



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**7th Session**

**Day 10**

**12<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**HANSARD**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1995**

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**Speaker: The Hon. Samuel Gargan**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ballantyne, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Hon. Samuel Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Hon. Don Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr. Ningark, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Hon. John Todd, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):**

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Member's Statement On Holding A Spring Election

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week one of my colleagues rose to talk about when the next territorial election should be. He said two years ago he argued for an early election but there was no interest. Mr. Speaker, many things have changed over the past two years. The most important to me, as a Member of this Assembly, is the decline in public confidence both in the government and the Legislative Assembly and many things have contributed to that decline.

In the rest of the country, governments are balancing their budgets and reducing their debt. Here, the government has budgeted itself out of an accumulated surplus and into a situation where we will have a debt of \$38 million. This comes at a time when the federal government is trying to deal with the national debt. If our federal budget is cut by a large amount next year, we will be in a very bad deficit situation.

As well, in this time of financial trouble, we need to consider the additional cost of holding a by-election in the riding of our former colleague, Mr. Arvaluk. If a spring election were held, the government would not have to spend our limited resources on this by-election. Residents of the riding could elect a new

representative as part of the general election. Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, the government had its negotiations with the UNW settled. Now public service employees are about to enter into their second year without a new contract. In fact, we are aware that the government and the UNW have had to go to arbitration.

In the past two years there have been frequent changes to the Cabinet and leadership of the Assembly. For example, when we take the department of MACA, it has had five different Ministers in the past year and a half and a total of seven new Ministers since this Cabinet was formed. Mr. Speaker, although Members adopted a code of ethics and a statement of zero tolerance for violence...

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue my Member's statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. Thank you, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, although Members adopted a code of ethics and a statement of zero tolerance for violence, the public perception is that these are not being followed. Particularly in the last year, public inquiries, criminal offences, violent situations involving alcohol and, most recently, lawsuits involving Members of the Assembly have frequently been in the news. People are wondering when these things they read are going to come to a stop.

A concern has been raised that if an early election is called, current MLAs will catch potential opponents unaware and will have an unfair advantage. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe this will be the case. All northerners who are interested know this is an election year. Anyone considering running for the Assembly is probably already thinking about it and preparing. I even know that one of my opponents is having an election meeting on February 27th, which I commend him for. In fairness, I'm even giving him free press. This is a democratic process which we enjoy as Canadians.

Decisions about the timing of the next election, Mr. Speaker, are usually made in private. However, Mr.

Speaker, I agree with Mr. Lewis that this issue should be decided through public discussion in this Assembly.

---Applause

I sense that the public would prefer to see an election sooner, rather than later and, therefore, I am considering introducing a motion to have the election this spring.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that the people have confidence in their government and in their Legislative Assembly. We must be sure that the people support our efforts on their behalf and the only way to do that is to have a mandate from the people. I believe an early election will give this whole Assembly a very clear and new mandate. Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Hear, hear.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

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Member's Statement On The Need For An NWT Police Act

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, police services in the Northwest Territories in general, and in Yellowknife in particular, have come under increasing criticism during the past several months. Whether or not such criticism is supported by statistics, there is a definite perception among our citizens that property crimes and crimes of violence have been steadily increasing over the past couple of years in Yellowknife.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, our citizens have become more and more apprehensive in the wake of an alarming number of break-ins, armed robberies, gang-related violence and sexual assaults. Mr. Speaker, our police services appear to be stretched to the limit. With the present fiscal climate of the country, we must find new and innovative solutions to this social dilemma to

ensure our safety and the sanctity of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, many provinces have police acts which allow communities to augment their level of protection outside the police service agreement with the federal government. I see the development of a Northwest Territories police act as something that would add to our own options for addressing our present inability to curb criminal activities in our communities. The present territorial police services agreement provides that the Minister of Justice for the Northwest Territories and the Commissioner of the RCMP shall determine the minimum standard of policing and they shall further determine the level of policing services which shall not be less than the minimum standard.

Beyond that determination of our policing requirements, Mr. Speaker, I don't see provisions in the agreement that allow for creative or innovative methods of augmenting our present police services. Perhaps such provisions could be best embodied in a police act, specifically designed for such a purpose.

I would also like to note, Mr. Speaker, that because we don't have a police act, there is presently no legislative mandate for the government or the Minister of Justice to ensure that an adequate and effective level of policing is maintained throughout the Northwest Territories. This is a key element of other police acts across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Department of Justice has done some work towards development of a police act for the Northwest Territories. I support these efforts as the best way to begin to address our present policing problems. However, time is of the essence and there is a need to move forward as quickly as possible on this initiative. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, a police act would provide the fundamental legislative responsibility for this government to ensure that adequate and effective policing is maintained for its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the time for such solutions has arrived and I would like to strongly encourage the

Minister of Justice to move forward as quickly as possible in the development of a police act for the Northwest Territories. Our law-abiding citizens deserve adequate and effective protection and we must strive to ensure that they receive no less. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Development Of A Policy On Sustainable Development

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Four years ago, Mr. Chairman...Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Four years ago, the government established a round table on the economy and the environment and agreed to develop a policy on sustainable development. The government, in 1991, disbanded the round table on the economy and the environment and it still has no clear position on sustainable development.

Our Special Committee on the Northern Economy in the 11th Assembly made a strong recommendation to this government to get its act together to prepare for major economic development. The Government of the Northwest Territories has no policy on sustainable development and lacks focus in addressing the major projects associated with mineral development.

I mentioned previously in this House the problems we face because we have no policy on sustainable development. Any time we raise mining and mining issues, we are deemed by many to be in support of development at all cost, full-steam ahead and don't worry about the consequences. If we raise environmental issues, many assume we are anti-development and very likely raving radicals.

Our government has had ample opportunity to develop a sustainable development policy, which everyone has the chance to buy into. It hasn't done this, Mr. Speaker. We have only a very small say in the development of mining in the Northwest Territories. What small say we do have, must be coherent. We can't speak in an ambiguous way. Without a policy, it is becoming a free-for-all. The public really doesn't know who is responsible for what. Before we do take over mining from the feds, we had

better have a sustainable development policy, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Renewable Resources in his statement yesterday, made reference to sustainable development, but we are still waiting to hear whether the government has any intention of developing one. Thank you.

---Applause

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Gasoline Subsidies For Hunters And Trappers

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in committee of the whole, the committee approved amendments to Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act. The Petroleum Products Tax Act sets the rates by which the tax on various petroleum products are calculated. The only issues concerning some of my constituents when it comes to purchasing gasoline products is that of the road tax imposed on the price of a litre of gasoline. This government currently has a two-tiered tax system based on where the fuel is delivered. There is a zone A or on-road tax, and a zone B, an off-road tax. I believe zone A taxes are 10 cents a litre and zone B taxes are six cents per litre.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that there are many hunters, trappers, fishermen and other people who spend a lot of time out on the land. Most of these people purchase gasoline for their outboard motors, skidoos and four-wheelers from in-town gas stations and suppliers. They have to pay the 10 cents extra tax on this product. However, the majority of their travel and use are off-road, in the bush or on the tundra. They use the gas for subsistence gathering or to supplement their traditional lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that this is fair. I know in agricultural country, farmers get breaks on their gasoline taxes and are able to use something called "purple gas." I am not sure if the east coast or west coast fishermen also get breaks on their gas, but in the north we should definitely look at changing our taxation levies on our gasoline products to support

our hunters, trappers, fishermen and people following traditional pursuits.

I strongly urge the Minister of Finance to review these on-road and off-road taxes and maybe even consider dyeing the colour of our gasoline to assist our northerners in maintaining healthy lifestyles through the purchase of cheaper gas. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Member's Statement On Innovative Approaches To Community Policing

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like my colleague, Mr. Dent, I would like to talk about the rising crime rate in the Northwest Territories, especially here in Yellowknife. For the last few years, I, along with other MLAs, have talked about the rise in crime; the increase in the use of drugs and the numbers of break and enters in Yellowknife. We have made many statements about the problem. The Minister has told us many times that the problem is being studied. We have projects in a few communities regarding community policing.

The Minister has also made a commitment for more police in this year's budget. As my colleague has said, what we would really like is the Minister and the department to look at some innovative approaches to community policing that don't cost a lot of money. We need more police and the Minister has committed to more police, but at some point in time, at \$150,000 for an RCMP officer, that won't be the only way we are going to solve this problem. The Minister has committed to sit down with the Yellowknife MLAs, the mayor and the police. Before that meeting, I would like to have the Minister take a very serious look at some of the options that have been put forward; changes to the police act, auxiliary police, enhancing Crime Stoppers, et cetera. A concept I have put forward a number of times is trying to find some kind of a program in cooperation with municipalities to cost-share clerical support for the police. It would be a lot cheaper than hiring new police officers.

The point we are making, as the Yellowknife MLAs, is the problem is serious. People in this town are taking it very seriously. We recognize that dollars are

limited, so we really ask the Minister to sit down with his staff and really crunch some numbers and some of these suggestions we have made. When we get together in this meeting, we can go forward with some concrete approaches. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

Further Return To Question 134-12(7): Policy On Use Of Aboriginal Languages In Court

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Antoine on the 22nd of this month. Mr. Antoine asked the question as to what the policy is with respect to using aboriginal languages in the courts. I would like to assure Mr. Antoine that it is the practice of the courts in the Northwest Territories to allow an aboriginal person, whether an accused or a witness, to use an aboriginal language during court proceedings. The department has directed considerable efforts in the training of aboriginal language legal interpreters. Interpreters have been provided to permit an accused person to be effectively present at his trial, to understand the proceedings and to make full answer in defence. In those cases where it appears this opportunity has not been provided, an accused has the right of appeal to a higher court. In this particular case, the accused exercised his rights in this regard and was successful in gaining a new preliminary inquiry.

It's not proper to comment any further on the case, other than to say that the case demonstrates that the court process works: the language rights of the people within the Northwest Territories are guarded by the courts. To add more than this would put us at risk of interfering with the independence of the courts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the new Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment.

Mr. Speaker, last fall there was a lot of controversy about the awarding of the Arctic Winter Games to the city of Yellowknife. In the furor of this process of securing a bid for the Arctic Winter Games, the members on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee which represent the Northwest Territories both resigned. I would like to ask the Minister, when will he be making appointments to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've written letters to all Members of this Assembly and to a couple of other organizations requesting nominations be put forward for consideration as there are two board members that our government appoints to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. One of them, by by-law, has to be a senior government representative and the other individual is normally selected by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee with the two nominations that come forward from the department. After I receive interested nominees, then I'll be making a decision on that, and I anticipate that that will be done before the end of March. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**MR. KOE:**

It's interesting that one of the appointments has to be a senior government representative. I assume when

you say that, that could be any government representative or any government employee from any department. Or, does it have to be from the sport and recreation division of MACA?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the individual who would be the government representative would have to be in the capacity of sport and recreation; a senior government official from that area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi. So that really limits the choices then that are available, and I think I disagree if that's one of the criteria. What other criteria will be the Minister be using to select the other position? If the criteria is already established for one of these positions, what criteria will the Minister be using to select the non-government appointment?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

I'll probably have to consider whether or not that individual was from the Inuvik area. No, I would consider whether or not the individual has a broad, general background in sports and what kind of community support and territorial support that individual would have and his qualifications. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 142-12(7):  
Appointments To AWG International Committee

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's nice that there will be some criteria, and, of course, I would prefer someone from the Inuvik region, but being a Member of this House and representing all residents of the north, I hope that everyone has an equal opportunity if they're capable. I'm just wondering again, what time frame are you looking at with soliciting nominations and then when are you going to consider making an appointment?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 142-12(7): Appointments To AWG International Committee

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nomination call letters have gone forward now, so I expect within the next couple of weeks that we'll receive them. As I stated earlier, prior to the end of March is when I anticipate making a decision. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 143-12(7): Percentage Of \$1 Million Power Cost Carried By Other Communities

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the PUB has made a decision with regard to adding a rider to the power rates for the low-water rate; better known as low-water rate rider, on our Power Corporation bills. This initial decision was to recover some \$4.8 million which was expended here in Yellowknife. I want to indicate to the public that my constituents are very concerned about this and did not agree with the decision, however, are accordingly paying their power bills.

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Mr. Speaker, this particular decision to allow for the rest of the territories to absorb this \$1 million cost and the \$3 million to be absorbed by Yellowknife

residents...Can the Minister indicate to this House if she knows the percentage of this \$1 million cost to other territorial residents which should reflect on their power bill? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**MR. LEWIS:**

I hope this question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources won't aggravate the whole environmental development debate. I would like to ask the Minister is it true that in this year's estimates -- since I'm not privy to all the finance stuff since I don't belong to the Finance committee -- is it true that he has an environmental analyst planned in this year's budget?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure off the top of my head whether we have a provision for an environmental analyst. I will look into that; I can't remember, quite frankly. I know that the department is taking a great deal more interest in environmental issues as they relate to exploration because it is becoming very high profile and we need to be much more proactive in making sure that the mining industry meets the requirements of the different types of panels that are before us, like the EARP panel that is currently reviewing the BHP application. This is done in a spirit of cooperation in trying to expedite timely decision-making on the issues surrounding the

development of the industry as it relates to the environment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**MR. LEWIS:**

(Microphone turned off)...does have -- and I know he's very well aware of it -- provision for an analyst and the Minister has given us an explanation of why he wants to have that. I would like to ask the Minister, since we already -- and I quote some people in the mining industry -- have "environmentalists up the yin yang in government," why is this government adding even one more?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe that we're adding an environmentalist to the staff complement. I think what we're doing, which we haven't done in the past, is taking a much more active interest in the environmental aspects of the industry, if I'm correct. And we're trying to assist the mining industry and others in moving forward with their applications to develop different mines and different infrastructure. We're trying to assist them so that we can move quickly to meet the requirements of the environmental review-type panels that the industry has to face. Certainly, it isn't our intent to add to the growing environmental groups, as there are enough of them out there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Renewable Resources -- and I don't have the precise

numbers -- has a large number of people involved in environmental matters and they have them because there is a concern that industrial development has to be balanced and it could have an impact on wildlife. So, what I would like to ask the Minister is, what impact can wildlife have on the industry? Since you now want to have your own, are you afraid of moose knocking over people or bears killing people? What is the purpose of you having an environmental person in your department? So that the mining industry will be protected from these animals?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I thought I had answered the question by saying that one of the shortcomings, if you want, of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in previous years was our inability to give the industry -- which I believe we're advocates of -- the right kind of advice that relates to the applications they have to put before hearing committees. I believe that is a proactive approach which this government and certainly my ministry endorses. That is our intention with this position and with the resources we are going to give to it. It is not to take away from, it is to add to the kind of expertise and support we can provide the industry to expeditiously meet the requirements of the environmental review committees. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you. This is the budget session, Mr. Speaker, and I've already been told that we have lots of people who are great at analysing things. So, I would like to ask the Minister, instead of adding to the public service, did he consider the possibility of seconding somebody from somewhere else inside the government so we wouldn't have to increase the costs to this government of adding more staff?



**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 144-12(7): Inclusion Of Environmental Analyst In 1995-96 Budget

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Mr. Lewis and some of his colleagues from Yellowknife want to see an orderly, expeditious development of the mineral industry. I believe this position enhances that, it doesn't take away from that. It provides us with the expertise to provide advice to the industry so it can hopefully avoid some of the delays we have seen recently because the industry didn't address all the issues the RERC wanted, and that was the BHP application. I suppose we perhaps could have considered secondment. We didn't and that's why it is in the budget. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you. I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and it also has to do with diamond mining. I'm not as concerned as my colleague about the process or about this particular position, but what I am concerned about, though, are what steps the department has taken to look at the possibility of value-added jobs, whether they are in a sorting facility or in a cutting factory. At the end of the day, what my constituents are worried about are some real jobs and some real benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're currently doing some of that research and investigating under the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum

Resources, actually. I believe we've hired some of the top knowledgeable diamond people in the world and I say that without risk of being questioned on it. Right now we have these people working on evaluating, sorting, polishing, et cetera. In the reports they are doing for us, they are showing us the net fiscal benefits should these activities take place.

Again, if it were to be viewed that some of this work could be done in the north we would, once a decision to develop a diamond mine has been made, have to sit down and negotiate with the mining industry to determine what we could do in the north. But, it is certainly our intent to encourage and prepare documentation that shows that some of this work can be done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware that estimates have been done about the loss of government jobs in Yellowknife because of Nunavut, and they are somewhere in the order of 300 jobs. My understanding is that a sorting factory could probably provide 100 to 150 jobs, so it could be a very significant addition to Yellowknife, if that's the way it comes out. My question to the Minister is, has the Minister made it clear to BHP that our government will aggressively pursue these value-added opportunities to stay here in the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have explained to BHP -- as a matter of fact, I met with Mr. Hickman earlier last week -- that with or without an accord, if there is no value-added fiscal component to this development that we are going to be heading towards a difference of opinion about whether this development should move forward or not. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Ballantyne.

Supplementary To Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you. To follow along the same line of questioning, I, along with other people, have a real concern because the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has that responsibility and I'm not convinced they hold dear the interests of the Northwest Territories as deeply as our government does. My question to the Minister is, has the Minister made it very clear to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs that we consider it imperative that we have some of these value-added opportunities here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 145-12(7): Value-Added Jobs In Diamond Mining Industry

**HON. JOHN TODD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that we have made it clear. I've certainly spoken to the Minister about the issue of the mineral accord, in general. We all know that, to some extent -- and only to some extent -- that diamonds are driving the agenda a little more aggressively than perhaps it has in the past. We've indicated to him at some length -- not only myself, but my colleagues, Mr. Pollard and the Premier -- that we would like to see significant value-added benefits accrued from this development. I want to reiterate what I have said on a number of occasions. These are northern diamonds, therefore some benefits should accrue to northerners. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

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Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Following up on my statement on policing earlier today, I would like to ask

the Minister if his department is, in fact, working on development of a police act for the Northwest Territories?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, the department at this time has only expressed some initial interest in flushing out some thoughts in that area. It is nowhere near the point where we can say substantively that we've done any work on it. Only that some initial thoughts have started to focus on the area and the need for it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister. Since the Minister indicates that it is very early on in the process, I was wondering if he could advise the House if he has plans to insist that the department make this a priority and try to move the process along during the life of this government.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, there are many areas that I, as a Minister, am interested in exploring and investigating. Much of the department, at this time, is working flat out with the present workload, just trying to get the business done for the government on issues that are current and work that we are trying to finish up. Somewhere in there, we can say that it is a priority because of our work in trying to move towards community-oriented justice and policing initiatives. Specifically with regard to a police act, we have not

done substantive work. As I say, we have 1,000 priorities and it is in there somewhere. Thank you.

**MR. DENT:**

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Speaker, several provincial jurisdictions that I am aware of provide for the appointment of auxiliary or special constables in their police acts. Since the Minister has just mentioned the need for community police resources, can he tell me if there are any other mechanism by which a police auxiliary or community patrols could be authorized, other than a police act?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, a police act, as I understand it, would allow for mechanisms and ways in which this government, municipalities and regional groups can provide for alternative policing than what we have presently. There is no act, just a contract for the RCMP to provide overall policing for the whole of the Northwest Territories. A police act would allow for that present scenario to continue and possibly with provisions for aboriginal police forces; for instance, the Yellowknife police force, which is a municipal police force. It would allow for regional or territorial police forces. So you may look at a police force for a particular region or the whole of a certain territory. At this time, as I said, we have looked at it and there has been some initial thought given to it, but we're not at the point where we can say with any certainty that we will get beyond that.

As Members know, we have an intensive amount of work to get done in the course of this session and before the next government, but we will, in our discussions with Yellowknife Members, perhaps be open to more discussions in order to flush out our thinking on it. We are prepared to consider a preliminary discussion paper for consideration of the next government as part of the transition paper, if that is what is being called for. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister appears, in his answer, to agree that some action may be necessary. For certainty, I would like to ask the Minister if he would not agree that the appointment, training, qualifications and administration of civilian or community patrols engaged to assist the RCMP in surveillance or neighbourhood watch activities, would best be set out in legislation rather than an agreement. Legislation could then set out duties, responsibilities, authority and jurisdiction in addition to legal liability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 146-12(7): Development Of NWT Police Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I can't give an opinion on that, other than to say that is a consideration to be evaluated in the course of discussions. At this time, we are looking positively at the merits of a police act, but we are not yet at the stage where we could give any substantive arguments for or against. Therefore, it is at a very preliminary stage. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions.

Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**MR. ZOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, this government has spent a great deal of time and resources on the issue of employment creation

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for aboriginal people in the north. I would like to ask the Minister, given the obvious efforts that have been made over the past five years to increase the number

of aboriginal people in the employed labour force, how does he explain the fact that the employment share of aboriginal people in the western Arctic has decreased between 1989 and 1994? It has decreased from 28 per cent of total employment in 1989 to 27 per cent of employment in 1994. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a detailed question that I don't have the statistics for. It is all statistical and it has to be dealt with in the context of the information the honourable Member is reading from.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo, are you taking the question as notice?

---Microphones Turned Off

**Mr. ZOE**

Supplementary To Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**MR. ZOE:**

Is the Minister taking my question as notice?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

No, Mr. Speaker. I indicated that the information the Member is using is statistical and I don't know the basis on which the question is being asked. I don't know the information that is being used. Therefore, it is very difficult for me to respond to the honourable Member. It requires a technical response.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Zoe, will you clarify your question?

Supplementary To Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**MR. ZOE:**

Let me rephrase it. Mr. Speaker, over a number of years, our government has indicated that employment creation, especially for aboriginal people in the north, is a priority. We have been spending a lot of money in that area. In 1989, the average for the western Arctic was 28 per cent. This past year, 1994, it went down to 27 per cent. So with all these efforts that our government has been making, our percentage has dropped down. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of this problem and what is causing this problem for the aboriginal people in the western Arctic. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 147-12(7): Decrease In Aboriginal Employment

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem is, with great respect, the honourable Member has to look at all the labour information in its context. I can indicate to the honourable Member that the results of the 1994 labour force survey indicated both positive and negative developments and I think that the honourable Member is only pointing out the negative.

The highlights of the survey results are as follows: the unemployment rate went up from 16 per cent in 1989 to 17 per cent in 1994, however, it is very difficult for job creation to keep up with the large number of people who join the labour force every year in the Northwest Territories due to both the population increase and the rising participation rate; second, the participation rate for aboriginal people increased from 56 per cent in 1989 to 61 per cent in 1994. This means that aboriginal people are more interested in wage employment and are pursuing wage employment more actively. Aboriginal people made some gains in the overall employment share, from 38 per cent of the total employment in 1989 to 39 per cent in 1994.

The overall labour market of the NWT performed well to absorb so many new workers with only a slight increase in the unemployment rate and a small

improvement in the employment/population ratio. The problem is that the information that the honourable Member has does not consider all these factors, and if you look at all the highlights, obviously there is both growth, and in some cases a reduction in the employment opportunities.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, last year with regard to the Cabinet, they had given direction with respect to the fire management program. Direction was given to a Minister on how to address a component of the fire management program. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, are there any written procedures and guidelines which govern a Minister's actions in carrying out the decisions of Cabinet, aside from the general, broad direction provided by Cabinet? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

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Return To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, there would be records of decision. Any other policy matters that came out of the records of decision would be available for direction in the fire management program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Premier didn't hear my question. I would like to ask again, are there any written procedures and guidelines which govern a

Minister's actions in carrying out the decision of Cabinet, aside from the general, broad policies and directions that are provided by Cabinet? I would like to know whether there are any guidelines that you have as a Cabinet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I may not be understanding the question, but to my knowledge there are no written procedures to follow what would be available for a Minister to carry out his duties, in addition to those records of decision or general policy guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you. So is the Premier indicating to the public that if there are no written procedures or guidelines, Cabinet Ministers are fully on their own when they're attempting to implement a Cabinet direction? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated before, there are records of decision and there are also general policies. On those decisions, it's expected that the Minister will carry out those responsibilities and those directions that had come out of these policies and records of decision, unless the record of decision had indicated that the Minister had additional provisions that would direct the Minister to come back to Cabinet for reconfirming a certain aspect of the record of decision. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that, basically Ministers attempt to implement Cabinet direction in a vacuum because of the absence of written procedures or written guidelines, no policies to adhere to, even though there are policies with a general direction, as the Premier has stated, on the decision; basically, it appears that Ministers are implementing Cabinet direction in a total vacuum. Would the Premier consider developing written procedures and guidelines for her Ministers when implementing Cabinet direction? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 148-12(7): Procedures For Implementing Cabinet Decisions

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't suggest that Ministers were carrying out their responsibilities in a vacuum. Most Members generally complain more that there are too many policies, too many directives, too many guidelines; that often there's not that flexibility to bend to circumstances as they arise.

I believe that the general procedures are on how business is carried out, and the policies are part of a department; for example, if we looked at forest fire fighting, there is a very long procedure on when a fire gets fought, when it doesn't get fought, what type of guidelines a Minister would follow in running the forest fire prevention program. To put in another level in the procedures, I don't know how that would be done, but I will certainly look at it and just see if that would help circumstances. However, there are already quite a large number of procedural guidelines that Ministers have to follow. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question 149-12(7): Structure Of New Rent Scale Effective April 1, 1995

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. In April 1995, I understand that rents will be increasing. I just want to ask the Minister what kind of structured rates they will have when increasing the rents, as my constituents would like to know more about this. As we all know, the housing rates will be increasing. I just want to know what differences there will be in 1995 from previous years. This is my question to the Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 149-12(7): Structure Of New Rent Scale Effective April 1, 1995

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new rent scale will come into effect on April 1, 1995 and it will vary from the old rent scale by quite a bit. In some cases, rent will decrease for some of the lower-income people in social housing. For elders, the rent will be \$1 a year. But, for family members living with them in social housing, their income will be assessed. Also, there will

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be a new cost-of-living adjustment for all people living in the Northwest Territories and higher-income people will be encouraged to move into home ownership. I can arrange a complete briefing for the Member if he would like that done and then he will be right up to date on the issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 149-12(7): Structure Of New Rent Scale Effective April 1, 1995

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, the Minister indicated that there will be some increases and also some decreases in social housing. The Minister indicated that there will be a decrease to \$1 a year rent for those people on social assistance. I just want to get further clarification on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 149-12(7): Structure Of New Rent Scale Effective April 1, 1995

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it would not mean that those people on social assistance will only pay \$1 a year for rent. It is for seniors only. If a person is on social assistance, their rent is going to stay the same, regardless. It will be \$32 a month. It is only after you make more than \$1,800 a month, that your rent will go up. For those who make less than \$1,800, the rent should decrease.

With the old scale, once you made over \$450 a month, your rent jumped up automatically to 25 per cent of your gross income so the new scale is better for low-income people. Those people who will pay higher rents are those people who can afford to own their own homes and they will be encouraged to go into home ownership programs, rather than taking social housing stock needed for low-income people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Can the Minister tell us whether or not the reorganization of the department at headquarters is complete?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Ng.

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Sorry, was the Member referring to the study or the reorganization of the department?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Koe.

**MR. KOE:**

I hope this is not considered a supplementary, but a clarification.

---Laughter

I didn't refer to any study. I want to know whether or not the reorganization at headquarters is complete.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the reorganization is complete. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then be tabling in this House the new organizational charts on the restructuring and in these charts, will he be including the names of the incumbents of each position?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

If that is the Member's wish, it can certainly be done, yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. I will be looking forward to that information. As a result of the reorganization of headquarters, can the Minister indicate what has

been the overall impact on the number of person years? Have the numbers of person years in the department increased or decreased?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

Further Return To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been an overall effect on one employee. Some members have taken workforce adjustment and some members have moved into other positions. I can certainly provide a detailed analysis, along with the reorganization charts to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly be waiting for that information also. So, as the reorganization of headquarters is now complete, as the Minister indicated, will the Minister now be concentrating on the restructuring of the department at regional and community levels?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Ng.

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Further Return To Question 150-12(7): Completion Of MACA Reorganization

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the objectives of the department that I will be looking at, to see whether or not that will be required, especially as it relates overall to the impending division of the Northwest Territories. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister of Renewable Resources some questions yesterday about the 28-kilometre road between the Koala pulp sampling plant, operated by BHP, and Misery Lake and I didn't get a very clear answer. But, I've learned that the regional environmental review committee did complete a review of this and the government, at least this department, was very positive about having done all the work. They said with certain conditions, this was all right. I would like to ask the Minister, what other departments were involved in giving input to the environmental review at the regional level?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regional environmental review committee, which was formed by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, consists of Government of the Northwest Territories membership of three departments: one is the Department of Economic Development and Tourism; one is the Department of Renewable Resources; and, the third is the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe also the Department of Education, Culture and Employment because there are archaeological sites of a cultural interest so that department was also involved. I would like to ask the Minister, since this is an environmental issue, did the government have one position on this road, or did it have three or four departmental positions on this road?



**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not able to respond on behalf of the other departments, but I believe that the Department of Renewable Resources, as the arm of the government which considers environmental impact across the Northwest Territories, has taken a very thorough look at the situation and what impact it may have on the environment surrounding the BHP mine. The results of this technical committee, which is basically what it is -- it is an advisory committee to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs -- have agreed that, in fact, the road which BHP is proposing will have minimal impact on the environment around the proposed mine. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**MR. LEWIS:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. BHP's application to have an amendment to its land use permit in N93C043 is obviously supported by all the government departments in the Northwest Territories. I am not quite sure if the whole government supports it, but individual departments have agreed that this should go ahead. So now that those recommendations have been made to the chairman of the regional committee, I would like to ask the Minister, what other groups have been involved? Have any of them opposed this particular project?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Minister Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is an advisory committee to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, I am not aware of which other stakeholders are involved in the process. The only information I have at the present time is that the Department of Renewable Resources is involved and the other two departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. I am able to respond to questions on behalf of the Department of Renewable Resources. But when it comes to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, I am not able to respond on their behalf. This is as much information as I have at the present time with regard to the regional environmental review committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**MR. LEWIS:**

Since this has been raised in this House so many times as the biggest project this territory has ever seen, and since BHP has to know by March 15th whether this road will go or not because it has to get equipment in by the summer, and since this Minister is the Minister responsible for environmental matters that affect all the people of the Northwest Territories under the responsibilities of this government, I would like to ask him whether that decision is promised in the very near future, so the deadline can be made.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

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Further Return To Question 151-12(7): Departmental Involvement At Regional Level In Environmental Review

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the amendment to the application, that application was made to the Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. I believe that the regional environmental review committee has made their recommendation to the Minister or to the regional officials of the department and I understand that it is in the hands of the Minister. I have not been in direct

contact with the Minister recently, but I believe the decision will be made by the Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 152-12(7): Economic Policies Re Organizations And Businesses

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day, Mr. Speaker, I asked whether the government had any type of public policies, but my question was taken as notice. Today, I would like to ask a question to the Premier. Does the government have any economic strategies and policies that govern their relationship with community-based organizations versus that of individually-owned business entities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will check. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. The question was taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding the reorganization/amalgamation of the departments. Has the amalgamation of the departments of Health and Social Services been completed at the headquarters level?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, the consolidation of Health and Social Services, at the headquarters level, has been completed.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister then be tabling the revised organizational charts of the restructured departments, which would include the names of the incumbents in each position at headquarters level?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, if they are not in the 1995-96 main estimates, where they should be, I will be providing that information. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. As a result of the amalgamation of the departments, what has been the impact on the numbers of PYs within the joint departments? Have the overall numbers increased or decreased?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 153-12(7): Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services Departments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, they have decreased. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 153-12(7):  
Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services  
Departments

**MR. KOE:**

I understand that the next stage in the amalgamation of the departments is going to happen at regional and community levels. Can the Minister advise us what the amalgamation of these departments are at the regional levels?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 153-12(7):  
Amalgamation Of Health And Social Services  
Departments

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, we are working with the regions. There have been several workshops that brought in the health boards, superintendents and the more prominent positions within Health and Social Services. We have had two or three workshops. I also attended the regional health board meetings, where we have had discussions, with the attendance of superintendents, social workers and the Social Services department to look at a strategy where we can work on putting together resources from the Department of Health and from the Department of Social Services. We haven't had the opportunity to talk to the specific groupings of people in some areas. We hope that over the next few months we will be able to deal more directly with the people who will be affected and we will be able to make those changes in a smooth and effective manner. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

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Question 154-12(7): Status Of Medical Services In  
Keewatin

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In Sanikiluaq, the people are serviced by the health boards of the Keewatin region. I understood that they had plans to make changes so that they can have medical services provided by other regions. What has progressed since the last time I brought up this issue concerning medical services in the Keewatin? They also get their social services from the Baffin region. What changes can we expect as far as the amalgamation of the departments go? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 154-12(7): Status Of Medical  
Services In Keewatin

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Speaker, I can't enlighten the Member any further than the way I previously answered the question, when he first asked what the status of Sanikiluaq is as far as medical care and social services programs. What I will say is that these discussions are continuous and Sanikiluaq is involved with these discussions. There will be no changes where the community will not be fully involved, if there should be changes. It may be that, because of the particular location of Sanikiluaq and the concerns of access and communication to the Baffin and mainland, that there may not be a lot of changes. However, if there should be and if there can be changes that make it better for the community, the community will be fully informed and will take full part in any of those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. I would like to recognize in the gallery, Mr. Frank Fabian who is a counsellor at the Hay River Reserve and the band economic development officer, Mr. Al Mailo.

---Applause

I'm sorry to have woken you up, Al, I didn't mean to.

---Laughter

Item 7, written questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

## ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 9-12(7): Accountability Of Cabinet Ministers When Negotiating Contracts

### **MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Premier.

How does the Premier ensure accountability of Cabinet Ministers when they are implementing a Cabinet direction, recognizing there are no written procedures and guidelines in place to follow for negotiated contracts? Thank you.

### **MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, replies to budget address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96; Committee Report 2-12(7), Report on the Legislative Action Paper on the Office of Ombudsman for the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 3-12(7), Report on the Review of the Legislative Action Paper Proposing New Heritage Legislation for the Northwest Territories; and, Committee Report 4-12(7), Report on the Review of the 1995-96 Main Estimates, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

## ITEM 20: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

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

Good afternoon. The committee will now come to order. What is the wish of the committee? The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

### **MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee consider Bill 1 and Committee Report 4-12(7).

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

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

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

Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 1: Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96

Committee Report 4-12(7): Report On The Review Of The 1995-96 Main Estimates

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

Okay, we will be considering Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96 and Committee Report 4-12(7), Report on the Review of the 1995-96 Main Estimates. Do you want to proceed into our business now or take a short break? Are there opening comments? Committee Report 4-12(7) was tabled on February 22nd. The Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday in the Assembly, I reported to the House the Standing Committee on Finance response to the budget. In that response, there were two recommendations. At this point in time, I would like to move these two recommendations, Mr. Chairman.

### **MR. KOE:**

As soon as we get a quorum.

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

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. It has been brought to my attention that we don't have a quorum, so I will sound the bells.

Thank you, Members, for your prompt response. Mr. Antoine.

### **MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Finance, I gave the report on the budget yesterday and there were two recommendations. I would like to move them at this time.

Committee Motion 25-12(7): To Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

I move that the committee recommends that the Minister of Finance introduce legislation in the current session that would require that the government ensure that on March 31, 1998, no deficit has accumulated; furthermore, that the legislation include sanctions which would encourage compliance with the legislation. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

Committee Motion 26-12(7): To Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another motion. I move that the committee recommends that the Cabinet prepare a transition plan which would assist the Cabinet of the 13th Assembly in the management of the affairs of the government; and further, that this plan should be completed in time for the standing committee to review it and report its findings to the Cabinet before the dissolution of the 12th Legislative Assembly. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

At this point, we will now take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Health And Social Services

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

The committee will again come to order. Does the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services have any opening comments? The Honourable Nellie Cournoyea.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for Health and Social Services has increased from \$257.964 million in 1994-95 to \$262.237 million in 1995-96, for a total increase of \$4.273 million or two per cent. This is a significant increase in these economic times. The budget that is being presented for your review is a true consolidation of two previously separate budgets. It has been a major achievement to consolidate both the capital and main estimates in a few short months.

The consolidation at headquarters is now complete. There is an appropriate integration of both Health and Social Services functions throughout the department and it has been possible to eliminate 14 person years as a result of the reorganization, and to save money in operations and maintenance for a total savings of \$1.2 million. These savings will help to offset some of the increases that are being recommended in this budget. I am convinced that the decision to consolidate was a good one and this is reflected in immediate cost savings.

The consolidation at the regional and community level will not proceed as quickly as it did at headquarters. That is because we will have to proceed carefully in the restructuring to avoid disruptions to the existing level of community service. A major priority over the coming year will be the development of a funding formula designed to provide equitable resources to all regions in both Health and Social Services. As well, it will be important to examine the existing governing structure for departments in the social envelope.

It is true that boards of management are expensive, but this price has to be paid to ensure a level of public involvement in the system and to make the system responsive to the needs of communities. However,

having separate boards of management for health and education, along with separate community justice and housing committees, is not only costly, but may be fragmenting the system in communities to the point where there is not enough interagency cooperation for effective government.

I have been approached by the Dogrib region to try an experiment aimed at establishing one community services board that would combine health and social services and schools. This would recognize the fact that it is difficult to locate qualified residents to sit on a board of management with a large budget and it should also cut costs to a manageable level through a single board with an all-inclusive mandate.

Another reality we face is that we cannot maintain the existing levels of service without changing the way we manage. Our social funding is divided amongst three departments and the Housing Corporation. We know that if we are to achieve real gains, we have to work together and integrate our efforts. That is why the government presented the social envelope budget in one comprehensive package that outlined the major initiatives that the partners in the social envelope would undertake in 1995-96. A joint presentation was made to SCOF by the social envelope departments and the Housing Corporation and, by now, you will have a copy of the budget supplement document that summarizes the cooperative efforts that are under way.

Departments in the social envelope have also been involved in extensive consultations with communities to develop a community wellness strategy that will be tabled later in this session. Communities have told us that they want to play the lead role in determining what initiatives will work best for them and to decide how to spend the money that is available within their community. The challenge to the departments in the social envelope is to find ways of making funding mechanisms more flexible to allow this. The departments will spend the next year evaluating

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what is currently being done and modifying the terms and conditions attached to the programs to make them flexible and accessible.

In the meantime, there is a need to try new approaches to deal with priorities in areas such as family violence, early intervention and services to youth. That is why the social envelope Ministers recommended a community action fund to help

community groups test their ideas. The viability of such a fund and the means of raising the money need to be discussed.

I hope these comments have put the Health and Social Services' budget into context with the overall directions of the social envelope. Mr. Chairman, the budget supplement document circulated to the Members gives a good description of the department's strategic directions for 1995-96. I won't go into any more detail now, but I am open to questions as the department's budget comes up for detailed questioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Does the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance have opening remarks? The chair recognizes the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In last year's report, the committee expressed a great deal of concern about the then separate departments of Health and Social Services. Committee Members felt that the departments were not responding to the recommendations of this and other committees and, indeed, were not responding well to the needs of northerners. The diligent efforts of the dedicated front-line workers, such as nurses, social workers, alcohol and drug counsellors, and so on, will not be as effective as they could be without a strong, well-organized department structure backing them up.

The standing committee believes that the amalgamation of the departments -- as had been recommended by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services -- may provide the foundation to that well organized structure. Now that the new department has a strategic plan to guide decision-making, and now that they are also now responding to relevant recommendations -- including those made by this committee regarding early intervention and a school-based youth services model -- committee Members expect the senior managers of the department to improve in their planning and in relations with departmental employees. The emphasis on the "envelope" model appears to have helped, as well. This government has, with this budget, demonstrated a stronger commitment to improving social services to northerners.

There are still some concerns that the new department must address. Chief among them is the implementation of the amalgamation at the regional and community level. As discussed earlier, bringing staff from different departments together is a challenging exercise. Committee Members were concerned to learn that there is no clear strategy for implementation at the regional level. The committee encourages the department to take advantage of the resources available in the regions and communities to make the merger go as smoothly as possible.

#### Health And Hospital Boards

With the new departmental structure comes hope of a new and improved relationship between the department and the health and hospital boards. It appears that a memorandum of understanding -- MOU -- will finally be signed this year, allowing the boards and the department to more clearly understand what their respective responsibilities are.

As well, the committee was encouraged to hear that the department is developing a formula for funding the health and hospital boards. This step is long overdue. It is important that the boards manage the resources available to them wisely and efficiently, and the current funding methods obviously do not encourage that. A funding formula will provide the framework necessary for the boards to start managing their resources more carefully, especially in a fiscal climate of growing cutbacks.

Finally, the standing committee is frustrated that progress on establishing health boards in the Dogrib and Deh Cho regions has been so slow. The department has a responsibility to ensure that all regions of the NWT are serviced by local health boards responsive to their needs. Further delay in this area is unacceptable, and the committee urges the department to make this a top priority for the 1995-96 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn this over to my colleague, Mr. Zoe.

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

The chair recognizes Mr. Zoe.

#### Savings On Medical Travel And Out Of Territories Care

#### **MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to note the significant savings expected by the government on reduced medical travel and payment to hospitals outside the Northwest Territories. With enhancements to the capabilities of Stanton Yellowknife Hospital, more patients can be treated in the north, and the additional travel previously required to Edmonton and other centres is often not required. The new arrangement with the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton has already greatly reduced the government's costs for out-of-territories care.

Committee Members applaud the department's initiative in these two areas. However, the department can go further. For example, increased use of distance technology can provide improved health care services to community residents while reducing the need for travel. Appropriate enhancements to the use of local facilities -- such as the underused Fort Simpson hospital -- can also reduce the need for travel and provide quality health care to northerners closer to their homes. Finally, the department must do a better job in communicating with northerners. This is an area where health boards can excel; but it will not be possible in regions such as the Deh Cho and Dogrib regions that do not yet have health boards.

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#### Medical Travel Co-Payments

A related issue that concerned committee Members is the planned increases in medical travel co-payments. Currently, when a resident of the Northwest Territories has to travel for treatment, a co-payment of \$50 one way or \$100 return is levied. The department has proposed increasing this to \$125 and \$250, respectively.

Committee Members recognize that, for many people, this cost is covered: either by their employer, especially if they work for the government; or by Department of Indian and Northern Development, if they are status. But those who are unemployed, non-status, or working for low wages and benefits, could be seriously affected by this change. For example, a patient who required three trips in a short period would end up paying \$750 under the new rates, instead of \$300 as at present. That extra expense could be difficult or impossible for some people to cover. The committee wants to see the department provide a way to avoid this rate increase becoming a hardship.

Committee Motion 27-12(7): To Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

The committee recommends, and I move, that the Department of Health and Social Services implement a cap on medical travel co-payments for patients who require multiple trips in a given period, and who would not otherwise be reimbursed for this expense by their employer or by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Question has been called. I don't believe we have a quorum; no, we don't.

I see we have a quorum. When we began ringing the bells nine minutes ago, there was a motion on the floor and question had been called. I will call question again.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

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

---Carried

The chair continues to recognize the Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

Institutional Facilities And Home Care

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the department's biggest challenges is meeting the needs of northerners who, for one reason or another, cannot live well on their own. The challenge lies in balancing resources between institutional facilities on one hand, and home care and related projects on the other.

There are some cases where individuals need to be cared for in institutions, such as homes for the elderly

or handicapped. But there are many cases where the best option is for the person to stay in their own home, in their own community, with support provided by a home care program.

Also, because our population is so small and scattered, we have to be careful when we commit large amounts of capital to building institutions. Committee Members noted the example of the new elders' residence in Deline; it is standing vacant most of the time.

This reflects two issues the committee want to highlight. First, the department should try to provide home care wherever possible, both to better meet the needs of northerners who require care but need not be institutionalized, and to save money over the high costs of institutions. As part of this concept, the government must continue to work with the federal government to address the problem of inadequate housing. Often, elders who could be served by home care are forced to move into institutions merely because their housing is inadequate, poorly heated, or poorly constructed. Second, when institutional facilities are planned, the department should exercise prudence and caution. New institutional facilities should be designed to be flexible. If a new building turns out not to be needed as an elders' residence, perhaps it can be used for other purposes.

The committee has noted the Minister's commitment to establish pilot home care projects. Committee Members welcome this initiative, as it is quite an important one, and look forward to the results of these projects.

Committee Motion 28-12(7): To Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

The committee recommends, and I move, that the Department of Health and Social Services report the initial results of the pilot projects on providing home care to seniors to the Standing Committee on Finance of the 13th Legislative Assembly in time for the review of the 1996-97 main estimates. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**



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

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the comments of the Standing Committee on Finance with regard to Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr Zoe. Is the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services prepared to take the witness stand so we can go into detail? Sergeant-at-Arms, you can assist the Premier with her witnesses. Thank you. Would Madam Premier please introduce

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her witnesses to the committee.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have with me Ken Lovely, the deputy minister of Health and Social Services; and, John Doyle, who is the director of finance and management services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Welcome, gentlemen, to committee of the whole. May we have general comments on the Health and Social Services program. The chair recognizes the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

General Comments

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister about her opening statement which I would like to get some clarification on before we proceed with the department. In her opening statement, she refers to a copy of the budget supplement document that summarizes the cooperative efforts that are under way. Mr. Chairman, I know that the Standing Committee on Finance has received a budget supplement document but the documents received by the Standing Committee on Finance are considered confidential. I wasn't aware that other Members of

this House have been provided with this information yet. I think in order to consider the departmental budget, this document is essential. I was wondering if that document has been made available to all Members of the House yet.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, the reason I referred to it was that I assumed that it was distributed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that other Members have copies. Other ordinary Members have told me that they haven't seen the budget supplement document yet. I would suggest that it might be inappropriate for us to proceed until all Members have had a chance to have a look at that document and be prepared to talk about the department with the Minister. I think that it represents a significant course of action that is proposed by not just this department but by all the departments in the social envelope. I think it's important that all Members have that document in hand as part and parcel of budget consideration.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, like I said, I assumed that the document had wide distribution. We can make it available; it would take a few minutes, I suppose, to get it but I don't know whether the Member is wanting to have it long enough to peruse it or else we can try to provide copies as soon as possible.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree with the Premier that the document should be made available

immediately to all Members in the House and would hope that she would do that. Since Members of the committee have had a chance to look at the document, then Members of the committee may be prepared to carry on with general comments but I would strongly recommend that we not go any further than general comments today with this department until all Members have had a chance to look at that document.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Agreed.

**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, one other related issue that I would like some clarification on from the Minister's opening statement; the Minister talks about, in her opening statement, the viability of a community action fund and the need to discuss the means of raising the money for that fund. I'm assuming by that she's implying that it needs to be discussed in this House. Mr. Chairman, I'll just point out that on page 11 of the standing committee report, the committee comment was that we would wait for the government to provide details of how that extra funding would be found before making final comment on the overall government approach to social issues. Whether or not the government is going to provide that sort of direction seems to be called into question by the Minister's opening statement. I was wondering if we could get some clarification as to whether or not the government actually plans to come forward with a plan as to how the funds for that budget supplement will be found. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the action fund has been determined as a needed pot of funds that would, for a period of time anyway, respond to some of the shortfalls in the social envelope and that was the indication as such. I have discussed this quite extensively with the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance has indicated and asked that, if at all possible, there were ways that there could be savings within Health and Social Services, we would try to make those savings and redirect the resources to the action fund. There were discussions with the Minister of Finance on how he, as a Minister, could put

forward a budget to make available, I believe it was about \$3.3 million required for the community action fund. Some of the discussions we had were about raising some revenue through the budget speech. We didn't meet that objective. The thought at one time was there might perhaps be a personal tax increase of one or one and a half points which would cover any costs that we would require in the community action fund. That did not transpire, as Members are aware. So, we are trying to find ways and means in our budget to redirect and find some of those resources, Mr. Chairman.

That is what is meant by, "the viability of such a fund and the means of raising the money need to be discussed." These are internal discussions and are ongoing. I don't know the affordability of such a fund or about getting extra money. I'm not quite sure what Mr. Paul Martin is going to say in a couple of days either, and whether that would make it more or less

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probable that fund can be set up. So, right now, although we are committed to an action fund to take up some of the shortfalls, I'm not quite sure where we're going to get it or how we're going to get it, but we are dedicated to look and discuss ways and means we can get it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Before we continue on, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. James MacLatchie, executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada.

---Applause

Thank you. The chair recognizes Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister just outlined some possible approaches which have obviously been discarded for finding the funding, and continued on to say that there needs to be some discussion about how that funding might be found. I think it becomes problematic in considering this budget when, for instance, the Standing Committee on Finance was basically assured that we could consider the budget supplement part of the budget. If we don't know yet how it is going to be financed, how can we possibly consider it at the same time as this budget?

The problem becomes, if it is not part of the budget, the whole approach to what we're presenting in a review as ordinary Members, I think will change significantly. I think the budget supplement, as it was presented, represents a significant shift in allocation of dollars and priorities by the government and I think that just to take a look at the budget as it is presented in the budget books, without that supplement and without knowing we have the money for what is proposed in that supplement, really would change the tone of how we would conduct the review.

I guess I need to have some assurance from the Premier. I can understand that there have to be discussions, but I think we need to have some certainty that the government will find some way to make the funds available for that community action plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I guess I hope these discussions will find a way to make sure that the \$3 million is available for the community action fund. How we're going to attain that is difficult to say at this time. I know that there are some areas where we can make some savings, but it certainly won't reach the total amount that is required. It has been extremely difficult to make a determination about what is going to go and what is going to stay until we get out in the field and see if we can work with the communities, with their multitudes of committees, groups and agencies, to determine where we can redirect some of those dollars.

I think I can say we are committed to trying to find those dollars. I had thought that perhaps there would be some consideration in the budget address about the one or one and a half point increase in personal taxation so that we could do some of these things, but that wasn't well-received, so we have to find another way to look for those dollars.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, for the record then, can the Premier advise the Members of this committee, should we consider the supplement

document which has just now been distributed to all Members as part and parcel of the budget for those departments contained in the social envelope?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Madam Premier.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to check here. It is certainly part of some of the thinking behind the budget presentation. But, Mr. Chairman, it doesn't answer the question the Member is presenting us with. It talks about the community action proposal and it also indicates that there is work within the social envelope committee in terms of dealing with the many services which are linked together. What it says here is if the proposal is to proceed, it will require that funding be made available in the main estimates. That does not answer the question the Member is putting forward.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that leaves us in a difficult situation and I would hope that committee of the whole could be advised, before we go any further in the budget, whether or not there is a commitment by the government to ensure that what we are looking at in the supplementary document is actually part and parcel of the budget.

I don't think, Mr. Chairman, until that question is answered, that we should proceed any further with consideration of the budget. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Dent. We have a motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable, but I don't see a quorum. Therefore, I will sound the bell.

Thank you. We now have a quorum. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report to the Speaker. Before we leave, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for appearing before the committee and thank the witnesses for appearing before the committee. We look forward to seeing the witnesses again. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The House will come back to order. Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Whitford.

**ITEM 21: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee Report 4-12(7) and would like to report progress

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with four motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Do we have a seconder? Mr. Koe. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

**ITEM 22: THIRD READING OF BILLS**

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Legal Profession Act

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had third reading. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

Bill 14: Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act, 1994

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statutes Amending Act, 1994, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had third reading. Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 6: An Act To Amend The Petroleum Products Tax Act

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 6 has had third reading. Item 22, third reading of bills. Ms. Cournoyea.

Bill 8: An Act To Amend The Dental Mechanics Act

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Dental Mechanics Act, be read for the third time.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Madam Premier. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

Bill 8 has had third reading. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 23: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):**

Mr. Speaker, meetings tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Friday, February 24, 1995.

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
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 10-12(7), Impact of Federal Gun Control Legislation
18. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act
  - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96
  - Committee Report 2-12(7), Report on the Legislative Action Paper on the Office of Ombudsman for the Northwest Territories
  - Committee Report 3-12(7), Report on the Review of the Legislative Action Paper Proposing New Heritage Legislation for the Northwest Territories
  - Committee Report 4-12(7), Report on the Review of the

1995-96 Main Estimates

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Elections Act

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 24, 1995 at 10:00 am.

**---ADJOURNMENT**