



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**7th Session**

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**HANSARD**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1995**

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**Speaker: The Hon. Samuel Gargan**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ballantyne, 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, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

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

Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Good morning. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Pollard.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

Minister's Statement 54-12(7): Ministers Absent From The House

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, the Premier will be absent from the House today to attend the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Vancouver. Mr. Todd will also be absent from the House today to attend a meeting in Ottawa with the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy on the future administration of community futures and business development centres programs.

I will be absent from the House Monday, April 3rd, and Tuesday, April 4th to attend a meeting with the Honourable Paul Martin in Ottawa to discuss the formula financing agreement and federal transfer payment reductions that were announced in the federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 55-12(7): Charter Community Status, Fort Good Hope

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the settlement corporation of Fort Good Hope will

become a charter community on April 1, 1995 and will be known as K'asho Got'ine. Fort Good Hope is the third community to become a charter community under the Charter Communities Act. The words "K'asho Got'ine," Mr. Speaker, is North Slavey for "Big Willow People."

Mr. Speaker, many individuals from the community were involved in achieving charter community status for Fort Good Hope. I particularly wish to commend Chief Isidore Manuel, along with members of his council, and Mr. Everett Kakfwi for their dedication and hard work in leading the community to achieve this goal.

The community charter developed by the settlement council and approved by the residents of the community is very progressive. The community charter allows council to enact a variety of by-laws provided for within the Charter Communities Act; however, a provision has been provided that permits council to seek the approval of the band assembly prior to voting on any motion or making any by-law. Mr. Speaker, this is truly an example of public participation in local government decision-making and an example of the flexibility for community government provided for under the Charter Communities Act.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to advise the Members of this House that the community charter of Fort Good Hope also adopts the provision of zero tolerance of violence against people. The charter requires that community council members conduct themselves in accordance with the zero tolerance declaration or risk being removed from council. Again, this provision is very progressive of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs continues to offer assistance to community councils who wish to explore the options available for becoming a charter community. As a further example of the department's support to interested communities, I am pleased to announce that the residents of Deline recently approved amendments to their community charter. These amendments allow for the number of appointed members to increase from four to five; change the name of "The Council" to the "Deline Dene Council;" and recognize that the band is known as the "Deline Dene Band."

Mr. Speaker, as Members will note, this department continues to place a priority on assisting in the

political development of community governments.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Caribou Carnival

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this weekend the city of Yellowknife celebrates Caribou Carnival. For over 40 years now, Yellowknifers have been participating in a wide variety of carnival events such as the caribou capers show, the ice sculpting contest, snowmobile racing and I understand this year there will even be a skydiving competition. There have also been various individual sporting competitions and I understand that the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine, has demonstrated some particular skills at Caribou Carnival in the past. I expect we'll see him out there defending his good efforts, in the past again this year in log sawing and so on.

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**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

The caribou king.

---Laughter

**MR. DENT:**

As some Members have no doubt already discovered, the Caribou Carnival cops have been making arrests for the past couple of days and I encourage Members not to take these arrests too seriously. It is one of the main ways that the Caribou Carnival raises its funds for operation, through fines charged by the caribou cops. Mr. Speaker, Caribou Carnival is a unique northern event which provides northerners with an entertaining break towards the end of our long winters. The carnival is also enjoyed by visitors from outside of the city as well.

Mr. Speaker, the highlight of the carnival has always been the Canadian Championship Dog Derby. This race requires a special combination of strength and

endurance from derby competitors and I would like to extend my best wishes to all those competing in the dog derby this weekend.

I would also like to recognize members of the Caribou Carnival association and all of the carnival volunteers for their efforts in organizing this year's events. Chief among the carnival organizers is Vic McLeod, president of the carnival board. Other board members are Donna McLeod, Donna Bunt, Gerry Seaward, Lois Grabke and Lisa Staples. These people, in particular, have worked hard to put the carnival together but there have been countless other volunteers who have dedicated themselves to putting this year's carnival together and I would like to acknowledge a great debt of gratitude on behalf of all Yellowknifers for the work they have done.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that I will need a few more seconds to conclude my statement so I seek unanimous consent.

**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. Mr. Speaker, with the number of visitors in town and the events taking place, this year's carnival promises to be a tremendous success. I encourage everyone to join in the weekend's festivities. Get out, participate and have fun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On Career Fair Days

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week in Inuvik there was a major event which involved a lot of companies, corporations and government agencies. This event is one that has become an annual event in Inuvik and in the surrounding communities and it is a career fair day. Companies set up booths and invite students from high schools, senior students of elementary schools and colleges. It is also open to

the public. Every year, they seem to get bigger and better and this year was no exception.

The career fair day was held in the Inuvialuit building in downtown Inuvik and they took up most of the space available on the main floor. There were companies, corporations and government agencies from both federal and territorial levels. They all had very professionally designed and developed booths and provided a lot of information. Parts of these displays were then moved on to Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Fort McPherson.

I would just like to thank all of the organizers and people who participated in career fair days because it gives our students an opportunity to look at jobs that are available and the types of training and development they need to be able to obtain and achieve these jobs. I would like to thank, again, the people involved and the students for attending these career fair days. Mahsi.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Member's Statement On The Use Of Acronyms

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I think it's important that we, kabloonas, also talk about our language and culture, what's left of it. Today being Friday, I would like to talk a little about acronyms and it may take me a little more than my allotted time, I should warn Members. But, now that you're in the chair, Mr. Speaker, we have a little more time on Fridays than we would otherwise have.

Acronyms, these little devices are peculiar to my first language, which is English. As far as I know, they aren't employed by the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. Once again, the aboriginal people have achieved simplicity and elegance in refusing to use acronyms in place of confusion and incoherence. But for the sake of those who are blessed by not having English as their first language, I will explain what an acronym is. An acronym is made up of the first letters of words which make up an expression. I first came across the use of acronyms as a young boy when people started calling me DP instead of Dennis Patterson.

---Laughter

I thought that was quite flattering and it was being used fondly, until I found out that DP is actually often an uncomplimentary term for a displaced person.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that so far, I haven't had very much influence. At a recent meeting of the Nunavut Caucus with the Nunavut Implementation Commission...

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Patterson, your time is up. Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

I seek consent to continue, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I attended a recent meeting of the Nunavut Caucus with the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the executive of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and there were also officials of the Division Review Committee and the Special Joint Committee on Division present. Or maybe I should say at the meeting with the NIC, NTI, the DRC and the SJCD.

---Laughter

That meeting was held in YK in the LA, by the way. I learned at that meeting of a completely new acronym which has been devised by the capable bureaucrats who are assisting the NIC in planning Nunavut. This one had me completely flummoxed. I had to stop and ask what this term meant. As far as I can see, this is a completely new acronym invented by the Nunavut planners. I must, therefore, announce that my impression is that rather than banning acronyms, Nunavut is likely to inflict more of them upon us.

I will tell you about this new acronym. Just as everyone has become familiar with what a PY is -- I think you all know that a PY is actually an acronym for

a person year -- they can be half people too, or as we learned the other day in the...

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

(Microphone turned off)

---Laughter

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Yes. Half people are just as important as full-time people. As we learned in Mr. Arngna'naaq's Renewable Resource supp the other day, PYs can even be quarter PYs.

---Laughter

I think this one could be subjected to abuse or misunderstanding. In case you think I am joking about the dangers of acronyms, I want to tell you a little story before I conclude.

One of the perils of using acronyms is they can have unintended consequences. You have to be very careful, for example, in choosing a name for an organization because the acronym may contain an unpleasant surprise.

I have been pressing Mr. Nerysoo for months about giving college east and college west new names and I am very delighted that he has resolved the question recently with some very inspiring new names. But now I want to warn the Minister that he is faced with finding a name for the Inuvik campus of the new Aurora College. He was musing the other day that perhaps it might be appropriate to name that campus after a person who has made a great contribution to education in the region. I just want to warn him that he should be very careful in selecting this name because when I was on Cabinet way back when, and when I was Minister of Education way back when, we decided to create a college out of the adult vocational training centre in Fort Smith, or the AVTC, as it was fondly known. So we decided the college needed a new name and we thought the democratic way of having it would be to have a name-the-college contest and let the students and the good people of Fort Smith decide the name.

So, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet was about to approve the contest winner for the new college at Fort Smith and make it official, when suddenly someone said wait a minute, what about the acronym. I want to warn Mr. Nerysoo, before he finalizes the new name for the Inuvik campus, especially if he is going to name it

after a person, ask that question. What about the acronym? The name we almost gave to the Fort Smith college, Mr. Speaker, was Stewart Hodgson Institute of Technology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr Patterson. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Development Of Cadillac Mine Site In Nahendeh

**MR. ANTOINE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about a mining possibility in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, the Cadillac Mine site has existed in the mountains west of Fort Simpson for quite a number of years. In the past, attempts to develop this mine site have not been successful. This mine site sits along a river called Prairie Creek which runs into the south Nahanni River. That is the world-renowned Nahanni National Park, which is an international reserve. A Vancouver-based company called San Andreas Resources Corporation is conducting a pre-feasibility study on the old mine site, Mr. Speaker. Factors of the study are zinc, lead and silver. This is about 100 kilometres north of Nahanni Butte.

Upon favourable results of this study, a full feasibility study will be undertaken and should be completed by this spring. Accordingly to company personnel, economics of the project continue to appear very positive. Representatives of San Andreas Resources met with the public in Fort Simpson and in the Deh Cho communities during the week of January 25th of this year. The purpose of the meeting was to bring everyone up to date on the developments and proposed activities of this mine site.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of San Andreas Resources as they have been working along with the local and regional economy, so that appropriate measures are ensured and their operation has little impact on the environment. Also, applaud their efforts in maintaining a link with the communities in the region.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, all too often in exploration, extraction of the products by southern firms has been done without significant benefits to local residents and in total ignorance of our environment, in some cases. When I think of those times, Mr. Speaker, I think the philosophy that southern companies are exercising now and have adopted in their dealings here in the north should be the basis or standard for any and all activity proposed by all outside firms. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Canadian Championship Dog Derby

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today will mark the 40th anniversary of the dog races in Yellowknife. First called the dog derby in 1955, the race then was 50 miles long and ran for only one day. That race was won by Yellowknife trapper Alfred Drygeese using the old toboggans and his regular team. His first prize winnings for that day was \$50.

Over the next eight years, the Yellowknife dog derby evolved from 50 to 100 to 150 miles and became known as the Canadian Championship Dog Derby in 1962. Ray Beck Sr. won that race after having mushed all the way across Great Slave Lake from Fort Resolution, then back again after the race. This indicates the stamina of both the racing dogs and the mushers of the time. Incidentally, Mr. Beck was here last year, and this year he's here as a spectator.

From 1968 to 1972, the derby fell into decline mainly from a lack of sponsorship and committee organization. But in 1972, the newly-formed Yellowknife Rotary Club undertook the running of this derby. This year will mark the 24th year of that undertaking.

In those past 23 years, we in the Rotary Club have seen many more improvements to this major racing event. Prize money has gone from bags of dog food and small cash awards to a total of some \$32,000 in prize money, plus subsidiary prizes such as gas, dog food, trophy and other mementoes. This year's first prize will be \$10,000.

The racing dogs, the sled and public interest have all changed. Dogs have become smaller now and bred for racing, not pulling the heavy loads they used to with the trappers. Mushers no longer use toboggans, they use specially designed racing sleds with teflon runners. But the biggest change is the amount of public interest shown in these races. Mushers from all over the Canada and the United States congregate here to race. Last year, we had a musher who originally was from Europe. This year, we have a lady from France who is the first really true European racer. She will be racing here using some sled dogs of one of the Beck racers.

In Europe, sled dog racing is a growing sport in the European Alps. There are even races now being held in the Andes Mountains of South America, all of which indicates the general...Sorry...

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Whitford, your time is up.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

I seek consent to continue.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Member for Yellowknife South is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mushers from all over Canada and the United States...Last year, we had a musher from Europe. This year, we have a lady musher from France who will be racing for the first time in Canada. She is going to be racing further...This is kind of a training run for her. She will be going to South America. There are even races being held in the Andes Mountains of South America, all of which indicates the general increase in both sponsorship and sled dog racing as a spectator sport.

We have 12 teams racing that start off at 12:30 today and they will run this 50-mile course for the next three days. It's nice to see, Mr. Speaker, that this tradition continues. Although dogs are not used on the trapline as they once were, dogs still play an important part in our northern culture and I want to take this opportunity to wish all of the visitors, both from the United States and from Europe, and certainly our Yellowknife people, and we have people from Fort Smith racing,

all the best and a safe competition over the next three days.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On Implementation Of New Rent Scale

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will talk about something that isn't too "Friday." Today is the 31st of the month and tomorrow is the beginning of the new rental scale implementation. As we all know, it was to be April 1st and that is tomorrow. This is something that people are sort of dreading. Although tomorrow will be Saturday, it is going to put a lot of pressure on a lot of our people with this new rent scale.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, there are a lot of people. They are small communities, 28 of them will have rental hikes, 14 will stay the same and five will decrease. However, there are very few people in the community who will see decreased rent, and some rent will stay the same. But, as a small community, the majority of the tenants will see rental increases. This is unfortunate and I'm sure this will put a lot of strain on them.

Mr. Speaker, there was a question put forth by one of the MLAs from the east about evictions; I'm sure this is something that we will see and it's a reality that we will have to face. So, during question period, I will pursue this matter about the rental scale that is being implemented tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 308-12(7): Progress On Responsibility For Police Service

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:**

Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Koe on the 10th of March of this year.

Mr. Koe asked an oral question concerning the cost of policing services related to the strike at Giant Mine. The total strike-related costs are \$2,076,289. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a group of young people in the gallery who are part of the Rotary Northern Experience Program. These young people have been sent to Yellowknife by their local Rotary Club and are hosted by the Yellowknife Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, this is a program intended to give more Canadians and others a chance to experience a bit of the north and some of our lifestyle. The 19 members in the group -- from places like Alberta, Saskatchewan, B.C., even three exchange students who come from Germany, South Africa, and Finland -- Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome this group to our House.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 368-12(7): Multi-Income Residences Under New Social Housing Rent Scale

**MR. PUDLAT:**

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in my Member's statement, my question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. He responded to Dennis Patterson's question, as I understood it, that there would be no evictions without further investigation. For instance, if they have more than one person making an income in a family and an elder living in the house, how would they go about

reviewing as to who in the house is not paying. Because he said that there would be no evictions at all if just one of the people in the house would be evicted, what about for that one person who is not paying? How would you deal with that person individually? Will they be evicted? Or, could you further clarify as to what you would do with this one person? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 368-12(7): Multi-Income Residences Under New Social Housing Rent Scale

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new rent scale is based on a certain amount of trust of the tenants to be reasonable and responsible in paying their rent. For example, in a unit if any individual is not paying their rent, the local housing authority would consult with that person and try to set up -- if they fell behind in their rent -- a repayment schedule with that individual. And then if all else fails, the very last resort would be an eviction notice would go to that person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tenders are about to go out for major capital projects in the Northwest Territories and I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services, what is the status of the review of the business incentive policy that has been undertaken by his department? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The Minister responsible for Public Works and Service, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the fall of last year, we had Cabinet approval for a draft -- and I must

emphasize "draft" -- business incentive policy. We also submitted that to the Standing Committee on Finance in order for this to go to a consultation process. I believe that we are still getting letters. As a matter of fact, today, going through my files, we have received letters from business people in the north that want their concerns addressed when we finish rewriting this policy.

Once the policy and the first round of consultation is done, then we will rewrite it as best we can. Then we are going to go back to the business community to see what they think of it and hopefully this will be in place this year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my concern, Mr. Speaker, that we are about to tender well over \$100 million worth of capital projects in the Northwest Territories. Will the BIP be modified, improved, strengthened in time to be applied in the awarding of tenders for the coming construction season? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, last fall, in the Legislative Assembly, raised many concerns about southerners or outsiders coming into the communities working when northern businesses had reflected in their tenders that they would hire local people. Very few, but some turned around and hired southern people and brought them in. We didn't have a hammer or a penalty in place that was large enough to stop this from happening. We have already made changes to the tender documents so that if a northern

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contractor puts in his tender document that he is going to spend \$100,000 in Iqaluit on local labour, he



had better spend it, because if he doesn't he will be subject to penalties. For example, we can lift the contract from him or we can remove his business incentive policy and remove the contract as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear that the Minister has put in those kind of measures, even in advance of a revised BIP. I would like to ask the Minister, since the days and months of this government are now numbered, whether it is the Minister's determination to have in place a new and improved business incentive policy during the life of this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It was my intention to do that when I started this process, the review of the business incentive policy, and it is still my intention to try to get it done. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, now that it appears that we will be having a final session of this Assembly in June of this year, can I ask the Minister, can we expect to have, for that session, tabled a new business incentive policy. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 369-12(7): Status Of BIP Review

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is my intention to have it done in the life of this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**MR. ALLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1994 when I asked the Minister about the government parking spaces, the Minister made a commitment to this House that he will be raising the cost for government parking spaces in Yellowknife to market rates. When I asked the Minister again this week, what rates were being charged for these spots, his answer was that the government was only charging an amount equal to the government's cost for electrical, lot maintenance and lot lease. This rate is still significantly lower than the market rate. Can the Minister explain why his department has decided to provide -- after he made this commitment to charge market rates -- parking spots for government employees at a much lower rate than the current market rate? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I received is that for parking spaces in Yellowknife as well as other communities, they are based on the user-pay policy. That is what it costs the government and that is what employees pay. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Alloo.

Supplementary To Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, this still does not answer the question I asked him back on November 1, 1994. He committed to this House that he would look at raising the rates up to market rates, since it was unfair competition to the private sector. I wonder if he is going to uphold his commitment so that it will be fair competition in the private sector.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what I said. I'll look in Hansard and get back to the Member. I don't know if I said all that he just said. Once I read Hansard, I will answer your question, Mr. Allooloo. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Mr. Speaker, is he taking the question as notice or what is he doing?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I read the Hansard, I can answer the question better to see if what he said is what I said. Thank you.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

So, Mr. Morin, are you taking the question as notice?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

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Supplementary To Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister has tried very hard so that this big government doesn't compete with the small private sector that sometimes he has a hard time staying alive. We heard on the news this week that the Centre Square Mall is having a difficult time staying alive. There's parking involved in that too. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, since he has tried very hard to make government services compatible with market rates -- for instance, housing tenants are paying market rates -- is he going to direct his department, like he said he would, to raise the parking costs according to Yellowknife's market rates? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 370-12(7): Status Of Charging GNWT Employees Market Rates For Parking

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have Hansard from the fall in front of me and I don't know whether I said I would look into it. What I will do is look at Hansard, look at the commitment I made to the Member, discuss it with my department and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Final supplementary, Mr. Allooloo.

**MR. ALLOOLOO:**

(Microphone turned off)

**MR. SPEAKER:**

I'm sorry, Mr. Alloo, but that was your final supplementary. Item 6, oral questions, Mr. Koe.

Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**MR. KOE:**

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 1993 the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions tabled a report on Arctic College. Subsequently, on March 10, 1994 the Department of Education, Culture and Employment tabled their response to that report. I would like to follow up on some of the issues raised in the ABC's report on Arctic College with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

One of the recommendations was that the Minister table in the Legislative Assembly a draft strategic plan for each of the proposed colleges prior to the introduction of legislation to establish a new college system. Subsequently, we've adopted legislation creating two new colleges. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of the development of the strategic plans for the two new colleges?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because there was a division of the Arctic College into two different colleges, there was a need for the colleges as they are now named, Nunavut Arctic College and Aurora College, to review the document that had been proposed and to submit a strategy for each separate college. The department has received the draft strategies. We have not responded and are reviewing the documentation to respond to the strategy after which we will be meeting with the boards, collectively. The meeting should take place, I believe, in mid-April so we can go over the strategies and, from there, we'll have two documents to present for public consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**MR. KOE:**

One of the concerns raised by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions had to do with the responsibilities of the Minister, as outlined in the act, to determine the policy respecting the operations, programs and priorities of the college. The recommendation of the committee was that the formal process for the delegation of responsibilities from the Minister to the new boards be prepared and tabled in the Legislative Assembly for discussion. My supplementary to the Minister is when is he proposing to table this formal process outlining the delegation of responsibilities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to undermine the concerns the honourable Member has raised about the reporting process but one has to recognize that it was only on the 1st of January that we established the two colleges and requested them to come back with a new strategy reflecting their separate institution status. It has taken some time for them to develop their draft reports because they now have different responsibilities. Once there is clear indication of the direction they want to go, we will then review the assignments and determine the authorities those boards will have. Part of that comes from legislation but another part comes from directives of the Minister. We need some time to review the documentation before we lay out the directives for each board of directors.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**MR. KOE:**

I appreciate the dilemma the Minister is in because these are recent changes, the colleges have just been separated and the new boards are now functional.

But the Minister is still responsible for both college systems and I'm trying to determine the status of the strategic plan because included in the strategic plan are the operational plans and included in that, obviously, are the budgets. My supplementary is on what basis, then, has the Minister been approving the operations of the colleges. We are now coming to the end of a fiscal year and the colleges have to start gearing up for their fall programs. I'm wondering what information and what basis the Minister is using to make decisions so that colleges can prepare for their fall programs.

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**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you. It's a good question but I believe I've answered it a number of times for Mr. Patterson already.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

(Microphone turned off)

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fact is there is a formula proposed by the department which reflects the division of the resources based on the programs presently being offered in the various campuses and colleges. The programs now being offered will be based on those programs and the location of those programs. That is part of the debate that Mr. Patterson tried to raise in the House regarding the division of PYs and programs. Those things are not going to be determined until we get the strategy but hopefully we can respond to the delivery issues that Mr. Patterson has raised in this House on a number of occasions, including the priorities that each board has identified and each of the leadership has identified as required in each particular college area.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**MR. KOE:**

Thank you. Another of the recommendations of the committee was that the college develop a formal process for obtaining the input of community education councils on local programming and planning. I don't think we can emphasize enough the need for community input into our programs and services. I would like to ask the Minister what's happening in terms of trying to achieve this recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 371-12(7): Status Re Development Of Strategic Plans For New Colleges

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Mr. Speaker, that's really the responsibility and the task of Arctic College themselves. We're not involved in the day-to-day operational issues. I can advise the honourable Member that in one particular region, in the case of the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort area, there is a case of a collective group of people getting together to review the whole matter of training educational programs. In the case of the Nunavut leadership meetings, prior to that there was a collective group of people who were involved in the divisional boards of education. NTI, NITC, I believe, got together to begin the process of addressing the educational training needs in those particular respective areas.

These are larger bodies that are getting together and in some instances there is a collective group of individuals who get together on a regular basis. It's my hope that once we get all the career centres established, that part of the responsibility will be a collective gathering of individuals who are involved in education and training so we lay some groundwork and framework for the kinds of training programs that would be offered by Arctic College.

The other component that's important here is whether or not we are delivering the programs in our schools so they meet the challenges for the labour market that's in their particular region or in their community. So I think that's an important part of our planning process.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a Member's statement some time ago, "Implementation of Social Housing Rental Scale." I still have concerns in this area because I have been hearing a number of concerns from my constituents as well as from the Cape Dorset Hamlet Council and Broughton Island Housing Association board raising their concerns. This government has been working very hard in the last three years to try and eliminate violence and family problems, yet as the hamlet of Cape Dorset put it together, this rental scale has the potential of creating more of the direct social problems, such as suicide and family violence. The way the rental scale is structured is being looked at as a subtle attack on family structure. I would like to ask the Minister, in the development of the proposed new rental scale for social housing, has the Minister of the Housing Corporation considered the potential problems that will certainly be created within the households as a result of sharing of rental responsibilities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, one of the principles of the new rent scale is trust of tenants and the trust that they'll uphold their responsibility to pay rent. Hopefully this shouldn't create a problem because all tenants will be responsible and pay rent according to the dollars they make. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated in my Member's statement, most of the Nunavut communities outside of the bigger centre communities like Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, there are no private housing markets in these communities that could be an alternative to solving some of the problems. Mr. Speaker, a two-year period is not a long enough time for the high-income earners to prepare and try to get their homes in place.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not talking about the problem of collection of rent; I'm talking about the outcome of the family members having to pay rent if they are working in one household. In the communities that I know, the reason a lot of the families are living together is because there is a shortage of housing. I am very baffled, Mr. Speaker, that the Housing Corporation has not

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been able to meet the needs of the housing requirement, yet this kind of rental scale is being implemented. Has the Minister considered the potential problems that will certainly be created within households as a result of sharing of rental responsibilities?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new rent scale was put into place and when it started off it was because of the federal government telling us that we don't charge proper rents in our communities and they would take back the dollars from us. I'm not talking a very small amount of money, it's millions of dollars.

We have a choice. We either treat all people equally throughout the Northwest Territories...And the Member must realize that in the majority of the communities, there was a change to the rent scale in 1983 and that was done overnight. So in those communities the change is there and there's still a need for housing in those communities, as well. The federal government made it very clear to us, if we were not going to charge equivalent to what southern Canada is charging, they would take back money from us. And that would create a lot more hardship

on our people than the rent scale, because we will lose dollars that we don't have and we won't be able to build new stock.

The new rent scale is going to encourage higher-income people to get into home ownership. We have long waiting lists, I know that. We have overcrowding, I know that, in all our communities. But if we continue to sit back and do nothing, that will never change. We have to encourage people to get into home ownership, and then free up houses for low-income people who desperately need them. That's what we're attempting to do. So it's the lesser of two evils, I believe. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite well aware of the problems the Minister is facing in terms of CMHC asking for this type of money he was just talking about. I don't think a two-year period is a long enough time to try to get these high-income earners out of public housing, unless the NWT Housing Corporation commits to allocate units within two years to all the high-income earners. My question is, will he do that, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The phase-in period is not two years, it's four years at 30, 30, 30 and 10. That's the phase-in of the new rent scale. The rent scale has gone through the community consultation, regional consultation, the Advisory Committee on Social Housing and there have been a lot of comments and good recommendations from communities, regions and the committee on how to implement the new rent scale. Some people even thought that what we should do for high-income earners over the CNIT was throw them out of public

housing, that they shouldn't be in there and they should get their own house. They thought we should do that overnight. We didn't do that. We phased it in more gently. We agreed with people that we wouldn't come down with a sledgehammer and force people out of units. We agreed there were reasons to phase it in so they could access home ownership.

Last year, I know that when we allocated access units in a lot of the communities, I was left with 40 units not allocated that people wouldn't take-up because it didn't pay for them to. Why would I pay \$1,000 a month to own a house when I can rent a house from the Housing Corporation for \$100 a month. That seemed to be the attitude. Now, let me assure you there is a great interest in the home ownership program. People's attention is there and they are being taken up. The take up is very good. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**MS. MIKE:**

Mr. Speaker, let me make some corrections. The 40 units that weren't allocated was not because there weren't enough applicants. For some reason at the regional level, these applicants weren't approved when they qualified and that has been the history, Mr. Speaker. It was only very recently when the Minister insisted that the units be built in the communities that they were taken up. That is the great encouragement that I see, Mr. Speaker.

There are, I think, other reasonable alternatives which I think would be more effective. Doesn't he agree that in the determination of assessable income for a household, the spouses should be the only couple who are assessed for rent and that other family members who are staying with them not be included because there is no housing available? There is no place for them to go. I think that would be more reasonable if the department and the Minister considered, if both spouses are working, that their income is the only assessable income for increased rent. Doesn't he agree, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 372-12(7): Potential Problems Resulting From New Social Housing Rent Scale

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's how it is. If both spouses are working, both of their rents will be assessed, including other people working in the house. If there are two others, then their rents will be assessed as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

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Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, I have a question for the Minister for Employment, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Speaker, some time ago, I think it was back in early 1991, the Legislative Assembly addressed the issue of minimum wage. I recall it quite vividly because there was a two-tier system that we had put into place, one rate for on-road, off-road and one rate for under 16 and over 16. Since about four years has gone by since the minimum wage has been addressed, I'm wondering whether the Minister of the day has considered reviewing the issue of minimum wage. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Return To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Member. I have been having discussions with regard to that particular matter. I haven't brought it to my Cabinet colleagues for consideration. We have reviewed the minimum wage of the Northwest Territories compared to some other jurisdictions across the country and find that, generally speaking, there are other jurisdictions that are almost

comparable to the minimum wage we have. In fact, some of the provinces are reaching the level of minimum wage we have at this time. There are some that are, in fact, higher.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said that he has discussed the issue so I would like to know whether the Minister has considered possibly raising the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have considered it and what we need to do now is have discussions, as we normally do, with the business community to see if the potential for increases has a bearing on the economic circumstances of northern businesses. Another component that still concerns me, and we have had a number of discussions on this matter with some of our Justice representatives, is the two-tier system.

I know the intent and the arguments put forward by the former Ministers, but there is a possibility that there could be Charter implications with regard to the two-tier system and we're reviewing that matter. It is one of the issues that we need to consider as part of the changes if it has to happen. The most important component, however, is whether we're prepared to proceed with changes to the level of minimum wage.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that there are concerns with the two-tier system. The two-tier system, I recall vividly, was developed by the will of the previous Legislative Assembly to ensure we had in place a fair equitable system unique to the Northwest Territories, an on-road and off-road system. I would like to ask the Minister if he is committed to the continuation of the two-tier system which is reflective of the uniqueness of the north, or is he going to be persuaded by Charter implications? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem with the two-tier system happens to be the age issue. It's a difference between the age rather than on-road, off-road. There's a situation where there is a minimum wage for a group of individuals at a certain age and below and another age and above. That's the area of concern we have. However, I won't debate that matter.

The concern is, Mr. Speaker, other than having reviewed the documentation myself and having discussions with the department -- and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that we're in favour of the idea of raising the minimum wage -- we have not heard any arguments from Members of the Assembly recommending that possibility to us.

So, we are inclined to stay at the minimum with the exception that -- personally, I don't have a concern as a Minister -- other jurisdictions across the country are in fact at the same level or above our minimum wage. The fact is that the cost of living for the people of the Northwest Territories is much higher than other jurisdictions. If the honourable Member would wish to make the recommendation and give that advice, I would be inclined to approach the business community with a view that we are seriously considering the increase.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Supplementary To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether or not the Minister would consider reviewing the labour rates and labour standards with regards to minimum wage rates for the people of the Northwest Territories, to determine if the continual cost of living over the past years would warrant an increase in minimum wage. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Nerysoo.

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Further Return To Question 373-12(7): Review Of Minimum Wage Rates

**HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the suggestion made by the honourable Member, I certainly will do that. Hopefully we can come back with some advice. Part of the process will also include a discussion with the business community as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 374-12(7): Principles Of Employee Assistance Program

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Mr. Speaker, as is pointed out in the report of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, for care givers to effectively do their job, it is necessary for them to be well first. We heard that many were in need of help themselves and, therefore, not truly ready to help others deal with their problems.

For that reason, one of the recommendations in the report was that an employee assistance program be established by the government; in effect, heal the healers first if we are expecting them to be able to help the community heal. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the government is working on the development of an EAP model and implementation plan. Could the Minister outline the principles on which the program will be based?



**MR. SPEAKER:**

Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 374-12(7): Principles Of Employee Assistance Program

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that it is any secret that we have been looking at a human resource plan for the Government of the Northwest Territories. That comprises a number of things; the affirmative action policy has to be looked at and one of the other key areas is an employee assistance program. I believe that the original person who brought that forward, when he had this responsibility, was Mr. Kakfwi.

We were looking at that particular area and have been for some time, and have, perhaps, not on the same kind of lines that the committee made their recommendations to us. So, we are now re-looking at the idea that Mr. Dent raises. That is that the front-line workers should be taken into consideration first, and in that regard there has been some discussion with myself and the Premier in her capacity as the Minister of Health and Social Services, to maybe rejig this situation to address the front-line workers in communities. I don't have anything more than that on it at the present time, Mr. Speaker. It is safe to say that we are trying to change the focus at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 374-12(7): Principles Of Employee Assistance Program

**MR. DENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was initially planned that at least a pilot program would be in operation in fiscal year 1995-96. Is that still the plan of the government?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 374-12(7): Principles Of Employee Assistance Program

**HON. JOHN POLLARD:**

Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 375-12(7): Status Of Water And Sewer Subsidy Policy For Ingraham Trail Residents

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, in January, the Ingraham Trail Association made a request to the Minister about the possibility of the residents on the Ingraham Trail taking advantage of the territorial government's trucked sewer and water subsidy. Has there been an official response from the department to the association?

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 375-12(7): Status Of Water And Sewer Subsidy Policy For Ingraham Trail Residents

**HON. KELVIN NG:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we have not responded. We are aware of the petition and request from the residents in that area and the department is looking at the rationale in providing trucked water and sewage services to special service areas at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, we hear that negotiations are well advanced between the European union and Canada on the issue of straddling stocks of turbot. These negotiations, I fear, might effect the fledgling turbot fishery in the Northwest Territories. Firstly, have the Minister and his officials been trying to monitor and have input into these important negotiations? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the department has been trying to keep up with what is going on between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Spain. However, we are not able to get any details on where the discussion has

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gone so far other than what we see in the newspapers. They are not willing to give any details until an agreement is finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, is the Northwest Territories not, through the Minister of Renewable Resources, part of the committee that allocates quotas within Canada and particularly with respect to turbot? And doesn't that give the Minister and his officials access to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and their officials about negotiations that would affect the resources available within Canadian waters? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it would give us some representation in the discussions, but the discussions that are ongoing have been outside the Canada boundaries of the 200-mile limit. They have stuck with, basically, the international waters which are outside our boundaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the general thrust of these negotiations are that Canada gives up a share of its turbot allocation in these waters to the Europeans in return for the Europeans agreeing to more stringent enforcement mechanisms. I would like to ask the Minister, if the overall Canadian quota is reduced in these negotiations with the Europeans, is it not possible that this reduction in the overall Canadian quota will squeeze the allocations available within Canadian waters, particularly to applicant from the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that if there are any allocations given up by Canada in the waters within the 200-mile limit, that the Minister would have the decency to inform those who would be affected. I think that in the Northwest Territories, the area adjacent to the waters around the NTI agreement, if they are to be affected then the Minister would inform myself as well as the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, according to the Nunavut final agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, it sounds like we're outside the negotiating room when negotiations are taking place which could well affect the interests of potential Inuit fishermen in the Northwest Territories. Will the Minister undertake to actively promote and pursue the interests of the adjacent stakeholders in the turbot fishery during these negotiations and in the process that will take place in the coming year to allocate turbot licences within Canada? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Arnagna'naaq.

Further Return To Question 376-12(7): GNWT Input Into Fishing Negotiations

**HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will. In fact, I have met with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on a number of occasions and indicated to them that we had arranged for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to meet with officials of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. However, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, having just recently been formed, has had some of their own difficulties in their formation and staffing requirements and trying to address many of the organizational difficulties that an organization might have in trying to set up.

So, Mr. Speaker, in an effort to try to speed up any discussions that the Northwest Territories might have in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, I recently spoke with a member of the regional HTA and in our discussions we wanted to come up with a way where we might be able to speed up the workshop that we had proposed. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to set this up later in the spring or early in the summer and hopefully it will be before allocations are made in area zero. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, we learned during the Standing Committee on Finance review of the main estimates that many capital projects from last year were delayed in the tendering. I would like to ask the Minister about capital projects for this coming year. The capital budget was approved this past fall. I would like to ask the Minister how are we doing with tendering. What proportion of this coming year's capital projects have now been tendered? We're not at the end of March. What proportion of those projects have now been put out to tender? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have it at my fingertips. Thank you for the notice of the question. I

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did send a note to get that information of how many tenders are tendered already and how many are left to tender. Since the briefing with the Standing Committee on Finance, I know we are still working with the departments on the problems that are occurring to try to get the proper funds in place so that we can tender at an earlier time of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister may not have the information at his fingertips, but I think it's my assessment from reading the newspapers that a lot of major projects have not gone out to tender yet. I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that it seems that once again we're late tendering many projects. Is it the fault of the Department of Public Works? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't say it's the fault of the Department of Public Works or the fault of any department in general. What I'm saying is that we had briefed Members of the problems that are occurring in the tendering process. Even by us passing the fall budget for capital projects, if we don't do other things, it doesn't help with passing the fall budget. There's a process that takes approximately

18 months, I believe, to get a proposal from the initial stage to tendering. We have a problem with the process and we're attempting to fix it, and that's the process of getting all the information from the client departments to the department, as well as the community consultation through the departments, then go to tender. Tender is the very last portion of it. As I've shown Members, the bottleneck is just prior to the consultation phase of it, prior to where we go to proposal call for architectural and engineering drawings. And we are picking up a lot of the slack once it goes into the private sector and once it does go to tender, so the majority of the projects are coming in on time and on budget. We're lucky to be able to do that under the existing process we are working under right now, and we are attempting to fix that process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, would one way of the eliminating these delays be to eliminate the fall capital project approval process, and instead tie the capital project approval process into the O and M session in February/March? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely not. The fall is the best time to pass your capital budget. We have a few kinks to work out with the departments and with Cabinet on some of the processes we're using right now. We have to streamline that process, and we're working with the departments to do that. Hopefully that will get accomplished. I believe I briefed Members in February or January some time on that issue. We are working to try to solve that issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Mr. Speaker, I take it from the Minister's response to my first question that he will take as notice the request for a status report on the tender status of the capital projects for 1995-96 and provide that information in a timely fashion to Members of this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 377-12(7): Proportion Of 1995-96 Capital Projects Tendered To Date

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, what I said to the Member is that I'll get a report for him and I'll make sure that I'll get it to him as soon as possible. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1995-96; Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Fair Practices Act; Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act; Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, No. 2; Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Act; Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act; 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; and, Committee Report 5-12(7), Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper, with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

I would like to call the committee to order. What would the committee like to do? Mr. Dent.

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**MR. DENT:**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that the committee consider Bill 1 and Committee Report 4-12(7), specifically to deal with the budget of the NWT Housing Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Okay, we will deal with the appropriations and go into the Housing Corporation. Do people agree with that, before we have a break?

**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

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

When we come back we'll get on with that. We'll have a very short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

I would like to call the committee to order. We agreed before the break that we would deal with the Housing Corporation and also with Committee Report 4-12(7). Mr. Morin, since this is your corporation, I wonder if you'd like to make some opening remarks, please.

Minister's Introductory Remarks

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am pleased to present the 1995-96 O

and M contribution and budget for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

For 1995-96, we are asking the Legislative Assembly to approve an O and M contribution of \$62.035 million.

As Members are aware, the federal government has not committed to any long term financial support for new social housing construction. However, the corporation still receives CMHC funding for the operation and maintenance of over 5,200 cost-shared rental units. This funding is provided under agreements with CMHC and will be in place for many more years. In addition to the funding provided by this government, it is estimated that during 1995-96, CMHC will provide \$48.82 million in O and M funding.

In 1994, the corporation undertook an extensive consultation process, with communities. During the consultation process the impact of the federal funding cuts was explained and the corporation received many suggestions on how to improve the delivery of programs and services.

Improving the way the Housing Corporation operates and delivers its programs and services to clients and communities will be a priority in the 1995-96 fiscal year. The corporation is developing a strategic focus for the delivery of social housing into the future. This will also include options for restructuring the corporation, to improve its effectiveness and to promote a client and community focus.

A plan dealing with the management of the government's staff housing program will be tabled in the Assembly later in the session. The Housing Corporation is working with the departments of Personnel and Public Works and Services, and the Financial Management Board Secretariat, to develop this comprehensive plan.

The corporation is a member of the social envelope committee and works closely with government departments to improve the overall delivery of social programs. A long-term plan for the provision of elders' and seniors' housing, and the community wellness strategy are areas where the corporation is working in partnership with government departments.

Corporation staff will also continue working with local housing organizations who are interested and able to take on a greater role in delivering housing programs. New partnership agreements which provide greater flexibility in the delivery of housing programs and

services have been developed in consultation with communities.

In November 1994, the Arviat housing association became the first LHO to sign a new partnership agreement. A second agreement with the Pond Inlet housing association was signed on February 1st. Agreements with Fort Providence and Fort McPherson are expected shortly.

Increasing community control and responsibility for housing programs is one way of ensuring that programs and services are provided in an effective manner.

To achieve this, communities have to feel comfortable taking on added responsibility and that means training. The corporation is developing a strategy that will lead to training and development to support housing staff working at the community level.

As well, the corporation has developed an assessment framework to identify the training and support needs of LHOs. An assessment of the Fort McPherson housing association has been completed. Other LHOs will be assessed over the next several months.

With limited funding for new housing construction, maintenance of our existing rental housing units is very important. The corporation is undertaking joint maintenance reviews in all local

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housing organizations. Community-specific action plans will be developed to improve maintenance operations.

Over the last year, the new down payment assistance program has been introduced. This program takes advantage of private market financing to build home ownership units. A forgivable down payment, up to a maximum of 25 per cent of the cost to build or purchase a new home, is provided by the corporation. The remainder of the cost of the house is financed between the client and a bank.

For the past few years, the corporation has been in a development mode. New home ownership programs and a new rent scale have been developed. It is now time for the corporation to review this process, to improve on what has been developed and to move toward greater community control of program delivery.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer questions from committee Members. Thank you.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Morin. Now we will go to the review of the main estimates by the Standing Committee on Finance. Ms. Mike.

Standing Committee On Finance Comments

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The inclusion of the Housing Corporation in the social programs envelope highlights the importance of adequate housing in the social needs of northerners. Committee Members frequently note that achieving the goal of adequate social housing for all northerners would have effects that would eliminate many of the social difficulties experienced by our people.

The effect of the \$47 million in cuts to social housing funding by the federal government in 1992 are still being felt quite strongly by northerners and by the government. But the committee is concerned that the Housing Corporation has still not yet responded to the "new reality" forced upon us by those funding cuts. The corporation has outlined plans for corporate restructuring; however, and committee Members hope that his restructuring will make the corporation better able to meet the social housing needs of northerners with the reduced funds available.

The fact that many of the corporation's staff work in headquarters -- almost 100 person years -- is the most obvious area of concern. Effective delivery of social housing needs a flexible, decentralized organization with most of the resources focused in the communities. Local housing authorities should be given the flexibility and the ability to be innovative, to develop solutions that will work for their communities.

Of course, the Government of Canada still has the fiduciary responsibility to provide housing for the First Nations of the north and of all of Canada. The committee appreciates that the government was able to arrange for about \$9 million in federal funding earmarked for providing housing on reserves, even though most northern aboriginal people do not live on reserves. This government, and its successors, must continue efforts to make the federal government live up to their responsibility to provide this housing.

On a related note, committee Members are concerned over the reliability of O and M funding provided by CMHC for rental housing. While the Minister assured the committee that the agreement with CMHC was a secure long-term arrangement, committee Members would urge the government not to take that funding for granted. The government must continually monitor the fiscal and political climate in Ottawa, and make every effort to prevent the federal government from considering this as another possible cutback target.

Finally, the committee wishes to again point out their concern over adequate housing for elders. Most elders would prefer to live at home as long as possible rather than move into an institution. Home care programs offered by the Department of Health and Social Services can make this possible. However, if the elder's home is inadequate, poorly heated, poorly constructed, or otherwise unsuitable, then home care is not a realistic option. The Housing Corporation should make the provision of adequate housing for our elders a priority in their goal of ensuring that all northerners have access to adequate housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Mr. Morin, would you like to deal with your estimates from your chair or would you like to go to the witness table? Would you like to call in some witnesses? How do Members feel about that?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Sergeant-at-Arms, maybe you could ask the witnesses to join Mr. Morin at the table.

Mr. Minister, may you could introduce your witnesses for the record, please.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Jim Nelson, vice-president of finance and to the right is Al Menard, president of the Housing Corporation.

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**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Welcome. We're on page 03-11, Housing Corporation. That's where the program summary is. Any general comments or statements from Members? Mr. Ballantyne.

General Comments

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

I have one comment and a question. It seems to me, with the track record of the federal government cutting back on the capital side of funding, the next thing they are going to do over the next few years is cut back on the O and M side of funding. I think it's almost inevitable. And, after they've cut it back significantly, they'll probably turn over the remnants to the provinces and territories. I don't see any other way that this is going to happen. If the Minister agrees that this is a chance that this is going to happen, what steps has the Minister thought about to pre-empt what is, to me, a sad inevitability facing us?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CMHC's O and M contribution to the Housing Corporation is provided under contractual agreements. Some of them end in the year 2030. While these agreements are legal partnership arrangements, we do not take them for granted. Corporation finance officials are continually monitoring these agreements and the financial situation in Ottawa with CMHC. We'll constantly do lobbying in the south to make sure they don't undercut our agreements.

On February 27th, I received a letter from the Honourable David Dingwall, Minister of CMHC, to confirm the federal government's commitment to continue supporting these agreements. That takes care of the agreements, but there are other ways of cutting it, possibly. For example, we've already seen the new rent scale driven by CMHC saying you either do this or this is what you lose. We will continue to work with them to try to convince them of the special needs in the Northwest Territories. Even though we lost \$47 million, we haven't been hit as hard as other jurisdictions in this country.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Ballantyne.

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

I agree with the Minister with the fact that there are many ways for them to weasel out of contractual arrangements, definitely. They just have to change some of the criteria, and they can change them dramatically. There are a number of civil servants who work for Ottawa who thought they had a contract with the federal government as far as their employment security and they found, much to their dismay, that wasn't true.

Monitoring is fine but I really think, and this is just a personal view, that you have to make pre-emptive strikes in these situations. We were monitoring the capital side of it and it doesn't matter, you can monitor it and one day, they tell you you are cut. I brought this up to the Minister before, has the Minister considered taking the bull by the horns and saying that you want to now, with the existing funding, negotiate it being turned over to the Government of the Northwest Territories or the Government of the Northwest Territories in partnership with aboriginal groups now, when we actually have money that's significant?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In review of the budget with the Standing Committee on Finance, I made a commitment to the Member we would look at that and see how we could accomplish that. The corporation is doing that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Ballantyne.

**MR. BALLANTYNE:**

Perhaps the Minister can give me a time frame when we can expect a formal response from the department as to whether or not they're going to pursue this and, if they are, how they're going to pursue it.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not the only ones pursuing this course of action. My understanding, from staff corporation meetings that we attend in southern Canada with other jurisdictions, is that other jurisdictions are also interested in this. We have a ministerial meeting of all jurisdictions in the very beginning of July. We'll pursue it there and hopefully come to some kind of conclusion by the fall. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Morin. Does anybody else have general comments or statements about the Housing Corporation? Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I have a few questions arising from the honourable Minister's opening comments, one concerning the agreement he mentions with the housing associations. What kind of agreement is this? For instance, he mentions LHO. What does that stand for?

---Laughter

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Morin, maybe you would like to answer that question.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Local housing organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

The other question I had was what kind of agreements are these? I would like to know because if it is something that is attractive, I might want to promote them in my communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are partnership agreements with the local housing authorities or associations and I would be pleased to get that



information for the Member in a package, so if the associations she represents are interested, she could give that information to them as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Ms. Mike.

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**MS. MIKE:**

The other area that I have concerns about and that I have been asking about during question period is the rental scale. I don't want the Minister to misunderstand me, I don't oppose the idea of increasing rents, but the way it is being implemented. I feel that this department or the corporation could have done better dealing with the high-income earners in the level II and III communities before any kind of consultation took place with the Housing Corporation and the housing authorities and associations and hamlets, that these clientele should have been consulted first and made aware that this rental scale was coming about to give them leeway where they could start saving money if they wanted to become home owners. As a result of the way the consultation took place, these clients who are living in public housing with high incomes are going to be practically working just to pay for their rent.

I feel that within four years, I don't think the corporation will be able to get these people totally out of public housing, especially if their rent is going to be increased and will leave them very little to save up to try to get their own home where there is no private housing market. On top of that, let's not forget a lot of these families have never known home ownership until very recently when HAP was introduced just a few years ago. So the concept of home ownership in Inuit communities is very new and it takes a while for some clients to get the concept of ownership of a home, a little longer than those who have been exposed to it all their lives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thanks. That was a general comment, I believe. Maybe, Mr. Morin, you would like to respond.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An attempt was made to develop this new rent scale back in 1988 when Mr. Butters, the previous Minister of Housing, tried to bring it in. It was in 1988 or 1989. It didn't pass at

that time because there were no home ownership programs for people to even get into. Then it resurfaced again when I became Minister. At that time, I think we were subsidizing higher-income people around \$2 million or \$3 million a year in some of the communities where other home owners weren't being subsidized that same amount.

Besides the financial problem we have, if we didn't do anything then we would have a major financial problem in the Housing Corporation and this government because the money would have to come from somewhere. So one of the guiding principles to develop a new rent scale was so that everybody was treated fairly throughout the Northwest Territories so everybody had access to programs and it didn't matter which community you lived in. The smaller communities are basically given the same fair treatment.

The process we went through when it was first introduced and then to go through the consultation process it was close to two years. All that time there were public announcements, meetings in every community, regional meetings, we also had the Advisory Committee on Social Housing to look at it. That's how we ended up coming up, in the end, with the rent scale. Immediately, when the rent scale was passed in the House, people were informed because that's the only time we could really inform individuals saying this new rent scale is now a fact. Before, it was just a perceived document, it wasn't something that was finished.

Also, we're working very aggressively with financial institutions and changing our programs and consulting with those people who it affects. We're finding great success; for example, in Iqaluit there's been a great uptake on home ownership and that's good. I believe I can safely say that we don't have any units not allocated this year. The units that are being built, people are saying we want those units now.

In my communities there is still a waiting list for home ownership, and we've had this policy in effect since 1983, that's quite some time ago, and there's still a waiting list because we just don't have enough money to pay for housing for everybody, to finance housing for everybody in the north who needs it. I believe there's a need of 3,600 units and we just don't have the money for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Morin. Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's responses. Another thing is when these high-income earners finally access home ownership, in level II and III communities they are either employees of the GNWT or housing associations or the hamlet councils. These organizations fall under the same category as the GNWT staff where there is a \$450 a month housing allowance provided. I'm wondering whether the corporation staff or the Minister have considered that, in the end, it will still cost this government some money because of that housing allowance provision for GNWT staff, if there has been any analysis done for home owners or those who have just become home owners who used to live in public housing and no longer live in public housing, whether that would be an additional increase in expenditures within the GNWT or not. I would like to know if there has been any analysis made on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I doubt it very much if that type of analysis would have been done or the value of doing it. If you take 100 households and average out the cost of running a Housing Corporation public unit, it would be \$2,000 a month and right now, people are paying an average of \$150 a month rent. That doesn't come close to the average of \$2,000. I don't think that would make much difference.

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The key is we have to always remember that we're operating under the principle of treating everybody fairly in the same wage category. That's the principle of the scale. If people have higher incomes and can afford to operate and own their own units, we can assist them to do that. That's our job. That person is going to end up owning the unit in the end which is good for that person and the family. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Another thing I wanted to say for the record, Mr. Chairman, is I want the Minister to know, regarding family members living in one household, the Inuit

culture is not like southern cultures where, more than likely if Mr. Morin or the deputy minister have relatives living with them, they would charge them rent.

Whereas, for the Inuit, it is unlikely for a grandfather, having two grandchildren living with him in public housing, to charge them rent.

I am concerned about that cultural difference where the household income is to include family members who are working. There's a potential for tension to build where there is already tension. Because in the first place, these grandchildren are sometimes living with grandparents because the lack of housing in communities. That's one of the reasons family members live together, whether they are working or not. Housing associations and authorities have only been addressing those most in need in the community so a lot of the time, single adult family members end up living with their family because there are no houses, even private rental units, available in the communities.

I think we should look very closely at including family members' income in assessable income. In the three communities I represent, I know this is the reality and it is of concern to me and I think it is also the concern of Nunavut communities that don't have a private market for homes. I think the rental scale should be continually monitored to see what kinds of negative impacts it will have in the communities. For instance, I know that when rents are increased, it will mean less money being spent on the few private companies that exist in the communities. It might have direct impacts on local businesses as well.

It's not just the families who are affected. It's going to affect local businesses as well when people's disposable income is reduced as a result of increased rent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Ms. Mike. Mr. Morin.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that any policy of the Housing Corporation, including this rental policy, should be monitored. We have a process in place now through community and regional consultations and communication we're now developing now with local housing authorities that any problems that arise should be addressed. I completely agree with you that we shouldn't ever make policies, carve them in stone, and say that's the

way to do business. We should be flexible and see how the policy affects people, how they react and address that. I agree with you 100 per cent on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Morin. Any other general comments or statements? Mr. Patterson.

**MR. PATTERSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to be as positive as I can and state that, although this rental scale increase has been difficult for all of us, I was impressed with the consultation process the Minister initiated, the open way in which the corporation structured those consultations. I know it was expensive but I'd like to see, as much as possible, that process continued. There were many good recommendations that came out of that process, not just relating to the new rental scale but also relating to the matter of delivering housing programs. We all concentrated, in the special advisory committee and the corporation, on the rent scale and home ownership programs because those were the big priorities this year but there are a whole bunch of other issues that should be addressed.

As Ms. Mike was saying, there is a need to monitor the implementation of the rent scale to test out whether the assumptions that it was based on are actually going to work. I want to support continued consultation of the kind that was undertaken, even though I know it was expensive. I think it built up a lot of goodwill where there wasn't a lot when this started out.

One of the things that was strongly recommended in the Baffin consultations was that there be increased resources to the housing associations -- and I guess they're called local housing authorities now -- to take on the additional responsibilities of counselling people in home ownership, encouraging them to consider it, and helping them to prepare for the responsibilities, such as management of money, et cetera. I want to note that the corporation has delivered on the strong recommendation in that area. At least my community tells me there were increased resources provided to the local housing authority to use at their discretion in implementing the new rent scale and I would like to say that that has made a difficult job a little easier.

Secondly, my general impression is that the home ownership programs that have been put in place are working. I'd like to particularly mention the down

payment assistance program, I was delighted to find out there is a high take-up in Baffin of that program. This is good for the region and for the corporation because, for a relatively small investment, the corporation gets home ownership units, compared to the costs of the other home ownership programs. It may be that the down payment assistance program is specially suited to high-income earners who are not desperately looking for alternatives to social housing, and that program seems to be particularly well-suited to Iqaluit where at least it's a community where there are options for people to build their own homes using private companies. I'm not sure that those same options are available in smaller communities, but at least in Iqaluit it seems to have been taken up by a number of people.

The Minister and his officials know that I was very upset about the arbitrary decision to declare single people ineligible to apply for home ownership programs that were in place this year for the round of applications for the coming construction season. I think the Minister and officials have agreed that a fairer way of approaching this problem would be not to exclude single persons from applying, but rather to say they can apply;

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however, priority will be given to families, especially families with children. Any of the single people I've talked to who wanted to apply felt that was quite a reasonable thing, to give higher priority to people with families and children, but they were very insulted when they weren't even allowed to apply. I'm sure the Minister knows that a single person in the Northwest Territories, especially a long-term resident, especially an aboriginal person, is not really a single person. They have an extended family, they're part of an extended family network and it's very unlikely that they'll live alone in a home ownership unit if they get it. Many of the people who applied this year from my riding were Inuit, were people who had their own children or responsibilities for their extended family, and they were in that category where, if they had been able to apply for the program and get houses through the home ownership programs, they would have benefitted their whole extended family.

I will be asking at the appropriate time, I believe the Minister has reconsidered that approach for the coming year and I think that will be an improvement.

I would also like to say that I think the jury is still out on just how this rental scale will work. I want to see

how it affects the arrears in my community. The housing authority in Iqaluit has worked very hard on getting the arrears down. I hope that the trend will not be that the arrears will start to build up again when we implement the new rent scale.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I've begun to have some doubts about this 30 per cent rule, the 30 per cent of gross household income. The reason I have doubts about that, Mr. Chairman, about whether it's really going to allow people enough money to survive on is that if we turn to the private sector and look at the rules that banks follow when assessing what is reasonable for a family to pay towards a mortgage for a house, my understanding is that banks will not risk giving mortgages to households where as much as 30 per cent of the gross income has to be put towards the mortgage. The rule in the real world out there is that a bank won't risk giving someone a mortgage with that high of a proportion of the household income dedicated to the household expenses. The banks think that people who are paying that much towards the costs of housing aren't going to make it.

I think we may have to ask ourselves whether this is realistic, especially in the Northwest Territories, to take that big a chunk of household incomes out of the family and still expect them to buy food, Pampers, maintain a subsistence hunting lifestyle, et cetera. This is one area that I think we should closely monitor as we're assessing the impact of the new rent scale. Is it realistic? I know CMHC may say this is what you have to do, but we have to ask ourselves is it going to work. If it's not going to work and we start to find that we have to evict people because they can't afford to pay their rent, then we have real horrendous social problems.

As Ms. Mike said, for one thing, where do these people go if they're evicted? For another thing, do you penalize 80 per cent or 60 per cent of a household if 40 per cent or 20 per cent of the household refused to pay rent according to their share of the income? Do you penalize an elder who doesn't have to pay rent now because one or more of their children refuse to pay rent? Evict the elder along with the kids because a couple of kids didn't pay rent. I hope we don't have to deal with a lot of these questions, but if we have to start dealing with a lot of these questions maybe we should review whether 30 per cent is realistic.

Mr. Chairman, one other general comment in closing, and I'll have a few questions when we get into the detail. The Housing Corporation is changing radically.

It's taking on staff housing; it's no longer building houses; it's supporting people in home ownership; it's putting more responsibilities on communities, appropriately, to manage and maintain housing and implement the new rental schemes and the new home ownership programs. Because the corporation is changing so fundamentally, I'd like to see a new corporate strategy and corporate plan, new corporate goals and objectives, and I think that this work is being done by the corporation. I understand that there's a lot of rethinking of its goals and objectives and its structure. I think it's important for this Assembly to be made aware of the changes that are being discussed internally. They should be presented to us, we should have an opportunity to review them and comment on them. I hope that in the life of this government, that will happen. I hope we'll have a chance to get the benefit of seeing the work that I know the corporation is doing so the people of the Northwest Territories can, through us, assess what's happening and make comments on what's happening and make sure it's going to work.

So I'm going to be asking about the new corporation vision of the Housing Corporation and how this Assembly is going to find out about the work that's being done by the Minister and by his staff on retooling for the 1990s and beyond. Those are my general comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. I'd like to draw Members' attention to the gallery where we have Mrs. Violet Beaulieu. Members should recognize her today, she's the chairperson of the Fort Resolution Housing Authority. She's also Mr. Morin's mother-in-law who has come to keep an eye on him.

---Applause

All right, Mr. Morin, you have a chance to show your stuff.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to assure the Member that the consultation process will continue. It will be kicked up and running by March of this year. By the end of March, the process should start to kick in, the consultation process.

Restructuring of the corporation to help out the housing authorities; you're 100 per cent right that it is 1994. The way the corporation has done business in

the past has to change, especially in light of the \$47 million cut we had from CMHC, and the needs of the people we serve have changed. Home ownership is what we really have to impress upon people. We have to work with our community organizations to strengthen them so they can deliver the programs. Things that were delivered from headquarters where everything was centralized in the past have to be decentralized and I'll let the president expand on that later on today if a question arises.

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The new down payment assistance program is being taken up in many communities. It is a good program. So far, it looks very promising and is a way we can get approximately three or four units built for the price of one. It seems to be working out quite well. The Member for Iqaluit also raised the issue of single people being ineligible. Single people are now eligible but their priority is lower than married people or people with children. Families come first, single people will be at the bottom of the list but they will be eligible.

---Applause

There will be 30 per cent deductions on the rent scale. That is the maximum and will kick in only for the higher-income people. The majority of the people are between six and 20 per cent, I believe. You must remember we put in place the sliding scale this year where you start off at six per cent and go up to the maximum. A lot of people are in the scale and it encourages them to work. If it does present a problem, we will look at it, I guarantee, because we aren't in this business to starve or throw people out into the street. We're here to assist people and if there is undue hardship for them, we will make every effort to change that.

There is no way possible that it will penalize elders. If a person doesn't pay rent in a unit, an elder will not be evicted. Counselling will be in place for the person who doesn't pay the rent and if that doesn't help, then that person would be evicted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you very much, Mr. Morin. Are there any other general comments, concerns or questions? Ms. Mike.

**MS. MIKE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a few things that I forgot to mention. Mr. Chairman, if I sound like I'm being very critical about this, it is not to say that I think the corporation is doing a very bad job. I'm being critical in hopes that someone down in Ottawa is reading the Hansard of our Assembly, including Dingwall. First of all, I would like to encourage the Minister to, as he mentioned in his opening remarks, have the Housing Corporation take over GNWT staff housing. In just about all the communities I have visited, one of the things I have observed, Mr. Chairman, is that public housing has been better maintained than GNWT staff housing. When the corporation takes over GNWT staff housing, I'm hopeful that the Minister will seriously consider having the local housing associations and authorities maintain these houses.

The other thing is, I wanted to say, for the record, that I remember -- and this is way before the Government of the Northwest Territories was born -- when the federal government started building public housing. Most, if not all Inuit, were in huts. I remember when the area administrator of the federal government started allocating houses in Pangnirtung. Our family was approached and told that we had a unit; however, my Dad was not enthusiastic about it. My mother at the time went ahead and moved, taking all the kids with her, to the house, leaving Dad behind because he was reluctant to move into public housing. Dad was alone in the hut for more than one week but finally gave in and moved in with the family.

At the time -- and I'm sure the Minister has heard this all over Nunavut -- the rent was \$18 a month. I can't remember, some were as low as \$2 a month, I think. As a result, as I indicated earlier, there's a cultural difference in terms of looking at owning a home. Most Inuit communities have been exposed to public housing for a very long time. Initially, the federal government provided it and eventually, 20 years ago, the GNWT took it over. A lot of families remember that and it has been one of the obstacles, I think, in trying to get people to start owning their own homes. That has always been an argument.

There are still some huts that exist today, Mr. Chairman. One is in Clyde River and is owned by the elders. Traditionally, these huts only had one entrance but, because of how chaotic things could get, his hut had to have two entrances. I think it had something to do with fire safety. It's not even practical now to build your own hut if that's what Inuit families choose to do. In situations like this, what do we do? I

really hope someone down in Ottawa is reading the Hansard.

Another thing too, we have a lot of women working with reasonable incomes and even single mothers have gotten by, but this rental increase is going to have an impact on them. It's hard enough being a single parent, looking after children. A day's work is never over for a single mother and there are day care expenses they have to pay. A lot of these women are support staff, administrative clerks and things like that. This rental increase is going to have an impact on these individuals. It seems that when anything happens, it is always women who get affected the most. Those are the things that I wanted to say for the record, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Well, we have a few seconds before 12:00 pm, Mr. Morin, would you like to try to respond?

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities I represent are no different than the communities the Member represents. When the federal government introduced public housing in our communities, there were elders who told me that they had small houses built out of logs that they owned themselves. They were encouraged to move into public housing. They were told that the rent would be only \$5 a month and that's it, that they would only have to pay \$5 a month for 10 ten years and then that house is theirs. Their house was burnt down. When they moved in, they burnt down another house. That same story is throughout the Northwest Territories. There isn't much I can do about it because there is no legal documentation for me to fight that battle on behalf of those people. That is what I need.

Also, through the restructuring, we are looking at maintaining our public units better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you, Mr. Morin. I have to recognize the clock now. It is 12:00. I will rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Morin, for bringing in your witnesses.

**HON. DON MORIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

The committee will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Lewis.

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**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):**

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee Report 4-12(7) and would like to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Do we have a seconder? Mr. Ningark. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:**

Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:**

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

---Carried

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

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Mr. Speaker, meetings for Monday morning at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance and of the Standing Committee on Legislation and at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus.

Orders of the day for Monday, April 3, 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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 31, Recall Act

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

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

- Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Fair Practices Act

- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Retirement Plan

Beneficiaries Act

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

- Bill 24, Community Employees' Benefits Act

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

- 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 5-12(7), Report on the Review of

Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest

Territories: A Legislative Action Paper

- Committee Report 6-12(7), Report on the Review of the

Legislative Discussion Paper on the Draft of the New

Education Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:**

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until April 3, 1995 at 1:30 pm.

**---ADJOURNMENT**