations have still retained their aboriginal treaty rights to all the lands and waters. Based on that, when the First Nations are requesting to be involved in that I have to support them. With that, I would like to ask if in the bilateral agreements were talking about a master agreement of all Ministers. The bilateral agreements are between the provinces, for example, an agreement between Alberta and Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories, BC and Northwest Territories, and so forth. Would the Minister see if the First Nations could be involved in these bilateral agreements? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 432-12(5): Status Of Water Management Agreement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, without wanting to give an indication as to the status of First Nations with regard to ownership or rights to decide on use and control of water, I believe that there can be some arrangements made through the existing agreement and the proposed bilateral agreement with respective governments to reflect the co-management approach that Renewable Resources has taken to all resources with aboriginal people. So I think it's possible to work on a co-management approach, if that is what the Member is suggesting, and to try to have that reflected in the bilateral agreements. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in November of 1993, I made a statement with regard to private truckers. On December 3, I made a motion with regard to changing the regulations of operation for private truckers. I also wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding the motion, the regulations and the briefings on the regulations. I also received a letter from the Minister indicating he would be consulting all the transportation people and companies to get a response from them by the end of February. It's now the end of March so I would like to ask the Minister if, in fact, he has been requested to change the hours of operation by truckers, and do we hope to have something in place by this summer?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

HON. JOHN TODD:

The honourable Member is correct. We did consult with a number of the truckers with respect to extending the hours on short hauls. It is my understanding that we didn't have a very good response from the truckers. However, in spite of that, the department is proposing to streamline it's permitting procedures to make approval of extended hours of service more readily available. So we are addressing that issue, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

MR. GARGAN:

Are the permits going to be more readily available, or are they going to change the regulations so truckers can operate longer?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

HON. JOHN TODD:

It's our intent, the way I understand it, to put in place an interim measure as requested by the honourable Member, to streamline the permitting procedures to make approval of extended hours of service more readily available. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

MR. GARGAN:

While this interim measure is being considered, is the department reviewing the whole Motor Vehicles Act, the Labour Standards Act and the regulations of operation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 433-12(5): Changes To The Regulations Of Operation For Private Truckers

HON. JOHN TODD:

I would like to point out, Madam Speaker, that this is not only a territorial issue, it is a national issue across the country and it is currently being reviewed. This interim measure gives the department the opportunity to monitor and assess the potential impact on the proposed changes that we may have to make eventually. It allows the department to benefit from the research being taken in other jurisdictions. And it will allow us the opportunity should we decide to make changes to territorial regulations that they would be consistent with what's taking place across the rest of the country.

So this interim measure, the issue which was raised by the honourable Member, is to give us some breathing space to determine what's going on in the rest of the country to assess the impact it will have on the current operators, and to bring forward, hopefully,

amendments to the regulations that would meet the requirements on safety on the one hand, and, of course, the truckers' concerns on the other. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 434-12(5): Changes To Health Care Plan Re Infant Formulas

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. Is the Minister aware that mothers in Keewatin -- probably in most of the territories, too -- are no longer provided with Enfalac or Similac infant formula as a medical benefit under our health care plan?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 434-12(5): Changes To Health Care Plan Re Infant Formulas

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Madam Speaker, I am aware that the federal government did make some adjustments in their program. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 434-12(5): Changes To Health Care Plan Re Infant Formulas

MR. ARVALUK:

As I stated in my Member's statement, if the mothers, especially in low income, and average mothers cannot actually afford...I'm told in Repulse Bay that Similac is \$17 a can and it is \$19 for Enfalac. Those cans are not very big. Will he investigate to find out whether that can be reinstated as a medical benefit? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 434-12(5): Changes To Health Care Plan Re Infant Formulas

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I'll look into the matter, both the pricing in the communities because it does seem a little outrageous, and also take up the issue with the federal government and raise the Member's concerns and report back to the Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Transportation for answering my question in a very short time. I'm glad that the Minister will commit himself that there will be no disruption in services at these airports. I would like to ask the Minister, would this mean that the services that have been provided will continue to proceed the same way, like 24 hour service? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Nay, Madam Speaker, nay. As I indicated yesterday, the fiscal responsibility for these services is currently provided by the federal government. It was their intent to cut this service back from 24 hours on a seven-day basis, to 40 hours on a five-day basis. We reached a compromise in Clyde River where we're looking at 65 hours on a seven-day basis, and in Cape Dorset and Pond Inlet I'm sad

to say we're looking at a seven-day 40-hour basis. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is there any chance that the two communities, Cape Dorset and Pond Inlet -- which are relatively larger communities than Clyde River and they get more airplanes -- would be able to get more than 40 hours during the next fiscal year? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

HON. JOHN TODD:

I did raise this issue during my meetings in Ottawa two weeks ago with the Honourable Doug Young, Minister of Transportation. I did explain to him that running these small airstrips in Arctic communities is different than running airstrips in the south because it is the primary mode of transportation. It has serious implications for emergency health care, particularly with charters, et cetera. I have drafted a letter to that effect to him. The officials are still trying to negotiate a better position than what I just explained in my last response. I'll try to keep the honourable Member informed as we move forward on this. Hopefully, we'll be able to come to an appropriate compromise between what we had before and what they are currently offering on the table. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What could we, as MLAs in the communities, do to get more hours, to get more dollars out of the federal government? Could the Minister tell us what we could do? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 435-12(5): Continuous Services At Weather Reporting Stations

HON. JOHN TODD:

At the present time, we're doing all we can. We are trying to negotiate official to official. We are trying to put forward fairly strong arguments as to why you can't arbitrarily cut from a 24 hour seven-days a week service to a 40 hour five-days a week service or seven-days a week service. Hopefully, as I say, we'll be able to reach an appropriate compromise, but at this time it's still very much in the discussion stages. I will keep the Member informed as to what the final results are between Mr. Young's office and mine. Thank you.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. The questions that were asked yesterday with regard to safety to the Minister of DPW and the Housing Corporation...The hamlet has a business license to do local contracts in the communities. The people who are given the licence, will they be given contracts in 1994-95? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of DPW and Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My understanding of the question is if people get a business licence, do they get contracts as well? The two aren't tied together. It's up to the hamlet to issue the business licence, then they would have to bid on the contracts. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

MR. PUDLUK:

Madam Speaker, those people who already have a business licence in the communities, are they eligible for bidding for contracts?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of DPW, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, everybody with a business licence in the Northwest Territories is eligible to bid on contracts. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Does that mean that if Kheraj has a business licence in Pond Inlet that he will not necessarily be allowed to bid on a contract? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of DPW, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 436-12(5): Eligibility Of Business Licence Holders To Bid On Contracts

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the contract goes out to public tender, yes he would be eligible like anyone else. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 437-12(5): Plans To Continue The Science Innovators' Program

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. For the last two years, I believe, the federal government has made a contribution to the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories, called the science innovators program, to encourage young people to think scientifically. With the reorganization, the position that used this particular money no longer exists and this \$40,000 really can't be used. So I would like to ask the Minister, what plans is he making so that this program can still continue?

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 437-12(5): Plans To Continue The Science Innovators' Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Two points before I get into the detail. One, the position has nothing to do with whether we can access the resources. The matter was raised with my office almost two weeks ago. We raised the concern with Arctic College and the Science Institute, the executive director. As of last weekend when the board of the Science Institute met, they too expressed the view that the program is valuable and that every effort should be made to continue its operation. The board has given direction to the administration to develop an approach to the future delivery of the program within the planned future institute's structure. The innovators program is entirely funded by the federal government. Delivery of the program through the reorganized college institute structure should not be a problem. The college currently operates a number of programs under contract with various government departments, therefore can sign an arrangement with the federal government on this particular matter. That is the extent of the answer to the question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 437-12(5): Plans To Continue The Science Innovators' Program

MR. LEWIS:

Thanks. Since we will no longer have one institute but two bodies, is it proposed that the federal contribution be made to two separate institutions?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Education, Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 437-12(5): Plans To Continue The Science Innovators' Program

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Obviously, until the Members of this House approve the structure that I have proposed, it makes it very difficult for the board to proceed. However, they will proceed on the management of the arrangement that has been reached this particular year or in the past two years. They have a mechanism to do it and they will be prepared to do that. It is hoped that both Arctic College headquarters will be able to negotiate the same type of funding for both organizations.

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MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 438-12(5): Terms Of Reference For Hay River

Group Home Inquiry

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Social Services. Yesterday, my colleague for Yellowknife Centre raised the issue of the independent investigation of the group home contract in Hay River. Madam Speaker, the Minister indicated that the terms of reference have to be established for this inquiry. She also indicated that she has asked her deputy minister to act on it as quickly as possible and to try to get the investigation completed before the House adjourns. My question, Madam Speaker, to the Minister is since this is of great urgency on the part of the department that she has asked her deputy minister to act on this issue as quickly as possible, has the deputy minister or the department developed the terms of reference for the inquiry? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 438-12(5): Terms Of Reference For Hay River Group Home Inquiry

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it was two or three days ago when I spoke to my deputy minister. The same day the Member for Deh Cho asked me the question if I would agree to having an investigation done, during our break I immediately called my deputy minister to see what we could do and try to act on it as quickly as possible. I have not spoken to him since to see how soon that will be proceeding, but my deputy does know and is aware that there is urgency on this matter. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 438-12(5): Terms Of Reference For Hay River Group Home Inquiry

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but my direct question was, since this issue is of great urgency for the department, as she indicates it is, I asked if the terms of reference for this inquiry have been established. I would assume that since it's of great urgency, this would have been done first, because then we will know how the investigation will flow. I would like to ask the Minister again, have the terms of reference for this inquiry been established?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 438-12(5): Terms Of Reference For Hay River Group Home Inquiry

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I did indicate since I gave the instructions to my deputy minister that I have not spoken to him about it since then. I will find out and report to the House, and find out where the work is at. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Under the home ownership access program, the CNIT -- accumulated net income threshold -- for each community is the key determining factor in whether individuals qualify to receive their own housing unit. Individuals over the CNIT are ineligible to qualify as a result of being deemed able to afford their own housing. The Housing Corporation, in determining family income, includes vacation travel assistance provided by employers. This additional benefit included in the income places many applicants over the allowable CNIT threshold to qualify for these home ownership units. So I would like to ask the Minister, why is the VTA provided by employers taken into consideration for income calculations with the Housing Corporation, when under federal income tax guidelines these same VTA benefits are allowed as a deduction off the income? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Member is correct. It shouldn't be evaluated as a part of the CNIT. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Do you have a supplementary, Mr. Ng? Supplementary.

MR. NG:

Sorry, Madam Speaker, I didn't catch the answer. Could I ask him to repeat it? Is that allowable under the rules?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The vacation travel assistance shouldn't be part of the CNIT. It shouldn't be taken into consideration. It shouldn't be calculated. That's my understanding of the program. If the Member can let me know of any problems in his riding, I will fix them.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. If the Minister can determine if the vacation travel assistance is currently factored in as income, will he amend the CNIT guidelines to ensure that it's not a part of income in determining eligibility for these home ownership units? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

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Further Return To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I cannot amend the guidelines on my own, I would have to take that to Cabinet. But I'm fairly sure that's not part of it. I will look into that issue and get back to the Member.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. With respect to eligibility of these home ownership units, I would like to ask the Minister if all individuals are treated equally whether they are a single person or whether it's a couple with children, in determining whether they're eligible for these home ownership units. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under the point system, the rating that people get, they were all treated equally. We tried to adjust that point system this year and it has been brought to my attention. People with families will be given extra points to get into housing. They will be awarded houses over single people because that's the best way to allocate houses. You solve more housing needs that way. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Ng.

Supplementary To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I take it from the Minister's answer, is he suggesting that single people are less qualified than families with children in determining their eligibility for these home ownership units? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 439-12(5): Calculation Of VTA Included In CNIT For Home Ownership Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. What I'm saying is that a couple with a family is more in need than a single person. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I indicated yesterday that I welcomed the response of the government to the recommendations of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, and saw them as fairly positive. I note that in response to recommendation one, the government has indicated that they will combine the departments of Health and Social Services by April 1, 1995. The second part of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services recommendation, though, was that the first step should be the designation of one Minister responsible for both departments by March 31, 1994. I was wondering if the Premier would confirm that she intends to follow this recommendation by announcing a Cabinet shuffle later today.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, no.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the Premier advise whether she intends to follow this part of the recommendation by the special committee?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I'm considering it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

MR. DENT:

Will the Premier commit to making that decision before this House recesses, probably next week?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 440-12(5): Designation Of One Minister For Departments Of Health And Social Services

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ooh.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 441-12(5): Lay-off Of Workers At Cape Dorset Weather Reporting Station

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a question for the Minister of Transportation about the new hours the Minister stated for the seven days. The people

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in my constituency of Cape Dorset have a concern about this. They just heard about this not too long ago. There are seven people who are working in the communications tower in Cape Dorset. Does this mean that some of them will be laid off? There are always planes coming in and out of the community, even during the weekend. They have to do a weather report at all times. I wonder if the Minister of Transportation can tell me today, or give me a response in a couple of days, about whether some of the employees in the Cape Dorset communications tower will be laid off.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 441-12(5): Lay-off Of Workers At Cape Dorset Weather Reporting Station

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I concur with the honourable Member that this arbitrary move by the federal government to cut back from 24 hours seven days a week to 40 hours five days a week is an unfortunate situation. As I said earlier, we are still trying to convince the federal government to look at a compromise position, possibly 70 hours a week.

But, effective April 1, the federal government is only prepared to fund Cape Dorset 40 hours a week and it will have an impact on the employment of these airport operators. I want to assure my honourable colleague that we're trying our best to reach an appropriate compromise with the federal government. I guess the bottom line is that there will be a requirement for less people because the stations will be open for less hours. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 442-12(5): Fees For Firearms Certificates

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Renewable Resources about firearms regulations. Do we have to start following the new regulations? Do you have to get a certificate in order to obtain firearms? Some people who are not hunters have a general hunting license. There are several people who have these. Would they have to pay for a permit to get their firearms certificate? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 442-12(5): Fees For Firearms Certificates

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, under the new requirements of the amendments to the Criminal Code, anyone in Canada who wishes to purchase a gun or a firearm will be required to take a course or to successfully pass a test. This was to have been implemented as of midnight tonight. However, after my meeting with him last week, the federal Minister has agreed that this will not be implemented until September of this year, which gives us some time to negotiate a more acceptable, realistic exam and course that will be offered to people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudluk.

Supplementary To Question 442-12(5): Fees For Firearms Certificates

MR. PUDLUK:

Some people will have to fill out the applications to hold a permit, or something like that, and take them to the RCMP. Will even people who are GHL holders have to pay a fee? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 442-12(5): Fees For Firearms Certificates

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, the federal government has suggested that all people who apply for the firearms acquisition certificate will be expected to submit a fee. This, again, was something we took exception to and will be addressing as one of the issues to resolve with the federal government before this regulation will be implemented in the Northwest Territories. At this time, the federal government is suggesting that a fee will be expected from all people who apply for the certificate.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. I have been following the discussion on the termination of the contract for the group home in Hay River, with interest, during the past few days. But, the more information I get and the more I hear, the more confusing the issue gets.

Yesterday, in the unedited Hansard, my honourable colleague for Yellowknife Centre asked a question and I'll quote, "Does the termination of this contract mean that the guilty party in this work relationship was the contractor and not the department?" The Minister responded, "Being responsible for the Department of Social Services, I certainly will not come to a conclusion. That's why I think we should have a private inquiry done on this, because it could be the contractor or it could be our department. That is something that has to be seen yet."

Madam Speaker, this is very confusing because a decision has already been made. The contract has been cancelled. I would like the Minister to state what the reasons for cancelling the contract were.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it's important to note that when we're dealing with this kind of thing, especially a group home that is dealing with children in care, the priority has to be placed on the children. In this particular case, everything was tried between the department

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and the contractor to try to work out a workable relationship because one cannot do without the other.

After a number of times of trying, the working relationship between the contractor and the staff completely collapsed. Because of a provision in the contract, the contract was terminated. We have since received accusations from the contractor that it was the department's fault. That's why I think it is important to have an independent investigation carried out. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Under the terms of the contract, who has ultimate authority to terminate the contract?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The department does.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

MR. KOE:

I know the department does, but who in the department? Is it the Minister, the deputy minister, the regional superintendent or a social worker who has the ultimate authority to terminate this contract?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Social Services, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 443-12(5): Reasons For Terminating Hay River Group Home Contract

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In this particular contract, I have not examined who has the authority. But, under the recommendations of the regional superintendent, the deputy minister of Social Services terminated the contract.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 444-12(5): Information Re Contract For Kawtak Contracting Limited

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I received a letter from Sanikiluaq about a contract. The contractor in Sanikiluaq, Kawtak, owns 51 per cent of the company. The other partners have 49 per cent ownership. The 51 per cent owners of this company requested that they be awarded the contract for the extension to the school, the construction of a garage, work on the airstrip and also some housing initiatives.

They have been trying to get this contract for quite awhile and it is going to have to be decided upon very quickly. The contractors in Sanikiluaq have been trying to get some information from the government about this contract. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 444-12(5): Information Re Contract For Kawtak Contracting Limited

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have received the letter from Sanikiluaq and I'll be looking into the matter. But, I'm also aware that 49 per cent of this company is owned by a southern-based company. That issue will have to be addressed because there's no way, I believe, that we, as a government, can negotiate with any joint venture where dollars from the Northwest Territories will be flowing south. There are many contractors and construction companies in the north that are willing to work with the Development Corporation and small community groups to help them develop. I encourage people to use and buy northern products. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

Madam Speaker, I drew to the Minister's attention, my displeasure with the way a relatively minor maintenance contract has been tendered for plant maintenance work in Iqaluit. My concern was that the documents for this tender had to be picked up at the Power Corporation's head office in Hay River, they had to be returned to the Power Corporation's head office in Hay River, they were tendered in a period during which the Easter break occurs -- thus further limiting the time available -- and they were advertised in News/North, a newspaper that does not widely circulate in Iqaluit, and not Nunatsiaq News, a paper that does widely circulate in Iqaluit.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible -- and I do appreciate that she's made some efforts to get the documents to my constituent who had complained -- on a broader basis, how could such a thing have happened in the Power Corporation?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, in the matter of advertising, I believe the Power Corporation, in the majority of cases, has taken into consideration all suggestions on how to maximize contracts and dollars they spend on northern businesses. I believe that this case was an oversight. It did not get advertised in the Nunatsiaq News where it should have been advertised and I think there has been added direction given that this should not happen again. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

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Supplementary To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

MR. PATTERSON:

I'm glad to hear that, Madam Speaker, thank you. This is a relatively minor contract in the scheme of things for the Power Corporation and is obviously related directly to the local plant, but would it not be more appropriate that plant superintendents be delegated authority to make decisions and deal with

issues locally rather than through the central office in Hay River? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the simple answer to that is no. At one time there was some delegation of contracts in various regions and I believe that the consolidated approach was in response to a lot of suggestions by businessmen saying that if it would be given the proper lead time, the fact that everyone has faxes and does a lot of work on telephones, it would be more appropriate and easier to know there is one location for contracts to be awarded from and tendered from. That was done with the inclusion of some of the comments by businesses. The Power Corporation wanted to streamline how they did business and advertised, and I think the way they have it now has not been the reason this item fell through the cracks. I'm really hard pressed to tell our business operation - that doesn't have the same volume or flexibility as government -- how to run their business. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

MR. PATTERSON:

Madam Speaker, I understand that the Power Corporation has recently hired a very experienced and capable manager to run the operation in Iqaluit which, I believe, oversees other communities. I would like to ask the Minister if the corporation is not willing to give decision-making authority to that and other senior managers who are located in the field, then why do we pay them well and hire qualified people if all important decisions are going to be made in head office?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the manager is to keep the power plants operating. Tenders and paper work is paper work. The qualifications to try to keep the power generation going in small communities is a priority of the Power Corporation. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it's obvious I'm not going to win this argument with the honourable Minister. But I would like to ask her this...I will give up on delegating authority to the field, maybe I'll get more sympathy in other quarters. I would like to ask the honourable Minister if contracts, even local maintenance contracts, are going to be dealt with from Hay River, would the Minister at least agree -- since these are of primary interest in the local community -- that it would make sense that the documents be made available at the local Power Corporation office in that community, and that the documents could be submitted and tendered within the deadline through the local office in the community, rather than having to go through the trouble and expense of retrieving and then sending them by courier to Hay River, which is some considerable distance for Iqaluit? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 445-12(5): NWTPC Tendering Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, it's my understanding that the information is available at the regional levels, because the Power Corporation does give out a plan on what work is to be done in the preceding year. I will see what can be done to make sure that the information flow and the fact that this information and accommodation of people getting papers back and forth is able to be accommodated a little bit better. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 446-12(5): Party At Fault In Hay River Group Home/Social Services Contract

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to follow up from where my colleague from Inuvik left off questioning the Minister of Social Services. Madam Speaker, the Minister indicated that the deputy minister of Social Services has terminated the contract in Hay River for the group home. By terminating this particular contract, does it mean that the guilty party in the work relationship was the contractor and not the department? I would like a simple answer, yes or no. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think there are some legal interpretations that have to be looked into. I will take the question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

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Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. The official transportation strategy of the Government of the Northwest Territories, tabled during the 11th Assembly, included a need for a general freight subsidy to lower the costs of living in the remote communities. Is the freight subsidy still a part of the current transportation strategy of this government?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, we are looking at the implications of a freight subsidy. There is a freight subsidy currently in place for Pelly Bay and two other communities, I believe, for essential services like the honourable Member was mentioning earlier. It is still part of the strategy, however it is all part and parcel of the fiscal condition of this government, and we are looking at it. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I hear that these are the specific subsidy programs, but my question was, are there general subsidy proposals in the transportation strategy, especially the small communities, other than Pelly Bay, et cetera?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

MR. ARVALUK:

Madam Speaker, I want to know why there is no transportation strategy with the idea of general subsidy for remote communities or small communities for potential staple foods.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Perhaps I should have clarified my response. I apologize, Madam Speaker. There is no strategy in place at the present time. There were specific communities that were designated as having extremely high costs; Lutsel K'e, Colville Lake and Pelly Bay, I believe. However, part of the transportation strategy is to look at what we're doing in these communities, take a look at what we should be doing in other communities, and to see where we could expand this program and what the fiscal costs would be attached to it. That's our intent down the road, Madam Speaker. My apologies. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Supplementary To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

MR. ARVALUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Final supplementary so I guess it had better be a good one. During the 11th Assembly, it included a section for general freight subsidy. The Minister indicated that this was taken out and now they are looking at some other form of subsidy, perhaps for specialized or specific items, et cetera. Why was this taken out?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 447-12(5): Status Of Freight Subsidy In Transportation Strategy

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, I think it was generally agreed that the fiscal cost of this thing may in fact be so enormous that this government, under its present fiscal conditions, wouldn't be able to afford it. One of the ways that we're looking at an indirect subsidy, for example, is the work that we did in Pelly Bay with the Coast Guard and the icebreakers coming in, in trying to find a new way in which to bring dry cargo and POL products into that community in a more cost-effective way. So we're doing more of that. In Mr. Arvaluk's riding, in particular, right now we're taking a hard look at direct POL products, and possibly dry cargo down the road from Montreal, to see what the costs would be there. We've proven and will prove that the POL, for example, out of Montreal direct into Keewatin will

provide significant savings to this government, that hopefully we can pass along to other people. So we are looking at more transportation directed policies where we would do things more cost-effectively, rather than a direct subsidy to food products, similar to what we did in the past. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Time frame for oral questions has lapsed. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is my first reply in I think six years, and it's not too long.

---Applause

If I can keep Members' attention for ten or fifteen minutes that's all I'll do today.

Today I would like to speak about some of my ideas about constitutional development and economic development in the emerging Northwest Territories. In my 15 years in politics I've

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always believed in certain strong underlying principles. I just want to publicly state these principles again.

I've always believed that the Northwest Territories must take control of its destiny from Ottawa. I have always believed that aboriginal people must be respected and supported in their different approaches to self-determination. I have always believed that the Northwest Territories must become more economically and fiscally independent and self-reliant. I've always believed that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Legislative Assembly, in cooperation with aboriginal organizations, must explore and define new relationships between different regions and between different cultural groups, that result in practical form of community, regional and territorial governments.

I've always believed that there has to be a mutually-beneficial relationship between Yellowknife and the regions of the Northwest Territories. It has never made sense to me that some people in Yellowknife have had a narrow approach to the rest of the territories and it has never made sense to me that other people outside of Yellowknife have had a very narrow anti-Yellowknife approach. I think Yellowknife and the regions of the territories are mutually dependant on each other.

I've tried to be consistent to these principles over the years. Because of that, I've been in disfavour with various groups and individuals at different times and in different places.

---Laughter

For example, many of my constituents have had problems with my consistent stand supporting division, and my consistent stand supporting land claims, self-government, treaty negotiations, Metis rights and the Yellowknives Dene Band. I've been criticized by environmentalists because I've supported a balanced approach to economic development in the Northwest Territories. There have been aboriginal groups, at times, who have disagreed with my oft-stated position that public government and self-government have to come together at some point. I feel we need a common territorial public government in the western Arctic that incorporates First Nations and self-government realities.

I've been criticized by mining companies because I haven't agreed with a lot of their approaches over the years. I've been criticized by unions because I haven't agreed with a lot of their approaches over the years. But, I guess the lesson for politicians -- at least in my own view -- is that you have to have certain principles and you have to try to be consistent to those principles. You can't be captured by interest groups who have specific objectives at different times in different circumstances.

I'll go over some of the priorities I've had over the years. I very strongly have believed and still believe that we must take over programs and responsibility from Ottawa. Examples are oil and gas, land and water. I'm convinced that if we don't take them over, and take over these responsibilities soon, two things are going to happen. One, the federal government is going to strip these programs of people and program money so if and when we decide we want them, there'll be nothing there to take over. Second, because of the increasing pressure on the federal

treasury, the treasures of the Northwest Territories at some point will be given out to the rest of Canada.

I've said and I'll say again that we can't wait to take over these responsibilities. Though different groups in the territories have different approaches, it is in everyone's interest to get control of these powers in the Northwest Territories and let northerners decide among themselves how we apportion those resources.

I believe it is important that we respect aboriginal organizations as they pursue self-government, treaties and self-determination. I think we have to recognize that different approaches are based on different historical realities, different opportunities, and different values. It is not for the Government of the Northwest Territories or the people of the Northwest Territories to criticize these different approaches. It is my belief that it is the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories to find commonalities of interests, and common structures which give us strength and unity. I think by putting together our thoughts we can end up with the best of both worlds, the best of public government and the best of self-government.

I think we have to recognize some stark realities in the Northwest Territories. We have the youngest and the fastest-growing population in Canada. The number of jobs we'll have to create in the next ten years will be extraordinary. Those people who are totally against development should be asked to present us with alternatives. I think we all agree that we must maximize opportunities in the non-renewable resource area and I think we have to do that right. I like what I hear from the Minister of Renewable Resources. But, I also think we have to recognize that 15 years from now, if we maximize our non-renewable resources perhaps we could sustain a full-time lifestyle for 20 to 30 per cent of our population. We won't be able to sustain all our population on the land.

That takes me to my next point about education and training. We have to give the children of the Northwest Territories -- the future of the Northwest Territories -- options. If they want to be on the land, they should have that option. If they want to be in the public service, they should have that option. If they want to be in industry, they should have that option. Or, as I'm sure many of them will do, they'll combine various options. I think it is very important to provide the upcoming generation with those options.

Again, I'm happy with the approaches taken by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in these areas. He sees the necessity of preparing our children for a new world. The world will be vastly different 15 years from now than it is today.

I've said many times that oil, gas and mining will be critical components of the economy of the Northwest Territories. I've also said many times that of course the environment must be protected. I said the best of modern technology and the best in modern safeguards have to be used. I think the environmental process that we eventually come up with here in the Northwest Territories must be straightforward and effective. We obviously must ensure that job opportunities and business opportunities for northerners will be maximized. We have to ensure full participation by aboriginal groups. We have to ensure that participation is guaranteed.

We can't make the mistakes of the past, but just because companies have not been enlightened and governments haven't been very vigilant in the past, we can't stick our heads

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in the sand in 1994. We need a pragmatic, balanced approach. I think we have no choice. Time is flying by. We have more people, we have more problems, and we have less money. Even though some people don't want it, even if some people want to stop development, my own evaluation is that right now we don't have the political strength to stop it even if we wanted to.

We don't have control over the environment. We don't have control over our oil and gas. We don't have control over land and water. We don't have control over mining. People can't have it both ways. Either we get a measure of control so we can influence decisions, or we'll be brushed aside by powerful national and international corporations and governments.

In the long run, I think we have to ask some fundamental questions. Who is going to pay for housing? Who is going to pay to solve the social problems? Who is going to pay for education? Presently, 85 per cent of our budget comes from the federal government. Ottawa has no money. That will be a problem in the future. I know there are many people who want to freeze time and maintain life as it is today. That's great. If we could do it, it has all sorts of appeal. But, the reality is the federal debt is getting

greater, the pressures from across the country are getting greater. We are finding it harder to hang on to our share of federal transfer payments. We have to find alternatives. I see a danger that the people of the Northwest Territories, the government, and the Legislative Assembly will become paralysed with indecision, and the status quo a defensive posture paralysed by trying to sort out regional interests. I think we have to recognize that our transfer payments are dwindling. Every day, we hear of the battles that our government has with Ottawa trying to protect what we have. I, for one, think they have done an extremely good job. I think the Minister of Finance is doing as competent and as good a job as possible, but there are bigger powers than us out there. There are people in great need out there and it is going to get harder to protect. We can't rest on our laurels. We can't pretend that today will last forever. I think we have to be proactive. We have to be balanced and, most importantly, I think we have to be realistic.

Northerners, collectively, must decide our future path. I believe that we have to build a balanced approach. We have to control our resources, our lands and our waters. I believe that the Western Constitutional Steering Committee can work. I believe that our committee on division can work. I think that, at the end of the day, if we all do our work, we can have a win-win situation. I think we can have the best of public government and the best of aboriginal government. But, more importantly, we can have a government that can most effectively and efficiently serve our population.

The problem with political power and political structures, whether they are aboriginal or non-aboriginal is that, ultimately, they are judged by their effectiveness. All over the world, there have been different governments and promises about what governments can deliver. Eighty per cent of the time, they are failures. At the end of the day, the services aren't there. People don't have more housing, better education opportunities and more jobs. To me, it really, in many senses, becomes irrelevant, the form of government and structure we have if we can't deliver those programs and deliver hope to the people of the Northwest Territories.

I feel strongly that the GNWT and Legislative Assembly must show the leadership, skill and vision that transcends each region, and transcends each interest group. We must provide stability. I believe that we have to develop a pragmatic fiscal and economic base for the two new territories. I think we have to ensure that all northerners will benefit from

rapid constitutional change as we approach the new millennium. I want to leave this with you, because sometimes, as politicians, I think we get carried away with political ideas, forums and structures. Sometimes, I think we lose a little bit of perspective. Ultimately, we will be judged on whether all northerners will be able to take advantage of the opportunities and the future that is created by practical and efficient governments presiding over a growing and balanced economy. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The House will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MADAM SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 12: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. KOE:

I wish to table, Tabled Document 65-12(5), Water and Sewer Services Subsidy Policy Amendments, which was handed out to ordinary Members in a briefing given by the Minister of MACA on March 30, 1994.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to table, Tabled Document 66-12(5), a resolution of a First Nations forum, Yellowknife, March 21, 1994. I made reference to this document in my Member's statement. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 12, tabling of documents. Item 13, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 26-12(5): Tabled Document 65-12(5) "Water And Sewage Services Subsidy Policy Amendments" To Committee Of The Whole

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, April 5, I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Tabled Document 65-12(5), Water and Sewer Services Subsidy Policy Amendments be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

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Madam Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15, motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 15: MOTIONS

Motion To Move Minister's Statement 62-12(5): To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit, that Minister's Statement 62-12(5), Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy, be moved into committee of the whole.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Question has been called. The chair doesn't recognize a quorum. Mr. Clerk, could you ring the bells.

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

---Carried

Item 15, motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with my motion on the water and sewage subsidy policy.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with Motion 26-12(5). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Koe.

Motion 26-12(5): Tabled Document 65-12(5) "Water And Sewage Services Subsidy Policy Amendments" To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. KOE:

Thank you, honourable colleagues.

WHEREAS, the document "Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy Amendments" has been tabled in this House;

AND WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the document to be discussed by the legislature;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Tabled Document 65-12(5) be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Tabled Document 65-12(5) and Minister's Statement 62-12(5) are placed into committee of the whole. Item 15, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Item 18, consideration in

committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95; Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax 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; Minister's Statement 62-12(5), Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy; and, Tabled Document 65-12(5), Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy Amendments, with Mr. Ningark in the chair. Prior to putting Mr. Ningark in the chair, the committee will continue their business until they are ready to adjourn. Thank you.

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. This is the last day before Easter break. Remember that tomorrow is Good Friday. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee continue with consideration of Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), specifically to deal with the budget of the Department of Health which, hopefully, we can finish before Good Friday.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Do we have the concurrence of the committee that we will continue with the Department of Health? 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

Department Of Health

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the Minister wish to bring in the witnesses?

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Proceed with the witnesses, please. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce the witnesses to the committee.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Dr. David Kinloch, the deputy minister of Health, on my right is Darrell Bower who is the director of finance for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Line By Line

Administration

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. When we concluded yesterday on the review of the 1994-95 main estimates for the Department of Health we were on page 14-10. Total O and M, \$11.399 million. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to administration, have we been able to resolve the whole issue of the denturist thing? I'm on health legislation and policy. It says that there is the Dental Professions Act and you also have a situation where a person operating...I made numerous statements about it, but I haven't had any indication that that issue has been resolved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Minister of Finance.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue is being dealt with by way of a legislative proposal that is being drafted for Cabinet review. As soon as it has been reviewed, legislation will be drafted and presented to this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, under Bill C-31, are all the people who have been reinstated as status people being addressed? Are you keeping a record of people? I believe the Government Leader received letters from people who are still having problems. Maybe it is because their health card doesn't indicate that they are status.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Indian Affairs issues identification to those people who are status. We use their identification cards to identify status Indians in the Northwest Territories for the purposes of health.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN:

Under C-31, are status people's children included? In one letter to the Premier, there was a case that when a woman's daughter was born and her health insurance benefits were filed, they didn't give the information that she was status, under C-31. I guess that has led to a lot of problems with her receiving health benefits. I don't presume this is an isolated incident. I was wondering how it is being addressed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, as I said, if DIAND tells us that this person is status or has received his or her status back by way of Bill C-31, then we treat them as a status person. Now, if there are problems, I'm quite prepared to have someone in the department go the Department of Indian Affairs to find out the situation with particular people and find out how the problem can be solved. If there are problems of that nature, where part of the family is covered and some aren't, then we'll gladly take up the case with DIAND, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, total O and M, \$11.399 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

I believe this activity includes the health policy division. Can we find out how many people are involved in policy development in the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there are 5.5 PYs in that area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister advise us whether all those positions are currently filled? The reason I'm asking is that during the hearings of Special Committee on Health and Social Services, there were a number of people who suggested that this section of the department was perhaps understaffed. I was just wondering if it was because positions had been vacant and have been recently filled. Five and a half PYs sounds like a fairly substantial component. I would like to get some clarification as to how long those people have been involved and whether all 5.5 PYs are involved in developing policies for the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, not all the positions have been filled for a great length of time. At the present time, there are two vacancies. There was one vacancy filled just last December, I believe, and we've just advertised for another person for Nunavut. That position is presently vacant. Not all the positions are filled. The majority of these people do respond to policy situations, although they do some work, as well, in responding to matters raised in the Legislative Assembly or in committee where they cross policy lines.

I've drawn these concerns to the attention of the department and I believe today I'll receive the review of the department. I've asked for that concern to be addressed when we look at whether there need to be changes in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Minister's commitment to take a careful look at the development of policy. I believe these people are also responsible for dealing with legislation and I think that reviewing proposed changes to legislation may be taking up a great deal of their time. Just as a comment, I believe we need to provide more depth by ensuring that all of the positions for policy development are filled. There needs to be proper support in the department for examination of policy. I will take the Minister's answer as indication that that is the direction they are moving and I hope they will move as quickly as possible in that way.

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I have one other question. I believe we will find the majority of the funding for AIDS strategies in this activity. Along with other Members, I recently received a letter from the Minister talking about the work of three working groups which are going to help the government develop a strategy on HIV and AIDS in the Northwest Territories. I was wondering if we could get, for the record, an outline of exactly what the department is doing to deal with AIDS in the Northwest Territories in this budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we were at a recent conference on health in Ottawa. I think everybody around the table, the provinces, the Yukon, ourselves and the federal government, have some feeling of helplessness about what to do about HIV and, ultimately, AIDS. In some way, I was relieved because I thought it was just us, in the Northwest Territories, but everybody is having a problem with how to deal with it. We're not back to square one, but we're certainly taking an update of the HIV strategy this year. We're going to update the

HIV infection rate studies and we are going to provide communities with some money to do their own initiatives. We will do some case management assistance to boards, ongoing education for health professionals and the public. We will be looking at the whole issue of community health and nursing. In particular, I will be interested in what these people, who we are asking to assist us, come up with as a way to get the message across.

I have spoken in Hay River to two large groups of people and said to them, if there is any way that you can advise us about what we should be doing about AIDS and the prevention of AIDS, please tell us. I haven't received any comments back from those people yet. People just say it is like a bullet that is never going to hit them. Young people are saying it is never going to be me. It won't happen to me. It only happens to some other kind of people. Unfortunately, from the latest studies that are coming out of the national AIDS secretariat for Health Canada, this thing is still on the increase. It isn't a bullet that everybody can dodge. It isn't somebody else's problem. It is all our problems because, if it doesn't get you, your family or community physically, it will eventually get us all fiscally. The cost of looking after these people is going to be enormous for this country.

I have probably gone on longer than I should, but I am hoping that we will come up with an update of the strategy and some suggestions about how we can go out there and get the message across. We have booklets dealing with safer sex and so forth, but we really need to get some idea from people about how they believe we should be getting that message across about this disease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly agree with the Minister that, in many cases, people do not seem to recognize their vulnerability to this terrible disease. We do need to find more ways to get the message out effectively. I think that is one of the things that the Special Committee on Health and Social Services tried to emphasize. We have to find effective ways of getting the message out.

I think the Minister has suggested that he is waiting for people to tell him about ways that work to get the

message across. In every community that we travelled to, on the special committee, I asked people about their AIDS awareness and tried to gauge how effective we had been at getting the message across to communities. The one community that stood out above all the others, although it had happened only fairly recently, was Tuktoyaktuk. The approach that was used in Tuktoyaktuk was one that has shown great promise. I would urge the department to take a look at that example and see if we can't find ways to support the CHRs and the community nurses to follow the process that was followed in Tuktoyaktuk and try and use that approach. It is obvious that the booklets and advertisements aren't working. The schools don't seem to be successfully getting the message across, but in Tuktoyaktuk I know that I found there seemed to be a much higher awareness of the problem of AIDS, a much better awareness of how to deal with preventing it. There seemed to have been some change in behaviour based on what people verbally indicated. I think that represents one success that should be looked at.

It is not clear from the budget. Have we devoted more in the way of fiscal and human resources to dealing with AIDS in this budget than the current year? Is it less or about the same?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we had some \$335,000 last year. Some of it was for one-time funding. We did an educational workshop for 200 Health staff. We had the AIDS hotline operating from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and received 350 calls. We did the television program, along with Education. Again, we had \$60,000 for special community projects and \$50,000 for board initiatives. We did the HIV/AIDS manual for health professionals update and sexually transmitted diseases control project in the Kitikmeot and Mackenzie. Some of those are one-time shots. We have, this year, \$185,000 and ongoing. That will maintain the community initiatives and complete the sexually transmitted diseases control project in the Mackenzie. It will continue with the case management assistance and ongoing education for health professionals and the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, total O & M, \$11.399 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one last comment on AIDS. I understand that, recently, there has been an AIDS awareness group started in Yellowknife. I would suspect that that type of group could be quite successful in helping the department get the message across if they were encouraged to either expand through branches in other communities or if other communities were interested to set that kind of group up. I would hope that the department would try and work with groups like this to ensure that they are getting the community involved and getting community assistance and advice when it comes to promoting strategies for dealing with AIDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we are providing financial assistance to AIDS Yellowknife in 1993-94. We will certainly work with them again this year. I think it needs more of these kinds of groups that have an interest to get out there and beat the drum and sell the message. I think it pays us to support them. We have also recently paid for an elder to go from Hay River to an aboriginal AIDS awareness conference in Edmonton. I think that there are groups of people who are beginning to get involved in what can be done in this particular area. We will give them as much support as possible, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further on the AIDS issue, I know there was another funeral in Iqaluit last week of a young Inuk victim of AIDS. We are increasingly aware of this deadly disease. It seems to me that when we had the discussion in committee of the whole with Dr. Gilchrist on this issue last year, there were some very good suggestions from MLAs about more aggressive approaches that the department might take in its AIDS strategy. I specifically recall

suggesting -- and I think there were suggestions of that nature from other Members -- that it is certainly not enough to do advertising in pamphlets and the like and it is not enough to make condoms available in health centres. I think the specific suggestion was made -- and I got this idea from young people I spoke to in my own constituency at the Baffin leaders' youth conference -- to make condoms available in schools, not just in school washrooms, but in school classrooms and in places where kids hang out and can easily obtain them. This suggestion came from kids, themselves.

I wonder if the Minister could tell me if the department has been taking any measures to make condoms more easily available, particularly to young people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The honourable Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, you then get into the sensitive area of educational professionals and parents. We've already had some parents complain about giving out prophylactics at health centres and just having them openly on display. There are people who would say that by actually going into schools and putting them on the teachers' desks and putting them out more publicly than they are right now in washrooms, we're promoting sexual contact for children.

I've been hesitant to do that kind of thing. Being a parent myself and talking to other parents, I know that there would be people who would say this is not right. I respect the position that the Member is putting forward and I'd be perfectly willing to place the issue before the education boards, but that's as far as I would go in asking boards if they think it is a good idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that is precisely what I would ask the Minister to do. I acknowledge that there is some controversy surrounding this issue, but I believe the duly elected authorities' responsible for schools would look at the issue seriously. It may be that some communities will take different positions than others. I would specifically like to request the Minister -- at least in the Baffin region where I believe

there would be a progressive attitude on this issue in light of the visibly afflicted people in the region -- to encourage his officials to put the offer at least to school authorities. I acknowledge that they would have to make the decision. They may have to consult parents, but I would like to suggest that the issue should be put to school boards that are willing to consider it. The offer should be made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I will commit to write to the Minister of Education and ask him to contact the boards and see what their positions would be, individually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different issue, I know that during the SCOF hearings I asked the Minister, and I think Mr. Ballantyne asked a question in the House, about the classification of public health nurses in places like Iqaluit and Yellowknife. It's been an ongoing problem where public health nurses feel that since the turnover of Health to this government, their classification has been incorrect. They had some indication early on that that would be addressed. The Minister has so far insisted that he is not willing to re-examine their classification before a GNWT-wide classification evaluation is done. I would just like to find out if that is still the Minister's position or if he's willing to take a look at these very important people, recognize that previous commitments were made and deal with it in the coming year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

The chairman of the Financial Management Board is looking at that at the present time, Mr. Chairman, and I expect to have something on my desk very quickly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Administration, total O and M, \$11.399 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Supplementary Health Programs

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Next page, supplementary health programs, total O and M, \$16.559 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Out Of Territories Hospitals

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Out of territories hospitals, total O and M, \$20.105 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister is aware, I've had some concerns about the arrangement that has been set up with the Royal Alexandra Hospital as a point of

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referral. The Minister has dealt with many of the concerns that I've expressed. Since I last asked a question about this, though, the Royal Alexandra has announced further cuts to staff. I would like to, again, be assured that the Minister is confident that patient care will be at the level which people are used to. It would appear to me that in a system under seige -- which is what the Alberta system appears to be -- if you're cutting staff as extensively as they are in these hospitals, that the quality of patient care has to suffer.

I know from recent experiences in a hospital down south and talking to the staff where there had been serious cutbacks, they confirmed that they felt there had been a deterioration in patient care. I know, speaking from personal experience, that my wife was certainly happy that she was able to spend 12 hours a day in the hospital to ensure that really good care could be provided to a member of our family. I would

just like the Minister to advise how it is that they're examining just exactly how these cuts Alberta is undergoing now will affect the standards of patient care?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, we knew in advance that the cuts were going to be made at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. We're reasonably sure that it is not going to affect patient care, but I would remind the Members that we have not yet concluded the formal arrangement with the Royal Alexandra. Obviously, that will be part of the formal negotiations, that if care is going to be cut back and cut back, it is going to be of great concern to us. We will be monitoring that. But, I would point out that it seems it is not just one particular facility in Edmonton, it is affecting all of them. If they're all cut back in staff and if it does affect patient care, then we don't have much choice in where to go unless you want to go out of province. I was in Calgary recently and I was told the same thing about Calgary.

As I say, when we get further into the formal negotiations with the Royal Alexandra, we will ensure that this is one of the priorities on our list. That is that there is adequate patient care, particularly for the patients from the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Out of territories hospitals, total O and M, \$20,105 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Health And Hospital Boards

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Health and hospital boards, total O and M, \$92.446 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure that this is the proper activity, and the Minister can probably advise

me, but my question has to do with the CHR program. I know that in my travels around the territories I found the CHRs to be, in general, very effective at assisting in public health programs in many of the nursing centres. I think it would be a very cost-effective way for us to improve our public health care if we were able to increase the number of CHRs. I was wondering if the department has any plans to increase the funding to allow more than one CHR per community in those communities where they already have one, and ensuring that we have good coverage throughout the north of CHRs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Merci, Monsieur. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a possibility that we may in some communities be suggesting an increase in the number of CHRs. That would be to take on the environmental aspect of community health. The possibilities are there for us to maybe increase the number of CHRs, and ask them to take on somewhat new responsibilities. Although they would have the same basic training as other CHRs, they would be additionally trained in the environmental aspect of community health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Health and hospital boards. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome that news. The Minister didn't indicate how many communities we might be looking at, but I would hope that we would seriously look at expanding the numbers of CHRs throughout the north. Could the Minister advise whether the department has looked at whether we could run more training sessions? I know the department purchases the training for CHRs from Arctic College. I was just wondering if the Department of Health has considered purchasing more courses from Arctic College to allow more people to be trained for the positions in the upcoming year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, before the last training program there were 15 CHR positions vacant. So we know fairly well before, the number of vacancies. If we do see before the end of the year that we still have vacancies, or we see in the middle of the summer that we have vacancies, and if we're able to look at the environmental aspect as well, we'll certainly try to put on another program before the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Health and hospital boards. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't need this right now, but I was just wondering if the Minister would agree, some time before the end of next week, to table in the House a list of communities which do not have CHRs at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Minister of Health.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I will do that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question on this activity just to find out if the Minister has any breakthrough news for us on the health billings dispute, or if he could provide the House with an update as to where we are at the moment.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, there have been examinations for discovery, I think the lawyers term it. Mr. Bower has spent some time in Ottawa being cross-examined. The court case is still proceeding. Although, at the last meeting with Mr. Irwin that Mr. Todd and I attended three weeks ago, we did reiterate again our

plan to try and settle this dispute out of court. To that end, we're developing a position at the present time. The federal government is aware that we're developing a position. We already know who the contacts are going to be. Sometime within the next six weeks we'll get those people together and discuss this issue to see if we can achieve an out of court settlement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Health and hospital boards, total O and M, \$92,446 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Care Plan

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Medical care plan, total O and M, \$19.921 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Medical Travel

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much. Medical travel, total O and M, \$17.578 million. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this, I notice in the 1994-95 main estimates the figure is some \$3 million less than the 1993-94 revised forecast. I'm just wondering if the Minister is confident that this sort of reduction can be met in the next fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, I believe at the present time that we can meet that drop, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a reasonable goal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you very much. Medical travel. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can get a brief outline of what steps the department is taking in order to achieve this savings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The honourable Minister of Health.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're hoping that our medevac air carrier standards, the revised medical and non-medical escort policies, will continue to work for us. We're hoping, as I said yesterday, to get involved in central dispatching for medevacs. Mr. Chairman, we're not utilizing those airplanes as well as we should. Just last week we had a plane go all the way from Inuvik to Edmonton. In this instance, it probably was the wrong kind of plane. Because of the timing when it got there it was so late that the physicians, staff and pilots had to stay overnight and come back the next day. Sometimes there is an opportunity for us to back-haul patients from down south. That includes Montreal when we are serving Baffin or Winnipeg when we are talking about Keewatin. We are not using that back-haul, so we are hoping that we can get some greater efficiencies there and cut the costs that way.

We are looking at the strengthening of regional accountability for travel. We are going to continue to refine the nearest centre policy and expand advanced scheduling of medical travel. On the area of advanced scheduling, if we are dealing with one particular referral centre in Edmonton, particularly for the larger population, which is in the western Arctic and Kitikmeot, then we can do better scheduling of medical travel and hence get some savings in that regard as well. All of those things we hope will contribute to reducing this particular activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Medical travel, total O & M, \$17.578 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Details of grants and contributions. Contributions, \$89.375 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Grants and contributions, \$89.375 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Information item, health and hospital boards on page 14-17. There is another information item on page 14-18. On the next page 14-19, we have another information item on health and hospital boards. On page 14-20, information item, health and hospital boards continues. On page 14-21, information item on cost-sharing dispute with DIAND. Information item on page 14-22, memorandum of understanding project. Information item on page 14-23, memorandum of understanding project continues. On page 14-24, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. It continues on the next page and also on page 14-26. Total department, \$330,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Back to page 14-9, program summary. Mr. Antoine.

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MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we approve the total O & M, I wanted to mention a couple of things on health. First of all, in the discussion on the AIDS situation, in my constituency, recently in the last three weeks, there was a tour made by an HIV positive young man and a registered nurse from Vancouver who were sponsored by the youth centre and the community of Fort Liard to go into the communities to talk about AIDS awareness. I think some of the funding came from the Department of Health. I think it was the best way that the department was able to spend this kind of money in the awareness area because there has been some real positive feedback from the communities that they did visit. They visited Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake. In each case, people were very tense when they were coming into a community, but as the young fellow and nurse explained the technical nature, the cost of this disease and so forth, it was a very positive reception.

I have been told by members of my family who attended these hearings that they got a great deal out of it and it was the first time they saw somebody with this disease and someone talking to them about what kind of disease it is and their experience. Many of the younger people got a great deal out of it. There is a request to have more of this type of awareness, rather than having posters, television and radio ads and so forth. That helps too, but if they actually have a face-to-face meeting with people who have a first-hand awareness of these kinds of diseases, they become more aware, such as our younger people, elders and adults in the communities. I wanted to mention that this was money well spent in the whole awareness area. I want to make the department aware that if we could do more of this type of awareness, I think it could be well done.

I was told that the Deh Cho Tribal Council also had been working with the federal Department of Health and Welfare to acquire more funds to do a more intensive AIDS awareness program in my constituency. They are pursuing it on their own and acquiring funding from the federal agency to try to provide more awareness in that area. They see it as a very serious threat, health-wise, for people in the constituency and throughout the whole north.

Recently, I made a Member's statement about a retiring health person in Fort Simpson, Maureen McEwan. She has been with us for about 18 of the 20 years that she has spent in the north. People in the community feel that once she goes we are going to be losing a valuable asset to the health service in

our area, because she has been there so long. The doctors come and go, but she was there the whole time. She is very dedicated to her work. We are going to be losing somebody there. Hopefully, we get a replacement who will be equal in her dedication and commitment to the health field. I just wanted to mention these two items with regard to health. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I think what Mr. Antoine has been saying about AIDS is precisely what we believe as well. Governments have failed with the posters, handouts, television ads and so forth. That is why I am saying that suggestions from people in communities is where we should be going. Just so that Members are aware of what happened in 1993-94 in these community areas, in Rankin Inlet there was a theatre project. The AIDS student, Arctic College and Rankin Inlet put it on. There was a three-day interactive training workshop for youth. The youth then developed and performed a play on HIV and AIDS issues. In Lake Harbour there was a project called Making AIDS Real. The Kingmirut Asapi Committee put it on and a person living with HIV was invited to the community to participate in school and public discussions.

In Cape Dorset, a similar thing occurred, but this time the community chose to do a logo contest. The winning logo was printed on clothing as promotional material. As Mr. Antoine mentioned, there were activities in Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, the Deh Cho Regional Council and outlying communities, and, of course, AIDS Yellowknife that I mentioned. There was also a cost of living tour put on by the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre in Yellowknife which we supported. There is also community HIV/AIDS awareness funded by 1994-95 dollars in Arctic Bay. That will be a poster contest again. I think Mr. Antoine is correct that when the community gets involved, people take more notice. I appreciate his comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, very much. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may be behind with this question, but I would be grateful if the Minister could give me a status report on the hospital health planning for the Baffin region. How is it progressing? Is it on target? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, I believe that they're through the third draft right now and that's for the profiles. There have been ten communities consulted. The last I heard is that tenders have been called for a planning consultant. It's coming along in the Baffin, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Program summary for Health, total O and M, \$178.008 million. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

I have just one question that I overlooked asking earlier, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister how is the health insurance decentralization operation going in Inuvik and Rankin? Is it running smoothly? Are these services able to do the monitoring of positions and billings that I believe the department had wanted to do to ensure value for money? How is it working now that these facilities are up and running?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we got Inuvik off the ground fairly quickly and it went smoothest, there's no question about that. It is running well, it is up and standing on its own. In Rankin Inlet we had a few setbacks with training and so forth, but eventually we did get going over there. Now we've run into another setback, and that is the manager has had a coronary. So, we have a setback in Rankin Inlet. We're still supporting it, but I'm sure it will come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, the other thing I asked about is that I understood that the department, as part of its cost-savings measures, was going to be paying closer attention to the physicians' billings. They were going to review, screen, and monitor the billings to ensure that there were no anomalies, shall we say. Has that strategy of the department been implemented, even while the health billing operations have been decentralized? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Chairman, for the most part, physicians in the Northwest Territories have been responsible and have been cooperative with us. With regard to health billings, our aim right now is to set up those two programs in Inuvik and Rankin. Then, we'll look into the business of either auditing, having less fees for service or more people on staff, et cetera, et cetera. Are we going in and auditing the books right now? No, we're not, Mr. Chairman. But, for the most part we are getting, from most physicians, responsible billing. Where there are problems, and we believe there are problems, we will use one of those methods to solve the problem, either close monitoring and auditing, or having less for fee for service delivered to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Program summary, total O and M, \$178.008 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the honourable Minister for Health and his witnesses for appearing before the committee. Thank you very much.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that the details of 1994-95 are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Shall we move on to Bill 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Schedule, vote one, operations and maintenance, total appropriation, \$1,002.105 billion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

That was very difficult to read. Thank you very much. Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The bill is now ready for third reading. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 2-12(5) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Sorry, I'm not ready.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

What is the wish of the committee? Tell me, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, could we have a two minute break?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Two minutes? A two minute break it is. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion please signify in the usual manner. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lewis):

Item 19, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee Report 2-12(5), and would like report progress. Committee Report 2-12(5) is concluded and Bill 1 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Is there a seconder to this motion? Mr. Koe. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 20, third reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to deal with third reading of Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister is seeking consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Would you like to proceed, Mr. Pollard?

ITEM 20: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had third reading. Does the committee agree then that Bill 1 has had third reading? It's my understanding that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if his honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and assent to bills?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS:

Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95; Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act; Bill 10, An Act to Repeal the Metric Conversion Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Safety Act; Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act; Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 17, Loan Authorization Act, 1994-95; and, Bill 18, Write-Off of Debts Act, 1993-94.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Members of this Assembly a very happy Easter. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk, item 21, orders of the day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, meetings for Tuesday, April 5, at 9:00 am of Caucus, 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, and at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board. Orders of the day for Tuesday, April 5, 1994.

1. Prayer
 2. Ministers' Statements
 3. Members' Statements
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4. Returns to Oral Questions
 5. Oral Questions
 6. Written Questions
 7. Returns to Written Questions
 8. Replies to Opening Address
 9. Petitions
 10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 11. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 12. Tabling of Documents
 13. Notices of Motion
 14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
 15. Motions
 16. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 21, Tobacco Tax Act, No. 2
 17. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act

- Minister's Statement 5-12(5), Session Business

- Minister's Statement 62-12(5), Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy

- Tabled Document 1-12(5), Towards an NWT Mineral Strategy

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

- Tabled Document 65-12(5), Water and Sewer Services Subsidy Policy Amendments

19. Report of Committee of the Whole

20. Third Reading of Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to wish everybody a happy Easter. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 5, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT