



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Speaker: The Hon. Samuel Gargan

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1995

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Item 2, Ministers' statements.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 37-12(7): Tabling Of Note

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon, the honourable Member for Baffin Central tabled a personal note that I sent to her. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the Member for any unparliamentary language the note may have contained or for any offence which may have been taken to its contents. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Morin.

Minister's Statement 38-12(7): Rent Scale Implementation

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few days, there have been a number of concerns raised by MLAs about the implementation of the rent scale. I would like to make a statement today about the rent scale implementation and to assure Members that we are hearing their concerns, and acting on them as we become aware of them.

The implementation of the new rent scale is a very big job. There are approximately 5,600 tenant households in 50 communities across the NWT

whose rents have to be assessed. The old rent scale had not been updated since 1983 and needed to be changed. CMHC, our federal funding partner, advised us that change was needed or they were going to cut almost \$6 million annually from our funding. The new rent scale received the broadest consultation of any Housing Corporation or government policy. It was reviewed with community groups, housing associations and authorities, mayors, MLAs and was discussed with the Special Committee on Social Housing made up of Members of this Assembly.

Notices of the change to the rent scale have gone out, as required under the Residential Tenancies Act, one month prior to implementation. Members of this Assembly have stated that some constituents are having trouble understanding the notice. There seems to be a difference of opinion on the translation of the document. Where it has been determined that a tenant has not understood the notice because of translation problems, a further one month's notice will be allowed.

---Applause

The tenant will receive counselling in the language they prefer so they fully understand the rent scale changes. We anticipated that all tenants would have to be individually counselled. This is why we have put notices in the newspapers, on TV and on the radio. To date, approximately 50 per cent of the 5,600 households have been counselled and this number is increasing rapidly. Staff from the local housing organizations have reported that tenants are coming in for counselling and to have their new rents assessed. Our local housing authority staff have been asked to make a special effort to ensure that Inuktitut speakers fully understand the new rent scale.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

Minister's Statement 39-12(7): Winter Road Season Extension

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week my colleagues in this House impressed upon me their concern over the scheduled closing dates for the winter roads. I committed to reviewing their concerns

with the department and modifying the schedule of dates, if appropriate.

As I advised the Members at that time, the decision to close the roads earlier than normal was mainly a financial one. That hasn't changed, so any modification to the schedule must minimize the expenditure of funds. With this understanding, I am prepared in several locations to provide a short extension to the season.

---Applause

On the winter road to Rae Lakes and Lac La Martre, the department will remove its heavy equipment but leave the road

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open to travel for an additional 10 days, to March 25th, unless the weather forces an earlier closure. This will allow an additional window for moving in materials for a number of Economic Development projects that are planned for this year.

---Applause

On the roads to Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk, the department will remove its heavy equipment but leave the road open to travel for an additional three days, to April 24th, weather permitting. This will allow intercommunity travel for the purpose of attending community carnivals scheduled for that weekend.

On the roads linking Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Fort Franklin, the department will remove its heavy equipment but leave the road open to travel for an additional 10 days, to March 25th, unless the weather forces an earlier closure. This will allow an additional period for intercommunity travel.

Spring road conditions in the southern Mackenzie Valley are more difficult than on other sections of the system. There is more risk of environmental damage at stream crossings and the effort required to maintain and then close the road is greater. The clean-up will require stable road conditions to complete and must therefore be carried out before the road begins to deteriorate. I am therefore unable to make any changes to the closing date for the section of road between Wrigley and Fort Norman.

The access roads to Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake already enjoy some of the longest operating seasons on the winter road season. With this year's early opening, Jean Marie River's season

has only been reduced by a couple of days and Nahanni Butte's season is a week and a half longer than normal. Nevertheless, I am prepared to extend the season by 10 days, to March 25th. Again, heavy equipment will be removed, but the road left open for travel.

I hope that these changes, while not perfect, will help to alleviate some of the concerns that the Members have raised.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Commercial Fishing Of Turbot

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make a statement about a flat fish with funny eyes called a turbot, or Greenland halibut. This fish is very important to Canada these days because there are no cod left but turbot still exists in some abundance in deep, cold Canadian waters. This is a fish that has been especially significant for the people and fishery of Pangnirtung in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, these days, the Honourable Brian Tobin, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for Canada is making big waves in the international community, fighting foreign fishermen who are invading our waters to take Canadian turbot. Mr. Tobin is getting tough with these foreign fishermen and yesterday they were driven off by his threats that they would be boarded and seized by Canadian naval vessels if they try to catch our turbot.

Today, I would like Mr. Tobin to understand how my Inuit constituents and other Inuit who want to fish for turbot in the Baffin see the turbot fishery and see his heroic fight against the aggressors from away. Last year, eight Inuit HTAs and Inuit companies from the Baffin region applied for new licences to catch turbot in their coastal Arctic waters, relying on the clear Inuit preference to adjacent fishery resources spelled out in the Inuit land claims agreement. They, too, were competing with an invasion, however, but an invasion of a different sort: applications for turbot licences in Arctic waters from within Canada. What did Mr. Tobin

do to protect the Inuit applicants from an invasion from southern Canadian fishermen? Not one of the new Inuit licence applications was approved.

Mr. Speaker, when Inuit from Baffin Island asked for protection from an invasion of southern Canadian license applications to fish turbot in their waters, they got no protection. The southern Canadian applicants received preference to come up and fish in our waters. Most were from the Minister's own home region of Newfoundland and Labrador. Of the licences given out for fishing 5,500 tonnes of turbot in Arctic waters last year, existing Inuit licence holders from Baffin and northern Quebec got 1,250 tonnes. The remainder of 4,250 tonnes went to southern Canadian invaders.

I'll ask for a bit more time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Iqaluit is requesting unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Complete your statement, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members. When these valuable licences were given to southern Canadian fishermen to catch turbot in our Arctic waters, my Inuit constituents felt the same way as I believe Mr. Tobin and many Canadians feel now about foreign fishermen exploiting Canadian resources off the Grand Banks.

I want to say I applaud Mr. Tobin for his aggressive stance with the foreign invaders, but this coming year let him apply that same zeal to respect the Inuit land claim and allow Inuit applicants from communities with high unemployment to be protected from having outside companies move in to harvest our turbot in our Arctic waters.

---Applause

Thank you. I fervently hope that in future, Mr. Tobin will be as aggressive in fighting for the rights of indigenous Inuit licence applicants to fish turbot in Arctic waters as he has been aggressive in fighting foreign turbot fishermen invading Canadian waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements.

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Member's Statement On Comments Made During Debate On Nursing Profession Act

MR. LEWIS:

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Marie-Jewell made these remarks while dealing with the Nursing Profession Act, and I quote, "There have been comments that the timing is right for this bill because it's International Women's Day. I found those comments to be a little bit chauvinistic."

I admit, Mr. Speaker, I was one of those Members guilty of pushing to deal with this bill yesterday. Although I have not been accused of being chauvinistic, I admit to making the comment that we should accomplish something concrete and practical as a Legislature on International Women's Day. My comment may have sounded chauvinistic. However, there are 28 women in a program right now who depend on the passage of the Nursing Profession Act. Ten of those women are living in my constituency, Mr. Speaker. They wrote me a letter urging me to push for quick passage of this bill and they are: Sharon Nahanni, Olga Mercredi, Debra Wilson, Christine Brewster, Jason Nault, Della Napayok-Ell, Lucy Tulugarjuk, Margaret Baker, Jennifer Menzies and Catherine Lauzon.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, every day we hear criticism of our parliamentary system of government; it's no good, it can't do anything. I think yesterday will show that we are a very responsive Legislature. If it simply needs to be done, we can get it done in a speedy and responsible manner. I don't believe it matters to our students what process or what arguments are ever used to achieve the passage of a bill that people would like to have. And if it takes chauvinism to make 28 women happy, it's a very small price to pay.

The 28 students can now relax and give their full attention to their studies and not have to worry any more about what we do in this House...

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. LEWIS:

...except to give third reading and to get assent to that bill. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Pages From Keewatin

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today to recognize two young people from the Keewatin who are serving as Pages at the Legislative Assembly this week. I would like to introduce to all the Members, Ms. Inukshuk Aksalnik from Rankin Inlet, Jennifer Sheetoga from Whale Cove. They both attend the Maani Ulujuk Secondary School in Rankin where Inukshuk is enrolled in grade 9 and Jennifer is in grade 10.

These young women were selected by the staff and the student council of the Maani Ulujuk School, based on a number of factors including their academic achievement, attendance at school, attitude, willingness and their interest in learning more about how our Legislative Assembly functions -- although sometimes I'm concerned about that.

---Laughter

Like the parents of these young women, Martha Aksalnik of Rankin Inlet, who has been a friend of mine for 25 years, and Philip and Eva Sheetoga of Whale Cove, I am very proud that they've been selected to serve in the Legislative Assembly as Pages. I would ask that you join with me in welcoming these two young students to the House. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Implementation Of New Rent Scale

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was to make a statement regarding some of our business from yesterday concerning the rent scales. I, myself, didn't comment too much yesterday on the debate because I was aware that the Minister has been working on this for some time and it has been under discussion by many different committees.

People in the High Arctic have a concern about this. While they are aware of the processes of government, they have this particular concern. At the time housing was provided for them by the federal government they were never told that their situation may begin to change in the future. This has caused a lot of pain for the constituents up to this date.

I want to express my gratitude to the Minister for providing an extra month before the implementation of the rent scales, to enable accurate information for tenants whose rent might change. In his responses to questions yesterday, I was not very happy with some of the answers. It seems that the Inuit would have to go to the local housing associations to fill out application forms to implement the new rent scales. My main concern is for the elderly who are only able to read in Inuktitut according to what they understand.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. My concern is mainly about the elderly people who can only read in Inuktitut. People who are older had the understanding that they didn't need to go to the office to give information. There are a number of communities that have received this information, as far as we understand. I checked into this this morning, and some of the communities have already received this information. Although they've made a slight change to the translation in Pond Inlet, the other communities seem to have the same information that was first sent out.

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I am able to read the Inuktitut language and I can speak and understand English. The Minister talked about the English version being the same as the

Inuktitut version. As far as my reading went in Inuktitut, it is not the same at all. In fact, the meaning is reversed. This was a major concern to me for the communities, once it becomes implemented, for the unilingual people. I know that a lot of people will have to start moving into their own private units based upon their income. However, there are still discussions where many people are still unable to afford their own units. People who have a higher income level can't be told that this is an option that you should try out. I think that is going to continue to be a problem today because there isn't enough information as to what is available out there.

This will continue to be a concern for my community. Obviously, they won't be able to return to their old ways of living. We know that the implementation will take place and that the translation will be changed. The correct information will be passed out and, as was mentioned by the Minister, they will be working closely with the local housing organizations. I am grateful for that. The rent scale is something that I can't really fight against, but the Inuktitut translation should have been readily understood and not distributed because it confuses people in the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot. For those reasons, I would like to ask the Minister to issue an apology. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Prospectors' And Developers' Conference

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk a bit about the Prospectors' and Developers' Association of Canada conference, which took place earlier this week in Toronto. This is probably the largest mining conference in Canada, bringing together players from the mining industry from not just Canada or North America, but from all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, at this year's conference there were a large number of delegates from Yellowknife and region: the mayor and a few aldermen were there; representatives from the Dogrib Nation; representatives from the Yellowknives Dene Band; and, probably more than 30 business representatives.

Mr. Speaker, we were there, generally, to talk about and promote mining in the north; to let companies know that we want their business, but that there are conditions. As the Premier said in her keynote address to the conference on Monday night:

"Northerners respect the need for a mining company to achieve a healthy bottom line, but northerners expect mining companies to respect our bottom line. The need for environmentally-sensitive operations, which provide real benefits for northerners."

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, the northern presence was impressive, helping through our numbers to build interest in the north. The Yellowknife economic development authority presence was really well noted with a large polar bear fronting their booth, which attracted a lot of attention.

MR. PATTERSON:

Do they have polar bears in Yellowknife?

MR. DENT:

They were spreading the word about the north, too, not just Yellowknife.

---Applause

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I should point out that they had pictures of other communities in their display.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Speaker, a lot of good contacts were made by northerners, which hopefully will turn into economic contracts. Contacts happen from casual conversation on the conference floor, from direct approaches at display booths, or at formal meetings set up during the conference. I would like to commend the mayor of Yellowknife for ensuring Yellowknife's Dene representatives were included in the meeting set up by the mayor with people considering the potential for establishing an operation in the north.

Others, including myself, were invited by Mr. Zoe to a meeting at which the Dogrib Nation representatives discussed economic opportunities. So there was real cooperation between the broad cross-section of conference attendees from the north.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I know that the mayor and members of the business community are very happy with the results of the conference and I am confident that we will see economic benefits for the north as a result of our participation as a group in this important conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Dialysis Machine For Stanton Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like many Members in this House, I am concerned about the health of our constituents and about the level of care and the quality of service they expect to receive in the Northwest Territories. I have been a supporter of the Health Minister's efforts to ensure that our Stanton hospital is able to provide both the routine and specialized services required by northern patients.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues will recall that I asked the Minister of Health, some time ago, about the purchase of a state-of-the-art dialysis machine for the Stanton hospital. At the time, I emphasized the plight of northerners who were suffering, not only from debilitating kidney disease, but also from the necessity to travel south in order to receive any treatment that they would require for kidneys, Mr.

Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the time I first raised this question with the Minister to the

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present time, I have been interested in learning the progress made and to obtain more information about the numbers of people affected with renal disease and to what degree they are suffering.

Unfortunately, I have found it frustrating when questions regarding this matter often received somewhat guarded responses from Department of Health officials and hospital staff. I am sure that any unnecessary delays must be heartbreaking to those who have such a serious reliance on dialysis treatment.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, there are at least four cases that I do know of where our residents must live in the south in order to obtain dialysis treatment. It seems likely that there must be similar cases from the eastern Arctic of those who also must travel and live in the south for kidney treatment. Although I do not have firm figures yet, I am almost certain that if these treatments were available here, it would be a cost-saving measure for this government.

As I did in October, I will urge this government to establish a renal treatment program here in the Northwest Territories and to repatriate our northern patients back to the north. I will have some questions for the Minister of Health later on, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Barriers Faced By Unilingual Northerners

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, education and training are a very important part of our everyday life, not only in our jurisdiction but throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, there are employees of government and other agencies who work in different fields. Some are carpenters, plumbers, mechanics and equipment operators who want to further their education or training. The government has been able to accommodate these people up to this point in time and we appreciate that very much, Mr. Speaker.

But there are barriers for people who are unilingual in this particular jurisdiction. This morning I received a call from one of my communities; the mayor called me and told me that there is a gentleman who lives in Gjoa Haven who is an airport maintainer and wants to be able to take part in the airport maintenance training program in Baker Lake. He is very ambitious. He wants to take it because he has been working for the airport for many years. He is very confident and is, in fact, one of the better maintainers I have seen in that area. But, he's unable to go to Baker Lake because he's unilingual. He was told that the program is available and he requested an interpreter. But according to him and the information of the hamlet of Gjoa Haven, an interpreter is not going to be provided.

In this day and age, I would believe that government would provide trained interpreting and translating services, especially in the eastern Arctic where the majority of people who are potentially going to be taking training programs are unilingual

and only speak Inuktitut. At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister questions about this. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Pudluk, point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, I know we all have been elected by the people and have to go by the rules. Ordinary Members' statements should only be two minutes and some of the Members have no time limits. I think we should follow the rule. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Just to clarify, I was watching the time and it was one minute, something. Members are allowed two and a half minutes and I understood the Clerk Assistant to say that he did not go beyond his two and a half minutes. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Extension For Closure Of Winter Roads

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like thank the Minister of Transportation and his department for allowing a short extension to the winter road openings. On behalf of the people in the small communities who depend on winter roads to get in and out and to buy supplies and so forth, I would like to say that the few extra days are certainly going to help. The community of Nahanni Butte, Mr. Speaker, is presently doing an experimental logging project on the Liard Highway, and the men from the communities use the community of Nahanni Butte as a transport base of every morning and evening. The logging project is until the end of March so the extension of the opening of the road to the end of March is certainly going to help them.

As for Jean Marie and Nahanni Butte, I know Jean Marie is trying to bring a store into their community and, with the extended time period, they might be able to get the work done and bring in their supplies before the roads close. The few days of extension are certainly going to help all the communities.

To close, the community of Fort Simpson is having their Beavertail Jamboree March 17th, 18th and 19th and the open road will allow people from surrounding communities to come into Fort Simpson to celebrate. With that, I would like to thank the Minister and his department. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Error In Rent Scale Notice

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statement that the Housing Minister gave was good. If there were errors in Inuktitut and there wasn't going to be anything done about it...I'm sure the majority of the people didn't understand clearly and that it was going to take effect on April 1st. But, I seem to understand that he delayed it another month. If they already received the copy of the translation,

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there will have to be clarifications made to let them know that if they don't go to the housing association office, their rent would be marked up to the maximum. This will have to be corrected because we all know the English and Inuktitut copies were different. I'm

sure that they will have time to make the correction if they're given another month. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Member's Statement On Illegal Use Of Alcohol And Drugs In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I wish to provide comments on a matter that has certainly caused considerable concern to myself and to my constituents in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, honourable Members of this House frequently speak about community concerns over the illegal use of alcohol and drugs in their constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I share those concerns and for some time have become increasingly troubled by the illegal activity, such as the increasing availability of illegal drugs. Mr. Speaker, on December 12, 1994, I met with two RCMP officials in my constituency office in Fort Smith for a general discussion of these concerns and the RCMP plans for addressing the increasing potential of illegal drug use. At the time, it was confirmed that from August 1993, there was a 58 per cent drop in the number of drug charges laid in Fort Smith in comparison to the previous years when the predecessor, Sergeant Gary Barnes, was the detachment commanding officer in Fort Smith. I would like at this time to commend Sergeant Gary Barnes for all his hard work and effort in addressing illegal drugs. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, he was so good he got promoted to Yellowknife.

However, Mr. Speaker, our meeting with the RCMP was very positive and several constructive solutions for proactive interventions were identified. Mr. Speaker, I was totally astounded when some four weeks later, a local news reporter indicated that he had been informed that the purpose of my meeting had been to provide the RCMP with a list of drug users and drug dealers in Fort Smith. I was even more astounded to learn that the source of this information had been the regional superintendent of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say, in no uncertain terms, that this information was totally false. I have not compiled, disclosed or provided the RCMP with such a list. I

seek unanimous consent to continue with my 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, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, when I confronted the regional superintendent of Social Services personally on January 9th, he indicated that this information -- this rumour -- had been the result of a conversation that took place between himself and the sergeant of the Fort Smith RCMP detachment in the local curling rink club bar. He indicated that the sergeant had suggested that there had been some pretty prominent names included in the alleged list. This, in turn, was information that the regional superintendent had chosen to share with others in my community.

Mr. Speaker, the clear connotation was that I had manufactured a list of alleged drug dealers in order to discredit certain prominent people in Fort Smith for political purposes. Again, I unequivocally deny this untrue rumour.

Indeed, I wish to inform the House that the "G" division of the RCMP has launched and has now completed a full investigation of this matter under section 45-4 of the RCMP Act. The investigation revealed that the RCMP officer in question had informed the regional superintendent that there was no list. Later today, I will be tabling the report of this investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about this incident on a number of levels. First, I believe that the irresponsible action of taking, fabricating and circulating this vicious rumour had the potential to place my family at some risk of harm from lawbreakers wishing to respond to this account through intimidation. In fact, during the early week of January, when this rumour was passed, my vehicle was vandalized several times and was damaged as a result of a hit and run, causing about \$2,000 damage.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I am dismayed and disappointed that this sort of tactic once again appeared with a northern political context. The regional superintendent of Social Services has indicated to a number of Fort Smith residents that he

is interested in becoming a candidate for election in Thebacha during this fall's territorial election. I wish him luck and I advised him that everyone knew that. I also indicated to him that that is democracy.

Some of my constituents have suggested to me that this incident may have been motivated by political reasons. Mr. Speaker, I believe that voters all across Canada are simply tired of election tactics that rely on character assassination. They are tired of innuendo and untruth. This sort of conduct only serves to damage public confidence in our electoral process.

My main reason, Mr. Speaker, for raising this affair today is because I am concerned -- I am deeply concerned -- about what it suggests about public service administration within our government. Perhaps, especially, in the Department of Social Services. We all know that many Members, including the Minister herself, have risen in this House to comment on problems surrounding the illegal use of drugs and alcohol in the Northwest Territories. There is a move afoot to enhance law enforcement capabilities in this area, when you take into consideration the complete reform of our liquor legislation.

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Who could blame individuals who might have drug evidence from experiencing second thoughts about coming forward, when this action is likely to make them the subject of rumours and victimization. Mr. Speaker, I find this entire situation absolutely unacceptable and, unfortunately, since the Minister of Social Services is not in the House, I will give her this as notice that I intend to pursue this issue upon her return to the House.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Inspector Roberts and Sergeant Douthwright for agreeing to meet with me on this important issue in the first place. I also appreciate the prompt action taken by the RCMP "G" division to act on my report of this incident. I sincerely regret any hardship or inconvenience that may have been caused for the Sergeant of the RCMP division of Fort Smith by this investigation, which became necessary as a result of conduct displayed by the GNWT officials. For complete clarification, I would like to emphasize that the investigation found Sergeant Douthwright's actions were proper and justified and that he did not violate RCMP policy.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that I hope the shameful actions of a single Social Services official

will not discourage concerned members of my community and from all northern communities, from working together with law enforcement agencies; working together with parents and concerned citizens; with elected officials of this House; as well as locally to make a positive impact on the drug and alcohol problems that have been plaguing the Northwest Territories for too long. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On Apology Offered By The Minister Of MACA

MS. MIKE:

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize for being absent when Mr. Ng made his apology about his note to me. I was at a luncheon meeting that turned out to be longer than I had expected.

However, the context of the note he sent yesterday is confirmation of what I talked about in my Member's statement yesterday. I believe Mr. Ng would never send a note to a man with the word that he used in his note to me. I sincerely hope Mr. Ng learns from this lesson. I hope the second time around, he gets what my point was yesterday in my Member's statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 216-12(7): Successful Bidder On Tourism Industry Review Proposal

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I have three returns. I have a reply to a question that was asked by Mr. Koe on March 2, 1995 regarding successful bidder on tourism industry review proposal.

Mr. Koe asked about the contractor retained to do the review of tourism industry associations. Five submissions were received as a result of a "call for proposals" issued by the department. The proposals were reviewed by a panel of three, one of whom was

from the Department of Public Works and Services, and assigned points based on:

- personnel expertise;
- methodology;
- past relevant experience;
- project schedule;
- fees and expenses as compared to estimate (includes BIP);
- past corporate performance;
- northern content (BIP); and,
- overall quality of proposal.

Proposals were ranked one to five, based on points assigned.

Mike Freeland and Associates was ranked first and was awarded the contract. In order to carry out this contract, this company will hire local residents to do interviews in the communities. In addition to Mr. Freeland, Mr. Mike Bell from Yellowknife, Mr. Doug Crapo from Calgary and Mr. Frantz Knudsen from Copenhagen will be doing some of the work. Mr. Crapo has worked on tourism strategic planning projects in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Mr. Knudsen will be spending one day on the project, and has undertaken extensive tourism planning work in Greenland and is able to bring an alternate northern approach to the work.

The three top rated proponents all included some southern content. Mr. Freeland's proposal had the highest level of northern content.

Further Return To Question 201-12(7): Review Of WCB Rates For Construction Companies

I have another question asked by Mr. Koe on March 1st with respect to WCB rates for construction companies.

Employers are classified on the basis of the industry in which they operate, rather than the occupations of their employees. The administrative staff in every company supporting the main industry are charged the same rate as all other employees.

It is worth noting, however, that the construction rate decreased from \$10.25 per \$100 of assessable payroll in 1994, to \$9.25 per \$100 in 1995.

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Further Return To Question 194-12(7): WCB Rates For Taxi Drivers And Staff

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I have another question from Mr. Koe with respect to WCB rates for taxi drivers and staff.

Again, employers are classified on the basis of the industry in which they operate, rather than the occupations of their employees. Dispatchers support the taxi industry and are charged the same rate as taxi drivers.

Prior to 1995, taxi drivers were charged a flat rate of \$365 per car. Claims costs arising from the taxi industry were charged to subclass 53, and the assessment is ground transportation. The board of directors asked that a review be undertaken to determine if taxi operations were paying their own way.

From 1990 to 1994, the revenue collected from the taxi industry was \$69,184 compared to \$435,964 spent on claims. It was apparent that taxi operations played a major role in the rate of subclass 53 rising from \$3.25 per \$100 in 1990, to \$6.25 per \$100 in 1994. The board of directors made the decision to charge taxis and dispatchers the same rate as all other employers in subclass 53. This decision resulted in a rate increase of \$1.75 per \$100 assessable payroll for all employers in subclass 53. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 193-12(7): Impact Of Federal Staff Cuts On The NWT

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Patterson on February 28, 1995: the impact of federal staff cuts on the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the federal budget on February 27, 1995 announced significant reductions to the size of the federal public service over the next three years. In

response to Members' enquiries regarding the effects of these cuts on federal employment in the Northwest Territories, I will be tabling later today a summary of the personnel reductions which have been confirmed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Continue, Mr. Pollard.

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

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on February 23rd of the Premier. It concerns the percentage of \$1 million power cost carried by other communities.

Mr. Speaker, the low water rider to collect \$1 million from communities outside of the Yellowknife Snare system is not being billed out on a percentage basis.

Rather, it is assessed as a flat rate charge of 0.6 cents per kilowatt hour to all customers outside of the system.

Customers within the Yellowknife system will be paying an additional \$3.3 million in low-water rider costs. Depending on their classification, customers will pay between 1.2 and 2.5 cents extra per kilowatt hour.

Under the Public Utilities Board decision 13-94, collection will continue until November 30, 1995, or until the required amounts are collected, whichever is earlier.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize people from Fort Simpson; Mr. Ernest Cazon and Mrs. Rita Cazon. Mr. Ernest Cazon is the subchief of the Liidli Koe First Nations in Fort Simpson. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I would like to introduce in the gallery, Mildred Wilke, again. Mildred is the Yellowknife coordinator of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, NWT/Alberta branch for the fund-raising campaign that's under way now. She is here to listen in on the questions that will be asked dealing with renal concerns.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 284-12(7): Provision Of Interpreter At Maintenance Training Program

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the honourable Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, to follow up on my Member's statement that I made earlier, I know the honourable Minister is a proponent of making life easier for all people of the NWT, as he has spoken to me about on many occasions both in private and sometimes in public. I also know that sometimes the honourable Ministers do not always know what is going on under their noses. Sometimes they are kept in the dark by their sidekicks or subordinates, Mr. Speaker.

According to my Member's statement, I know there is going to be a maintenance training program for airport maintainers in Baker Lake, which is to be on March 29, 1995. I would like to ask the honourable Minister if he is prepared to have an interpreter for a gentleman from Gjoa Haven who wants to take part in that training program in Baker Lake. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 284-12(7): Provision Of Interpreter At Maintenance Training Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the gentleman from Gjoa Haven is attending the training centre in Baker Lake and requires translation services because he's unilingual, then I'm sure arrangements will be made. If they're not made, I'll ensure they are made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Ningark.

Supplementary To Question 284-12(7): Provision Of Interpreter At Maintenance Training Program

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Minister for that positive response to my question. Will the Minister direct his staff to communicate with the hamlet council of Gjoa Haven to find out if the gentleman is attending, as I was told this morning? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 284-12(7): Provision Of Interpreter At Maintenance Training Program

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be only too happy to do that. I would like to point out that the reason the Cabinet decided to put the training centre in Baker Lake was to do exactly that: to accommodate both bilingual and unilingual northerners in this important program. So I will communicate to the department post-haste the concerns that they take whatever actions are necessary to accommodate this gentleman from Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I walk to work every day I pass by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. I was involved with this project at its very beginning. I spent many hours at the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre archives. I've learned this week that the librarian position is being eliminated. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment how this will affect the service to myself and many other researchers who come from other parts of the country who have enjoyed this very good service in the past.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be no reduction in services. I believe the deputy minister should be here as part of the budget review, because he can answer some of those more technical questions. There will be no reduction in the services, but what will happen is there will be a reassignment of responsibilities to other staff in the museum.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

MR. LEWIS:

I will leave my detailed questions for later. There are still some policy issues with the Minister, Mr. Speaker. Recently, Mr. William Mills, who is the librarian of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England -- this is the library of close to 6,000 northern books, many of them very rare and very valuable. Although he has visited libraries with large collections of northern books in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Calgary, he found ours in Yellowknife to be the best in this country. That is the reputation that our northern library has. Since the library will no longer have a librarian, I would like to ask the Minister if there is no one who is trained to look after it, what are the future plans for this world-class library?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that the honourable Member is misleading the House by suggesting that we are not going to take care of the books. The fact is that the deputy minister and the staff have made the suggestion that there is a different and more appropriate way of providing those services to the public. And if I have offended him by stating he was misleading the House, I apologize to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

MR. LEWIS:

I will let you and my colleagues judge whether I am misleading the House, Mr. Speaker. Since there are no plans to add to the collection by purchasing new books or by acquiring donations which have to be very carefully looked at, catalogued and so on -- for example, the forthcoming very important book on the Dogrib culture -- this collection will in fact remain static. Is it therefore the policy of the government that they want this library to die?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Speaker, that is not our intention, to make or create a situation where the library dies. There are a number of factors that the honourable Member is not taking into consideration: one, there are cultural institutes that are being created in other jurisdictions - whether or not it is the Inuit Cultural Institute, the Dene Cultural Institute, the Educational and Social Cultural Institute created by the Gwich'in claim, the

Sahtu agreement -- so in every situation it is different. The problem with having to respond to an issue of

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this particular type is that we have to recognize that we are part of those agreements and we have to work through these issues with them. As such, I believe we are making the best resolution to this particular matter -- from an organizational point of view -- and I have to rest my final decisions on the judgement of the deputy minister and his staff in my department.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that, as a government, we are going to have to make some big decisions before 1999 about division of assets and so on. I would like to ask the Minister, in light of the comment that he just made about the various cultural institutes around the territories, whether in his vision he has plans to decentralize various bits of this collection so that whatever appropriate bits could belong to this particular group of people will be allocated to different regions in the territories. Does he have a vision?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 285-12(7): Effect On Librarian Services From Elimination Of Position At Museum

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say to the honourable Member, I think the vision comes from the fact that we are reviewing our heritage legislation right now, to give us some indication of the direction that we should be going in this area. Right now -- as the honourable Member knows and he has been well aware of the information -- our legislation does not allow us to set any direction.

The honourable Member will also be aware that part of the direction we wish to go is toward the whole

issue of ensuring that there is some mechanism for charitable donations. Now, in light of that, I think we also have to be aware that, from an archival perspective, we have a lot of archival work to do and information that has not been catalogued to date. We are still at a point where we have not put together an overall position in that area. So I think it is because of a combination of those issues, along with the work that still needs to be done and advice based on the financial resources that we have, that we have had to reallocate and reassign the responsibility accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 286-12(7): Lower WCB Rates For Administrative Staff In Construction And Taxi Businesses

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of the Workers' Compensation Board for the information on the rates charged to construction and taxi businesses. Mr. Speaker, in raising the issue initially, my point was that the administrative staff who work for construction companies, and dispatchers who work for taxi companies are being charged the same rates as their respective industry and the Minister confirmed that.

I respectfully submit that the risks associated with sitting at office desks or at a dispatch desk are relatively lower than driving a taxi or hammering nails. I would like to ask the Minister again whether he has asked the Workers' Compensation Board to investigate whether there could be different rates charged for administrative staff in the construction and taxi industries.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 286-12(7): Lower WCB Rates For Administrative Staff In Construction And Taxi Businesses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did speak to the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board and asked him if he would advance the issue that Mr. Koe raised with the board of directors and see if they would consider an arrangement that would place that

administrative function in a separate category. I have done that, but I have no quantitative response as to what decision the board of directors will take. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 286-12(7): Lower WCB Rates For Administrative Staff In Construction And Taxi Businesses

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When the committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions reviewed the Workers' Compensation Board, this issue was raised, where possible different rates are charged for different types of work done within a specific company. Again, I would like to ask the Minister would he take it upon himself to ask the board, which he is responsible for, to investigate this issue and come back to this House with a response.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 286-12(7): Lower WCB Rates For Administrative Staff In Construction And Taxi Businesses

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I am legislatively responsible for the WCB, it is an independent group of directors that make decisions based upon the kinds of actuary reports they get. Because after all, it isn't public funds that they use, it is private sector funds that they use; I think it is important to say that. I have asked the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board if he will ask the board of directors if they will consider reviewing the concern that has been raised by Mr. Koe and, in fact, it has been raised by others over the years. When I receive a response, I will report to the House and Mr. Koe on that response. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 287-12(7): Purchase Of Dialysis Equipment For Stanton Hospital

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Health but, in this case, I will direct it to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I spoke

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earlier on about the requirements of some patients in the Northwest Territories: dialysis treatment for kidney problems. We are aware that there are a growing number of northerners who are suffering from kidney ailments for one reason or another. I have been trying to get more information but it's slow in coming. We do know that there are at least four patients in Edmonton getting this treatment. I asked earlier on whether or not it would be practical and economical to return those patients to the Northwest Territories and include dialysis among our services offered at Stanton.

I would like to ask the Minister if he would be able to update me on the status of a purchase of dialysis equipment for Stanton Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 287-12(7): Purchase Of Dialysis Equipment For Stanton Hospital

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Management Board has given the Minister of Health, Madam Premier, approval to go ahead with the purchase of dialysis equipment and set the program up at Stanton Hospital. It will start this year, I believe around September, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Mr. Speaker, I would like to

know whether or not there is still availability of a housing program called "rural and remote." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not that I know of. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There used to be a program called "rural and remote" and quite a few of my constituents took advantage of the program at the time. The program provided for a 25-year mortgage, and 25 per cent of your income went towards the mortgage. I believe this program has been discontinued and that was my purpose of asking. I would like to know, since there have apparently been a few of them, whether or not there has been any indication from CMHC to the Minister of Housing about addressing the

outstanding rural and remote units for individuals who have taken advantage of this program in the past. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Fort Smith some time ago, some of the Member's constituents raised the issue of the rural and remote program to me, as well as some constituents of Mr. Nerysoo's in Fort McPherson, and people in Inuvik and Iqaluit. We have tried to work with CMHC to see if they would

write off the program and flip it into a program similar to what is now offered by the Housing Corporation. To date, CMHC has refused to approve a write-off, and it would cost us approximately \$3 million if we were to pay out CMHC on behalf of those clients.

So, I've asked the Housing Corporation to look into it further, especially for people who are getting on in age. One person in Fort McPherson -- and I forget her name -- lives in a house and continues to pay 25 per cent with no cost-of-living adjustment. She has to pay her power and electricity as well. Others must be in the same boat. They are paying a higher cost than their neighbours and we're trying to get something drafted to write off the amounts for rural and remote that people have been paying faithfully over the years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that reply. Could the Minister advise the House when he anticipates a paper being presented which considers the write-off of the rural and remote program? People are paying exorbitant amounts and some have been unable to pay because of the continual increase of costs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 288-12(7): Rural And Remote Housing Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation has a fairly heavy workload right now, but this has been one of my priorities. Since the honourable Member for Thebacha has brought it up, I will resurrect it and try to get it done as soon as possible. Clients out there are suffering from high mortgage rates, especially clients who are paying them. Some have not paid at all, and they will be addressed differently. There are even some who have leased out their units and we will have to address that as well. But we will try to help those who are attempting to own their own home as best we can. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In the Minister's budget speech, he mentioned, briefly: "becoming more self-sufficient." This was a very short section, about six lines long. The Minister stated that: "We have to become less dependent on the federal government and we have to raise more of our own revenues. At the moment, we have a limited capacity to do so and we have been living with a financing formula which discourages initiative and self-reliance."

Mr. Speaker, in the matters of raising taxes and arrangements with the federal government, I believe this is called a perversity factor. I would like to ask the Minister if he can explain what the perversity factor is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

MR. PATTERSON:

In 25 words or less.

Return To Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I hope Ron Irwin doesn't read these debates. I promised him I wouldn't say the "p" word because it gets the federal government excited. Mr. Speaker, when the formula was put together, it was deemed by Canada that we should maintain 85 per cent of the average tax rates across southern Canada, which includes personal income taxes, corporate taxes, tobacco taxes, property taxes, et cetera.

What happens if we fall behind? The federal government says you should have been able to achieve that and they lop that off of our grant. They automatically take it from us. I should explain again, Mr. Speaker, -- Mr. Patterson asked for 25 words or

less, but it's difficult to do that -- what happens is if there is a volume increase in taxation in the Northwest Territories -- which means more people are working and paying their incomes taxes -- then for every extra dollar we receive in that particular revenue, the formula takes \$1.30 from the formula financing agreement for those revenues inside the formula.

So, putting more people to work in the Northwest Territories actually works against us in that respect. That's it, sort of, Mr. Speaker. It's highly technical and I could send the documentation to Mr. Koe, who I know is an accountant and who could probably wade through the pages. But, that's it, in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

MR. KOE:

Yes, I would appreciate the information, if I can get it from the Minister. It is really curious that if the population increases and we hire more people -- and we say that our industry is going to grow, especially in mining -- for every dollar of tax we collect, we will lose \$1.30. That doesn't make sense. I would like to ask, what is the Minister doing to try to change this situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, we have been discussing this particular matter with the federal government. I want to be fair to the federal government and I want to tell people that any tax increases that we have put in place, since 1989, the increased portion comes to us outside of the formula. It becomes very technical because as the volume increases, if you put more people to work at those tax rates at the time the 85 per cent was established, then we lose \$1.30 out of the formula. But when we increase taxes, we gain that outside of the formula. So my preference would be to make a new arrangement with the federal government that

would see some incentive given to us for putting people to work. I think that is in the best interest of Canada and people in the Northwest Territories.

I will give you another example. In Mr. Koe's area, there was a lot of oil and gas activity some years ago. Under the existing terms of the northern accord -- I am talking about the one that was sent to us several years ago -- we would have to wait 10 years for development before we got revenues coming in. Yet, the taxes of general application would start to come in and they would act in a perverse fashion against the formula. So there is another issue with perversity that needs to be worked out with the federal government with regard to the northern accord.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past several years, Members of this Assembly have been making suggestions about developing a northern package, a package to be negotiated as part of the financing formula arrangement. There were many aspects to it. The Minister mentioned some. What is the status of the negotiations on the current financing formula agreement?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 289-12(7): Explanation Of "Perversity Factor"

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I think the term "package" was put upon this arrangement by the Standing Committee on Finance. The package arrangement concerned a number of things: it concerned the health billings dispute, the grants in lieu of taxes and a number of outstanding issues that we had with the federal government that we wanted to clear up. We have been nibbling away at those negotiations and coming to some agreements with Canada. The outstanding issues in the package are what happens at the time of division with the formula. Will there be incremental funding available at the time of division and can the formula

deliver that incremental kind of funding? Can we sort out the issue of the northern accord and any other transfers that may come to us and have them not affect us in an adverse fashion. All those things have yet to be worked out. We have managed to settle some of those small things along the way. Health billings is not small, but it is one of the things we had to get by.

In the next round of negotiations, which will occur some time after I meet with Mr. Martin, we will be trying to say to them that this package should be changed in these particular ways to reflect these particular concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 290-12(7): Federal Royalties To NWT From Mining Activities

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. It is with regard to the issue of the northern accord. There are Members in this House who are really pushing to have this northern accord concluded by May or June. I have some concerns about that. The northern accord is supposed to generate revenue for this government. Yesterday, the Government Leader stated that she told the mining conference that it is going to generate money to Education, Health and Social Services, et cetera. In the research I am doing, the present regime won't really generate that much money to any government. What is the percentage of royalties the federal government gets from all the oil, gas and mineral activity that is going on in the Northwest Territories today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Finance, Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources answer the question. He is the lead Minister on the northern accord, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 290-12(7): Federal Royalties To NWT From Mining Activities

HON. JOHN TODD:

I stand to be corrected, but I believe at the present time that the royalty regime is somewhere around 12 per cent. The Member is correct, under the current regime, the benefits to the Northwest Territories and to all people are minimal. That is why we are moving forward in an orderly and, hopefully, cooperative way to reach a satisfactory arrangement with the aboriginal groups and then move forward to the federal government and try to have this responsibility transferred. That way, we can look at a new royalty tax regime that would be far more benevolent to the Northwest Territories and the federal government than the current one is. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 290-12(7): Federal Royalties To NWT From Mining Activities

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that reply. However, I was asking more of a technical question and he may not have it at his fingertips. What is the 12 per cent in terms of dollars? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question. I am afraid I will have to take that question as notice. I don't want to give an inaccurate response, but I believe it is somewhere in the \$8 million to \$9 million range. But I would prefer to take that question as notice, and then give the Member a more accurate reflection of the current revenue that is raised under the present mining regime. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 291-12(7): Problems With Airport Lighting System In Gjoa Haven

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I was talking with the mayor of the hamlet of Gjoa Haven. During that conversation, the mayor also indicated to me that they are having problems with the airport lighting system. It has occurred about four times during a 12-month period. This can be a very costly endeavour for the operator to look after. It could also jeopardize the travelling public, especially those who travel by air. There is also the question of infraction upon the federal aviation administration regulations of the country. Would the Minister communicate with Gjoa Haven and try to deal with the matter as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 291-12(7): Problems With Airport Lighting System In Gjoa Haven

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Post-haste, we will deal with this important issue that the Member has raised. I will deal with it as soon as the House rises. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have a question about mineral royalties in the Northwest Territories. I would like to direct it to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Mr. Speaker, we got a very interesting briefing about diamond mines and their potential today at noon. I would like to ask the Minister, since a diamond mine may go ahead in the Northwest Territories-- and I think there's a prospect of one -- if we had a northern energy accord, could the Minister give us an indication of what revenues, on an

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annual basis, might flow to the Northwest Territories from such a mine? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that, under the current formula, it would be marginal. It really depends on how effective we are in getting the accord transferred back to the territories. Once it is transferred back, we would make appropriate adjustments after discussions with the industry and the House about what the tax regime would be. I don't want to be in a position to say it will be this amount or that amount. I will say this, and I have said it very clearly, once we get an arrangement with the federal government, we need to take a hard look at the tax regime. This tax regime, according to the notes here, is something like 45 years old. We need to make adjustments.

Will it bring significant resources to the Northwest Territories? I fundamentally believe it will. There is somewhere around a \$650 million capital investment, and I'm told that the revenues on one mine alone will be somewhere in the region of \$600 million and that the profitability is extremely high, in comparison with other mining industries. I'm not trying to evade the question. I'm merely saying to the honourable Member that the tax regime is antiquated, it's old, inappropriate for the 1990's and, once we get the legislative responsibility, we would then bring forward a competitive but more fair regime that would bring the kind of revenues to the Northwest Territories that we need to redistribute. After all, let's remind everybody -- including the industry, if they are listening -- they are our diamonds. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister referred to the figure of \$600 million in terms of revenues. Was that \$600 million a year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

HON. JOHN TODD:

Give or take a few million.

---Laughter

I'm told there is the ability to generate somewhere in the range of \$600 million a year in revenues based upon one particular mining operation. I'm told the industry costs somewhere between 50 to 60 per cent. This industry, from what we've learned in other parts of the world, despite what some people may say, is a highly profitable industry at this time. So, yes, \$600 million plus on an annual basis for 20 years, based on one mine. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, that figure of \$600 million in revenues per year from a new diamond mine, can I ask the Minister how does that kind of revenue compare with the value of production of existing mines in the Northwest Territories today? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 292-12(7): Potential Revenues From Diamond Mine

HON. JOHN TODD:

Total accumulated revenues from all the mines in the Northwest Territories right now, on an annual basis, is \$575 million. One diamond mine is \$600 million. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 293-12(7): Acquiring Responsibility For Processing Security Clearances

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, currently the process of getting security clearance for individuals apparently requires documents to go to Ottawa. Some of my constituents are attempting to apply for positions which require security clearance, and it takes a long time for the process to be completed in Ottawa. I wonder if it's possible for the Minister of Justice to acquire the responsibility for doing security clearances for northern people in the Northwest Territories, in Yellowknife or RCMP detachments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 293-12(7): Acquiring Responsibility For Processing Security Clearances

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the Member raises a good question. I shall enquire to see if that can be done here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 294-12(7): Status Of Baffin Hamlets' Deficits

MR. PUDLUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I'm sure he doesn't want to be asked a question, but still...

---Laughter

The hamlets' deficits were reviewed on March 31, 1994 and we are now coming up to March 31, 1995. I have a question concerning the Baffin. There are a number of hamlets in a deficit situation. There are only two without. Can the Minister indicate to me

whether those deficits are any lower today than they were last time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 294-12(7): Status Of Baffin Hamlets' Deficits

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the question.

---Laughter

I don't know the current status. I have the audited interim statements up to September 30th available right now, which would be of the first half of the year. From what I understand, in the Baffin there are currently three municipalities in a deficit position. The current statements should have been available December 30th. I have asked the department to bring forward that information -- which is not available at the current time -- and will commit to getting back to the Member on the situation of the hamlets in the Baffin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the new Minister of Public Works. No, it's you, John!

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the former Minister of Public Works was quite a vocal defender of negotiated contracts in appropriate circumstances, provided the government was assured of obtaining good value. I have a couple of requests for negotiated contracts arising from Inuit-owned corporations in my constituency. I would like to ask the new Minister of Public Works, is he open to the concept of negotiated contracts with Inuit corporations where good value for money is offered on government staff housing and office accommodation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not up to me to decide that particular question. It's up to the department that requires the service. They may make a suggestion to us that it could be by way of negotiated contract. If I receive those requests, then I deal with them accordingly. There are incidents in the Northwest Territories where negotiated contracts prove good and, when they do and the department has requested them, that's the direction I'll take, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I have managed to persuade a department of the government that they are very open to a negotiated contract for services in my constituency, could the Minister enlighten me as to what kind of approval process is required to take the next step? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, if there is a department that needs a particular service or if they are of the mind that they would like to have that particular contract negotiated, they would bring it to Cabinet. Cabinet would make a decision on that issue and I would then get my instructions from Members of Cabinet to go out and do the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Patterson, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, I live in a community that depends on the sealift for the supply of construction materials. Therefore, there is quite a bit of advance time required for approvals of contracts. With sealift deadlines approaching, is it possible that a request for a negotiated contract for summer construction in my community could be dealt with fairly expeditiously by Cabinet? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 295-12(7): Negotiated Contracts With Inuit-Owned Companies

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, it really depends on the particular issue. If the Member could be more specific I could give him a better answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was absent when the Minister of the Housing Corporation made his Minister's statement on the rent scale implementation. I am glad he made a statement outlining what the corporation is doing. However, I would like to ask the Minister a question. Perhaps I should explain, I was not part of the Advisory Committee on Social Housing that Mr. Morin spearheaded. At that time I was on Cabinet. I did address some of my concerns directly to the Minister. Is this rent scale profit driven or is it based on the cost of the units?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new rent scale is based on neither profit nor the cost of the unit. The rent scale is based on what people can afford to pay and a Canadian-wide rent scale that CMHC uses. But ours is still quite a bit less than what the federal government would use. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is to the same Minister. Is the rent scale based on the percentage of the household income?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rent scale will be based on a percentage of the gross income of people in the units. But there are some things that are exempt from the rent scale. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Ms. Mike, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

MS. MIKE:

For the record, I would like to know what percentage of the household income that is.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It starts off with the very low end. The minute you go to work and you make any money, you automatically pay 25 per cent of your gross income. Even if you made \$400, you would have to pay 25 per cent of that for rent.

Under the new scale, it starts off at six per cent and it gradually increases. The more money you make, the higher the percentage. It will never go higher than a maximum of 30 per cent of your gross income. Built into that, if you are going to be taking training or going to school, that part is not being assessed. It is the same if you are on a disability pension, social assistance or any type of pension, you will not be assessed. As well if you were on UIC, you would not be assessed, but I will have to double check that.

Also there is a cost of living adjustment. For different communities, there is a different cost of living. The more children you have who are dependent on you, there is that adjustment as well. There is also an adjustment for the condition rating of the unit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the cost of living aspect, would that include the recent increase of gasoline?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 296-12(7): Rationale For Changes To Social Housing Rent Scale

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of living adjustment is what was agreed to. We took the MACA cost of living and another cost of living and combined the two. The Advisory Committee on Social Housing came up with it because people were requesting a cost of living adjustment. So I would be pleased to get that information for the Member of what the cost of living adjustment is in every community and a full package. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 297-12(7): Verification Of GNWT Employee Credentials

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the FMBS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier gave a reply with respect to procedures for verifying GNWT candidates' credentials for positions. She stated that credentials are verified for certain professional positions such as nurses, lawyers and teachers, and the job offers for the positions are conditional upon membership with the particular association. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, whether the Minister would consider amending the requirement to allow for verification of social workers, particularly when you take into account the possibility of anyone who should possess a social work degree in order to work with children of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 297-12(7): Verification Of GNWT Employee Credentials

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is something in place. However, I will check and if there isn't, I will put something in place; that there be a requirement for a certain level of training and expertise verified by some paperwork in these particular instances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 298-12(7): Status Of Maximum Secure Facility For NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Justice. Some time ago, Mr. Speaker, there was some talk about the federal government instituting -- if you can use that word -- maximum security

facilities in the Northwest Territories in order to repatriate some northern people who are in maximum security institutions in southern Canada. In the last little while, we haven't heard much about that. I am just wondering if this is still on the back burner or if the idea even exists any more.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 298-12(7): Status Of Maximum Secure Facility For NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The discussions with Corrections Services Canada are ongoing at this time. They are still interested in looking at the benefits of transferring minimum security inmates from the Northwest Territories who are serving time down south to look at the benefits of the federal government returning them to the Northwest Territories under the care and custody of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We need to look at that series of arrangements that might provide some cost benefits, that could also benefit the facilities and services we run. We need to look at what kind of benefits it could bring to the inmates by bringing them closer to home and perhaps offering more relevant cultural programs. The discussions are still ongoing with the federal government in that regard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question 298-12(7): Status Of Maximum Secure Facility For NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that these things take time because there are many factors to be considered, as the Minister pointed out. Talks can go on for so long and I am sure there must be some target date to which we could aim to say we have concluded our talks and research into it. Are there any target dates we could look forward to?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 298-12(7): Status Of Maximum Secure Facility For NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the talks could go on endlessly unless we decide that we want some resolution to the talks fairly quickly. I will check with my officials and ask that they give us some targets so we can come to some conclusions in our discussions with the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 299-12(7): Briefing On Prince Of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Library

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go back to the subject of the northern library of the archives. I didn't use my final supplementary, so I have left it in the air, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that what he has within his ministry is considered to be a world-class library by many visitors who come here, would he get a full briefing from his staff to learn what the impact would be if we take away a librarian who is familiar with the collection and can answer questions, so that we can deal with this item when it comes up in the budget with the full understanding of what the implications are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 299-12(7): Briefing On Prince Of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Library

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be only too happy to do that. I understand the concern of the honourable Member and we will do everything possible, if not today when we are dealing with the budget, to respond positively to the concern the honourable Member has raised.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 300-12(7): Regulations Regarding Diamond Mine Operations

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am excited about diamonds because of this briefing at noon today, Mr. Speaker. I hope there are some on Baffin Island. I hear there might be. I would like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources a question. I understand that diamonds are different than other minerals and other commodities. Is there any regulatory regime in Canada that contemplates and takes into account how diamond mines operate? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 300-12(7): Regulations
Regarding Diamond Mines Operations

HON. JOHN TODD:

No, there isn't. That is exactly the concern that I have been raising with the staff. There is nothing at the Canadian level as to how these diamond mines operate and nothing at the territorial level. Diamonds are different than commodities such as gold, silver, oil, et cetera. You can open the Globe and Mail any day to determine what the price of an ounce of gold or silver is and the price of oil, et cetera. It is important for the Northwest Territories that for this first major -- and it is major -- diamond mine, a regulatory regime be in place, that it is competitive in terms of the industry but protects the interests of the custodians of the land and the people who it belongs to.

That is a concern I have had for the last year. We are working very quickly to try to put a number of papers together, should we be able to reach an arrangement with Canada in the transfer of this responsibility. Let there be no doubt, there is no regime in place at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 300-12(7): Regulations
Regarding Diamond Mines Operations

MR. PATTERSON:

At present, Mr. Speaker, is there anything to stop companies from taking diamonds from the Northwest

Territories and moving them offshore to process, sort, cut and polish them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 300-12(7): Regulations
Regarding Diamond Mines Operations

HON. JOHN TODD:

At the present time, there are no regulations in place that would legislate or provide policies for how these rough diamonds will stay, what percentage will go to the country they come from, et cetera.

I think it is important to point out that on my trip to Toronto recently, it was somewhat disappointing when I spoke to some of the delegation from Hay River and Yellowknife. They told me that some representatives of BHP said they had no intention of trying to include any value-added component to these diamonds in the Northwest Territories.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Shame, shame.

MR. WHITFORD:

Then let the diamonds stay in the ground.

HON. JOHN TODD:

It was their intent, apparently, to take them offshore. I really appreciate the honourable Member's response. I want to assure this House that if that is the intention of the industry, then we are heading towards a political crisis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Patterson.

Point Of Order

MR. PATTERSON:

Point of order. Mr. Speaker, could I seek consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson, you don't have a point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

You could still lift up your hand...

---Laughter

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I request unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
IN THE GALLERY

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret that I was out of the House when this important item came up and neglected to recognize my friend, Mr. Ben McDonald, of the UNW.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to mention that along with Ernest and Rita Cazon is their son Carn Cazon.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the

review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three documents to table. The first one is Tabled Document 57-12(7), Northern Realities: Notes for an Address by the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea to the Prospectors' and Developers' Association of Canada Conference in Toronto, March 6, 1995.

The second one, Mr. Speaker, is Tabled Document 58-12(7), Impact of Federal Staff Cuts on the Northwest Territories.

And, Tabled Document 59-12(7), Person Year Adjustments, 1995-96 O and M Budget, Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 60-12(7), a letter from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, dated February 3, 1995, addressed to myself from Inspector MacIntyre, officer in charge of administration and personnel, "G" Division, here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Elections Act, No. 2

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills.

Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: 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 19: 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 Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, I recommend that we review Bill 1 and consider the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. 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

Department Of Education, Culture And Employment

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

When we last met on this item, I believe we had concluded the opening remarks of both the Minister responsible and the chairman of SCOF. At this time, would the Minister like to bring in witnesses to the committee? Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I could have the support of the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Mr. Minister, the Sergeant-at-Arms will assist you in bringing in your witnesses. Sorry, Mr. Minister, I misunderstood that you wanted to bring in the witnesses first. We can bring the witnesses in after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

I call the committee back to order. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. Would you be so kind as to introduce your witnesses to the committee?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, if I could. On my left is the deputy minister, Mr. Hal Gerein. On my right is Mr. Paul Devitt, who is the director of finance and administration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Good afternoon, gentlemen. Welcome to committee of the whole. We are dealing with Education, Culture and Employment, section 15-11. At this point we are open for general comments. Mr. Patterson.

General Comments

MR. PATTERSON:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a few general comments. I am mainly concerned about the college system. I had expressed a number of concerns earlier in this session and the last session about the manner in which the student residence was being changed in the Baffin region. I have since been barraged with information about the issue, including a lot of correspondence that went on between the deputy minister and officials of the Baffin divisional board, or the Minister and the Baffin divisional board. This correspondence is quite enlightening, and does satisfy me that the department's agenda to close or phase out the Ukiivik residence was discussed with the divisional board of education some time in advance.

However, Mr. Chairman, I still maintain that the first notice that I got of it, as an MLA, was reading the bald statement in the 2010 education strategy when it was tabled last fall, that the residences would be closed. I still feel that although consultation might have taken place with the education boards, MLAs were somewhat left out of the picture until quite recently. However, that has been corrected; we were interviewed by the consultant doing the study. I call Avery Cooper the "education consultant" because they seem to be doing all the work for education. They must be very good or have good contacts within that department; I don't know what it is about that firm. They did interview Nunavut MLAs and I am now more satisfied that the department is aware that the residence in Baffin cannot be shut down summarily this coming year without a proper transition plan being put in place. I believe one of the elements of that plan has to be assurances that there are academic programs available in the communities in the Baffin region.

The other aspect of the study that I don't think has been properly emphasized is the importance of trades training in the Baffin region. It is a theme that I am going to return to when I make some comments about college funding. Even if we have high school programs, including academic programs, in our communities in Baffin, there are still students who will lack local facilities if they want to pursue trades training. This is another area where I think the regional centre -- with its superior trades shops at the regional high school -- and then the regional residence -- with its residence facilities as an

alternative to home boarding in a crowded community -- may fill an important educational need in the Baffin.

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So I do hope, as changes are thrust upon the region, that they will not take place at the expense of academic training and of trades training for community residents as well as students from my constituency.

Mr. Chairman, my main concern about this budget is something that is familiar to the Minister, I am beginning to wonder why we established two colleges, East and West -- they are still not even named. I really wonder why we divided the college system in the Northwest Territories. I know that the reason, ostensibly, is to prepare for Nunavut. The Department of Education is the first department that is putting systems in place which will prepare for training in Nunavut and will allow for a smooth transition in Nunavut. But the problem I have, Mr. Chairman, is that we only have a partial college system in Nunavut, and one of the obvious deficiencies is in trades training.

The Minister tabled a return to written question just the other day, in which he openly admitted that trades training is base funded by the GNWT only at College West; nine instructor positions and \$860,000.

What I fail to understand, Mr. Chairman, is how are students from Nunavut to get trades training if the Nunavut Arctic College doesn't have any positions or funding to offer trades training. Since what is now College West was delivering trades training for the whole Northwest Territories, it would have seemed to me that when the college was divided, some of the resources in College West -- which presumably were justified by students from Nunavut -- would have been transferred to the Nunavut Arctic College. Not all of the resources, maybe not even half of the resources, but some of the resources. We have ended up with none.

For a high priority area, such as trades training in Nunavut -- where people want to take advantage of the employment opportunities that are going to flow from new infrastructure being created in connection with Nunavut, not to mention building houses and schools which one can predict will be continuing activities in Nunavut, judging by the birth rate -- our students have no local access to trades training. And they still have to journey far away from home and family to a location where -- I think the Minister will

probably know this -- for better, for worse, the success rate of Nunavut students has not been good.

The same problems emerge with nursing training, and the same problems emerge in other areas, such as heavy equipment operator training and driver education training. I am sure that I don't need to explain that these are areas where training will help create employment.

There also seem to be serious inequities in the support available to student services in College East and College West. So I think we have two new colleges but they are lopsided in terms of funding and in terms of programs. I have to ask the Minister how could he have possibly set up two colleges where the base funding seems so inequitable. I just don't know how he allowed this to happen. I guess I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, why do we bother setting up two colleges if the Nunavut Arctic College doesn't have the resources to deliver trades training, a fundamental priority in Nunavut?

The information tabled the other day in the House confirms my worst fears that, in fact, there is no equity in the funding. There were no efforts made to balance funding. The college was simply divided on the basis of a geographical line, without any effort to equitably reallocate existing resources. I know there is a new college funding allocation system in place which will, in future, distribute GNWT program and service contribution funding on an equitable basis, according to a formula. This is good news, Mr. Chairman, but it doesn't help deal with the historic inequities that were inherited and were not adjusted when the college was divided.

I've ranted and raved about this before in this House, Mr. Chairman. Last fall, I begged the Minister to do something about this before the transfer took place. I pleaded with the Minister to do something. Now, we're faced with a fait accompli. There are two new colleges and two new boards and I think it's going to be extremely difficult to claw back funding, once given. I know the new college board in Nunavut -- or I should say College East, I'm sorry, that's the official term -- is concerned about this issue. I believe they've written to the Minister, or expressed their concern to the Minister at their first board meeting that they have little or no funding for trades training.

I guess that's one of my main concerns, Mr. Chairman. I'm not asking for new money. I know there's not a lot of new money. But, what I would have hoped is that a Minister responsible for college

programs across the Northwest Territories would have had the courage to eliminate some of these historic inequities at the time the new colleges were set up. I think that would have been the time to do it. It may be much more difficult to do now.

Mr. Chairman, there are some good things in the budget. I want to commend the Minister for the additional funds that have been allocated to special needs education. I think this is commendable. I noted from his opening remarks that he's restoring some funding -- that was a source of concern last year -- to the college base, of \$1 million. I think this is commendable. I know there is not a lot of new money to work with and I believe that a crude analysis would suggest that some of the special needs funding has come at the expense of contributions for regular teaching positions in the K-12 system. In other words, the pupil/teacher ratio may have to inch up a little bit because of the increased special needs funding. Mr. Chairman, if that's the price we have to pay for improving services for special needs kids, then I think the department and the Minister have done the right thing.

I think it's well documented that in a classroom -- despite popular feeling -- increasing the size by one or two kids, doesn't substantially impair the quality of education, even though many members of the public feel it's undesirable. What can impair the effectiveness of a class, however, is if there aren't resources to help the children with special needs, whether they be gifted or in need of attention because of physical or other educational disabilities or needs. I think it's commendable that this money has been put in place.

I also want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I commend the Minister and his department for the work that's been done in moving the Education Act towards modernization. I believe the department is committed to having this act amended and

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updated during the life of this Assembly. I fully support this. I think they've worked hard on it and achieved, by and large, good results. I'm also familiar with the consultation process that's being followed on the income support reform because I recently attended part of a workshop held in Iqaluit. I think that the focus group approach has proved effective with the Education Act and will prove effective in the area of income support reform.

So, there are a lot of good things that the department and Minister are doing, not all of which I've mentioned. But, I can't get this issue of a half-college being funded in Nunavut out of my craw. I just want to raise that again as a fundamental concern: inequities and unfairness in Arctic College base funding. I just don't know what the answer is. I don't know if I have to tell my constituents not to worry, that they can still go to Fort Smith and have full access to trades training there. It hasn't worked in the past, Mr. Chairman. It's a wonderful community, but Inuit don't succeed there. That is why a teacher education program was created in Nunavut and that is why other teacher education programs have been created in a field-based manner.

We've got to do better than this if we want to train tradespeople in Nunavut. And, I'm not just talking about the Nunatta Campus, Mr. Chairman; I'm talking about locations throughout Nunavut. Let me say that I acknowledge that there are some very sophisticated physical facilities in Fort Smith that can't easily be replaced and they will perhaps have to be relied on long after 1999, Mr. Chairman. I am not suggesting that we should replicate those sophisticated facilities. But, surely, for especially the introductory years of trades training -- where we have carpentry shops probably almost in every one of our major communities, if we looked -- we have facilities to teach the early years of electrical, welding and other trades.

Can we not, with the leadership of the Minister, develop a plan to allocate these resources so that they can be of benefit to residents from all parts of the territories? I think the good people who work in Fort Smith are quite open to this. I've known heavy equipment instructors who have gone out and trained heavy equipment operators in Lake Harbour and have been glad to do it. I've met some of them. They were thrilled to do it. Maybe we should continue to rely on these people, rather than eliminating their positions. I'm just saying, our perception in Nunavut is that we've been left out of trades training in the process of creating a new college.

I don't want to harp on this, Mr. Chairman. The Minister knows of my concern. The department has generously provided me with briefings. But, for some reason, I'm still not satisfied. Those are my comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. There were a number of items that I'm sure the Minister would like to respond to. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I can satisfy the honourable Member today. All I can say is that I believe what we have done initially -- and the honourable Member should realize this -- is we created two colleges on January 1st of this year. What is absent from both colleges is a corporate plan that identifies the direction that the colleges will be taking. Based on a college plan, we will be able to better address some of the concerns the honourable Member has mentioned. There is significant fairness in the way we have tried to address the whole issue of distributing the resources. I can say that I am not going to stand up here today and say we are going to move staff because that would be irresponsible. The Member showed me the opportunities that were in Iqaluit, at least in terms of a long-term trades program. I don't have to be convinced of that element.

Just so that we are clear, if the issue is simply equality of the distribution of resources, one has to look through the system totally. It isn't good enough to say we look at the trades program. We have to look at the issue of distribution of resources based on population, if that is the way you want to do it in terms of being fair to the students you serve. But I don't think that is the way we should do it. I think that distribution should be based on delivering the best programs to the people we are serving. I think the honourable Member would say the same thing.

In that sense, the corporate plan will help us. I think the comments the Member has raised with regard to the trades issue are legitimate. We can do a better job with that and we will work to respond as quickly as we can to the concerns the honourable Member has raised. As far as I know, the College West and College East boards of governors have been very positive and very responsive in their relationship with each other, as well as in terms of working with us. We are prepared to work to try to address these particular issues and the concerns the honourable Member has raised. It needs some time and it may not happen immediately, but the corporate plan will address some of those issues. We will be able to respond more to the issues the Member has raised.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments. The chair recognizes the Member for Thebacha, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments relating to this budget. There are a few comments I want to make in defence of Arctic College. I recognize the concerns my colleague for Iqaluit has put forth. First of all, if there is a lack of trades in College East as there is in College West, I want to advise the Minister that if he is going to make any movement to address that inequity, he should ensure that it doesn't hinder the standards that that college has tried to achieve for so many years; just for the sake of putting trades in there.

We all know the campus in Fort Smith was developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It isn't something that you can just put in and expect to run. It is ironic because I remember when I first became a Member and Mr. Patterson was the Minister of Education, he was the very Minister who was going to take away that heavy equipment program. We suggested that he modify it, so he could continue with it. There is no doubt that the instructors are more than happy to go into the different communities, and they have been. I don't think it is fair to expect everything. This whole split into east and west is only being done now. It takes a long time for it to build into an institution.

I am concerned with the fact that there are complaints about inequities. There are inequities in programs, but these

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programs have taken a long time to develop and they will probably continue to develop. They have had different standards to achieve. Furthermore, these programs can't be placed all over where their standards are going to be hindered or diluted in any way.

Mr. Chairman, I did want to state one thing with regard to the college. There is one area I have noticed a lack of movement in; that is, with respect to acquiring aboriginal people as instructors. That is one area the Minister and the college have to work towards. I think they could possibly look at some kind of training program, perhaps something similar to what TEP is doing. They are trying to bring northern native teachers into the schools. If you even look at the management studies program or any type of

academic studies program, back to the early 1980s, I don't think there are any aboriginal people who are instructors in those programs. This is the type of thing the college should be working to develop.

Mr. Chairman, the other area with respect to the college is we have to stop bringing in instructors from the south for short periods of time. This has been happening in my campus for the past four or five years. I bring it to the Minister's attention every year. There is no movement, and that comes back to training again, to be able to stop bringing in people from the south to deliver certain courses. It seems that there is an attitude of accessing whoever they know who can deliver the course. That is easier than looking at the long-term solution of training someone locally. In this case, it is an electrician instructor and there are many electricians in Fort Smith. The component of the instruction course is one area electricians can look at trying to achieve.

Mr. Chairman, I want to state that I am very pleased to hear the Minister state that he was going to bring in the Education Act. The modification of that particular act certainly needs to be addressed. We have all agreed that the act is very archaic. There have been many concerns with respect to education. In our area, the South Slave Division Board of Education is in a real deficit situation. I continually wrote letters to the Minister and it wasn't until we asked for a financial audit, that there was enough for the department to justify moving in on the South Slave Division Board of Education and saying their expenditures weren't done properly. Now, as parents in the South Slave area, we have to face a \$2 million deficit for that board. The department says you have to try to address this deficit. I was told that a good portion of that deficit is because the South Slave is an area where there is a long tenure of teachers for the Education department. Apparently, the retirement program has put some strain on the debt and increased it because of the long tenure teachers have there. There should be some method in Education to address that long tenure, so we can alleviate the debt for the South Slave Divisional Board of Education.

There is another area with respect to the debt; when the act is being modified, it has to address these type of abuses of financial expenditures when they are done by these boards, and the Minister must have the ability to address them effectively and efficiently and as quickly as possible. They shouldn't be allowed to go into a large debt amount and then the department take action, because it creates a lot of problems for the whole region.

One area in that act that has been a concern for quite some time -- and it has to be addressed -- is the ability to take principals out of the union and allow them to manage their respective schools. All being in the same union now, it makes it difficult for them to manage effectively. I think this area has to be addressed and I am sure that it is probably going to be. I look forward to the Minister tabling the Education Act in the House, and I look forward to addressing and looking to see if some of these concerns are going to be looked at.

Just in closing, Mr. Chairman, there are two concerns that have been brought to my attention. There seems to be a lack of commitment to implement the new star quest program which the band has been fully supportive of; the native groups in Fort Smith want the implementation. There has been some reluctance from department officials to implement it and I hope that this program can be implemented for the children who may require the extra support this program reflects.

I also want to indicate to the Minister that for the day care subsidy policy that he has been delivering through his department, you must find a way to ensure that policy can address students in need and allow students to access this subsidy. It is difficult for students going to school having the added stress of day care, but being unable to access the day care subsidy...I think you may have to look at that subsidy program to ensure that it is somewhat modified to address the people in need.

Those are my basic general comments, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Minister, there were some items in there that you may wish to comment on. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

First of all, I thank the honourable Member, Mr. Patterson, who spoke earlier. I think the advice that has been given is very constructive and, collectively, I think we can bring together some solutions to the concerns that are being raised.

Just on the matter of child care that the honourable Member has raised, I would like to advise the honourable Member that that program is available to students. What they need to do is fill out the forms for

the program. If the information is not being provided, I would be prepared to direct my staff to ensure that the students do receive the information. Right now, I believe that most campuses are in fact using the program. If there are problems in Thebacha or in any program that deals with our government, we would be prepared to respond as positively as possible. That doesn't mean, Mr. Chairman, we can provide all the support they may be requesting, but we can be responsive to the concerns the honourable Member has raised.

On the matter of instructors, I want to advise the honourable Members in this House that it is one of the areas that has been a concern to me. I have raised it with the department, with Arctic College, and it is an issue that is going to be addressed in the corporate plans of both colleges. I know that it is in the western plan for sure, but we still need some time to assess the plan so that we are satisfied, as a department, that it is responding to the program needs that are in the communities.

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On the matter of accountability, I agree. I believe you will be quite satisfied with the legislation that will come before you.

On the matter of principals not being part of the union, we have not addressed that issue at this time, but we have put in place much more accountability on the part of the principal, to the point where they are no longer -- in one particular case -- considered part of the CEC as ex-officio officers but rather will be accountable to the community local boards. On an annual basis, they will have to meet and account for the directions of the school, so it will not be in the absence of the direction of the local community. That includes the whole issue of recruitment, as well. We are moving much further than before, but it may not be as far as the honourable Member wishes we have gone. I think I will be able to answer those questions when we deal with the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the concern raised about short-term instructors and we will try to address it with the college president and the board and try to find a solution to that matter. I will report that matter to the honourable Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in closing my general comments, I do want to advise the Minister and express my appreciation and my constituents' appreciation for moving the headquarters back to Fort Smith. Their office is a pleasant sight to see in the community. I believe Mr. Parker has the support of the community and the community has appreciated his presence. I believe that his whole approach to addressing problems and looking at the college, with the attitude of ensuring that they provide the necessary service that they should to the western Arctic, is no doubt there. It is really appreciated by many people in the community and certainly by myself. So I would like to thank the Minister for sending back the headquarters of Arctic College to Fort Smith. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. General comments. Line by line. I recognize the Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Not so much in general comments, I have some questions that I would like to ask the Minister. So if other Members have general comments before we get into specific questions, go ahead because my questions relate to the definitive objectives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. General comments. The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik, Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the areas that a lot of my constituents and other people across the north have raised quite a few times -- several weeks ago, it was an issue out of the Sahtu -- was the issue of quality of education. It has been a topic that has been brought up by several committees and was one of the issues addressed by the Standing Committee on Finance last year, in terms of how we can address the quality of education. I think there is an agreement that it has to be improved -- I don't know if we are regressing or progressing. We've put a lot more numbers through the

system but I don't know what the quality or end result of the numbers we're pushing through the system is.

We have a proposed Education Act that is going to be tabled, I hope, by tomorrow. It may address some of the responsibilities of all the players in education. But, I don't believe it will go far enough. I don't believe the act is going to turn the system around. There is a priority in education to get quality graduates out of the system. A lot of responsibilities lie with the teacher, obviously with the student, and thirdly, with the facilities the students and teachers have to work with. Those are changing. We have spent an awful lot of money on facilities. I know our population's increasing and there is overcrowding in a lot of places. Also, with grade extensions in the communities, there's now a need to look at some of the communities. I believe that in some places, we're putting grade extensions in without proper planning for facilities and proper academic programs that one needs to achieve matriculation and go on to college or university.

I've always had a concern with the policy of advancing students because of their age. I'm not sure what the proper terminology is for that but if you're a certain age, it is felt that you should advance to the next grade. When I went to school, you had to pass a certain program before you moved on and I feel we should go back to something like that; institute in the north a program of exams and tests to qualify people to advance.

One program that, on the one hand, I applaud the department for introducing is the TEP program. It's been a very good program. We've had a lot of successful graduates and I notice we're expanding the program to two more regions. One of the problems in the TEP program that I've been told about is people who come into the program come in with varied levels of education. We seem to accept whoever meets a certain criteria, but the students who are accepted have a wide range of qualifications. I mentioned yesterday when we were dealing with the Nursing Profession Act that they have an access year program. Year one is an access program. I hope that's something the department has looked at: providing an access year for the TEP program.

The other thing I believe is in the act is the elimination of classroom assistants. We all know that not every student who is enrolled in the TEP program is going to come out as fully qualified teachers, but they're going to bring with them a lot of skills. They already have a lot of skills to be accepted, but once they're out and don't become a qualified teacher, they don't meet all the program requirements -- they have to pass so many courses, I understand -- there is still a

role for them. I believe that the term "classroom assistant" is not going to be used any more, so I'm not sure what role there will be for people who don't graduate with full qualifications.

My other concern is with what jobs are going to be available for graduates. I know there is a goal of 50 per cent northern or aboriginal -- and I'm not sure which one it is -- teachers. I believe in the upcoming year we aren't going to have many teachers moving out so there won't be many positions available. We're now starting to get graduates of the TEP program and I'm just wondering where they're going to fit into the system and where the next set of graduates are going to be employed.

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There's been a lot of talk about Arctic College. The Minister knows and I know that the Aurora Campus in Inuvik has been fully utilized; overused, in many instances. There are a lot of programs being offered, and the bedrooms and the classrooms in the college are full. That is something that has to be addressed. But, I think it is showing that we can run a college campus effectively, especially with the cooperation of the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in. I'm very pleased about that.

In the Inuvik region, there is a whole bureaucracy of people involved in education, as we know. There's the Beaufort/Delta divisional board; the CECs; the college; two schools in Inuvik and one in every community; a superintendent of Education, Culture and Employment; the town; and, the aboriginal groups are all interested because they are all contributors to the programs. I think all the players acknowledge that everybody has to get together to do some planning. We're trying that now. There are all kinds of studies and programs going on, but we still need to coordinate these efforts. A major concern is space and then there is the issue of the library; expansion of the college; the possible closure of Grollier Hall and what to do with it; Science Institute administration; and student residences in the existing campus. All of these are issues a lot of people have been wrestling with over the past few years. I think soon there is a need to have a meeting of the minds and get firm direction on where we go.

In terms of the Science Institute, I applaud the government for finally making a decision and moving the headquarters to Inuvik. It is much needed and, in conjunction with the campus, there are a lot of things, I'm sure, that can be developed. The information that

is in the Institute can be put to good use. I'm also pleased that the whole area of student financial assistance programs has been reviewed and expanded. There are a larger number of people who are taking advantage of these programs and I'm very pleased to see that we've put extra money into that.

I would like to stop there, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister can respond to some of the comments I have made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister, there were a few items in there that probably require your attention. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering whether or not there were too many bureaucrats and you wanted me to bring some back.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I doubt that he would ever recommend that. Mr. Chairman, I will comment on some of the last comments he made.

I do want to say to the honourable Member that I, along with my staff, have already had discussions with Bob Simpson -- who the honourable Member knows quite well -- about the possibility of trying to organize a number of people, including Arctic College; the superintendent of Education, Culture and Employment; the culture and career side; the board of education; CEIC; the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; the Gwich'in Regional Council; and other funding agents that are located in Inuvik, including the town. We need to get a sense

of where we are going with education and training, generally. We have to get a plan organized in the communities.

We have indicated that we are, as we are in other regions, prepared to work with the regions to ensure that there is a plan of action. I can say that we are working on that.

On the matter of the teacher education program, the whole issue of access is really dependent on the

plans. I can advise the honourable Member that the Yellowknife teacher education program, through its planning, organized an access year. In other words, they set up one year to ensure that all those students who would take their first year of teacher education, were prepared educationally and formally to meet the challenges of the program. So they planned that through the boards. It is a matter of the work that is done with the boards. It is all part of the planning process.

The issue of the children moving on from grade to grade to grade, there is no policy in existence. I have been trying to advise the Members that there is no policy in education. We don't have one. The decisions are normally made with the teacher, the parent and the student. Decisions are also made in conjunction with the board. We don't have a policy that says you must move those students on. The fact is we have a curriculum. They are supposed to meet the challenges of that curriculum. As such, they should be marked accordingly. There is no direction that we give that says they must move. That is a certain choice of the student, parent and teacher.

On quality education, I want to say the quality of education is dependent upon a number of factors: one, delivery; two, parent support; and three, student readiness. In other words, it is dependent on the capacity of the student to meet the challenges of the program. Without a doubt, we all understand that there are some learning situations that do not allow students to meet the challenges of the program. A number of people have raised the issue here.

There are all kinds of factors. I can advise the honourable Member that the student/school achievement indicators have shown us a number of weaknesses in our system. The result of that has given us an opportunity now to redefine the work that we have to do to ensure that we improve the quality of education. Even in the Northwest Territories we have differences of quality of education that is being delivered. Whether you are in Yellowknife, Hay River versus Lutsel K'e or Fort McPherson, or Inuvik versus Fort McPherson. It varies. The problem with that is it may not necessarily be the programs that are available. It may be pure delivery. It could be the student.

We understand the concerns that have been raised and we are trying to deal with the issue of putting in place things like educational quality indicators, which are system-wide monitoring and planning processes. We have to determine whether there is success in the

system. We need to ensure that we assess the standards of education. The school achievement indicators, through exam writing, is something that allowed us to address that.

I can say there is an attempt on our part to be more involved in the issue of testing. We are also going to get into a new strategy on numeracy and literacy. We are going to deal with

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a number of options that are being proposed to us. We are looking at math camps for grade nine students who enter academic math 10 courses. We are trying to work with the western consortium of Ministers on a common math curriculum and standards. There is a sponsored session on tests for 1997 and a science assessment. This past year, we had six NWT teachers who were involved in the marking of the reading and writing exams to give us a sense of where we should be going. We are also going to be developing and preparing a guide for grade seven to nine teachers on teaching, writing and reading in the north.

So we have begun the process. Obviously, there will still be questions, but I think that you can see we are making attempts to rectify some of the problems. We may never get to a point where we rectify all of them, but I can say we are on our way. We are making attempts to respond to the concerns of Members of this Assembly, parents, students and teachers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments? The chair continues to recognize Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

I will just make a few more comments on the issue of culture, language/heritage and the other part of the department; employment. The preservation of languages and culture still is a major priority and concern of just about everyone in the north. I guess the fears are of the unknown, of where the feds are going to be cutting. A lot of our programs are dependent on federal money. Saying that, this department still, in its budget, through its grants and contributions, provides a considerable amount of money to different organizations in the north. I just want to say that there is a lot of concern. There are a lot of small organizations out there that are doing a lot

of good, big work in the communities. They are community-based and work very hard towards preservation of language and culture in the Northwest Territories. I just wanted to put in a plug for them to keep up the work. I hope that, through whatever money we have, we continue to support these organizations where we can.

I note that, again, communication is an area of concern, especially where federal money comes into play because there are proposed cutbacks to CBC, friendship centres and to broadcasting groups, in our own budget. These are all ways that information gets distributed in the Northwest Territories and we have to encourage and support these organizations where we can.

I'm very pleased that new money was found for early childhood development programs and the apprenticeship programs. I think we're all aware that apprenticeship programs provide an opportunity for many, many of our people to become skilled tradespersons. An area where I'm sure we can do a lot more enhancement is to encourage women to take trades and become red seal card-carrying journeymen in whatever trade they pick.

In the area of employment, again, it's no secret that unemployment is rampant in many of our communities, even in the major centres that we classify as level I communities. I've made it no secret that in Inuvik, unemployment is a problem, very similar to many of the smaller communities. Through the initiatives now under this department, we not only have to look at creating jobs in level II and III communities, we have to create jobs and opportunities in the communities where a majority of our population is centred: Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, and Iqaluit.

I'm very supportive of the initiatives under the income support programs. Again, that is something that is developing. There's a lot of work to do and, hopefully, some of the pilot programs are going to give us a lot of new ideas. I think there are a lot of groups with good ideas and we should get on with it and get the money circulating because there is a lot of money available.

With that, I just wanted to have my say on this department. It's a major department now, with the expansion of its programs, and it's going to become more major with the department taking over the financial assistance programs. Again, planning, as we all know, is crucial at the front-end, not when we

have the programs going. That was mentioned more than once during the last couple of days. With that, I'll be quiet. Thank you, very much. Mahsi.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Qujannamiik. Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Minister, I don't know if there's anything you would like to comment on before I go to the next speaker. General comments, then. The chair recognizes the Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the students who attend Arctic College are increasing in number and I'm grateful that Arctic College is available to them and they are able to attend; some from Iqaluit and some from Cambridge Bay. But, many times, people who want to further their education who aren't fluent in English or don't speak English at all can't attend because there are no instructors who speak the language and, a lot of times, they're not provided with interpreters even though they're quite willing to get more training; for example, in mechanics, carpentry, and plumbing.

The people who work in these fields are quite capable in their work, but they don't understand English and that stops them from further training. Considering their ability to work, in the eastern Arctic, especially, the instructors should be able to speak the language or have interpreters available. I'm grateful that students from Nunavut are able to go to the Fort Smith Arctic College but a lot of times the students are not eager to leave their home communities to further their education, as is the case in Kitikmeot, Repulse Bay, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. Some go to Cambridge Bay but there are courses not offered there and students have to go to Iqaluit and other communities.

I'm grateful that the training is available, but when they have to go to different communities, they have to leave their children behind and when they get homesick, they don't continue their education. They go home without finishing the course they were taking.

Children used to be provided with breakfast and this doesn't happen any more. I'm sure a majority of students are fed in the morning by their parents or

guardians before they go to school, but I'm sure there are some children in the

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communities who go to school without having a proper breakfast. It's not that their parents don't love them; they are loved by their parents, but there are families who can't afford it, especially if the parents aren't working and dependent on social assistance. Even though the parents love their children deeply, because there is no food in the house, they are not provided with breakfast because of lack of money. Prices are going up everywhere.

Often, country food is available -- a lot of people who are on social assistance don't have hunting equipment -- but kids nowadays don't want to eat native food all the time. Even as adults, we don't particularly want to eat meat in the morning. Maybe the community education councils are aware who those families are. Maybe, if the parents are on social assistance, those children can be provided with breakfast in the schools, because I am sure the teachers and the community themselves know which students they are.

We all know that if we do not have a proper breakfast, we tend to get tired faster. For adults, if we skip breakfast, it seems okay. I want the Minister and his department to give more consideration to how they can assist further, the students who cannot be provided with nutritional meals in the mornings. I am sure that there are not that many students, there might be two or three students; do you understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, in response to the honourable Member, I understand the concern that he is raising about the children and the meals issue. Just to advise the honourable Members, much of the resources for the day-to-day operation and management of our schools and how we deal with students is now transferred to the boards. There is some flexibility of how the boards deal with a particular issue of this type. What we will do is ensure that the comments of the honourable Member are

forwarded and maybe there is a way that we can address some of these issues with the boards.

The other point that the honourable Member raised deals with an issue raised by the honourable Member for Thebacha and that was the whole issue of aboriginal instructors that speak the language. I think that if we can get to a point where we can deliver programs taught by individuals who speak the language, we will not be in the situation the honourable Member raises. So we are still moving in that direction and we will try to address that concern with the Nunavut college board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The next one I have on my list is the Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, then Mr. Dent.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few general comments for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. This is a big department which combines three important areas: education; culture; and, employment. There are quite a combination of different tasks and activities that this Minister is responsible for. The total amount of O and M is \$221.403 million, that is quite a bit of money for education, culture and employment.

I will start off with education, Mr. Chairman. Education has always been a very important program for me. I think education for the people of the Northwest Territories is very important, especially for younger people today. In these changing times, there are a lot of pressures to get a good education. It is very crucial that we provide very good programs to young people today, in the north.

I am very concerned about it because we still have quite a lot of students who fall out of the education system from K to 12. We have very few graduates coming out of the system. We have been saying that for the last four years; since I have been here. In the meantime, this department has amalgamated and changed itself, they have a lot of different initiatives on the go.

We are pumping in \$221 million to provide programs and services. What are the end results, what is the end product here by putting this amount of money into the system? I am not criticizing the department but I am just saying that I have viewed it as such, right

from the beginning when we had the briefings and so forth. A couple of years ago, it was shown that there is an alarming, higher percentage out there who are not completing grade 12 -- from the time they enter kindergarten until they reach grade 12. Why is that?

If the Minister and his staff have the task of providing this service -- it is an enormous task -- maybe he could give me a quick explanation about why are we still seeing this scenario.

In the education area, we have education boards established, with people from the communities sitting on these boards. Funds have been allocated to each board to run its own divisional education board. I am told that this fund has been cut back and it is causing concerns in the communities; it is also causing me some concern. There seems to be a cut to school boards -- about 2.5 per cent; more than \$2 million -- across the north. It is causing concern to the school, and the boards will have to decide where they are going to cut.

Usually whenever cuts are made in schools, the first ones to go are the cultural programs. There are very few cultural programs to begin with. Yet, whenever decisions are made, the cultural aspects of a program are cut first. All the way along we see this problem. Again, maybe the Minister could explain this cut; I guess it is really up to the board to decide where they are going to cut, but the one area that I have always had concerns about it is culture in the schools. As a person who speaks my language, there are fewer and fewer younger people that speak my language, so it is a major concern. One of the areas where there was an attempt to try to keep this language alive was in the schools. With these cuts, I am afraid that those programs will be the first ones to go.

I know teachers who provide this program in the schools and they are struggling along. They don't have the type of material they require and they are struggling along to provide this program as best they can. You have a place where we have a problem where they don't have the material to begin with, and if these cuts come along, I am afraid it is going to be harder for the teacher and the CECs to provide that program.

Mr. Speaker, one of the official languages adopted in this Legislative Assembly is the Dene language I speak in my

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constituency. It is recognized by this House and it should be provided in the school, no matter what. There should be a condition to the Minister that the official languages be taught in the schools.

Carrying on, Mr. Chairman, with the education program, I want to focus your attention to one of the areas I have always raised. People are falling through the cracks in education and training. There are some people in my communities who don't have an education. There are a number of them who have never gone to school. They are adult men and women now. They have asked that there be a program developed for them, so they can learn how to read and write. Nowadays, you have to be able to read and write. I haven't seen anything provided for them yet. I don't know whose responsibility it is. I've raised it in the House; people have heard me in the House before.

The Minister is shaking his head. Maybe he hasn't heard me before, but I did raise it in the past and I'll get some research done to prove it. It's a concern and I would like to see some answer as to how we can deal with the issue. People have come to me to ask for these kinds of programs and services, and I would like to see something come out of that.

I would like to talk about culture, as well, Mr. Chairman. Culture is very important. I've touched on it. Language in school is also important. There are people in the communities who want to develop and keep the culture alive and there are activities that volunteer groups put on to provide this. There has to be more of that and it's really up to the communities to do, and they are attempting to do so in a number of ways. I guess the major way is through language. This department is responsible for the language program and we know the language agreement with the federal government has been cut quite drastically. Maybe the Minister could tell me how his department is addressing this important issue with less money coming into territorial government coffers from the federal government. And, if there are going to be any cuts, I would like to know which areas they are going to be in.

In the area of employment, there is an income support program being developed by this department, along with the federal government. There is an initiative throughout the country to try to deal with the ever-increasing problem of social assistance and trying to work it into employment and training aspects. I think it's a very good initiative. It's really important to keep people in the communities abreast of the

developments. There needs to be a lot of communication and dialogue to keep people informed about the reasons this is happening. Already, we hear there is feedback on the national level from different groups against this initiative. But, in the north, we have a small enough population and people will understand the reason behind the program. There are people in the communities who depend on social assistance, yet there are some able-bodied people in the communities who could probably work if there was work available. I think it's important to have this program up and running and soon as we can.

The one concern I have is that social assistance is going to be taken over by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment at some point in time. I would like to know what is happening, to date, with this. Are there any time frames for when this is going to be transferred over? I've talked to people in the communities and regions who deal with social assistance at the present time, and people in Education, Culture and Employment who are eventually going to be taking over this program -- if it ever does happen -- and there is optimism on both sides that it could be properly handled.

Whenever a government does something, the ultimate goal is to provide good programs and services to the people in a community. The people who use this service have to be kept abreast and informed of the developments. I have a concern that this may not be happening and if information goes out to the communities through the media to keep people informed, that would be one way to alleviate the problems that may arise from this very important service we are presently providing.

In terms of the teacher education program, it is a good program and many people are taking advantage of it. I'm glad to hear that a program is going to be developed in the constituency I represent. I'm glad for that. I think there are going to be people who are going to take advantage of this career development program. There are teachers who have been trained through the TEP program for some time now who would like to go back to school. As you know, Mr. Chairman, once you've been educated in one field, you like to go back and get more training. Some people in my area have indicated they would like to go back and, if the opportunity is available, I'm sure they'd take advantage of it. A teacher education program trains teachers to become teachers but, after that, there should be an opportunity to get further education in that field, if they so choose.

The Minister talked earlier about the quality of education. He mentioned that there is the delivery, parent support and student readiness. There are parents who are very concerned about the education of their children and when students are ready, we deal with the delivery of the program and the quality of education. I think that's what is key. The deliverers of the very important programs and services of this government in the area of education are teachers and educators. They are key to quality education. I know it is a very touchy subject, but it is a fact that whatever we do here, there is a lot of discussion over the last four years on education. We have been talking about the quality of education and we even passed a motion to develop excellence as a principle of this department. Could the Minister tell me if one of the key elements of the quality of education in the north is the teachers' reception to the discussions and ideas that come from Members in this House? Are they open to the type of direction that is given by the people we represent? Is there cooperation between his department and teachers, to try to provide the best quality of education to the students as possible? Could he tell us how that situation is? Furthermore, if that isn't the case, what is he doing, as a Minister, with his department to deal with the situations where the quality of education is at stake because there is a lack of cooperation between the deliverers of this program and the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Sorry, Mr. Antoine, we missed the last comment you made. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

I was just finishing my comments. That is all I have to say for now. I would like the opportunity to say something further after listening to the Minister's reply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member mentioned the fact that I was shaking my head. I was shaking my head because we have been delivering adult programming for literacy for many years, both in English and aboriginal languages. What concerns me is maybe we haven't been talking to each other or

maybe we have misunderstood these issues. I would be most willing to help the honourable Member try to access the appropriate program and give ideas for programs that could be implemented in his community. We have been running programs, in terms of aboriginal language delivery. We have even been in situations where we don't have individuals who could run a program; for instance, in lifeskills development in the community. If there is a situation where we need that kind of support, I would be prepared to give the Member advice as to how we might be able to address that issue. Maybe we have been saying the same thing, we just didn't have access to the right information. I just wanted to articulate that, on behalf of myself and my department.

I do want to deal again with this issue on excellence. Maybe I will go back to a statement that was made by my colleague in 1993. When I became a Minister, just before then and coming into the first session at that time, I think through the standing committee, he made a very important statement that dealt with the whole issue of leadership. The honourable Member said: "Too many departments do not have adequate plans. And the plans and the planning process must be initiated by the Minister." If the honourable Member recognizes that, through the strategy we now have, we have laid out a framework by which we can try to address the concerns the Member has raised. It isn't a simple thing and the Member is very knowledgeable of how difficult it is in our small communities to try to bring some sense of importance to the value of education, particularly in the situations where parents may not feel it is an important issue. Most Members value the importance of education. Many Members here are parents. Like many here, the honourable Member has had an opportunity to go to other post-secondary institutions and see the importance of quality education. So I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that anyone here or myself, as Minister, would argue any of those issues.

What often happens is we have different ways of solving the problem. We have given much support and encouragement to the boards to develop what might be the best approach they could have for them to encourage more students to attend school. The first time I recall the honourable Member raising an issue in this House was regarding high school programming in Fort Simpson. Without that kind of support, he wouldn't see the number of students graduating from his high school since that argument came into the House. The value of high school

programming in our communities will get better results in the long term because our children are staying in school longer.

There are some people who question the quality, but I will never question the quality of the student who now comes out of Fort Simpson, because there is commitment to that program. That same result will happen in every other community.

In the last five years, the high school enrolment has increased over 50 per cent. It has gone from 1,675 students to 2,575. That is an incredible amount of work for us to take recognition for. We are graduating more. We have to be proud of the direction that we have received from the Standing Committee on Finance, Members of this Assembly and the support I have been given, since I have been Minister, from Cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, on the issue of language education, my view is that both the Dene Kede and the Innugatiit are going to be a part of our educational curriculum. It will not be an option. It is going to be part of the curriculum delivery. It enforces language and cultural education. I think it will pay its dividends in the long term, particularly if the teachers who are teaching the program are aboriginal. We won't have to have separate cultural inclusion programs when our teachers are aboriginal. The honourable Member has supported the teacher education program. I do hope that we are successful in accommodating the Deh Cho and the Sahtu this year. We have done it in every other region so far. So we will see the results.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member's region, through some very willing individuals, has produced a lot of teachers from the TEP program in Fort Smith. In fact, one of the individuals I think the honourable Member knows quite well: Mr. Andy Norwegian who plays a significant role in the development of language and language programming throughout the western Arctic. I think he's got a lot of expertise and my view is, if anything, there can be no doubt that his region is going to provide some good leadership, in terms of ensuring the success of the TEP program, once we get into it. But, it does require some planning.

The other issue, Mr. Chairman, is the income support program. I just want to say one thing, income support and social assistance are the same program. What we're trying to do in this area is to be more constructive about the use of social assistance in terms of education and training. We've heard about

that issue a number of times. It could also be helpful, Mr. Chairman, to those individuals the honourable Member mentioned earlier, for those who don't read or write. We don't want to create a situation where they end up on social assistance; we want to find a way to encourage them to go back to school to get those skills. There could be incentives in that particular area. We're doing that in a number of cases already.

I don't want to go on too much longer. I think, generally speaking, I realize the importance of the comments made by the honourable Member and take them as suggestions and advice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. The chair continues to recognize Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Maybe the Minister could reply to my comment on the quality of education and delivery. I said that over the last number of years, there have been a lot of comments and direction given by Members of this House with regard to education and I wanted to know if the deliverers of education in the communities, namely the teachers -- who are key in the area of quality education -- are receptive to the directions given in this House. I said other things about that as well, and wondered if the Minister would reply. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can indicate to the honourable Member that we have received nothing but support from our community teachers. I think what we need to do and what we're now embarking upon, is to work with the boards to set out some plan of action and to determine the spending of dollars in areas where we think can provide better support to our community schools to address the issue of quality educational programming.

I think the important thing is to make certain that the student who we're instructing has the capacity and skills to meet the challenges of the program, whether

it is improving their reading and writing skills, or the ability to use numbers. I think those are the kinds of things we should look at. We will work with the boards and the communities to address this issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

A final comment, which I forgot to mention earlier. With regard to special school development, I know the honourable Minister and his department have cut out the funding for the western Arctic leadership program in Fort Smith. Personally, I support that kind of concept. There were also cuts to the scholarship for Lester B. Pearson College out of Victoria. I just want to say that I support these types of incentives to students who want to take the exceptional road to education so they can come back to the north and contribute.

I have to go back to the one school, no longer existing, which used to be in Fort Smith: Grandin College, in which the western Arctic leadership program was based. There are people who went through this school and it provided leadership in the communities, regions and even in this Legislative Assembly. The students who participated in the western Arctic leadership program are presently benefitting from that experience. Some of them are in universities now, and are planning to come back to the north and their communities. I'm sure once they come back, they will be an asset to any regions or organizations they choose to be part of.

As for Lester B. Pearson College, a number of different people from the north went to this college and are currently in leadership positions and contributing to the organizations and communities they come from. I think that if they didn't go to these institutions, they might be doing the same things, but they are now contributing what they have experienced to what they are doing today. I think they are assets to the north and we should think about providing support to institutions such as this and programs like the western Arctic leadership program.

I just wanted to let the Minister know that I, personally, support these kinds of leadership programs we offer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. The chair now recognizes Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions on the definitive objectives of the department, and relating to the Minister's opening comments. I notice that under educational development, two objectives are to pilot a comprehensive student support model in which various health and social supports are delivered in and through the school, and to develop an early intervention protocol with the Department of Health and Social Services. I'm very much in favour of seeing these proceed.

My question is on the first objective -- about health and social supports being delivered in and through the school --- which talks about a pilot approach. In the Minister's opening comments, he said that the implementation would begin across the NWT in April 1995. My question is, is this to be a pilot project that will be found in every region of the Northwest Territories, or are we looking at one pilot project or perhaps two? Can we get a little more information on that, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say in response to that, that we are having discussions right now with the divisional boards of education and the boards of education and what we have found, generally -- and initially we had considered two pilot initiatives -- is that the regional boards are more interested in pursuing it in a much broader sense than we had originally proposed. What we are now doing is working with the boards to determine whether or not all the boards are interested and how many divisional boards we're looking at. It has expanded and more of the boards are now interested in considering the implementation. So we haven't reached a conclusion on that particular matter yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the program is changing that much, does it mean that there is less chance that

we will see these programs being offered in the next fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Chairman. I made a serious commitment to the direction. The only thing is it may take different shapes depending on the region. We do have a draft guide now for community action that we are using as part of the discussion. It is the basis by which we are dealing with this particular issue. It is entitled "Improving Children and Youth Services in Your Community." It is a draft, so maybe I can make copies available to all Members to get a sense of the direction we are undertaking. It is quite broad and the boards are reviewing it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would welcome seeing a copy of that. Thank you. Are either of the Yellowknife school boards involved in this project right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Unfortunately, the clock has struck 6:00 and the response will

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have to wait until tomorrow. I will rise and report to the Speaker.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for assisting us today. We look forward to seeing you again tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee

Report 4-12(7) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Do you have a seconder? Mr. Patterson. 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

Thank you. Item 21, third reading of bills. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Nursing Profession Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Nursing Profession Act, be read for the third time.

---Applause

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 17 has had third reading.

---Applause

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation immediately after adjournment. There will be a meeting of the Ordinary Members' Caucus at 9:00 am tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Friday, March 10, 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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

- Motion 15-12(5), Amended Terms of Reference for the

Advisory Committee on Social Housing

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 20, Loan Authorization Act, 1995-96

- Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1994-95

- Bill 22, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 1994-95

- Bill 23, Write-off of Debts Act, 1994-95

- Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Act

- Bill 25, Education Act

- Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act

- Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, No. 2

19. 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

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20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Elections Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---ADJOURNMENT