



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

7th Session

Day 2

12th Assembly

HANSARD

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15,
1994**

Pagination reflects print edition

Speaker: The Hon. Samuel Gargon

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994

Page 25

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. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell):

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 6-12(7): WCB Corporate Plan 1995-97

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, later today, I will table the corporate plan of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board for 1995-97. I have approved this plan as required by the Financial Administration Act.

I think it is appropriate, at this time, to commend the efforts of the staff and the board of the WCB, and to congratulate them on what I consider to be effective and realistic initiatives.

The past year has seen the implementation of several initiatives.

On the recommendation of this Legislative Assembly, the WCB has worked with the Department of Renewable Resources to amend the Workers' Compensation Act to establish an appropriate benefit level for hunters, trappers and fishermen.

I am pleased to say that a memorandum of understanding has been reached, allowing easier access to harvesters' benefits. An information package describing these changes has been

distributed and is available in both English and Inuktitut.

The WCB has strived, during the last 12 months, to streamline the appeals tribunal process. Formal rules of practice will soon be finalized and made available to claimants. I am happy to announce, Madam Speaker, that of the 32 appeals filed in 1993, all were addressed by October 31st, as were an additional backlog of 28 cases.

This achievement represents a significant time commitment on behalf of the chairman of the tribunal, Mr. Don McNenly, and the appeals tribunal Commissioners who are part-time members.

The board of directors has recently approved a comprehensive communications strategy that will ensure that more timely and accurate information is being provided to the stakeholders.

Service standards and communications guidelines have been established or enhanced to improve client service.

An affirmative action plan and recruitment strategy have been developed to more accurately reflect our northern population and demographics.

Several important projects are still ongoing, Madam Speaker. The safety incentive and rate reduction program has been approved for implementation in 1996. This program is designed to collect additional assessments from employers with poor safety records, while offsetting rates for others. More importantly, safety advisors will work with employers to provide safety education and, hopefully, reduce the number and severity of accidents through the workplace.

In the claims area, an early intervention model has been developed. This initiative focuses on the early and accurate diagnosis of a worker's injury and the development of a realistic return to work plan. The end result will be a safe and timely return of injured workers to the workplace.

A multi-industry classification has been created in response to employer concerns, and the number of industry subclasses has been reduced. These changes will take effect January 1, 1995, so implementation is already under way.

A review of policies and procedures has begun to address issues raised during the public consultation process, Madam Speaker.

Finally, as Members are aware, the WCB has recovered from a deficit position and is taking the necessary steps to remain fully funded.

Madam Speaker, the WCB is very aware of the need to be progressive and is looking ahead with two new initiatives. The first involves an evaluation of program delivery in the eastern Arctic. The second is a needs assessment based on the expected growth in the non-renewable resource sector.

Madam Speaker, I would encourage all Members to take the time to read the document I will be tabling later this afternoon. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 7-12(7): Arctic A Airport Transfer

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Members of this House

Page 26

with a brief update on the status of negotiations for the transfer of the Arctic A airport program from the federal government.

The Department of Transportation initiated discussions for the transfer of this program in July of 1993. Since that time, department staff, with assistance from several other departments of the government, have completed inspections of all the site facilities; reviewed federal work records and budget plans; consulted with Members of this House, aboriginal leaders, community councils and air carrier representatives; and, developed organization structures, budget plans, policy proposals and negotiating positions.

The negotiations have not been without their share of problems. I had hoped to be able to confirm with Members that the transfer would proceed on April 1, 1995, as originally planned. Unfortunately, there are still several issues to be resolved and we are working as quickly as possible towards that end. I am optimistic that we will shortly reach an agreement to implement this transfer on July 1, 1995.

In recent weeks, many Members have indicated to me their support for the proposed transfer. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot rightly pointed out last week that the successful negotiation of this transfer will protect the financial resources that are required to continue to fund airport services at their current level, particularly at a time when the federal government is implementing major budget reductions.

Other Members have recognized that the transfer will provide a stronger operating base of technical skills and human resources that can be applied throughout the entire territorial system of airports, including the 42 B, C and D airports that we currently operate. Further benefits will accrue through the application of our northern employment, contracting and purchasing policies to this program and by linking their operation more closely to the communities that they serve.

While recognizing these benefits, we are continuing to take a cautious approach to the negotiations. We must be satisfied that the financial arrangements and the other terms and conditions of the agreement are acceptable and will allow the department to operate these nine airports as successfully as we have operated the other 42.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, we remain committed to the negotiation of this agreement. I am confident that over the next few weeks, we will have satisfactorily resolved the last few issues and will be able to turn our attention to the process of implementation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 8-12(7): Teacher Education Program Video Wins Award

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as this Assembly is aware, my department, with the support of Cabinet, has developed a strategy to reach its goals of having aboriginal people make up half of the teaching force in the NWT by the year 2000. Community-based teacher education programs are an important aspect of the strategy, because they make teacher training accessible to people who are not able to leave their communities to attend campus-based programs.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has commissioned a video to document and celebrate the achievements of two of these community-based programs, one in Rae-Edzo and the other in the Keewatin region. This video, entitled "Who Will Build the Future?" was produced by Inuit Communication Systems Limited. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that this video has won an honourable mention at the recent 42nd annual Columbus International Film and Video Festival in Worthington, Ohio.

---Applause

Competition at the Columbus festival is intense. This award places our video in the company of such programs as The Nature of Things, National Geographic and Nova, which have much higher budgets and resources. This demonstrates very clearly that northern producers can compete with the best in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Inuit Communications Systems Limited for their excellent work on the video. I would also like to congratulate the many partners who have contributed to the success of community teacher education programs, including Arctic College, the boards and divisional boards of education and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Development Of New Liquor Legislation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, national addiction awareness week is celebrated once a year across the country. However, I sometimes worry that people may be getting mixed messages, the message to celebrate national addiction awareness week. Some people, Madam Speaker, are doing just that.

On Sunday, I was proud to be a participant in the sobriety walk in Fort Providence. Many members of the community participated in the walk. I was

pleasantly surprised to see not only those people who have committed their lives to sobriety, but also those who are just beginning their struggle to overcome an addiction. I applaud the people who participated.

As we recognize national addiction awareness week, it becomes very important to note that the Northwest Territories is in the midst of developing new liquor

Page 27

legislation which will be based on the legislative action paper that the Minister tabled in the House just yesterday. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Minister for the thorough consultation with the communities this department and, in particular, Mr. Allan Downe who is the senior advisor of social projects, has done in the development of this important piece of legislation.

The consultation with the communities was not smooth and some controversy over the issues of alcohol has surfaced, such as the issue of serving alcohol to pregnant women. However, it is through public input that the Northwest Territories will arrive at legislation that reflects the needs of northerners.

Madam Speaker, I can only hope that the new liquor laws will be designed to reflect the lives of the people of the north and not be designed for the institution that serves alcohol. I would suggest that one way the legislation can best serve the people of the north and, in particular, those people who have an addiction to alcohol, would be to develop an individual liquor licence, like a drivers license, that would be issued by the tribunal to those people who qualify. I am aware that this may be an individual rights issue; however, in some instances, I believe the public interest should outweigh the rights of the individual.

Alcohol, drugs and other types of addiction are not just an individual's problem. These addictions affect the well-being of the children, families and communities. When we consider the development of the new legislation, we must ensure that it protects the community from the effect of these addictions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to complete my Member's 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 and honourable Members. When we consider the development of the new legislation, we must ensure that we attempt to protect the community from the effect of these addictions. If that should mean restricting the hours by which operators may serve alcohol in the community, then the option to restrict these hours should be reflected in the legislation.

This may mean that the new legislation may have to include substantial increases to the authority of the community to make more decisions on how liquor should be distributed, when it should be distributed and to whom it may be distributed.

As well, Madam Speaker, the legislation must reflect the need of the Northwest Territories as a whole. One suggestion I have is that the Lord's Day, Sunday, be respected and free from the consumption and distribution of alcohol. I believe this should be expressly stated in the new legislation. One day per week free from alcohol and the damage that it produces can only help communities towards dealing with the effects of alcohol addiction.

Madam Speaker, the information on alcohol and drug addiction programs and services that we provide to the people of the north may not be enough. Awareness programs that are aimed at children will only have an impact if they have adult role models to emulate.

It is our responsibility as Members of the Legislative Assembly, as legislators, to assist and protect the public we serve. I strongly urge their support and input into the new liquor legislation and the legislative action paper that has been tabled, to help in ensuring more healthy and fit northern communities, as well as a stronger and more able future.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I would, once again, like to commend the Minister, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, who has proven the efforts his departments have taken to obtain public contribution in not only the development of the new liquor legislation, but also in providing the legislative action paper on the heritage resources and a discussion paper on the new Education Act for public input.

Through his actions, he has proven that the public of the north does have a voice that is heard in this House. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Zero Tolerance For Violence

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, I rise today to speak on the issue of violence. Madam Speaker, recently the Members of this House adopted a declaration of zero tolerance for violence. This was seen as a good first step; a symbolic statement of our commitment to ending the violence which exists in our communities.

The government has responded to this declaration with the development of a strategy of zero tolerance for violence. During the last session of this Assembly, the Minister of Justice tabled an interim report on this strategy. The Members were pleased with the words in this document. However, Madam Speaker, all we have so far are words. Nice words, encouraging words, but still only words. We need to turn these words into action.

As an example, this morning Mr. Ballantyne and myself met with the coordinators for the four victims' services programs operating in the Northwest Territories. In spite of the Minister of Justice statement in this House on October 18th that funds had been increased to these groups in the past few years, these coordinators told us that none of their programs had seen any increase in GNWT contributions.

In addition, these programs have only received part of the funding they got last year, at least so far this year. In October, the Minister also said he would ensure funding for these programs to complete the year. However, this has not been communicated to the programs. The Rankin project is already in the red and there is no indication of if or when more funds are coming.

Page 28

Madam Speaker, most of the coordinators rely heavily on volunteers. In Yellowknife, over 3,000 hours have been donated by local volunteers. But without core funding, these volunteers won't have the structures

needed to get the work done. Madam Speaker, it is said that actions speak louder than words.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

Those watching this Assembly have noted that there has been significant spending; \$15 million on capital and 14.5 new person years to provide for the perpetrators of crime. It is also noted that there is not equitable support for victims of crime.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

It is not an effective use of funds if we bring perpetrators to court, but can't convict them because the victims won't testify. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker, honourable Members. Madam Speaker, it is also not effective if, by ignoring the victims, we forget about prevention and trying to stop young victims from growing up to be perpetrators.

The Members of the Ordinary Members' Caucus wish to advise the Cabinet that we will be expecting much more than words when we reconvene in February. We will be expecting the government to take those words and turn them into action. We will be looking for the specific information and programs when we review the O and M budgets of each department. We will be looking for the contribution that each department will make towards achieving zero tolerance for violence.

Madam Speaker, as Members, we are committed to zero tolerance for violence. We expect to see the same commitment reflected in the government's programs and services. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On AIDS Prevention Programs

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I want to talk about AIDS. In 1987, the federal government initiated a national AIDS program for AIDS prevention which went until 1991. Eventually, the Government of the Northwest Territories will receive some of the federal funding for the project contracted for a study of the AIDS prevention program in the NWT. This was part of the requirement for the receipt of federal funding.

I have raised the issue of AIDS many times in this Assembly during March 1993, Madam Speaker. The AIDS issue had been pushed by the Northwest Territories Health officials as a major health concern and they wanted to see some leadership on this issue. In fact, recommendation 1 in the report commissioned by the government reads, "We have to promote discussions in the Legislative Assembly which will bring AIDS and the need for a new campaign to the forefront." This is why I initiated debate on the AIDS issue at that time.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, there was very little debate and very little discussion. However, we passed a motion on March 31st, that the Department of Health develop policies on AIDS, as outlined in recommendations 3 to 6 of the review commissioned by the government.

In the absence of any ongoing system of evaluation of the effectiveness of AIDS programs, we will continue to be in the dark about this deadly disease. Madam Speaker, I shall be asking the Minister questions about this issue and she is aware that I will be doing that. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Interpreters For Kitikmeot Boarding Home

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today I will be talking about...I have been talking with the honourable Member for Kitikmeot. I have met with him and they didn't mind me talking about this issue. There are people who come here to Yellowknife for health services and they have concerns, especially from my constituency. They stay at the Kitikmeot boarding home. If there is no room, they stay at another place. Madam Speaker, my constituents have a concern about the Kitikmeot boarding home. They were talking about having interpreters in their own dialects. They have to have an interpreter who can speak the southern Baffin dialect. Because of this, Madam Speaker, I would like to have plans made to have an interpreter in the Kitikmeot boarding home or in other places where the patients stay. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Opening Of Royal Bank In Cambridge Bay

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, recently there has been controversy raised by the president of the Arctic Cooperatives Limited on the Royal Bank of Canada's announced intentions of opening a full-service branch in Cambridge Bay.

Page 29

In a Member's statement on February 10th, I stated that the establishment of a debit card system is not of great benefit to residents of our communities, although it may be a new convenience for some with bank accounts.

Madam Speaker, we all recognize the importance of having a financial institution located in our regions. The availability of money depositing lending institutions with personnel familiar with the people, the communities and the region will benefit all involved. Individuals and businesses will have the benefit of financial services with locally or regionally-based decision-making authority which will eventually be familiar with the operating environment. Financial institutions will have established a new base from which to build upon in an ever-developing region.

The residents in Cambridge Bay and Kitikmeot have never had a full-service, full-time financial institution based in the region. Regardless of if it is a credit union or a full-service bank, I believe the residents of Cambridge Bay will support any financial institution which is established in the Kitikmeot, as our region is currently the only one in the NWT without these services.

Madam Speaker, senior representatives from the Royal Bank of Canada will be in Cambridge Bay on November 23rd to discuss the matter further.

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? Proceed, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. At this time, I wish the Royal Bank all the success towards establishing a branch in Cambridge Bay to provide services to the entire Kitikmeot. I will assist them as much as possible in establishing their branch, as I believe it is long overdue that the financial service needs of Kitikmeot residents are addressed in a satisfactory manner. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On NWT HC Contract Awarded To Nova Construction

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On Thursday of last week I made a strong statement in this Assembly about companies evading the spirit and intent of the business incentive policy. I specifically focused on an NWT Housing Corporation contract awarded to Nova Construction in Iqaluit. I suggested that the owner of the company is not a resident of the NWT, as required under the BIP, and I also expressed concern that framing work on the job is being done by a southern company, further that materials for that job may not

have come up on the Coast Guard sealift as required by the contract, but instead on a private barge.

Madam Speaker, I have since been approached by the local subcontractor, Belleau Webster, and told that my facts were wrong: that the framing job done by Cedarcrest Homes of Winnipeg is only a small portion of the project, most of which was done by northern suppliers and labour; that all the materials for the job were brought up on operation sealift, not on a private barge; and, further, Mr. Mrdjenovich, the owner of Nova, has offered to prove to me that the majority of his time in the past year has been spent in the Northwest Territories, and presumably that he therefore does meet the residence requirements of the BIP.

I will be asking the Minister to present the results of this investigation to this House. To Mr. Mrdjenovich and the principles of Webster Belleau Limited, who are corporate constituents, I pledge that if the results show that any of the concerns I expressed last week were not founded in fact, I will acknowledge that and correct the public record. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Rights Of Victims Of Crime

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about victims' rights. I have said many times in this House that society has had an imbalance

Page 30

in our justice system with the rights of the accused in that the rights of the convicted override that of the victims.

It seems to me now, Madam Speaker, that across the country victims are no longer on the mainstream political agenda. There is very little mention of victims in the Liberal red book. It doesn't say very much about victims and federal initiatives. We hear a lot more about the Charter of Rights and a lot more why the federal government cannot proceed in certain areas of victims' rights.

It was also interesting, Madam Speaker, that back in the 1980s, judges often bore the brunt of frustrations that people had with the lack of support for victims. Here in the Northwest Territories, over the past number of years, judges have attended many judicial education conferences and have had many sensitivity sessions. I think Judge Halifax deserves a lot of credit. He was in the forefront of judicial education. There were a series of conferences held in western Canada, and one of those held here in Yellowknife. I think now that the judges in the Northwest Territories are very aware of the harm caused by sexual and violent offenders. Their judgments and their sentences are generally reflecting that awareness.

Madam Speaker, I would like to 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. Proceed, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Crown is doing its best with limited resources to assess victims, and the federal government, presently, is contributing some \$200,000 towards victims' programs. I had a commitment from our Minister that he will strongly recommend to Mr. Rock that that funding is continued.

As I said earlier, we managed to get a pot of money outside of government expenditures with the victims' of crimes surcharge. Now, the GNWT and the Minister have made a strong commitment to provide support to community-based victims' programs. Our Minister has led a nationally-publicized and highly praised government initiative for zero tolerance of violence.

Everyone in this House praised the Minister for that and strongly supports the Minister in that initiative. What we're trying to do is give the Minister some ideas and encouragement so he can live up to the expectations that have been raised throughout the territories. The Standing Committee on Finance made it very clear that expectations are high. The Minister is aware of that and the Minister, as I recall, said he was taking a risk when he came forward with this policy and he's prepared to live up to the spirit of his commitment.

As my colleague, Mr. Dent, has said, presently, we give around \$200,000 in direct support to four programs in Yellowknife, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Fort Smith. What's amazing about these programs, for a very small cost, is the amount of volunteer participation. As Mr. Dent has said, the funding for all these programs ends at the end of this month. So, I have a suggestion for the Minister. I recognize the Minister of Finance has budgetary constraints and I recognize the pressures on the government, but on the other hand, we've just got about \$70 million in a supplementary appropriation which allowed some 30 new PYs.

Money in this area is not a lot of money. An extra \$200,000 for victims services will have a tremendous impact. The sort of idea I'm suggesting to the Minister -- and I think the Minister has already committed to this -- is that the funding to the end of the year be guaranteed, that we have increased funding in the O and M budget next year, and what these programs really need is a three year commitment for funding. So, with a very small cost to this government in a \$1.1 billion budget, the government and the Minister of Justice will be able to do a lot to live up to the spirit and the intent of the zero tolerance for violence policy. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On Sobriety And Stress Management

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to make a statement in recognition of national alcohol and drug awareness week. In 1986 I made a decision to go and seek some help to quit drinking and it has now been eight and a half years since I made the decision and the commitment. It has been one of the best decisions of my life, on a personal level. I can see, from a health point of view, that it has been a positive decision. I see from a mental and family perspective that it has been good for myself, my children and my wife. It has been a good decision for my work and my capacity for work. My capacity to deal with my constituents and the general public has been enhanced in many, many ways.

I want to share that with Members because we see many things that are committed by government and groups, as a collective, but in the end, it is the personal commitment that makes the difference. Having said that, after eight and a half years, with seven years of that as an MLA serving the public, I find I have recently decided that what I also need now is help to deal with stress and anger management. That is something that is taxing me to my ultimate limit. I am hoping to find something to help me deal with the kind of stress I deal with on a daily basis, and to deal with the way that anger surrounds me, and

Page 31

surrounds all of us in our work and at the community level.

I find that it is not so easy and I may need this program a lot more as a result of trying to find it, trying to design and find something that will accommodate me, than I originally did. I say that because today I am feeling particularly frustrated with the lack of progress to find something I can do. But, I will not give up on it. I think I have to find something like that before I really do something. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Health Services In Nahendeh Region

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Today, I wanted to applaud the government for following through with commitments that were made to my constituency. Studies are presently under way looking into the health delivery system for communities in my constituency. There are a couple of studies going on today. There is one being done by the band in Fort Simpson. This, I believe, was a commitment made a long time ago, at the beginning of the life of this government, when our honourable colleague from Iqaluit, Mr. Dennis Patterson, was the Minister of Health. He made that commitment to my constituents at that time, and it was carried through by all the other Ministers who followed him until the Premier, who is the Minister of Health and Social Services today.

This study is to look at culturally-relevant health services in the community. At the same time, the Deh Cho First Nations are also doing a study into health services in the region and outlying communities on how health services have been provided up to this time and what the future holds for our communities. I just wanted to say that health services for my constituency is one of my main concerns today and has always been, particularly the hospital in Fort Simpson. There is a long history related to that, going back many, many years.

The majority of people in my area are treaty people and they see that the provision of health services in that area was part of a treaty agreement reached in 1921. We would like to keep it that way. I must say that the professionals working in this field in my constituency are doing a really good job. I would like to applaud them for that. The types of services that should be delivered is a concern I have. More services could be provided to the communities, perhaps even better equipment could be placed in facilities so that more and better services could be provided there.

Hopefully, once this study is done, the government will take whatever recommendations that may come from this study very seriously. Mahsi, Madam Speaker.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Madam Premier.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 4-12(7): Charges Against Elder For Hunting Caribou Illegally

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I have a reply to an oral question that was asked by Mr. Ballantyne on November 14th. It was asked of the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources about charges against an elder for hunting caribou illegally. Madam Speaker, for the last six or seven winters, caribou have been crossing the Ingraham Trail. Hunting along the road caused great concern for the safety of the public using the road and living along the road. The government's intent was to find a way to make the area safe for public use.

Initially, a seasonal no hunting corridor was established under the Wildlife Act. However, this was not adequate and was replaced in 1993, with a no shooting corridor along two segments of the Ingraham Trail. This corridor was established under the Area Development Act for the purpose of public safety and is in effect all year.

Signs marking the beginning and end of the two segments are posted along the highway in English, French and Dogrib. The Department of Renewable Resources monitors caribou movements around the Ingraham Trail and Highway 3. When caribou are in these areas, the public is alerted through media announcements and reminded of the no shooting corridor along the Ingraham Trail.

On November 11th, a treaty elder from Dettah was charged under the Area Development Act with discharging a firearm in the no shooting corridor along the Ingraham Trail and under the Wildlife Act for hunting without regard for the safety of other persons and property. A companion with the elder translated the discussions with the Renewable Resources officer. The caribou that was shot was not seized. Two summary offence tickets were issued for a total minimum fine of \$295.

One other person was charged for similar offences over the long weekend and two persons are under investigation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize some visitors in the gallery who have worked with the victims' services programs in the NWT. From Fort Smith, the coordinator, Valerie McKay, is in the audience.

---Applause

It actually looks like Valerie has stepped out. Kate Simpson is the coordinator from Rankin Inlet.

---Applause

Madeline Qumautuq is the coordinator from Iqaluit.

Page 32

---Applause

Sandra Bell is the coordinator for the program in Yellowknife.

---Applause

With them, is Kelly Dowdall who is a program support worker in Yellowknife.

---Applause

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am pleased to recognize today Mr. Moses Aliyak. Moses Aliyak received the Commissioner's Award for Bravery at the Highest Level...

---Applause

...from the Deputy Commissioner Helen Maksagak yesterday for saving his family when they were attacked by a polar bear this summer. Thank you.

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to recognize Mike Mrdjjenovich, senior partner in Nova Construction and a constituent.

---Applause

---Laughter

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I, too, would like to recognize Mr. Mike Mrdjjenovich of Nova Construction.

---Laughter

---Applause

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 15-12(7): Status Of Meetings Re Community Wellness Strategy

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. The Minister, in the status report on zero tolerance for violence, indicated that community, regional and territorial organizations are currently cooperating with government in the development of a common approach to wellness. This group met in June. There was also a meeting in July. Have further meetings or discussions taken place since that time? Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 15-12(7): Status Of Meetings Re Community Wellness Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the lead Minister for the community wellness strategy is the Minister of Health and Social Services.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

MR. ANTOINE:

The Minister in this status report on zero tolerance for violence had indicated that there is a cooperative approach to wellness. It indicated that this strategy will be loose in giving communities and regions the flexibility to develop programs which respond to local needs. Is the Minister aware that the intention is to provide general guidelines within which specific programs can be developed? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health, Madam Premier.

Return To Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as the Minister of Justice has indicated, we are working together on the issue. In terms of the community wellness strategy project, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible as the lead group. Madam Speaker, the Member is referring to the fact that in December of 1993, the Department of Health and Social Services, Justice and Education, Culture and Employment established a joint working group to develop a community wellness strategy. This was done in response to the need for a more integrated and community-based approach in service delivery by government.

The joint working group, Madam Speaker, has been expanded to include regional and community organizations. Madam Speaker, the next expanded joint working group meeting will be held in November of this year and the work completed to date and the next steps will be discussed. The framework for the strategy is scheduled for completion by April 1, 1995.

Madam Speaker, a communications plan is being developed to ensure all government departments and members of the public receive information about the strategy development.

Page 33

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that reply. I direct the supplementary to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. When there is freedom to develop programs, there is also the potential for inequity between communities in terms of program funding. Does the government plan to fund specific programs or will each community have an equitable share of the funds which they can apply towards these programs? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I believe that the issue of how we organize community and community support personnel, is one of major importance. I have indicated to the Legislative Assembly previously that in the work we are doing, we are trying to provide those resources at the community levels. I realize in the past we have created programs in a manner where a certain amount of money is available and then certain communities come forward and are able to access a limited resource. I believe in our workings with the various groups, particularly with communities, we have to organize the support personnel in the community and take into consideration that it is a community that is going to heal itself and will be involved on a day-to-day basis, so those resources have to be provided as a legitimate parcel of support personnel at the community level. So, Madam Speaker, I am not sure, in our continuing deliberations with the joint working group, that it will come out to that fact. But in terms of community development, it is very clear that communities want to be able to establish that support system that will be ongoing, rather than working on an ad hoc basis because there are small parcels of money, which everyone has to apply for.

In our continuing plan to work with communities, the consolidation of Health and Social Services and the whole community wellness strategy, is to provide those services and personnel that are required at a

community level equitably. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think this strategy is a good thing; to have a cooperative approach by all the different government departments to work together to help the communities. This strategy, like I said, will be loose and will give communities the flexibility to develop programs which respond to local needs. I think the Minister is also indicating that.

When the community wellness strategy is developed, will the community-based programs be a supplement instead of the existing territorial program? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 16-12(7): Development Of Programs Re Community Wellness Strategy

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, as I've indicated in the past, the government is attempting to make decisions and place resources at the community level to meet the expectations that people have today and for the future. I believe that in the discussions with many of the communities, there is a feeling that we have programs that should really be adjusted to meet the new age. If, in fact, we are able to rationalize the education and training proactive approach in a community, health and social service workers will be able, particularly, in the area of social work and mental health, be able to more aptly focus on that type of work. I believe that there are a number of positions in every community that may be deployed in a wrong way, or some programs that used to be right for the past but are not right for the present and future.

So I believe that we have to work actively with the communities to evaluate those positions. If there is extra need, because of today's issues, today's problems and looking towards the future, we have to redeploy those personnel. I believe in taking some of

the responsibilities away, particularly with social workers, that are more routine such as providing social welfare cheques and evaluation, and redeploy that to another area where it's more productive. These workers are better able to deal with this wellness strategy that we have to have in the communities and work with the communities, instead of being tied up with red tape which is not what they were trained for. Their valuable educational level is not being fully utilized at this time. So it's going to be an incorporation of what we have existing, but also evaluating what people want to see as an ongoing support for communities which reaches out to a more holistic approach.

I believe that the community wellness strategy relates to all government and territorial programs to try to suggest that we need to change those. These include basic traditional values, healing, dysfunction, youth problems, suicide, age, handicaps and racism. These are all issues people are facing today and we have to provide those resources so we can redeploy people so they can actually do the job that people feel has to be done. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Current Programs Dealing With Violence

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Justice. The Premier, in her last reply to the previous question, spoke of evaluations. And that's true, that any program that has been put forward should be evaluated from time to time, and the government does indicate that there are already many, many programs that address violence that are offered by this government. It is important to evaluate the results as part of the overall government approach to dealing

Page 34

with violence as part of running an effective program. I would like to ask the Minister, is there an evaluation mechanism of current programs dealing with violence in its many forms?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Current Programs Dealing With Violence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, we know that the day when a government based in a central location like Yellowknife can afford to try to come up with solutions for communities with regard to the problems that they face is over. It's this government's commitment, as difficult as it is, to take a community development approach in addressing solutions to the kinds of social ills that plague all of our communities.

I'm not certain that we will ever develop a mechanism that will evaluate the effectiveness of the current programs. At best, we can say that we expend a certain amount of money for a broad range of programs and services that are directed at curbing violence at the community level, dealing with the problems that result in violence. The question of whether we have an evaluation mechanism to decide whether or not the current programs and money that we throw at the problems of violence are effective can probably be best answered by saying that we don't, except to say as a general rule. We are of the view that we simply have to hold the line until we can develop a strategy in concert with the women's groups, with the other advocate groups and the communities in developing a strategy which will be developed by April. That would say here is the best way to realign current resources and change policies and directives so that communities have the flexibility they need in order to decide themselves where the priorities are and what type of resources should be allocated according to their local needs. That's what the strategy is.

Other than that, the Member should be aware, for instance, that we spend about \$27 million a year to police ourselves, largely to protect ourselves from violent offenders, from violence created as a result of alcohol, from family violence, from assaults and sexual abuse. A lot of this money can be redirected if we can find a strategy that would help us curb and address the reasons for the violence in the first place. We can also redirect a lot of the money we spend currently, paying social workers, mental health workers, alcohol and drug workers, family violence coordinators and many of the other people who commit much of their time dealing with violence, but only dealing with it after it manifests itself. So that's the reason for the strategy. I think that the measuring stick will be in seeing how communities give advice

on how to reallocate and place those resources more appropriately. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford. Before we go to supplementary, may I remind honourable Members that your answers are to be as short as possible. Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Programs Dealing With Violence

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm absolutely astonished that with a reply like that, the Minister indicated they're spending some \$27 million. Surely there must be some mechanism in place to determine whether or not the program that has been established is effective. In any program, there is almost always a built-in thing for feedback. There is a mechanism to get feedback to see whether or not this money is being wisely spent, the program's mandate is being met and all those things. I asked a question about whether there is a mechanism for that and I didn't get an answer. I would like to know what form of feedback mechanism there is to determine whether the program is having an effect, either positive or negative, on the people it is there to serve. How do they get feedback on this?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Programs Dealing With Violence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, perhaps the response was not as well worded as it could have been. That is often the case. The point I was trying to make is that we design programs and are trying to deliver services according to our best judgment, through the good advice of Members of this House. There are evaluation components tied to all of these different programs and services. It is just that there is no community element to the evaluations at this time. We are a government faced with dwindling financial resources and increasing demands placed on us by communities.

It is our judgement that we now have to place existing programs and the resources allocated to them in front

of communities and, through the development of the community wellness strategy, get the advice of these people on how we can better allocate and make use of existing resources. It is now time to put all the little programs we have in front of these communities and ask them, in their judgement, if we are making the best use of existing resources under the present arrangements.

My expectation is that they will come up with some suggestions and, at the end of the day, we will see what Mr. Antoine is suggesting, that a strategy will deliver to communities some flexibility so that each community can have the say they want to have to determine where the existing resources are best allocated. That is one of the major elements in the plan to develop a strategy. So, the best I can say is, yes, there is an evaluation component tied to the program. It is done in-house by the government and through questions in this Legislature. But, at the end of the day, we need communities to have input and help us do the ultimate evaluation. That is the strategy that we're developing right now. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Page 35

Supplementary To Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Programs Dealing With Violence

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would hope that there would be some component built into any kind of program that would allow for the deliverers of the program to be able to come back to the government and say whether it is working or not. I think what I was looking for was some explanation of how this was done. I still haven't heard, Madam Speaker, whether this is done on an annual basis through a report, or something like that. I still don't understand what is being done, other than hoping that people come back and say whether it is working or not.

I would like to know whether or not there is some format that people follow when they take on a program to give the government feedback. Is there something like that?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 17-12(7): Evaluation Of Programs Dealing With Violence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, I will try to be specific to help the Member. In the drug and alcohol programs, for instance, there are agreements between communities and this government which are signed agreements that point out what the goals and objectives of the programs are, and what the community agrees to do in carrying out their part of the deal. Those are written agreements and are monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis.

I think, generally, as with other programs such as family violence, victims' assistance, and victims' services programs, are all generally well-received by communities. They are seen as good, positive programs by this government and by the public. Where we have problems is with the amount of money and resources we can allocate to these programs and the flexibility we have in flipping money from one program to another. There is insufficient flexibility, as far as communities are concerned. They cannot, for instance, take money allocated for a mental health worker and easily flip it into a drug and alcohol program.

These are the types of problems we have. That is a major evaluation shared by everybody. Again, the strategy that we have set out to deliver to this Legislature this coming session is well aware that it is and is going to be due to a major demand on the part of the communities. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Question 18-12(7): Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the status report, the Minister of Justice indicates that community-based support is developing for programs for victims of crime. The shortage of government funds for new initiatives is noted as a limiting factor. Given the financial situation of our government and the federal government, it is highly unlikely that new money will be found. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I wonder if his department is investigating innovative ways of funding or supporting community-

based programs to be part of the 1995-96 budget which he anticipates bringing forward in February? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 18-12(7): Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, the issues that have been raised by ordinary Members in this regard are well known to us. I think you have heard, on a number of occasions, the Minister of Health and Social Services talk about better uses of facilities for people who are already in the communities. We've talked about better coordination and addressing the problems that exist in communities at the community level.

Just about everybody is saying to me that we need more money, more money for education, more money to raise wages of alcohol and drug workers, more money for mental health specialists. Some of the concerns I have are, are those resources already there and are they being used in a cooperative kind of manner. Those are the kinds of things you are hearing from the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Justice. Can we do things differently at the community level? We've just heard the Minister of Justice say that sometimes there is not much flexibility in moving funds and resources around at the community level.

So, are we looking at those kinds of issues? Yes, Madam Speaker, we are. Will we be able to come up with new resources for them in a financial sense with the new budget? I can't say that to this House right now. We are under the gun. But, can we look at making better use of existing resources? Yes, I think we can do that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 18-12(7): Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. On that last point the Minister made, I didn't quite catch if he did indicate that his department is...I understand they're looking all over. More specifically, is his department looking at new and innovative ways of getting funding or reallocating new funding and is it going to be part of the 1995-96 O and M budget? I didn't quite hear if the Minister said if it will be or won't be.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. I'd like to ask the honourable Members to pay careful attention to the replies. I believe that many times some of the replies are given but Members are not listening. Therefore, Ministers are having to repeat some of their replies. The honourable Member for Hay River, Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Page 36

Further Return To Question 18-12(7): Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, to the question, is it going to be in the budget that will come down to the House next year? I can't say what's going to be in that budget at the present time, Madam Speaker. I will say that we've heard the concerns and we are looking at ways of trying to address those concerns. I can't say specifically that we are going to put more money into these programs but we are going to try and address those concerns by some means of efficiency or greater flexibility, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

Question 19-12(7): Declarations On Zero Tolerance Adopted By Municipalities

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Madam Speaker, according to the status report on zero tolerance for violence, all municipal councils have been encouraged to adopt declarations of zero tolerance for violence. I'd like to ask the Minister, besides the city of Yellowknife, is the Minister aware of any other municipal councils which have adopted this type of declaration? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Return To Question 19-12(7): Declarations On Zero Tolerance Adopted By Municipalities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. When Mr. Kakfwi made the zero tolerance declaration, his message was very clear and strong that all NWT leaders were to be involved in promoting zero tolerance. At the last Baffin leaders meeting in Cape Dorset, Madam Speaker, I did indicate to the mayors this government's position on zero tolerance. Up to today, I am not aware of whether there are more municipalities that have adopted zero tolerance. I do know that in some communities in terms of alcohol being involved in dry communities, that there have been some movements made with resignations of mayors.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 19-12(7): Declarations On Zero Tolerance Adopted By Municipalities

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's answer and what she had done with the Baffin mayors. I guess what I would like to ask the Minister is whether she, as the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is willing to take further action to encourage all municipal governments to consider making declarations of zero tolerance for violence? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 19-12(7): Declarations On Zero Tolerance Adopted By Municipalities

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My honourable colleague, Mr. Kakfwi, informs me that in a day or so he will be tabling a document with a list of municipalities and band councils and their status

regarding zero tolerance that Mr. Patterson is asking about. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

Question 20-12(7): Status Of Study On Egg Quotas For Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Madam Speaker, over 10 years ago now, a program started in Hay River on the reserve with regard to the egg quota. I think we met with the Minister last fall, or last spring, I think, when we were in Fort Smith. We flew down with Mr. Pollard, myself and Mr. Todd, and we met with the band on the Hay River Reserve regarding egg quotas. I know that the band itself, Madam Speaker, has spent up to now around \$100,000 of their own resources to try to resolve this issue. The government has also put in \$500,000 and so have a vested interest in the whole issue being resolved. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of the issue of egg quotas?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Madam Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Question 21-12(7): Provision Of Updates On Zero Tolerance For Violence Strategy

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you. Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the honourable Minister of Justice. Violence against women and children is not acceptable, not only in a country or jurisdiction but also throughout the world, Madam Speaker. The document tabled by the Minister regarding zero tolerance for violence was entitled a status report. My question to the

honourable Minister, Madam Speaker, is, does the Minister expect to bring additional information before this House during the winter sitting? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 21-12(7): Provisions Of Updates On Zero Tolerance For Violence Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, it is our intent to work with the different groups -- community groups, women's groups, different advocate groups -- who are involved in this community wellness strategy and to have a paper that we can bring forward in April of the coming year, which we will share with the Members of this Legislature. It will lay out how we think the existing resources, the existing finances of this

Page 37

government, can be best put to use. This will be developed in partnership with communities and will, hopefully, give the communities the hands-on approach that is so critical and necessary in order to come up with some real solutions to the problems that we've outlined in the initial documents. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 21-12(7): Provisions Of Updates On Zero Tolerance For Violence Strategy

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the document that will be coming out in April, will it just be another status report or will it be the final report? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you, Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 21-12(7): Provisions Of Updates On Zero Tolerance For Violence Strategy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Madam Speaker, we expect there will be some more meetings between now and the end of March with these different groups. It's our view that this will not

be a status report as such but rather, in fact, a strategy that will tell this government, the public, and the communities, what approach we have to take in order to make best use of existing resources, how we can best tackle the many problems that we have in the north, and what kind of flexibility and principles we need to commit ourselves to in order to recognize it's a community development approach. It's a community controlled approach, community prioritizing approach that will lead us to arrest and perhaps diminish the level of violence that is plaguing our people right across the north at this time. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 22-12(7): Allocation Of Funding For Violence Programs

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Madam Speaker, the Standing Committee on Finance recommended that resources be allocated in the 1995-96 operations and maintenance budget for the zero tolerance to violence strategy. Those departments have been working on those budgets already and we've just heard today the Minister of Finance mention that he thinks it's going to be difficult to find the extra resources that he thinks may be needed. My question for the Premier is, were departments specifically directed to attempt to try and find resources to address this issue in their budgets?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier, Minister of Health and Social Services.

Return To Question 22-12(7): Allocation Of Funding For Violence Programs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I had thought that I had answered that question already.

Madam Speaker, in everything we do now at the community level, the communities are asking us to deal with issues in a holistic approach. I think that a lot of work has been done. Right now, I believe that this government should not be apologetic about how we've gone about attempting to use past resources to bring a certain degree of comfort when people want to

talk about the problems they're having, the issues that concern them, where they want to go as individuals and as a community.

Out of this support system that we have provided in the past, we have been able to give enough support to women so they can feel strong enough, so they can put forth their own concerns and aggressively pursue options on how they're going to handle some of the things that are happening in the community. The whole evolution of people being more aggressive in talking about alcoholism, talking about health issues in the community, talking about publicly explaining and bringing to the public awareness and the need to address these problems in a more holistic manner has been very successful. Now, what we have to do is to try to provide the resources to communities so that they can further find solutions to these problems.

As I've stated, and I'll state again, we are trying to look at a wellness strategy in a holistic approach at the community level by redirecting resources, by redirecting intelligence in the communities so they can be more able to do the work that's necessary. There are these movements going around, for example, in the centralization of the suicide specialists who we put in the regions. At one time they used to be here in Yellowknife, now they're in the regions working with health boards trying to find how best to handle those problems at a community level. The more we do that, I think the more we're able to respond to the new active way people are expressing themselves, Madam Speaker.

So, yes, there has been a very conscious attempt to try to revisit how we're providing programs and services and personnel at the community level to address all these issues that are an everyday component of community living. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 22-12(7): Allocation Of Funding For Violence Programs

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Madam Speaker, to the Premier. I'm pleased to hear that the approach is going to be community-based. I think I'm on record as saying that a holistic approach is the best way to deal with social problems. But this government has to provide

leadership, and to provide that leadership we have to provide it at the departmental level. My question specifically is, have departments been given specific instructions to look for ways to reallocate funds in the budget coming out? In the O and M budget for 1995-96, have they been told to look for ways to reallocate funds to deal with the zero tolerance for violence strategy?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Page 38

Further Return To Question 22-12(7): Allocation Of Funding For Violence Programs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I don't know how many more times I have to repeat myself. The community wellness strategy did not come without a conscious effort by all the departments to try to address the issues of community wellness, which includes violence. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 23-12(7): Reallocation Of Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. I fully understand the increasing pressures on the Minister of Finance, in times of decreasing resources, and on the Minister of Justice, as our society throws up more and more victims, those voices won't be stilled. But I think the Minister of Finance will agree that government itself is not the solution. We do have a wonderful resource in the non-government organizations and community-based non-government organizations that can probably do a lot of jobs better and cheaper than government. My question to the Minister of Finance, as he approaches the O and M budget in February, is would he commit that where possible instead of creating new person years in the government, that money will be given directly to community-based non-government organizations? That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 23-12(7): Reallocation Of Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, a difficult question to answer. Madam Speaker, there are communities across the Northwest Territories who say we want a social worker, and we would like a social worker who is a government social worker. There are all kinds of demands, and I'm not saying that the demands from all the communities are all the same. The different demands from different regions, different communities, differ. We're trying to wrestle with the problem of how to address the issue which is summed up by the Premier when she says community wellness, which includes family violence, which includes violence in general, which includes alcoholism, which includes can I get up in the morning to go to work, which includes do I have a decent place to stay and can I bathe myself and keep myself clean and healthy, can I get a balanced diet, et cetera. All those things relate to community wellness.

So we're trying to balance the whole thing across the Northwest Territories by saying that's the issue that has to be addressed, it's been brought to our attention many times in this House and by our own departments and by people across the territories. So I can't commit that in the next budget we will try as much as possible to fund agencies other than our departments to address those issues. But I will commit to Mr. Ballantyne that we will look at that, Madam Speaker, as a

suggestion. Maybe it will work in some areas and I will pass it on to the appropriate Ministers. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 23-12(7): Reallocation Of Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I thank the Minister for that. My second question actually anticipated part of the Minister's response. It seems to me that the two areas that need support are community-based non-government

organizations and also frontline workers in the communities, in both areas. So my question to the Minister is, would the Minister commit to seriously considering putting any new resources or any resources that are saved by reductions in management, for instance, into those two areas as a priority? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 23-12(7): Reallocation Of Funding For Community-Based Violence Programs

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Madam Speaker, I think first of all I'll preface the answer by saying that Members should not get their hopes up that in the next budget all of these things are going to be addressed, because at the time we put the budget together we didn't have all the information that's required to address this very, very complicated issue. But, is it a concern of the government? Absolutely. Mr. Ballantyne raises the point that there are two areas that need help, the front-line workers and organizations that are doing work in this particular area in the Northwest Territories.

I can't make a commitment to the House, other than to say that I accept the items that are being put forward as being most important. I recognize the importance that the Ordinary Members attach to it. I recognize the importance that the Ministers are attaching to it, and we will do everything we can to give due consideration to this issue in the next budget, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In 1993, the Department of Health made public a study called Northwest Territories AIDS Project Review. It was document 91-12(3) and was tabled in the Assembly on March 11, 1993. This was an evaluation of the AIDS program undertaken by the federal government and in which we participated between 1987 and 1990.

On page 75 of this report, Madam Speaker, there are two references to the approaching AIDS epidemic. Could the Minister confirm whether three years after this report was written, that there is, indeed, an AIDS epidemic in the Northwest Territories, that it is still on its way, or that there is no indication of any AIDS epidemic in the Northwest Territories?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Page 39

Return To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the Member is quite correct in referring to our report. Madam Speaker, the issue of AIDS is a very serious issue. The attempts to communicate the seriousness of the issue have been very difficult. However, we have done a number of things to try to bring that awareness to every individual in the Northwest Territories. Madam Speaker, the issue of AIDS is a very, very serious issue in the short term and the long term, but, Madam Speaker, the issue has not been determined, as the Member is indicating, as serious an issue as the Member has titled it to be.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. The report concludes on page 56 and 57 that, despite the four-year long AIDS project in the Northwest Territories, there was no significant sexual behaviour change among the people of the Northwest Territories. Would the Minister confirm, then, that prevalent sexual practices in the Northwest Territories continue to put much of the population at risk?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, that was the conclusion of the report, and I have no basis to contradict the report. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Madam Speaker, the tabled document only provides a summary of the findings of the independent researcher contracted to review the AIDS project. I would like to ask the Minister if she is prepared to provide the House with the work of the independent researchers, since the Department of Health has provided only a sketchy summary of the actual study in its findings? On March 30th, I asked Ms. Mike for this information. On April 2nd, I was told that the work of the consultant was incorporated in the study, itself. I told her I had time to read it over the weekend of April 3rd and 4th and she agreed to provide it to me. Since this was a commitment made in this Assembly to Members, could I receive the report made by the independent researcher?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. May I remind honourable Members to keep their preambles as short as possible. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, the consultant's report prepared by Tompkins, which the Member is referring to, has been incorporated into the document which was tabled. What has been taken out of that report are the confidential comments that were in the initial report. Madam Speaker, because of its confidential, sensitive nature and the implications to individuals who provided sometimes very personal observations, the initial report will not be available. However, I can assure the Member that the findings were

incorporated in the final report. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

MR. LEWIS:

Since I want to be absolutely clear, then, Madam Speaker, since the response to my question to the then Minister of Health about whether I could have the consultant's report was yes, she could provide the report to me, is the Minister saying that a commitment made by a Minister to this House cannot be honoured?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 24-12(7): Number Of AIDS Cases In The NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I'm not aware of which report the former Minister was offering. I assumed the report was the report that was tabled, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, Mr. Pudlat.

Question 25-12(7): Sanikiluaq Community Recreational Centre

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. When I first became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Sanikiluaq was one of my communities that had a major concern about the community recreational centre. They raised this issue with me when I first became a Member. The hamlet stated they had to close down the recreational centre in Sanikiluaq due to unsafe conditions. I should state that residents of Sanikiluaq drew up a petition regarding the recreational centre. The residents have concerns about this centre. So, I'm asking the

Minister of MACA if she can look into this matter as soon as possible and if she can inform the mayor of Sanikiluaq about the community centre. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Mike.

Page 40

Return To Question 25-12(7): Sanikiluaq Community Recreational Centre

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just recently, I received the petition the Member is talking about. The hamlet of Sanikiluaq wrote a letter to me about the community centre and I replied to them that we would set aside money in the 1995-96 budget, but I will have to present this to the Cabinet before I make any commitment to Mr. Pudlat's concern. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 25-12(7): Sanikiluaq Community Recreational Centre

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the Minister of MACA for responding. We all know the Minister will be looking into this matter as soon as she can. Can the Minister indicate how unsafe this building was when they had to close it down and can she inform the House about whether she can send an inspector to inspect the building? I would like to know how long they have to keep the building closed and if she can commit to me to send an inspector down to inspect the building. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ms. Mike.

Further Return To Question 25-12(7): Sanikiluaq Community Recreational Centre

HON. REBECCA MIKE:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will ask my officials to look into this. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Question 26-12(7): Baseline Study On FAS

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. On October 18th, I asked the Minister about the status of the baseline study on fetal alcohol syndrome or FAS. This baseline study was recommended by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. In her response, the Minister indicated that while the recommendation was given consideration, the department decided against doing this baseline study, and that the NWT bureau of statistics will take part in the national population health survey that will gather information of a general nature.

I believe that early intervention is important in helping children with disorders, including those affected by fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects to become more self-sufficient. People in the communities need true and fast action on this decision, Madam Speaker. Will the Minister reconsider the decision of the Department of Health and Social Services so that a baseline study such as recommended by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services be carried out as bureaucratically as possible? Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. May I once again remind honourable Members to attempt to keep their preambles as short as possible. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk.

Question 27-12(7): Community Transfer Agreement With Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. There was a letter sent to the Premier on October 24, 1994 from the hamlet council saying they want to take over the responsibilities of social services and health. They want to make an agreement between these two departments and the hamlet council. Has an agreement been reached?

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Madam Speaker, I am not quite sure whether an agreement has been reached, Madam Speaker, so I will take it as notice.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

I am sorry, Mr. Whitford, I didn't realize the time was up. The time has lapsed for oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Keewatin Central, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 7-12(7), Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories Corporate Plan for 1995-97.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 8-12(7), a letter from the town of Inuvik addressed to the Honourable Rebecca Mike. It includes a press release regarding the Arctic Winter Games.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 5-12(7): Extended Adjournment

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 17th, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that notwithstanding rule 3(1)(a) that when this House adjourns on Wednesday, November 16, 1994, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 15, 1995.

And further, any time prior to February 15, 1995, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion for extended adjournment.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Koe.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 5-12(7): Extended Adjournment, Carried

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, honourable colleagues.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that notwithstanding rule 3(1)(a) that when this House adjourns on Wednesday, November 16, 1994, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 15, 1995.

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 15, 1995, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MADAM SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-12(7). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Morin.

Motion 2-12(7): Tabled Document 4-12(7), "New Rent Scale For Social Housing" Be Referred to Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Tabled Document 4-12(7), "New Rent Scale for Social Housing," be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MADAM SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-12(7), New Rent Scale for Social Housing, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

The committee will now come to order. I guess we have a pretty easy agenda today. There's only one item that's been tabled; that's Tabled Document 4-12(7), New Rent Scale for Social Housing. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I recommend that committee consider that document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 42

Tabled Document 4-12(7): New Rent Scale For Social Housing, November 1994

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Okay, we will proceed with the document after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Before the break, we were prepared to deal with the new rent scale for social housing but before I recognize any of the speakers, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the visitors' gallery, Stefan Lambertz from Belgium. He's an exchange student from Belgium and will be in Yellowknife for the next 10 months. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Bonjour, et bienvenue a Yellowknife, Monsieur Lambertz.

---Applause

Would the Minister like to begin with his opening comments on the new rent scale for social housing? The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Minister Morin.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have prepared opening comments. I had given a Minister's statement in the House yesterday as basically my opening comments for this item, the new rent scale for social housing. We've worked on this document now for the past two and a half years, I believe. I did table this document in the House last spring. Since tabling this document in the House last spring -- the new rent scale for social housing -- we have gone out to every region and consulted with the regional people on the rent scale. The regional people and leaders have come up with recommendations that have changed this document. They came up with some very good recommendations. The rent scale has also gone back to the Advisory Committee on Social Housing with the recommendations from the regional consultation meetings. The advisory committee made recommendations to me to take to Cabinet. I did take these recommendations to Cabinet. All the recommendations from the advisory committee were accepted by Cabinet and given approval with exception to where Members of the advisory committee wanted to include students as part of the people who have free rent. We have to develop this social housing rent scale to co-exist with other things this government is doing. I was advised that Arctic

College does supply a certain amount of money for students to pay their rent. It would be the same as Arctic College would charge.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. General comments on the new rent scale for social housing. General comments. The chair recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

General Comments

MR. GARGAN:

Just one, Mr. Chairman, and that's with regard to the exemption. The exemption is pretty well the same with the exception of students, right? That's the only difference?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

When do we expect this exemption to start?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will implement everything starting April 1, 1995. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go page by page?

Page By Page

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 4.

Page 43

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 7. The chair recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I may be a little late, but I would like to ask the Minister more of a general question and that is, does this paper depart from the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing in any way?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I previously told Members in my opening remarks, it does depart in two places from the recommendations of the advisory committee. Firstly, students. The advisory committee recommended that students be exempt from rents. We couldn't do that because it had to tie in with the same benefits that all Arctic College students get, so they would be charged equivalent rents to what Arctic College students pay now. Both Arctic College and the Housing Corporation are basically doing the same thing and, still, they get very low, low rents.

As long as they are working towards home ownership with us, or show us they are doing that, then their rents would increase the same as everybody else. But, we want to see them working towards home ownership. There are approximately 250 very high income people throughout the Northwest Territories. That is a change from what the committee recommended, and came through the regional consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should apologize to the committee for not having heard the Minister's opening remarks. Mr. Chairman, I would like to further ask the Minister, I believe this has been approved by Cabinet and, therefore, I would like to ask whether there was an assessment done of the costs of the revisions

compared to the new revenues that will be generated. Can we have an idea from the Minister about what this going to cost and what it will yield? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total cost of implementing this over four years is approximately \$9 million, to us as a government. \$2.2 million of that will be ongoing because of the exemptions. The phase-in period is what costs us dollars. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, the new rent scale will produce more rent revenue. Can the Minister also describe how the corporation's rental revenues will be affected? He's outlined the costs, but is there a projection of how the rental revenues will affect the corporation's revenues? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Mr. Chairman, approximately 475 rents will go up, up to \$100; 406 between \$101 and \$250; 493 between \$251 and \$500; 466 between \$501 and \$1,000; and, 197 over \$1,000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Page 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Page 44

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 14. The chair recognizes the Member for Kitikmeot, Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 13, item 4, the Minister says there is going to be an aggressive information campaign launched to get the information out to tenants. Is that going to be done by the housing authorities, Housing Corporation staff, or through a combination of the two?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be done by the housing authority, in conjunction with the NWT Housing Corporation. Every client in every community in every riding will be consulted and will be told of the changes. It will be a house-to-house campaign. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, then, if the local housing authorities will be undertaking this information campaign, are they going to be provided any additional resources to handle this work? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be working very closely with the housing authorities to get this thing done. We know it will cost some extra money in some areas. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same topic, if you recognize that it is going to cost additional dollars in some areas, how have you identified those extra needs? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation will review and respond to the specific needs of each community

with LHA board and staff over the next several months. Where required, this will include the addition of temporary staff for the local housing authority. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair now recognizes the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the 30 per cent, 30 per cent, 30 per cent, and 10 per cent, that is 100 per cent of the rent, based on 30 per cent, right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No rent will exceed 30 per cent of the gross income. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair now recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is going to have to be a lot of resources put into tenant counselling and the like. I think this has been acknowledged in the Minister's paper. I would like to ask, have there been specific funds allocated to meet the additional implementation requirements at the local level? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have the Member repeat his question, please? I didn't hear it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Patterson, Mr. Morin missed the question. Would you please be so kind as to repeat it?

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The implementation process that Mr. Ng was asking about will require more intensive effort, at least in the first phase. I would like to ask the Minister, in the implementation cost he outlined four years and \$9 million. Have specific funds been budgeted for the increased resources required at the community level? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at this time but we will do that. On page 14 of 16, item 6, it spells it out. We are committed to that and we fully understand the regional consultation process. We heard it many times in a lot of the regions that the local housing authorities are going to have to have assistance to implement the new rental scale program. We fully agree with them and we will work them to ensure that they do have that assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that commitment. I would like to remind the Minister that some of the larger communities have got capped staff allocations. I understand that Iqaluit, with 350 households to administer, was capped at the same allocation as communities with much fewer households to manage. I just want to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that to do the job in Iqaluit, for sure, and perhaps other communities with larger households, is going to require an increase to the basic staff, even if it's a temporary one because they cannot do their ongoing work and do tenant counselling and tenant information at the same time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

Page 45

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A separate issue, capped staff. We will deal with this. That must be a separate issue. If communities feel that they do not have proper staff today, for what they're doing today, that's a separate issue. I don't know which communities are capped. All communities are given their allocation of staff according to the number of units they have to maintain and operate. That's my understanding of it. That would be a separate issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

I don't want to prolong this, Mr. Chairman, but my understanding from the Iqaluit housing authority is that there is a formula per household, but there's a ceiling on the number of households. Beyond that, your staff doesn't increase. I think it's 250. So they're capped staff-wise at the same level as a community administering 250 houses and they've got 350. I agree that it's a separate issue but I'm just telling the Minister that especially in Iqaluit, doing the implementation is going to require additional resources. In my view, they're already understaffed for the day-to-day working requirements. I'll just note that as a comment Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it will be taken into account as we move forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it says on number six, page 14 of 16, the corporation will review and respond to specific needs of each community, including Iqaluit, with the local housing authority's board and staff over the next several months. Where required, this will include the addition of temporary staff at the local housing authority. We will treat Iqaluit fairly and equitably the same as we do the rest. We will work out the needs with them and figure out the best way to approach this. We will make sure that our clients fully understand what's happening, that full consultation is happening. We will also ensure that clients are fully aware of all the programs for home ownership that the Housing Corporation has to offer and they're properly consulted so that they can get into home ownership. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Page 15. I'll go back to it, page 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Page 15. The chair recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I'm impressed with the home ownership programs that are available and outlined in the second bullet on page 15. I wonder if the Minister has had a chance to consider the problem of land availability? I believe it's well known that in some communities there is a shortage of land for development. Even if people are eligible for the programs, they may not have land on which to build. I would like to ask the Minister whether this problem of land assembly is part of the implementation plan for those communities that have land pressures? I realize it may require working with another department but I wonder if the corporation has a strategy to make sure land is available once people decide to make the plunge to home ownership? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have instructed the president of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Al Menard, to work closely with MACA, and he does have some knowledge and experience with the land problems. We acknowledge the concern the Member for Iqaluit has raised, that there is an issue with land. We will work with MACA to address that issue in that community, the same as the rest where we do have problems with land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Page 15. The chair recognizes Mr. Ng.

MR. NG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to what my colleague, Mr. Patterson, was asking respecting land issues with the municipalities, I would like to ask the Minister a question. The Housing Corporation currently -- at least in my constituency -- has a lot of unused Housing Corporation lots where previously public housing units or northern rental units which had been written off, or had been demolished, or removed from those lots. It seems like the corporation is hoarding those lots and not giving them up for people applying under ACCESS programs or other individuals applying for land to build private houses. What it's done is created a strain on the land development areas in communities where there is a lot of development. I use Cambridge Bay for an example now because there are a lot of private homes going into that community. The Housing Corporation is applying on lots in the new development area instead of using the existing lots of which they already have title to. I would like to ask the Minister if he's aware of this issue and if he'll address it? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware of the issue now that the Member has brought the issue to the floor. I will make moves to address it. I will direct the Housing Corporation to sell those lots. If we don't need them, sell them. It's as simple as that. It makes common sense to sell them and let home ownership clients develop those lots because we do not have the money to build public housing any longer at this time. We might as well sell those lots. I'll direct the president of the Housing Corporation to sell them to your constituents at a fair market value. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Page 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Page 16 of 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

Page 46

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The next is just strictly appendices. The chair recognizes Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Just one other question, Mr. Chairman. Do we have a rebate system in here? A rebate system for the western Arctic, a credit, or whatever it's called, because of the amount of rent they were paying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some social housing tenants in home ownership communities, as identified in the current rent scale, have been paying high rents for a number of years than tenants in non-home ownership communities. In recognition of this, some tenants in home ownership communities will be given a rebate or credit against their future rent payments or arrears of 10 per cent of the previous year's rent paid. This rebate/credit will only be applied during the period of phase-in of the rent scale increases and will be implemented only once a year. That is what the committee recommended and it's found on page 10 of 16. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Again, just looking at the community and districts of the houses, it would look like something like...In Fort Providence, where they have people paying up to \$1,000 -- there will be 10 paying \$1,000 and one paying over that amount -- we can anticipate that during the next four years, Providence should be looking at about 11 units going to that area. Is that right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Next summer or fall, there will be a new housing needs survey conducted in all the communities. A 1995 housing needs survey. Then the allocations will be given out, according to the survey, in a fair and equitable manner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Chairman, in the recommendations it says they will encourage all the higher income people to move out within the next two years. When I look at the scale that was done by your department and it says out of 98 households, 45 of them will see a decrease, 23 of them won't see a change and 30 of them will see an increase. The breakdown of increases is: we have six people paying up to \$100; seven people will be paying up to \$250; six people will be paying up to \$500; 10 people will be paying up to \$1,000; and, one person will be paying over \$1,000. So I would anticipate that if he is to encourage those people to move out of those houses, that would be the category; the people who are paying up to \$1,000 and over. Based on that, Providence would probably need to get about five and five each year to get those people moved out. That is what I was looking at.

I am not referring to the needs assessment that is going to be done. If there is going to be a needs assessment, it will be for next year's allocation, so I don't see what that has to do with this. I am just asking, based on the recommendations, how we hope to address people who have a higher income.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. I couldn't find that table in my documents, but if it is 10 high-income people living in social housing now, over the next two years those people's needs should be met through the home ownership program. It may not necessarily mean that it is met through the ACCESS program or the alternative housing program. More than likely, their needs would be met through the forgivable loan program, the direct lending program, bridge financing program or assistance to go to the

bank to get a mortgage. Their needs should be met within the next two years, you are correct. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further information on the rental scale that will be implemented in the next four years, I haven't actually read the contents and have a hard time understanding some parts of it. It seems to me that the Minister stated the people who are not making as much money and cannot pay their rent are usually evicted. But to my understanding, you are stating there are quite a few people who are making more money and can afford to pay their rent.

There are a lot of people who are unemployed and are not making enough money. The people who are employed and are making enough money to pay their rent are going to be encouraged to apply for home ownership. Since there is no application form that they have seen for home ownership, and if you are not eligible to be in a rental unit, do you have to apply for home ownership?

With regard to home ownership, Mr. Chairman, the rules in getting home ownership are not up to date as yet. The people who are applying for home ownership can't get one because the units are gone already. Once that list is going, there is no other way of accommodating those people who want to apply for home ownership. Do you know exactly how many have applied for home ownership? Quite a few have applied and weren't agreed upon by the committees who decide. Are there going to be more units available then? Are there any plans to be able to cater to that many applications for people who are making enough money? I haven't seen a plan in the rental scale document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the consultation process and through working with the local housing authorities in every community, we will be going from house to house and explaining the new rent scale to all the tenants in Inuktitut, as well as in English, and

making sure they know all the options available to them. We will be doing that with the local housing

Page 47

authority, as well as the Housing Corporation staff. I would be quite happy to arrange a briefing for the Member on the new rent scale with an interpreter supplied through the Assembly on a one-on-one basis. I don't have a problem with that. We can make that arrangement.

Once people understand the new rent scale -- and a lot of the recommendations did come from the people at the regional level into the rent scale -- they will realize that home ownership is the way to go. As far as people applying for home ownership last year, I don't have a clue how many people in the Northwest Territories applied. But I do know that we built 40 ACCESS units this year on spec that people would take them next year. There is no advantage to move into home ownership because rents were so low for high-income people. So we do have 40 units that I don't believe are taken up yet.

We also have northern rentals we can sell and some rent supps that we are looking at selling off. We have the direct lending and forgivable loan programs. That is financing that we can help people go to the bank with. We work closely with the tenant, take him through the process, take him to the bank or we finance him ourselves through direct lend or a forgivable loan. That way, we get more units for the same amount of dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Pudlat.

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, a short addition to my question. Is it wide open now, even if you are making quite a bit of money? There were certain limitations to be eligible for home ownership housing, are there certain limits now too, as for when a person may apply for home ownership under the Housing Corporation? And, once the housing associations have been informed about this new rental scale, even though some people are not eligible for home ownership, can they apply for this as well? That's my last question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, people will be eligible for home ownership, even though they are above the CNIT, that's the core need income threshold for their community. There are different programs that will kick in at that level. It may be direct lending, it may be a portion of forgivable loan and direct lending, we can do bridge financing for them, or we can sell them a package directly and assist them to put together a financial package and go to the bank with it. There are programs for those people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair now recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the recommendations of the Special Advisory Committee on Social Housing, which I haven't seen addressed in this paper -- and I may have missed it -- was that there should be incentives to local housing authorities for energy conservation, that this was a big chunk of the corporation's costs and that if incentives could be provided to local authorities and they could keep money or hold back money they saved on energy conservation, we might substantially bring down our energy costs, and that it would happen best at the community level. Did I miss something, or is that not addressed in the Minister's paper? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the Member did not miss it. It is not addressed in this paper. This is the new rent scale for social housing. That issue will be addressed on an ongoing basis with the local housing authorities, the same as with the construction issues and other recommendations that came out of the regional consultation meetings. They are not all addressed in this paper. This only deals with the rent scale. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I'm content that the Minister will work on that energy conservation issue, but I would just like to remind him that this was a recommendation of his advisory committee and I think we recommended it as part of the response to the new social housing rent scale because we thought it was one very effective way the corporation could improve its revenues. That is, by reducing the enormous costs of energy. I forget the figure, but it is a staggering sum that the corporation pays out every year for energy. So, I would just like to remind the Minister that I think this is a recommendation in the committee report and if it is not being responded to in this paper, which I understand focuses on the rent scale, I think the committee should expect a response to that recommendation at a future time.

I'm willing to give the Minister more time to work on that but, to me, it was part of the package and it shouldn't be overlooked because there are millions of dollars there that could be saved if we promoted energy savings in our communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do agree with the Member that we have to address that issue and we are going to work on it. Hopefully by February or March, we can try to address that issue as well as the issue of back rents, which total about \$7 million or \$9 million now. That's a lot of money. We will try to address that issue and come forward with a paper for the advisory committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Chairman, I think we are getting to the end of this discussion, and I just want to summarize my feelings and I have one question. I think a lot of progress has been made since the first proposed new social housing rent scale was tabled by the Minister. I think I had some strong words at that time, that it was doomed to failure, that it was impossible to implement, that there would be the possibility of tenant revolts, or people quitting their jobs, or people

moving into houses on the beach with the scale that was proposed. I think things are a lot better now.

Page 48

I would just like to note the phase-in over four years. I know it is costing the corporation some money but, to me, that's the only way you are going to get people into home ownership. That is, to give them the lead time, especially beyond the tree line, off the highway. They need more than a year to prepare for home ownership and they need counselling and other support. We now have the time for that with this proposal.

Secondly, I think the cost of living index has been fixed up by using the MACA scale. There were a lot of concerns expressed by Members that the way of measuring the cost of living, based on the Social Services food basket, was crude and inappropriate for housing. That has been dealt with in a satisfactory fashion. I believe that the fear that was expressed during Baffin consultations about elders being responsible for collecting the rent from those living with them has now been eliminated by the exemption from rent of elders.

And, there are other improvements, such as the sliding scale based on the condition of the unit. So, all in all, I think it is a much better package and I do thank the Minister for responding as he has. I still have a couple of questions, though. One has to do with assessing and collecting rents on household income. I'm happy now that the elder is not going to be responsible for paying that rent. However, my question is, if the rent isn't paid and you have three or four people working in the house, which is common in my riding -- and these are the people whose rents are going to go up -- has the corporation figured out how it is going to collect from those various workers in the household? Are there going to be separate leases with each tenant? What is the mechanism for collecting rent?

I think it is complicated because of the fact that sometimes people work and sometimes they don't. So, the situation is often fluid, even from month to month. Can the Minister tell me if the corporation has figured out a simple way of collecting rent from numerous members of a household? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the corporation was looking at having separate leases with every individual person living in a unit. It was to be one lease with amendments to the lease, I believe that is what David explained to us in the advisory committee. They will be named, and they have to sign the lease, so they would have to pay the lease. It was never the intention of the Housing Corporation, even in the original rent scale, that the elder would collect the rent from four or five other people. It was always those people who were to pay the housing authority directly.

And, if they don't pay the rent, it will go through regular procedures of how they deal with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. The chair recognizes the Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the rentals man and the lawyers are going to have fun with that because I don't know how you collect rent from five, six or eight people. Maybe they are all going to pay their rent and the increases. But I think that is one that will have to be handled carefully.

This is my second and final question, Mr. Chairman. I hope this works well and that it doesn't have some of the negative effects I was concerned about, but I would like to ask the Minister, is the corporation planning to build in an evaluation of this major change? It is really the first time the rental scale has been changed in over 10 years. There is a lot of new ground being broken here. We are trying to change a lot of attitudes. Will there be an evaluation component built into this new adventure in social housing from the beginning, so that we can assess what worked and perhaps what didn't work, so there can be some flexibility and some room for amendments to the policies, in case there are problems that emerge? My specific question is, have you built in an evaluation or will you build in an evaluation? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have an evaluation process for all our programs. We have a consultation process with the community early on. We have an Advisory Committee on Social Housing that would listen to those concerns. We do evaluate our programs and make adjustments to them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

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

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question I would like to raise. The basic rent scale, even though it will be for a year, for the residents in Baffin South, as Dennis mentioned before, it is getting harder and harder to get jobs. The prices of everything is going up. We are all aware that it is getting harder and harder to earn a living. Ottawa is saying they won't give us any more houses. The people who are social assistance recipients, especially the older people...A number of people in the household work or in some households aren't working at all. There are widows who don't make any wages because there doesn't seem to be too much consideration as to how much money they are making. I'm wondering if our elders will be put into a situation where they will have a difficult time paying their rent, would the head of the house be responsible to pay for the rent, even if the household is a recipient of social assistance? If they don't pay their rents, then the head of the household would be responsible for paying the rent. Will that be the case? How will this be handled if these situations arise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Elders' rents will be reduced and so will social assistance recipients' rents, from \$32 down to nothing or \$1. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. Before we proceed, I would like to recognize the Fort Norman Band Council in the gallery: the chief, Fred Doctor;...

---Applause

...Gordon Yakeleya, president of the Tulita Land Corporation and band councillor;...

---Applause

...Bobby Clement, band councillor;...

---Applause

...Edward MacCauley, band councillor;...

---Applause

...Agnes Naedzo, Tulita Land Corporation;...

---Applause

...and, Lorraine Doctor, Tulita Financial Corporation. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

The chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a major problem with the proposed rent scale, but I would like to ask the Minister about the unit condition rent adjustment and the magic number of 60 per cent. I understand that the older or the poorer the condition of your house, you will get a certain percentage off your base rent. How did the corporation come up with the magic number of 60 per cent, with the sliding scale that has been developed? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is what the regions recommended through the regional consultation process. We worked with all the communities in the Northwest Territories and that is how we came up with this percentage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, it is obviously not based on the corporation's standard unit condition rating system, then, if it was agreed during consultations and they all of a sudden picked this 60 per cent figure. It is not based on the corporation's standard unit condition rating system, then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is tied into that system as well. We did it at the beginning in chunks, where it would go, for example, from 50, 60, 40 to 30 per cent. Through the regional consultation process, it was determined that people wanted it to go every one per cent. So, if you were at 51 per cent you would have \$90 dollars deducted, compared to 59 or 60 per cent. So, it made a big difference for clients.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Chairman, I know for a fact that most of our social housing aren't 80 to 100 per cent rated. I don't think any house here in the territories is going to be 100 per cent efficient, and so forth. It is because most of our social housing falls in the category of 60 to 75 per cent? Is that why they took 60 per cent as the magic figure?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Until your unit is condition-rated down to 60 per cent, the unit is in good condition, so why would you give an adjustment for anything above 60 per cent. That wouldn't make sense. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

That is the point I am trying to make. I know for a fact that most of our houses aren't 100 per cent. That is why this sliding scale was developed. I just wanted to find out why the cut-off was at 60 per cent. Most of

our units are between 60 and 75 per cent efficient. Is that why they have this magic figure of 60 per cent?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Minister.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a unit is condition-rated at 60 per cent or less, the clients will get adjustments in their rent. If it is above 60 per cent, then there is nothing wrong with the unit. There may be a tile missing here or some little thing wrong with it. We sure aren't going to give a rent adjustment for those types of things. In addition, they will also get \$100 if it lacks running water. If it lacks a shower or bathtub, they will get another \$100 adjustment. If it lacks a flush toilet, they will get \$100 adjustment. Those are all condition ratings. If the Member could be very specific at what he is getting at, maybe I could answer his question better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

I will try to get more specific. Mr. Chairman, I don't mind the way the sliding scale is developed, but what if these units...The Minister indicated that there will be work orders for a window to be replaced or a tile to be fixed, for example, if it isn't the tenant's fault. The house is still rated 100 per cent, but if these work orders aren't worked on in a certain time period, do the clients get an adjustment on their unit? Those are the things I wanted to find out. Are they covered in this new rent scale? I don't see them in here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Minister Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You don't see it because it isn't in there, Mr. Zoe. The sliding scale is according to the condition rating. Once it gets to a certain condition and a unit becomes more uncomfortable for tenants to live in, then they are going to get the rent adjustment. We can't afford to fix them all immediately.

Also, the Housing Corporation has taken on maintenance in a new aggressive manner. We are changing our mode in the Housing Corporation to pay more attention to maintenance and to work with the housing authorities to get our existing stock up

Page 50

to standard. We have to protect our investment of 5,500 units out there in order to make them last as long as possible and improve the living condition of our tenants because we don't have money to build new ones to replace the ones we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Minister Morin. The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a very brief statement. First of all, I want to give credit to the Minister and the special committee for dealing with an incredibly difficult issue. On one hand, the federal government is squeezing really hard and if we don't do something, there would be major penalties in the millions of dollars. On the other hand, people in the communities, quite legitimately, are concerned about how it will impact them.

There have been many Housing Ministers, including myself, who have tried to grapple with this problem. He is the first Minister who has successfully grappled with the problem and he and the Housing Corporation deserve a lot of credit. I think the special committee, who worked closely with the Minister, deserve a lot of credit. So even though the final deal may not be perfect, it is definitely the best arrangement possible at this time. I, for one, am very satisfied with the arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. You see a lot of smiling faces, Mr. Morin, did you wish to respond?

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community leaders who made the good recommendations about the new rent scale, as well as the leaders who attended the regional consultation process. I would like to thank the MLAs who attended the Advisory Committee on Social Housing and I would like to thank the staff of the Housing Corporation and Cabinet for their support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Morin. The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik.

MR. KOE:

I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Prior to that, could I get the committee to agree that the matter of the new rent scale for social housing is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you. The committee agrees. We have a motion to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? We have no quorum.

Thank you. We now have a quorum. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Deputy Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lewis):

Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your absence, the committee has been considering Tabled Document 4-12(7) and would like to report progress,

and that Tabled Document 4-12(7) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Is there a seconder? Mr. Dent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTING CLERK ASSISTANT (Mr. Schauerte):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions immediately after adjournment. Tomorrow morning, November 16th, at 9:00 am, meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance and Standing Committee on Legislation. Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 16, 1994.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address

Page 51

10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

- Motion 1-12(7), Funding Assistance To Unorganized

Communities Under the Capital/NWT Infrastructure Agreement

- Motion 3-12(7), Tabled Document 1-12(7), "Legislative

Discussion Paper on the Draft New Education Act" Be

Referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation

- Motion 4-12(7), Tabled Document 2-12(7) "Rewriting

Liquor Laws in the Northwest Territories, A Legislative

Action Paper" Be Referred to the Standing Committee on

Legislation

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk Assistant. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 pm Wednesday, November 16, 1994.

--ADJOURNMENT