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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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Day 39

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. I would like to congratulate you on being elected to the Assembly. Welcome to the Chamber.

---Applause

I would also like to welcome back all the Members from their break. We have plenty of sunlight here but maybe we need a skydome that would open somehow and get some air in here.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ng.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 75-12(7): Women's Biathlon Team - Canada Games Medals

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, May 27, 1995, a particularly proud moment for northerners occurred that I wish to share with Members. At the annual Sport North awards banquet held that evening, one of our outstanding sport teams received their rightful recognition and reward. Many of us have followed the media accounts of the plight of our Canada Games women's biathlon relay team.

At the Canada Games in Grande Prairie last February, the team skied and shot as a team at the highest levels to finish their relay race a close fourth, just behind Team Quebec. To finish that close behind such provinces as Quebec and Alberta was a

demonstration of the excellence of the performance of these young ladies.

During the race, Team Quebec had been "paced" by their coaches. Pacing is the practice of running alongside competitors to encourage and assist them. This practice is clearly illegal under Biathlon Canada rules and calls for a team's disqualification. Team NWT coach, Patti-Kay Hamilton, with the encouragement of other coaches and our own NWT mission staff, filed a protest with the games jury.

The games jury's final decision: Quebec coaches had indeed been pacing their athletes, but instead of the automatic disqualification of the team, which would have given the bronze medals to Team NWT, the games jury ruled that Quebec should only be reprimanded. Team Quebec was allowed to keep their bronze medals.

Mr. Speaker, we take great pride in the good sportsmanship and fair play that our NWT athletes demonstrate at national events. Our women's biathlon relay team demonstrated character and sportsmanship in the face of the unjust decision by the Canada Games jury. Mr. Speaker, many of us felt it was simply not enough to tell these three young ladies that they should satisfy themselves with this decision.

There have been three months of intense and persistent pressure brought to bear on the Canada Games Council to review and reverse this decision. Many letters and interventions have been made on behalf of the team. I directly contacted the president of the Canada Games Council, as did others.

At the Sport North awards banquet, the Canada Games Council's decision was announced, co-awarding the bronze medal to the NWT women's biathlon relay team. The medals, along with a statement from the council, were presented to the team that evening.

Mr. Speaker, justice has been done. We have shown that it is right to compete in the true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play and that our athletes can be rewarded for fair and honest competition.

I am extremely proud to congratulate our only medal-winning team from the 1995 Canada Winter Games. I am sure Members will join me in providing richly deserved recognition to: Judy Goodzek; Mary Beth Miller; Moria Green; and coaches, Patti-Kay Hamilton and Pat Bobinski. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 76-12(7): Bill C-68 - Update

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Caucus Subcommittee on Gun Control, I wish to provide an update on the status of Bill C-68, which amends the Criminal Code. A new Firearms Act was introduced in February 1995, and shortly afterwards was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. Public hearings were held in Ottawa. On the 24th of April, our Caucus Subcommittee on Gun Control made a presentation to this parliamentary committee. At that time, we identified the serious concerns of northerners about the impact of Bill C-68 on our rights and way of life.

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The committee criticized the severe penalties that would be imposed for possession of firearms without proper documentation and the provisions for lending, transferring and storage which were either unenforceable in the north or would result in injustices if enforced. We called for amendments which would suspend the application of Bill C-68 in the Northwest Territories. The governments of Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Yukon and Manitoba also presented briefs to the standing committee in May opposing the legislation. Recently, New Brunswick -- specifically, the Premier -- spoke out clearly in opposition, as well.

The James Bay Cree and the Yukon Council of Indians presented briefs on the 10th of May which challenged the constitutionality of the amendments, arguing that the amendments violated the terms of their land claims agreements (treaties), which require consultation on measures which affect their hunting rights. Ovide Mercredi of the Assembly of First Nations and Rosemary Kuptana of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada appeared on May 15th and argued that the bill violates the rights of native people.

The federal government struck a firearms task force, comprised of officials, to consult with native groups on the impact and implementation of C-68. This task force met with groups in Iqaluit, Yellowknife, and other centres and has a whirlwind schedule of consultation with aboriginal groups across the Northwest

Territories. The government of the Northwest Territories has been extremely critical of the quality of this consultation, which began with little advance notice and little opportunity for a meaningful dialogue between aboriginal people and the members of this task force. We have expressed our criticisms of the process to the Department of Justice and to the Minister.

Minister Rock announced amendments to the bill which made inadvertent possession of a firearm contrary to the act a summary conviction offence, in response to the criticism from virtually all intervenors that the proposed penalties in the bill for illegal possession were excessive. He also announced a change which will limit the powers of the police to search for firearms in a house. These amendments, while welcomed, do not go far enough to make Bill C-68 acceptable to the people of the north.

A controversy arose in late May when the Prime Minister was reported to have said that the costs of implementing C-68 were to be borne by the provinces. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice have since clarified that the upfront implementation costs would be borne exclusively by the federal government and, in the longer term, the costs of administering the firearms program would be covered by fees charged for the acquisition of licences and the registration of firearms.

Even with respect to the current firearms legislation, the federal government has taken the position that the costs would be covered by fees. The Government of the Northwest Territories has consistently expressed to the federal government that, whether in the context of current legislation and Bill C-68, the program cannot be self-financing in the north. Costs in the north are prohibitive. Moreover, many hunters cannot afford to pay any fees. The financing of the costs of administering gun control legislation, whether C-68 is passed in its present form

or not, must be the responsibility of the federal government and will, ultimately, come out of the pockets of taxpayers.

The standing committee wrapped up its hearings today and will likely report back to the House on Wednesday, June 7th. There will likely be a debate in the House of Commons, after which the bill will be referred to the Senate.

On June 1st, I wrote to the Senate on behalf of the Caucus subcommittee, inviting the Senate to visit and

hold hearings in the Northwest Territories. The Senate does not have the power to defeat the bill, but could propose amendments which the House of Commons could accept or reject. We do not yet know if the Senate is prepared to hold hearings or if they're prepared to travel to the Northwest Territories.

People of the north, like all other Canadians, remain strongly opposed to the universal registration of firearms. We must continue to express our opposition at every available opportunity, but at this stage, it will be expressions from northerners from all walks of life which will have the greatest impact. The Legislative Assembly has stated its position clearly and, as other groups express the same position, it will become clear to the federal government that this is truly a grass-roots issue.

The federal government remains committed to Bill C-68 and so far is only prepared to make minor amendments. If we persist with our opposition and other Canadians do the same, there is still a chance that the federal government can be persuaded to make meaningful changes to this bill. Later today, I will table the resolutions and letters we have received from various community councils and organizations. Each details why the group is concerned and in opposition to Bill C-68. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 77-12(7): Nomination Of NWT Director To The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC)

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House were asked to submit names of individuals deserving of a nomination to fill the vacant NWT director position on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC). I would like to thank those Members who did suggest individuals for this important volunteer position. In all, 11 people were nominated, making the final selection a challenge.

The Arctic Winter Games are governed by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, comprised of two directors each from the NWT, Yukon and Alaska and one each from

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Alberta and Greenland. The NWT nominates one of its members from the public at large and the second position is filled by a senior government official. In making a decision on our nominees for the public at large director position, factors such as experience, availability and willingness of each individual to volunteer their time were considered.

Mr. Speaker, after carefully considering the many fine candidates, I am pleased to advise Members that I have nominated to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, Mr. Don Sian of Iqaluit.

---Applause

Mr. Sian's nomination was forwarded to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee and ratified on May 31st. I will be pleased to distribute to Members later today a short biography of Mr. Sian. Members will see that he has the experience, skills and commitment required to represent the NWT effectively. As a resident of Iqaluit, Mr. Sian will provide valuable input from a Nunavut perspective in leading up to the creation of two new territories in 1999.

I would ask all Members to join me in congratulating Mr. Don Sian on his nomination to the AWGIC for appointment as an NWT director. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Thompson.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

---Applause

Member's Statement On Election To The Legislative Assembly

MRS. THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise in this House today as the newly-elected Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Aivilik. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my constituents in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, and Repulse Bay for their support and faith in my ability to represent their

interests. I can assure them that I will work extremely hard as their MLA to ensure that their needs are met and their concerns are addressed by this government.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the Honourable John Todd for looking after the interests of Aivilik while the seat was vacant.

---Applause

Taking on this additional responsibility was very much appreciated by the citizens of my constituency.

To all Members of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for your warm welcome and your very kind offers of assistance should I have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working closely with all of you during this session. A special thank you is extended to David Hamilton for the time he has spent with me

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the challenge that lies before me, and I greet it with an open mind and the determination to succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement Welcoming Member For Aivilik To Assembly

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Nunavut Caucus, I would like to congratulate and welcome our new Member for Aivilik, Manitok Thompson. We look forward to working with you in the remaining few months of our 12th Assembly. Welcome and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Extending Apologies To Constituents And MLAs

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that I can inform my colleagues in the Assembly that I

want to apologize to my honourable colleagues regarding an unfortunate incident which I was involved in recently. This incident has caused me personal embarrassment.

Mr. Speaker, in the future I will make every effort to avoid placing myself in such an embarrassing situation, and I offer my sincerest apologies to my constituents. If this has caused any of my honourable colleagues embarrassment, I offer them as well my deepest apologies. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Extending Apologies To Constituents And MLAs

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on a very important issue regarding an incident a week ago. First of all, I would like to apologize to my colleagues here in the Assembly for the incident that happened one week ago. I sincerely apologize. Also, it was a great embarrassment to me for the unfortunate thing that happened. But, Mr. Speaker, as for my constituents of Lake Harbour, Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq, I want them to hear from me that I apologize deeply for what happened. I don't want to put my constituents down, but I did and that is very unfortunate and I sincerely apologize. Even though that might be the case, my representation of those communities will not be altered as I have done in the past. I sincerely regret the incident that happened and I want to apologize to my constituents. That will not stop me from my deliberations in this House.

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As a Member of the Legislation committee and also the Public Accounts committee, I wanted to rise today in this House. It will be up to those two committees whether they want to keep me on those committees, or if they want to let me go from those committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Drug And Alcohol
Awareness Walk

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday afternoon all schools in the Yellowknife area took part in what was probably the single largest participation event ever held in Yellowknife. Mr. Whitford and I joined about 2,300 marchers, which is about 14 per cent of the population of Yellowknife. The group was made up mostly of grades 4 to 12 students who marched through the streets of Yellowknife to the community arena, in the first Elks and Royal Purple drug and alcohol awareness walk ever held in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, the organizers of this event did an exceptional job. They arranged for each school to wear T-shirts in different colours: yellow; white; turquoise; red; et cetera, and the event was organized and timed so that each school emerged onto Franklin Avenue one after the other to become one huge team parade of young people and colours. It was a successful participation event, not just because of the numbers who participated, but because the drug and alcohol abuse awareness message reached such a large percentage of the target population: kids from grades 4 through 12, the ages where most drug experimentation and use begins.

In Yellowknife, the prevalence of drug use by young people as well as the recent outbreak of youth crime, is disturbing to all of us. It is not simply a police problem or solely the responsibility of teachers and counsellors. It is a community problem to be addressed by all of us who live in the community. This was one of the messages that the Elks and its sister movement, the Royal Purple, were trying to get across in staging this event. Mr. Speaker, just as important was the goal to raise awareness among school kids of the social, psychological and financial costs of drugs. There is no doubt that the organizers of this spectacular event deserve a great deal of credit for having achieved both those goals with flying colours.

The financial totals haven't been calculated yet, but organizers are pleased with the fund-raising efforts; in particular five major sponsors including BHP Diamonds; YK Direct Charge Co-op; RTL Robinson Enterprises; Creative Paper and Supplies; and, NorthwesTel provided substantial lump sums without which the whole event would not have been possible. The money raised is to be used to fund programs to

teach young people about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, programs like information hotlines, crises centres, drug-free dances and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the Elks have raised the money and now it's up to all of us to come up with ideas for effective programs that can be used to fight the war on drug and alcohol abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement Welcoming Member For Aivilik
To Assembly

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Members. On behalf of the Ordinary Members' Caucus, I would like to welcome the new Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Maniok Thompson.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Graduation Ceremonies Of
The Native Women's Training Centre

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 26th, I was honoured to attend the graduation ceremonies of the Native Women's Association of the NWT Training Centre in Inuvik. This training centre is managed and operated by the Northwest Territories Native Women's organization. I would like to thank the Native Women's organization for managing the centre. I would also like to thank this government and the federal government, through the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission, for providing funds to allow this program to continue.

The training centre now has their own building. It was a transfer of an old building from this government to them, and they've managed to raise the funds to renovate and now own and manage this building.

But the focus on this night was to honour the graduates. There were 13 people who were quite proud to receive their graduation certificates. It's an eight month program of basic awareness and basic reading, writing and arithmetic. A lot of these people have been away from school for a long time and are now getting back in to take some education. The graduates -- and I'll just name them -- are Jimmy Arey, Donna May Arey, Velma Cardinal, Jimmy Dillon, Elizabeth Firth, Cherie Harrison, Sarah McCullough, Anna Pingo, Joyce Rogers, Sadie Ruben, Joyce Stewart, Kristine Firth and Lena Avivgana.

I would like to congratulate these people on receiving their certificates and wish them all the best in the future. I would also like to thank the instructors and the administrators of this program and again thank this government and the federal government for their continued support.

They've also changed their name. Their program is now going to be called "Visions and Dreams." Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Member's Statement On New Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels For Canadian Navy

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the next four years, the Canadian navy will receive 12 new Maritime coastal defence vessels. These general purpose ships will undertake a full range of coastal patrol duties including search and rescue missions, defence and sovereignty patrols, mine counter measures, operations and fishery patrols. This overall contract, valued at some \$650 million, is scheduled for completion by the year 1999. At that time, the last vessel will be delivered to the navy with a final allocation of six ships each to the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans. They forgot the third ocean, Mr. Speaker, but we can work on that one after awhile.

These ships will be capable of conducting naval vessel tasks previously undertaken by larger vessels. In addition to providing traditional support to the navy, the new ships will supply more effective and efficient, cost-effective support, introducing expanding mine

sweeping operations and capabilities and a superior capacity to inspect in this, the most important part, the ocean bottom.

These new ships will be named, representing cities. A ship's name represents a source of great pride to its company, and over time, the ship's identity and tradition takes on a very special meaning to the crew, building morale and esprit de corps.

In this particular case, the new ships will be named after a city or a town of each Canadian province and territory, thereby linking these communities across the nation. The lead ship will be named Kingston, and, once commissioned, another of the new vessels will be named the Yellowknife.

The Honourable David Collenette, Minister of National Defence, said it is fitting that we honour these strong communities across Canada with lasting and significant ties to the Canadian navy.

The Yellowknife will follow in the rich tradition of ships that carry the names of various cities during the last world war. These vessels formed the backbone of the Royal Canadian Navy and were providing escort services. They were instrumental in keeping the supply lines open between Europe and North America.

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the pride that we northerners can take in a new coastal defence vessel that will bear the name of the capital city of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, and we in the territories look forward to sharing an honoured northern name with this new ship. I would like to wish her safe sailing and a proud and distinguished future.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any further? Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement On First Grade 12 Graduation Ceremonies In Coppermine And Cambridge Bay

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 27th and June 3rd, I had the honour of attending two historic events in the Kitikmeot. These days marked the occasion of the ceremonies for the first grade 12 students to graduate from Coppermine and Cambridge Bay.

Ceremonies were held May 27th at Kugluktuk School in Coppermine to recognize and honour Ms. Dawn Harvey and Mr. Amos Evyagoitalok; and on June 3rd at Killinik High School in Cambridge Bay to honour Ms. Angela Kadlun, Ms. Sherry Nulliyayuk, Ms. Kim Tologanak, Mr. Terry Isnor and Mr. Andrew Porter.

As I stated earlier, these seven students are the first to graduate from the community-based grade 12 high school programs. There will be many more graduates to follow in the years to come as students remain in school for longer periods of time as a result of being able to stay in their home communities with the support and encouragement of their families and friends.

On behalf of all my constituents, I wish these seven graduates the best of success as they face the next challenge of continuing their education or entering into the workforce. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating them on their achievements and in wishing them success in their future endeavours. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 3, Members' statements, Mr. Todd.

Member's Statement On Welcoming Member For Aivilik To Assembly

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Manito Thompson on her election as Member for the Aivilik riding. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Thompson, her husband, Tom, and her family for many years, and I know that Mrs. Thompson will do an excellent job as a Member of this Assembly in representing the interests

of the Northwest Territories and Keewatin. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Grade 12 Graduation Ceremonies In Fort Simpson

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize all the young people in the north who are at a turning point in their lives, their high school graduation ceremonies. That means that 12 years or more of their schooling is finished. It's over for them.

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However, Mr. Speaker, education, as we all know, is a lifelong learning experience, and I encourage all the students and the graduates to continue in their education because I believe that education is very important and it's a key to a lot of success. It's a key for opportunities here in the north. There are studies which show that the best and better jobs go to better educated people. Therefore, I encourage the young people of the north to continue with their education.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to inform the House that on Saturday, June 3rd, I attended the Deh Cho divisional board high school graduation ceremonies in Fort Simpson along with you and your family, Mr. Speaker.

It was a very beautiful day. The ceremonies took place down on the Flats, as we call it in Fort Simpson, where we have a dance circle where the Pope went down to the papal site. It was a very nice day. Twelve students graduated out of the Deh Cho divisional board. This is the third year in a row where we have grade 12 students who graduated.

I would like to congratulate all 12 students. I am especially pleased to say that only two of the 12 actually came from Fort Simpson. That means that the rest came from the surrounding smaller communities, which is the type of achievement that we would like to have when we start having grade extensions back in the smaller communities.

So with that, I would like to congratulate the 12 students and wish them every success in the future.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Lack Of Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to be setting a very good example to my new neighbour in the Assembly, who I welcome, because my statement today is longer than two minutes...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. PATTERSON:

...but I am worked up about this issue, and I know Members will show some tolerance because this might be my last session in this Legislature.

---Laughter

I am tantalizing you. Mr. Speaker, when your Caucus committee on Bill C-68 went on April 24th to make the first appearance after Justice Minister Allan Rock before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, we noted that many Members of the specially appointed firearms task force were present in the committee room to hear our submissions about the major problems posed by Bill C-68: that it is not understood by the people of the north; that compulsory registration will not be respected in the NWT any more than the present firearms laws are respected; that Bill C-68 represented nothing less than a full-out frontal attack on our people's way of life on the land and that the bill would certainly have the effect of eroding respect for law and order and turning our people into a culture of criminals.

We urged Members of the committee, or the chairman, to come to the north to directly hear from our citizens to find out how this bill, as drafted, would undermine what is unique and special about our northern way of life. We were told by officials of the Department of Justice, who made up the firearms control task force, don't worry, we will soon be coming to the north to hear first hand from us, that this is how they would learn about our concerns and that this is how they would make changes to the implementation

of the regime so that it would respect the aboriginal right to hunt and take into account our modern way of life outdoors in the north.

Mr. Speaker, this promise of consultation was a fraud and one of the most cynical efforts at manipulation I have ever seen in my 16 years of public service as an MLA in this Legislative Assembly. My constituents in Iqaluit were the first group of people in the NWT to be "consulted" by the firearms control task force. They were not consulted. They were shamelessly used and abused. I would like to get unanimous consent to continue, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to complete his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members. The fact that the leader of this delegation proudly identified herself as an aboriginal person who had previously worked for the Assembly of First Nations, made the manipulation and exploitation of my constituents even more upsetting.

Why am I so offended by what happened? Firstly, if you are serious about consulting people, you let them know in advance that you are coming. What did this group do the week before they came to Iqaluit? They called the secretary to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board to talk about a possible visit to Baffin. When he left the office on Friday, nothing had been confirmed. On Monday morning, when he came to work, he was astonished to find three members of the firearms control task force had arrived in Iqaluit the day before. They wanted him to organize a meeting that morning before they caught the plane to Igloolik that afternoon. The president of the HTA was on his way out hunting. He was stopped, as he prepared to leave, on the beach loading his komatik, and very generously agreed to attend this very hastily called meeting. Other people were called on short notice to come to the meeting. As a result, it did not get under way until mid-morning. When it became obvious that there was not time to even begin discussions of the implications of the bill that morning, participants were asked to continue through the lunch hour, but without lunch. When it became further obvious that there was not time to even begin to discuss the implications of the bill at that meeting, the committee had the nerve to

suggest that their itinerary allowed them to be in Iqaluit the following Wednesday between 12:00 noon and their 3:00 pm plane to Rankin Inlet that afternoon and we could meet again between planes, they offered.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of approach is not consultation. This is a speeding express train. My constituents now know what it is like to have been railroaded.

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At the end of the meeting, people from my constituency politely told members of the firearms task force that they would prefer to have materials circulated in advance and that they would prefer to be given notice of consultation visits. I was not so restrained. I told the members of the task force that their approach was totally unacceptable and warned them that they should not use this meeting as a justification to say they had consulted us. This was not consultation, I told them; this was a juggernaut! We do not want to be used to make the Minister's political agenda easier in Ottawa.

So, what did I hear a few days later on CBC Morningside when Peter Gzowski interviewed federal Justice Minister Allan Rock about this new bill? Peter Gzowski understands the north. He knew that we were feeling left out, overlooked and disregarded. So he asked Mr. Rock about the people of the north. He asked Mr. Rock about Rosemarie Kuptana's expressed concerns about Bill C-68. Mr. Gzowski said to Mr. Rock, "Ms. Kuptana says the Inuit do not feel consulted." Mr. Rock replied, "But Peter, the Inuit Tapirisat themselves put us on to the people that we should consult in the meetings that are going on in the Arctic now. They identified which communities, which people, which groups should be involved in the consultation which has started. We have people in the Arctic doing that talking, listening and designing a way in which this should be implemented in aboriginal communities."

How shameful that Mr. Rock should suggest that Rosemarie Kuptana and ITC has bought into this sham of a consultation process.

This is manipulation, Mr. Speaker, by a government with a majority and a Minister who is cultivating support from his Toronto constituents at the expense of those of us who will be most affected by this invasion of our lives. This is a majority running roughshod over a helpless minority. We seem to have no one to speak for us. We are proud of the fact

that our MPs have achieved great recognition in the new Government of Canada. Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew is a Member of Cabinet. Mr. Jack Anawak is a parliamentary secretary. But if our MPs dare to vote against the bill, we know they will be stripped of these honours. Ms. Blondin-Andrew herself described the choices she faces in an interview on CBC Mackenzie on May 16th. She said, "My whole life has been directed towards what I am doing now and I am not about to take that lightly by losing my whole career on one vote."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that MLAs in this Assembly are against this bill, as drafted. Our Minister of Justice is against this bill. We heard his statement today on that subject and other statements he has made recently. The NWT Association of Municipalities is unanimously against this bill. NWT aboriginal leaders are against this bill. None of my constituents support this bill. So who will speak for us? Who will consult us properly and with respect? What safeguards does democracy provide for us? Democracy is not working very well here. There is a majority in Parliament led by a Toronto Minister pushing his urban agenda on the minority in remote rural and northern communities. Considering the sham consultations, the lack of respect shown to my constituents, the federal Minister trying to implicate Rosemarie Kuptana and ITC in the sham, the federal Minister saying we are listening, considering the threats to muzzle our MPs, considering the rush to ram this bill through, this process looks more and more like manipulation and tyranny and less and less like democracy every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Just a general reminder to the Members, we just had discussions regarding unsigned letters and the issue of us making statements about people who cannot defend themselves in this House. Just a reminder to keep that in mind when you make statements. I appreciate that good intention in the statement is there but I will point out that people cannot defend themselves and are being put in that situation.

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Victory In Europe Celebrations

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. More than 20 years ago, when I moved to Yellowknife from the eastern Arctic, there were half a dozen people who lived in Yellowknife at that time who had fought in the First World War. Four of them had even been at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Those people are now dead, however we have a generation of people who fought in the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, I was in Europe just recently during the celebrations of the Victory in Europe Day. More than 20,000 Canadians went to Holland to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Victory in Europe. It reminded me of 1945 when, as a young kid, I remember every street having street parties. There were hundreds and hundreds of kids, races, dances in the streets and so on. I know many veterans in Yellowknife who fought in the Second World War and who were there during that time, realize that although it seems very remote, and such a long, long way away from here, that was the last world war, we hoped. That war -- and Mr. Patterson has just remarked on what democracy is all about -- really, was to try to do something to protect the democratic institutions that we all value. It was a battle against dictatorships and totalitarian systems.

For that reason, many of the veterans from Yellowknife realized, after visiting Europe, that they should be doing something even here, as far away as we are, from where that war took place. It was a world war, it wasn't just a local war. It was something that embraced the whole world. I know very soon, Mr. Speaker, that you will be approached to see if the veterans can't do something to commemorate that anniversary in some form, through Mr. Whitford, in this great hall of ours. I hope that we can give them a positive response, to recognize that that war really was to support and protect democratic institutions such as this, where the people are involved and you aren't pushed around just by one voice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Member's Statement On Lack Of Federal Preparation
Re Bill C-68

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I was attending a Shihta regional council meeting in Deline last week. The task force on firearms legislation had originally planned to go to Norman Wells but apparently, with little over a day's notice, decided to go to Deline where, in fact, all the mayors, chiefs and Metis leaders were having meetings. As an MLA, there was no notice given to me of this and, as far as I know, none of the community leaders either had much prior notice.

I just want to reinforce the concerns stated by the Member for Iqaluit. But there is one thing that I think needs to be said here, because I know the task force went on to the Gwich'in communities and is planning to have further consultation meetings in this part of the Mackenzie Valley this week. The concern I want to share with Members is my observation at this meeting, that there were absolutely no organized presentations. There is a total absence of any summary or description of the bill. Even a biased summary of Bill C-68 would have been welcomed but there was none. There was no description or explanation of the bill in summary form or in detailed form and there was no identification, whatsoever, of even present federal legislation on firearms.

So, for half of the evening -- and it was a four-hour meeting -- people were asking questions, just trying to get basic information. I found, along with the sham of consultation, the total lack of preparation and meaningful presentation or overview by this task force to be alarming. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 482-12(7): Advice From Education Boards Re Drug Use In Schools

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ballantyne on April 27, 1995, with regard to advice from education boards about drug use in schools.

In April, I indicated that I would be willing to contact each school board about the magnitude of the drug problem in each area. I have since learned that we already have that information. Our school health research project is currently being published which will give us information about the health knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of Northwest Territories young people in a whole variety of health areas. Drug use is one of those areas, along with mental health and self-concept, relationships with parents, friends and school, sexuality, alcohol and tobacco use, nutrition, dental care and the use of leisure time.

Not only has the information been compiled territorially, we compare Northwest Territories students to those in other parts of Canada, and are producing smaller reports by school board to give a clearer picture of what's happening in each area. I

will ensure that each Member receives both the full report as well as the smaller report for his or her area.

In terms of how the government might help, our plan is to disseminate the information as widely as possible, and we are working on the dissemination plan now. The decision to produce the reports by board was to facilitate effective responses and follow-up actions which might vary among boards. Through dissemination of the report, we are hoping to stimulate responses in a variety of ways. This will include responses by the government, but also at the regional and community levels, in a manner consistent with the community wellness strategy.

I appreciate your very timely question and will be happy to share our findings with you as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 488-12(7): Appointments Of Community Justices Of The Peace

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Patterson on the 27th of April with regard to appointments of community justices of the peace.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed under section 2.01 of the Justices of the Peace Act by the Commissioner in Executive Council. The term of the

appointment is until the JP no longer resides in the NWT, reaches 75 years of age, resigns or is removed by the review council after hearing a complaint or matter relating to that particular Justice of the Peace.

Therefore, in most cases, a person with a Justice of the Peace appointment will retain the appointment if he or she moves from the NWT community where the appointment was made, to another NWT community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. WHITFORD:

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to welcome the 23 students from St. Joseph's School with their teacher, Mr. Dumond. Welcome.

---Applause

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a gentleman who is a champion of the working man, Mr. Ben MacDonald of the UNW. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to introduce, as well, Lydia Bardak...I can only do one? Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKER:

Just for the record, Mr. Whitford, Members are only allowed to recognize visitors in the gallery once. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, to honour the attempt by the Member for Yellowknife, I wish to recognize Lydia Bardak from the NWT Council for Disabled Persons.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the media last week, there were statements made by reporters indicating that this government was investigating the possibility of imposing a sales tax on residents of the Northwest Territories. Since the Minister of Finance isn't here, I would like to ask the Premier, is this government going to be imposing a sales tax on the residents of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Mr. Koe, I will remind you that you cannot ask the Premier to deny or confirm a newspaper report. But the question was okay. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is presently out on a telephone call with Mr. Ron Irwin. Regarding the question, Mr. Speaker, there have been no indications that the NWT government is planning to impose a sales tax. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, thank you for that clarification. This year's government and next year's government are going to

be looking at deficits of around \$130 to \$150 million. I would like to get an indication from the Premier as to what steps this government is taking to deal with this horrific projected deficit?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe right at the moment we're exploring all possibilities of trying to live within our means as a government. The Minister of Finance and the system are beginning to look at budgets for the future year, recognizing that we will have a significant shortfall. All options are being explored and some of the options are just that: options. We are looking for workable solutions to the problem. In the next while, there will be lots of rumours about rumours, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. Because, in exploring those options, we are putting together research papers on what other provincial jurisdictions are doing and what types of options we have here, including the possibility of trying to conclude a northern energy accord so revenues will accrue to Northwest Territories residents.

There isn't anything we're overlooking and, certainly, if anyone has any wonderful ideas about how we can either accrue more revenues and do a better job with our financial situation, recognizing that there are programs and services which are necessities for people and we have to try our best to make sure those programs and people aren't suffering because of program cutbacks. Mr. Speaker, every avenue possible is being explored. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Premier mentioned that the Cabinet and the government is looking at options for revenue generation. One of the activities that is going on, I understand, is there might be a meeting this week of leaders involved in northern accord discussions. Other than the northern accord, what

other specific initiatives are being looked at to generate new revenues for this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 489-12(7): Status Of NWT Sales Tax

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, these discussions have been renewed in order to plot out some strategies for next year's budgeting. I would suggest that when the Minister of Finance is available -- because he has been doing that work -- it would be more appropriate to defer the question to the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Dent.

Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, on April 12th, the Minister told the House that his department had prepared a draft negotiated contracts policy and that it would be going to Cabinet the week of the 24th to

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the 28th of April. Would the Minister advise if the policy did, in fact, go to Cabinet that week?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have that paper. We're finished now and it is in front of Cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister told the House earlier that the paper would be going to Cabinet during the week of the 24th of April. Can the Minister advise why it didn't go that week?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason the paper did not get to Cabinet on time is because proper signatures weren't there and the paper was not quite ready. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assuming that the paper is ready and the proper signatures are now on it, is the Minister planning to take it to Cabinet this week?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I can get it to Cabinet, I will. Then I will make a copy available to the Members. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister had, on April 12th in this House, made a commitment that the policy would be tabled. Seeing as how this session is scheduled to end by next Thursday, will the Minister commit to tabling that policy by next Thursday?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 490-12(7): Status Of Negotiated Contracts Policy

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll make every effort to table the policy in this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 491-12(7): Youth Coordinator Position In ECE

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with regard to a position of a youth coordinator. In the past, Mr. Speaker, this position was under the Department of Social Services, but I understand that this was turned over to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. A little while ago I tried to find out who this youth coordinator was. I called the Department of Social Services, I got the run-around. I phoned the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and I really didn't get a reply. So I would like to ask the Minister directly who is the youth coordinator in his department.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 491-12(7): Youth Coordinator Position In ECE

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know who the youth coordinator is, but I'll get the information and provide it to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has invested considerable amounts of money into the development of a Constitution for the western territory. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for aboriginal rights and constitutional development, in light of the fact that this process is deemed to be on hold at the moment until there is a commitment of funding, whether the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed any money to the process.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee have asked the federal government for an ongoing commitment of \$1 million to continue the work to develop a constitution for the government of the western territory. The members of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee have asked the Government of the Northwest Territories to also commit an amount of \$500,000 to the same process. This government has responded, committing an amount in that neighbourhood

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and fully expecting that the federal government will very shortly come forward with the commitment for \$1 million. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether this \$500,000 identified is contingent upon full cooperation with the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has been on record since 1981 as supporting the process that involves all people of the Northwest Territories in the constitutional development and the political future of the north. It has consistently supported and funded these processes. For the last few years, the federal government has again funded and supported this process. It has also been this government's position that we are partners with all the other aboriginal groups in this process. That is, we're not leading it, we're simply one member of a large team of people putting together our political future and our constitutional future in one process. The federal government is expected to continue to support this process, to believe in it -- at least the federal Minister has indicated that he supports the process, he supports the creation of a single territory, the creation of a public aboriginal government for all people of the Northwest Territories -- and we fully expect him, very shortly, to come up with the \$1 million that is required to continue this process. We don't expect anything different.

If the support, for whatever reason, should not be forthcoming, then we have to ask whether the federal government has had a last-minute change of heart; whether they no longer support the creation of a single territory; whether they no longer support the creation of a public aboriginal government for all people of the territories; and whether they've had a change of heart that \$1 million is not worth it, what the possibilities of the Constitutional Development Steering Committee holds for all people of Canada, let alone the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We get mixed messages about how positive the federal government is about the process and the kind of commitment that exists. I would like to ask the Minister, by what date does he expect to get a response on the commitment of the federal government of the \$1 million that he has referred to.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 492-12(7): Funding For Western Arctic Constitutional Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I never expect the federal government to be taking so long in coming forward with commitments. But as was said once recently, the present federal Minister has 100 fires going and he is having a hard time attending to them all and also having difficulty remembering why he started so many. So when he is going to focus his attention on this particular issue is anybody's guess. I hope he follows the good advice of his officials and takes a good, unbiased look at the record of support and commitment to this process by previous governments since 1981, both federal and territorial, and continue to do the right thing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 493-12(7): Update On Northern Accord Negotiations

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for mines, Mr. Todd. I wonder if Mr. Todd could give us an update of the northern negotiations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 493-12(7): Update On Northern Accord Negotiations

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The latest, as they say, is that tomorrow we will be meeting with most of the leadership of the aboriginal groups who are keenly interested in this accord. I'm optimistic, as I've said from the beginning, that we can make an arrangement. I had originally set a deadline of May 31st to see if there was a collective position we could take. There were some problems, as most Members know, with respect to the definition of self-government and how it related to this accord.

I think that with some of the groups -- not all of the groups, I have to be frank -- it appears we are close to a compromise in terms of making arrangements to move forward in reaching a collective position that we can take to the federal government. However, tomorrow I will meet directly with the political leadership. I've indicated to them, as I will indicate to this House, that if we reach an arrangement, it has to be made by the 14th of June, certainly prior to the closing of this Assembly.

I'm optimistic that the majority of the aboriginal groups, First Nations and claimant groups, will be with us as we move forward after the 15th to Ottawa to seek an arrangement to put additional revenue into the hands of this government to keep the level of services we currently have in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works, with respect to the status of the hangar proposal submitted by the Dene-Metis. We all know in this House that the Dene-Metis was to submit a proposal by April 30th of this year. The Minister made a visit to Fort Smith, Mr. Speaker, on May 19th and, at the time, indicated to me that this proposal submission would go to the Cabinet the first week of June. I would like to know whether the proposal developed by the Dene-Metis has been reviewed by Cabinet as of this date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for Government Services and Public Works and Services, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it has not been reviewed yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate the time frame it will take for Cabinet to review this proposal? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have many issues on the Cabinet agenda, and this is just one of the many issues. We're setting up different Cabinet meetings for this week as well as next week to try to deal with all of them. It will be on the list with the rest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that there are probably a lot of issues that Cabinet has to deal with. I would like to ask the Minister, would he be able to make a commitment and indicate whether a decision regarding the proposal submitted by the Dene-Metis to build a hangar in Fort Smith will be made prior to this session being concluded? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 494-12(7): Review Of Dene-Metis Hangar Proposal For Fort Smith

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't make a commitment on behalf of my Cabinet colleagues about whether they will make a decision on any paper. But I will make a commitment that it will be presented to Cabinet prior to the end of the session, as soon as we get it on the agenda. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and I gave him a few hours' notice of this one today. The Minister knows that I have been very curious about the BIP status of Nova Construction, particularly about the place of residence of Mr. Mike Mrdjnovich, the owner of Nova. I recently received a letter from the Minister telling me that Nova is approved under the BIP and Mr. Mrdjnovich has a valid NWT health care card, driver's licence, maintains a Yellowknife address and phone number and, therefore, meets the current registration criteria of the BIP.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is I've checked the current Yellowknife phone directory and I've also asked for directory assistance and there is no listing for a Mr. Mike Mrdjnovich by any spelling. The Minister tells me in his letter that Mr. Mrdjnovich maintains a Yellowknife telephone number. Does the Minister have Mr. Mrdjnovich's phone number because it's not in the book and it's not in directory assistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Public Works and Government Services...Point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Point Of Order

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

We're all aware of the ruling presented to Members of this House respecting the naming of individuals of the public. I think Mr. Patterson, with all due respect, has not violated your ruling but has forgotten about it. I would like you to, possibly, review Hansard to see whether it is appropriate for Members like us to name specific individuals in questions to Ministers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I understand that there is communication between Mr. Mrdjnovich and Mr. Morin and also that, as a shareholder, Mr. Mrdjnovich's name is public knowledge. The question is fair, it's not attacking the character of an individual, but asking for information about an individual. So, I see no point of order here. Mr. Patterson, your point of order.

MR. PATTERSON:

I will decline, in light of your ruling, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

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Return To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the principal owner of Nova Construction's phone number. It must be a private number that he doesn't want people to have. He hasn't even given it to me when he has called. But I do have his address, and it's: 5003 Forrest Drive. That's his house. And he does have a mortgage on that house with CIBC for \$163,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ooh.

HON. DON MORIN:

He pays \$340 a week at nine per cent interest and he has over \$35 million invested in property in the Northwest Territories. That's information he gave to my office about an hour ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Again, I must remind Ministers about revealing personal information about an individual unless it is public knowledge.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

It is now.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Well, it is now, but wasn't prior to the Minister's response. I would like to remind the Minister that if it is public knowledge, then information should be provided. If it isn't, then it shouldn't be. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to clarify to you that I was not seeking personal financial information. I asked the Minister if he knew the phone number, which is not listed in the directory as being unlisted at the customer's request, by the way.

My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has indicated that the owner of Nova Construction, who I need not name...

---Laughter

...does own a house in Yellowknife, I would like to ask the Minister, in order to meet current BIP criteria which the Minister has said Nova Construction and its owner meet, does it matter whether the owner lives in the house or just that he maintains it and pays a mortgage and taxes? Does it matter whether he lives in the house? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As long as a construction company owner has a Northwest Territories health care card, a driver's licence and maintains an address in the Northwest Territories, he is eligible under the

BIP for northern preference. That's how the rules are to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, to me, maintaining a house is keeping it standing and paying taxes and paying the mortgage. I take it from the Minister's answer then that it doesn't matter whether the house is empty or not, whether the owner and his family lives in, let's say Alberta, is irrelevant to the BIP as long as the house is maintained. Is that the current requirement of the BIP as far as the residency of owners are concerned in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct that as long as he owns the house and maintains it then he is considered a resident, because there are also the other two things. He has to have a driver's licence in the NWT and a health care card. So in order to obtain those you have to be a resident, so that's what we use for documentation to certify residency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that it's well-known that there are a lot of people who have health care cards in the Northwest Territories who are not principal residents of the Northwest Territories.

In light of the Minister's revelation that all you have to do is maintain an empty house to meet the residency requirements under the BIP, which I think would be a surprise to many of my constituents who not only maintain houses but live in them all year round and all winter, I would like to ask the Minister when we will see the revised, much-awaited, long-promised, much-reviewed, much-consulted on BIP, the revised Business Incentive Policy, in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 495-12(7): BIP Status Of Nova Construction

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make that available to the Members as soon as I get the Cabinet approval on it so that we can go through the last round of consultation to the general public and contractors. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Thompson.

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Question 496-12(7): Plans For A Resident RCMP Officer In Chesterfield Inlet

MRS. THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. I know that the Minister is aware that there has been correspondence in the past regarding policing in Chesterfield Inlet. As of today, there still isn't a resident RCMP officer. Are there any plans for a resident RCMP officer in Chesterfield? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 496-12(7): Plans For A Resident RCMP Officer In Chesterfield Inlet

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, there is a policing review being conducted in all the communities of Nunavut and we'll be shortly starting on the western part of the

Northwest Territories. I believe the RCMP will be reviewing its position allocations as a result of this review.

At this time, there is no change to the position in Chesterfield Inlet. It is being covered from Rankin Inlet at this time and as of today there are no indications from the RCMP that there is going to be a change, but I am prepared to speak specifically to Chief Superintendent Brian Watt to clarify that for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mrs. Thompson.

Supplementary To Question 496-12(7): Plans For A Resident RCMP Officer In Chesterfield Inlet

MRS. THOMPSON:

My supplementary question is, the by-law officer, Johnny Sammurtok of Chesterfield Inlet, has been acting on behalf of the RCMP and has dealt with issues which don't relate to his job as a hamlet by-law officer. When is this review going to be complete?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 496-12(7): Plans For A Resident RCMP Officer In Chesterfield Inlet

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to give the Member the impression that nothing will happen until this review is done, since the review itself won't be completed until March of this coming year. I point it out simply as a study that is going to give the RCMP some idea of how to best allocate existing resources in view of the financial cutbacks that are going to be contemplated in the future, the impact of division and how the RCMP will have to reorganize with that eventuality. It's my view that the RCMP continuously review their needs and how best to allocate the limited positions that they have. As needs change, they are prepared to make changes and reallocations. So, having said that, I believe that it's time for myself to speak again with the Chief Superintendent to see if there is anything to indicate a change at this time and, if not, then where the priorities are so that all Members of the House will be aware of how the allocations are being made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 497-12(7): Status Of Air Operations Manager Of Fire Suppression Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works and Services or Minister of Renewable Resources, responsible for fire suppression.

Mr. Speaker, I would like some clarification with regard to a position in Fort Smith. The position is the manager of air operations for fire suppression.

Mr. Speaker, apparently the individual, Rick Pederson, who was in this position, was advised his services were no longer needed on May 9th. Fire centre staff were advised that his position was deemed redundant. Can the Minister indicate whether or not this position was deemed redundant or the individual terminated? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the forest fire management program, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 498-12(7): Status Of Second Appointee To AWG International Committee

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I thank the Minister of MACA for appointing Don Sian to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. I would also take this opportunity to thank Larry Gordon from Inuvik for letting his name stand and also congratulate Don Sian for accepting the appointment. I am sure he will represent the Northwest Territories honourably and knowledgeably.

My question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Northwest Territories are allowed to have two members on the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. When and who will be the second appointee to this committee?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Ng.

Return To Question 498-12(7): Status Of Second Appointee To AWG International Committee

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect to recommend an appointment for the departmental official within a couple of weeks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, I think we're all aware of the tremendous potential for employment in the mining industry, and we're also aware that the mining industry has become very, very technical. In the past, people in the Northwest Territories haven't been able to take advantage of opportunities because they didn't have the proper training. Mr. Speaker, over the last year I've brought this point up a number of times just to make sure that we're ahead of the game this year. What progress have we made, Mr. Minister, in putting together a human resources skills inventory so we know exactly who is out there who is looking for jobs and what skills they have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the honourable Member that we have been working with the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in this particular area. Unfortunately, I don't have all the details. As soon as I receive them, I'll provide that information to the honourable Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. I hope we'll get the response while we're still sitting, and I appreciate that response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, as a follow up, if the Minister could also inform this House if any training programs or education programs directly related to mining have been set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say, just so the honourable Members are aware, that based on the information we have received previously from both the information gathering we had with BHP and as a result of the Izok Lake project, there was an identification of a number of the requirements for the industry. That was the basis for our initial analysis; therefore, it identified actual job opportunities that would be available. What we now need to do is clearly articulate a longer-term training component that would allow the government to respond to human resource development in the surrounding region and for northerners generally outside this particular area.

I just want to say to the honourable Member that we've done a number of these. Along with the Dogrib Nation, for instance, we have a community employment facilitator who is, in fact, doing the analysis for us and providing us with information. We are also working with Human Resources Development Canada and North Slave Economic Development and Tourism, and we are completing a

plan to maximize the employment of northerners in mining, and the plan should be completed by the end of this June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that we've moving ahead in this area because it's very, very important. As a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to do with the potential in diamond mining, is there anything specific that the Minister's department is doing in cooperation with companies who are right now in the process of exploring for diamonds in the Northwest Territories to provide training specifically for potential diamond mines? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't indicate to the honourable Member anything specific. What we're trying to do is ensure that there are the appropriate training opportunities for people in the mining industry. The diamond mining industry is in addition to that. The research, I think, will point to specific requirements that would be necessary in terms of skills and training that will allow individuals to participate in the diamond mining industry. The one thing that is clear is that we also want a skilled labour force that will be able to move from one industry to the other, so there has to be basic training and skills.

I understand and appreciate the comments made by the honourable Member, and certainly they will be part, I believe, of the consideration and the work that is being done with the assessment; particularly since it's being done in conjunction with the North Slave Economic Development and Tourism group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response. If I could ask the Minister specifically if he would ensure that his department, in cooperation with the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, will ensure that every step is taken to make sure our people are trained to take full advantage of potential diamond mines? If those mines go ahead, they're going to be coming on stream very quickly, and it would really be a shame if hundreds of miners had to come from the south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

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Further Return To Question 499-12(7): Human Resources Skills Inventory For Mining Sector

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the honourable Member that we certainly, as a department, are working in conjunction with the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Whatever training initiatives we undertake, I hope it's with the recognition that it's not only a matter of responding purely to the diamond mining industry, but developing skills that will allow any individual to move from one industry to the other. I will take note of the honourable Member's concern, and ensure that that is a consideration in the assessment of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

What is the status of the review of the student financial assistance program?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the honourable Member that the tender has been issued through proposal call. In fact, today, Mr. Speaker, I wrote a letter to all Members of the Assembly to advise them of this and have given them further details and have advised them of the terms of reference of that particular review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad we're going to be getting the information later today. I would like to know who is going to be involved, other than... Obviously, you said it's going to be tendered. Who is going to be involved in the review?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, normally I ensure that most Members are made aware. Whether or not they participate is a matter of choice. I can advise the honourable Member that the students have already been advised. I advised the students at the University of Alberta, and those students who were not from the University of Alberta but attended the conference in February, were advised that the review would be taking place.

I also advised the Members of this House during session, and I believe I made a statement on the matter during the budget session, or at least the

session in March, that the review would take place. I indicated to Members through responses to questions that the proposal call had been issued. Now I'm generally advising the honourable Members -- since we have not sat since April -- of the situation and the terms of reference of that particular group, and will request the input of all Members of the Assembly and are, in fact, asking advice on who should participate in that particular review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. I hope parents are included in your list. My supplementary is, will the students or the recipients of these types of financial assistance programs have real meaningful input in the review and in the process, or are they just going to be asked for their opinions by the contractors? Will they have a chance to have meaningful input and then look at the end product and have some say in the end result?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, I am asking for the advice of the honourable Members as to who should be involved. If the honourable Member is suggesting that parents should be involved, then we'll certainly make sure that that is a consideration.

Mr. Speaker, the review has to be addressed in the context of the fiscal resources that we have. If it's simply to add more to the benefits, I think we're not going to start off in a very good position. We have to address the issue first in the context of the resources that we have and secondly, in the context of how we improve the program availability to all students.

The good thing about the post-secondary programming is that, I believe, over the last two or three years we've doubled the amount of post-secondary students in comparison to what we had.

We've gone from about 800 to over 2,000 students. Actually, it increased over two and a half times. Recognizing that fact and recognizing that our fiscal resources are not going to be as available, we are asking the students to give us their best advice, including the parents and including all those that are involved in the use of the student financial assistance program, to give us their best advice as to how to use the resources that we have and not take away from our commitment and obligation to aboriginal people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Supplementary To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When is the review expected to be completed by?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 500-12(7): Status Of Student Financial Assistance Program Review

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's our expectation that the review will be done later on this year. In other words, for some of the changes that are being proposed, our intention is trying to ensure that those changes are put into effect not this September but the following September. I made a statement to that nature.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 501-12(7): Reason For Increase In Stumpage Fees

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noted that the government has decided that they should impose greater burden on the very small lumber industry in the Northwest Territories by increasing stumpage fees. This, obviously, is a revenue initiative. At the same time

the Housing Corporation has decided that they will use northern lumber.

I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources, since the price of lumber has really gone down according to the Madison's Lumber Reporter, from \$375 per thousand a year ago for two by four's, to \$217 as of two weeks ago and there's been a steady decline in the price of lumber, why is it that the government has decided to impose this burden on the industry when prices have suddenly gone down to half of what they were a year ago?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Okay. The question is taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 502-12(7): Delivery Of Staff Housing Program At Community Level

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I believe that responsibility for staff housing has now or is about to be transferred from the Department of Public Works and Services to the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I thought this would be a golden opportunity for the Housing Corporation to deliver the management of staff housing at the community level using local housing authorities and associations. I would like to ask the Minister, is that the way this transfer is being accomplished; through using local delivery mechanisms now in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 502-12(7): Delivery Of Staff Housing Program At Community Level

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that local housing authorities and associations will be involved with the management of staff housing at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 502-12(7): Delivery Of Staff Housing Program At Community Level

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding -- and I wrote the Minister about this several weeks ago --- is that rather than providing additional resources to communities to manage this new housing stock, in fact, what's happening in the Baffin region is that person years of the Department of Public Works are being transferred from that department to the Housing Corporation district office in Iqaluit and that communities so far haven't seen any increased resources or increased responsibilities. Is there a different approach being taken in Baffin, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 502-12(7): Delivery Of Staff Housing Program At Community Level

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm well aware of the letter the Member sent to me -- I believe it was last week -- outlining his concern about PYs being transferred from DPW to the Housing Corporation in Iqaluit and that it should be done at the community level. I fully support what the Member is saying and that's the intention: to make sure that the decisions are made at the community level and that adequate resources are also given to the community. If what you say is happening is true, we'll change it and make sure it is done at the community level. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we're all aware of the fact that the Bird Dog operators in Fort Smith refused to fly with the DC-4s that are providing fire suppression to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It's my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the Bird Dog operators refused to fly due to safety concerns that are not being addressed by this government and was requested in the request for proposal that this government had called for.

I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the Minister's department has addressed this outstanding issue so the Bird Dog operators could fly with Buffalo Airway's DC-4s? Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Forestry Management Program, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure the Member that any safety concern an employee raises will be addressed by this government and we are addressing the concerns raised. Bird Dog officers don't have to fly in DC-4s, they're a Bird Dog plane and the company uses DC-4s on the fires. At present, all the ducks, or CL-215s, I mean, have passed all inspections. All the pilots for Buffalo Air, all the planes have passed all MOT inspections. It's just a matter of giving some reassurance to Bird Dog officers on the two captains of the DC-4s, and we are taking steps to do that as of today so it should be a done issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the Bird Dog operators fly in with the Bird Dog planes that accompany the DC-4s to fight fires. We all know that these operators have refused to fly as of this date. I asked the Minister whether or not the department has addressed this outstanding issue so the Bird Dog

operators could fly with Buffalo Airway's DC-4s. Certification, Mr. Speaker, by Transport Canada is totally different than recognizing whether or not the pilots have enough experience to bomb fires with the DC-4s. According to the Bird Dog operators, these pilots did not have enough fire bombing experience in fighting fires, that's the purpose for refusing to fly. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not his department has addressed this issue with respect to the lack of safety. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the Member that there is no lack of safety and we don't jeopardize our employees by placing them in unsafe working conditions. As far as the department and I are concerned, Buffalo Airways is a safe company and they agreed with this government about standards, have met those standards and will be fighting fires. Some Bird Dog officers have agreed to go to work. We have taken steps to ensure that they all have the opportunity to go back to work, and once those steps are final, they will be given notice to report to a base at 8:00 in the morning. If they choose not to, we will look for other people to replace them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a really shameful way to treat any employee, especially when they're concerned about their safety. These gentlemen, I know, have had many years of experience with firefighting. I would like to ask the Minister, will he assure this House that he will adhere to the standards his department set out for bombing hours for firefighting in the request for proposals for fire suppression, in order to assure Bird Dog operators they can safely fly and accompany these DC-4s? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say it again that we, as a government, do not jeopardize any of our employees or put them in unsafe working conditions. I would also like to say that it is my job and my senior management's job to make specifications about fixed-wing aircraft or any other standard for firefighting in the Northwest Territories. It is not the Bird Dog officers' job to make those standards. We have done that. We have agreed with Buffalo Airways, they are ready to work and, hopefully, everyone can go to work fighting fires. When you go to a proposal call, you want to find out what other contractors have to offer so you can carry out similar types of business with maybe less standards. It would be nice to be able to afford bigger and better aircraft, but we cannot do it. We are going to fight fires with DC-4s and CL-215s with the standards we mutually agreed to with Buffalo Airways. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Time has lapsed for oral questions. Oh, I'm sorry, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your final supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final supplementary, I would like to ask the Minister, will he assure this House whether the request for proposal this government put out for standards will be adhered to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 503-12(7): Safety Concerns Re Fire Suppression Program

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I just previously tried to explain to the Member, when you put out a request for proposals, you put target standards in and certain

conditions. It does not necessarily mean that you have to meet every specific standard. What it means is that the person who wins the proposal call can sit down with the Government of the Northwest Territories and work out what is adequate to fight fires with, the equipment we have which is owned and operated by northerners, not anyone from the south. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Time for oral questions is now over. Item 8, written questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

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ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 23-12(7): Request For Proposals For The Fire Suppression Air Tanker Contract

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works responsible for fire suppression.

Would the Minister responsible for the forest fire management program provide to this House a copy of the request for proposals for air tanker contracts for five-year terms.

This contract is to provide, operate and maintain air tanker and Bird Dog aircraft for fire suppression.

Written Question 24-12(7): Experienced Firefighters Hired To Accompany Buffalo Airways Pilots

I have another written question, if I may proceed, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. This is also for the Minister of DPW, responsible for fire suppression.

1) Would the Minister responsible for the forest fire management program advise this House of the firm his department hired to fly along the DC-4s with Buffalo Airways?

2) The Minister's department hired two experienced firefighters to fly along with Buffalo Airways. Would the Minister advise this House the cost of hiring this firm to fly along with Buffalo Airways?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Patterson.

Written Question 25-12(7): Residency Requirements For NWT Driver's Licence

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister of Transportation.

Would the Minister of Transportation advise this House what are the residency requirements to obtain a driver's licence in the NWT?

Written Question 26-12(7): Residency Requirements For NWT Health Care Cards

And, if I may, I have another one. This is for the Minister of Health.

Would the Minister of Health and Social Services advise this House how long does a person have to be a resident in the NWT to obtain a health care card?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Mr. Koe.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a copy of Petition No. 9-12(7) dealing with the matter of the need of a senior citizens' facility in the town of Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 455 signatures; the petitioners' request: "Whereas there is a need for the elders of our community, we, the people of Inuvik, want the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement a senior citizens' facility into the five-year capital plan."

Mr. Speaker, the original petition was submitted by mail to the honourable Rebecca Mike when she was Minister of Social Services and I don't believe the petition was ever tabled in this House. So, I'm taking the opportunity to table it today. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Mrs. Thompson.

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition No. 10-12(7) dealing with the matter of Chesterfield Inlet's request for a second nurse. Mr. Speaker, the petition

contains 182 signatures and, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners' request reads as follows: "We, the residents of Chesterfield Inlet, hereby petition the GNWT and the Keewatin regional health board to appoint a second nurse to be stationed in Chesterfield Inlet."

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Bills 25 And 32

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Legislation has reviewed Bill 25, Education Act, and Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, and wish to report that Bills 25 and 32 are now ready for committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 106-12(7), a motion passed at the Deh Cho constitutional meeting with regard to Bill C-68, gun control legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, according to Rule 42(10), I wish to table responses to the following petitions: Tabled Document 107-12(7), Petition No.

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4-12(7) tabled by Mr. Koe and responded to by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Tabled Document 108-12(7), Response to Petition No. 7-12(7), tabled by Mr. Dent and responded to by the Minister of Justice;

Tabled Document 109-12(7), Response to Petition No. 8-12(7), tabled by Mr. Whitford and responded to by the Minister of Justice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act; Committee Report 2-12(7), Report on the Legislative Action Paper on the Office of Ombudsman for the Northwest Territories; 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 committee of the whole to order. Good afternoon. Mr. Dent, what is the wish of the committee?

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend the committee consider the items on the orders paper in the order in which they're listed: Bill 26, Committee Report 2-12(7) and Committee Report 5-12(7).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do all Members agree that that should be the order of business?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We'll get to it after the break, which I will now call for a few minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 26: An Act To Amend The Jury Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We're on Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening comments for us on this act?

Minister's Introductory Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present for your consideration An Act to Amend the Jury Act.

This proposed amendment makes more explicit the nature and authority of a jury summons by stating that a person has the right and duty to serve as a juror.

Additionally, this proposed amendment changes the eligible age to serve on a jury from 19 to 18, broadens the category of persons not eligible to serve on a jury to include federal and territorial Department of Justice employees and establishes that summonses may be served using registered mail.

Finally, this proposed amendment removes certain procedural provisions from the act and provides that the sheriff has the responsibility, subject to regulations made under the act, to set procedures for the selection of jurors and the compilation of the jury list.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Members wish or will allow, I would like to invite a couple of witnesses to join me at the witness table when it is the appropriate time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. At the appropriate time, I will ask Members what they feel about your request. Mr. Whitford, for the Standing Committee on Legislation, do you have a report for us, please?

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Legislation has completed its review of Bill 26, An

Act to Amend the Jury Act. The committee held public hearings on this bill on Wednesday, April 5, 1995, and on Monday, April 10, 1995, in Yellowknife. The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of Justice, appeared to present the bill at the hearing.

During the hearings, the committee indicated general support for most of the changes proposed to the Jury Act in Bill 26. However, the committee was unanimous in its non-support of two proposed amendments. The first dealt with changing the requirement for service of a jury summons, if not in person, to be by certified mail. Certified mail is not an option in the Northwest Territories, and the amendment proposed that service should alternatively be by regular mail. The second amendment not supported by the committee was the proposed increase in the penalty for failure to obey a jury summons from a maximum of \$200 to \$500.

The committee felt that such an increase would be unfair. It was felt that the combined effect of these two amendments, particularly in small communities where mail service may be unreliable or sporadic, and the subsistence lifestyle which often has residents out on the land for weeks at a time, would place an unnecessary burden on people. In addition, the cost savings envisaged did not seem to justify such measures.

As a result, the committee passed two motions to amend the bill in these two areas. Clause 7 of Bill 26 was amended to stipulate that a summons would be served in person or by registered mail so as to provide an accountability record of receipt. Secondly, clause 9 was amended to do three things: 1) to provide that failure to obey a jury summons is deemed to be an offence liable on summary conviction to a fine; 2) to keep the fine at its present level of not less than \$25 and not exceeding \$200; and 3) to provide that a person would only be guilty of failure to obey a summons if they had acknowledged that they had received a summons by mail or they had been served in person.

The Standing Committee on Legislation would like to take this opportunity to make a further comment with respect to the Jury

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Act, Mr. Chairman. In the discussions on Bill 26, committee Members noted that there may be other ways in which the Jury Act could be improved.

The area of concern deals with the selection of the jury panel from the jury list and the procedures by which a panellist can request an exemption. The committee noted that moving the bulk of these procedures into regulation provides an excellent opportunity for the government to review and improve them.

Specifically, it was noted that the list of statutory exemptions from jury service and a description of the process for application to be excused from service should be included in the summons documentation. If this information were provided in the appropriate language, then much of the apprehension surrounding this process, particularly in remote communities, could be eliminated.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act. On Monday, April 10, 1995, the committee passed a motion that Bill 26 was ready for consideration in committee of the whole, as amended and reprinted.

That's our report, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. The Minister has asked to take the witness stand and to bring in witnesses. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Sergeant-at-Arms, maybe you could help people to the table.

For the record, maybe you could introduce your witnesses for us, please.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, Carol Whitehouse, legislative counsel from the Department of Justice; on my right, the coordinator for court services, Department of Justice, Nancy Robert.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments. Any general comments? There is a request to go through this bill clause by clause. Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay. Turn to page 1 of Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Do Members agree that we have read clause 9?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis): The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Before we conclude, I would just like to ask a question to the Minister and his staff. We have already agreed on Clause 9 of this bill. The bill increases the maximum penalty for failure to obey a jury summons from \$200 to \$500. I would just like to ask the Minister if that is on the summary in my book.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. ANTOINE:

There is a revised summary? That's all I have in my book here so I am wondering about it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there is a revised summary which I think the Member does not have. There has been no change as a result of the recommendation from the committee the last time I met with them, so there has been no increase. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Is that all right, Mr. Antoine?

MR. ANTOINE:

(Microphone turned off)...I read the summary and I went through the bill itself, and it was confusing when we went through that section so I just wanted to have that clarified.

One further question, Mr. Chairman, does the department have a record of people who fail to obey a jury summons? Are there statistics on this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

There is probably a way for us to provide a record of that to Members, if that is what Mr. Antoine is requesting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to find out if there was such a record. I would like to know how many people don't obey the jury summons, just for my information. If the Minister could provide that, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I think it's an excellent idea. We should show the number of people who are summoned and those who fail to show for whatever reason. It might give some food for thought and may require some work for what the motive is for not showing, the circumstances that result in people not showing and whether or not the penalty is a significant factor in it at all. We will do that, perhaps, over the summer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Is that satisfactory, Mr. Antoine?

MR. ANTOINE:

(Microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Bill as a whole. Does the committee agree that Bill 26 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Minister, and thank you, witnesses. Bill 26 is now ready for third reading.

Committee Report 2-12(7): Report On The Legislative Action Paper On The Office Of Ombudsman For The Northwest Territories

Thank you, committee. We're now on Committee Report 2-12(7), Report on the Legislative Action Paper on the Office of Ombudsman for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Whitford, as the chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, do you have comments for us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the remarks on the legislative action paper on the office of the ombudsman for the Northwest Territories.

The standing committee has read its report on the review of the legislative action paper on the office of the ombudsman for the Northwest Territories on February 16, 1995.

In the report to this House, the standing committee stated their support of the legislative proposal contained in the action paper. In particular, the standing committee was satisfied with the role of the ombudsman, the jurisdiction of the ombudsman and the influence of the ombudsman contained in the paper.

The public was also receptive to the proposal to create an ombudsman-like office for the Northwest Territories. The action paper proposes an amalgamation of the office of the ombudsman with

the office of the Access and Privacy Commissioner which is created under the recently-passed Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. However, it is the opinion of the standing committee that legislation creating the office of an ombudsman should be delayed until such time as an evaluation on the Access and Privacy Commissioner's office has been completed, and it has been determined whether there is a need for a more general type of ombudsman in the territories.

That's the report, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Has this report been dealt with now or does it raise many questions? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I have some general comments. I'm just wondering while we're going to be talking about the committee report, would it be acceptable for Members to ask questions about the report to the Minister of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Dent, we can discuss the report, make general comments and raise general questions. If there are areas within the direct responsibility of the Minister that he feels he can respond to, then he would be able to do that. It

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would be up to the Minister to determine whether that's within his area of responsibility or not. General comments or questions, Mr. Dent.

General Comments

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was disappointed that the committee didn't support a quick move to open the office of the ombudsman. I have to admit, in fact, that the recommendation in the committee report caught me by surprise. I had actually expected that we would be discussing how to set the office up and not whether or not the office should, in fact, be set up. I thought that the legislative action paper and its proposal to combine the offices of ombudsman and Access and Privacy Commissioner seemed to present a very cost-effective way to achieve the opening of the office. I had hoped that, in

talking about setting up the office, we could spend some time discussing adding a limited advocacy role for children and youth to the office of the ombudsman.

I would point out that the province of British Columbia did this with considerable success. In fact, in BC, they define child advocacy as activities undertaken intended to ensure that the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth are carefully considered and fairly represented in all matters that affect them. These advocacy efforts are particularly in relation to public policies and services, and are directed at both individual and systemic issues.

Mr. Chairman, too many young people in the north feel that they have no rights, and feel a real lack of respect from, in particular, government institutions. As the Standing Committee on Legislation noted in their report, with the growth of our government's bureaucracy, there is less and less accountability. Adults often have a hard time having their views heard. For young people, the problem is much more acute.

Right now, Mr. Chairman, service providers often feel that they risk biting the hand that feeds them if they go to bat for a child, because they may be seen as taking on their employer.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, I'm disappointed that we're not talking in detail about how the office could be set up, as a result of the report. What I would like to do is ask the Minister whether there are any plans to pursue setting up this office in his department at this point in time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, at this time there are no plans to set up any type of office providing ombudsman-like service to the public by this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments or statements? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could ask the Minister of Justice a further question. How difficult would it be, given the fact that the legislative action

paper was prepared by the department, to come forward with legislation which would create the office along the lines proposed in the legislative action paper?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

A judgement question. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

The degree of difficulty is all subjective so I'm not sure it has any bearing on whether or not we should do it. If we were told to undertake such an initiative we would do it and take our political lumps for the length of time and money we would take to do it. The suggestion now is that we should look at the other offices that we're obliged to set up and see if there is some way to substantiate, in economical terms, a more efficient way of providing such a service should we still wish to do so in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, I would like to say that I, for one, would like to suggest that the Minister not totally discard the idea of combining the Access and Privacy Commissioner and the ombudsman office, and that some work continue to be done on the preparation of an act to create an ombudsman position which could allow for a limited child advocacy role so that should the issue come up again in the not-too-distant future, we don't have to go back to square one and that there is a continuing record of work headed in the direction of creating the office. I do firmly believe that as the bureaucracy grows, there will be more and more demands on us to develop the office of the ombudsman, and I think that a really important part of that office could be child advocacy.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, there is, I think, recognition by most Members in this Legislature that if there are some further ways we can organize to make better services and support to children, to women and other disadvantaged members of the public, then those

suggestions should be supported and given proper merit. At this time it is difficult to do so. We're literally at the end of our term as a government. There will be a new Legislature in the fall. We have suggestions on ways in which we could deal with this perceived need for the creation of an ombudsman or ombudsman-like office, and we have said that we would look at reviewing and evaluating how the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is implemented and see if there is some way that we could use that in order to provide this additional service of an ombudsperson.

I have no difficulty with what the Member is saying but I have very little to add beyond what I've just said. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. General comments, general statements or general questions about Committee Report 2-12(7)? Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A concern that I have that I would like noted for the record is that I, too, was disappointed with the committee's report, mainly because of the fact that it was my understanding that the public have asked many times for an ombudsman. I know that, particularly in my constituency, they find that there should be a need to identify or to address an ombudsman's office here in the Northwest Territories. I recognize that we're just a small jurisdiction, but we have a fairly large bureaucracy and it's sometimes difficult for people to be able to bring issues forward and they may not want to use the political route to address these issues.

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I want to state that it's my understanding that during the public hearings the committee continually heard that members of the public would like the creation of an ombudsman-like office. It was unfortunate that the committee indicated that the government should not create this office until they can determine how effective the recently passed Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act has been.

I guess, with that, it's going to determine the time frame and it may be in the next Legislative Assembly that they may consider looking at an ombudsman. Then it's going to be the issue of cost. I recognize that we're going to be looking at probably in excess of

\$225,000 to continue to operate. However, knowing the next Assembly is going to be in very tight financial restraints, it's going to be more difficult then to justify the creation of such a needed office.

I think it's important and incumbent upon the Assembly to try to find a method to be able to give the responsibility to investigate complaints about government administration or about government overall for individuals who may not want to use the political route. I think, with all due respect to the government, they should consider looking at setting something up in order to address this to look at areas of impartiality which will probably avoid such things as the need for different types of reviews that are continually going on. It can possibly be rerouted and avoided.

It's a comment that I want to state, that this committee recommended this prior to myself becoming a Member on this committee. I don't agree with the committee report and I just felt that it should be noted for the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. General comments, statements or general questions? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the future fiscal climate in the Northwest Territories and the pressures we know are going to be visited on the next government, I listen with interest to the debate about whether the ombudsman should be created now or later or whether the ombudsman should be amalgamated with the office of the Access and Privacy Commissioner, which I thought would have been the best use of resources and perhaps a chance to save some money through sharing of an office and perhaps an individual.

But, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the next government is to meet the deficit reduction targets that are required by the bill recently passed by this Assembly, if it is to meet the requirements for restraint which we know and fear will be imposed by the financial restraint threatened by the Government of Canada. I wonder whether this isn't an academic debate. I wonder whether, when teachers, nurses and programs which are very vital to our communities are going to be cut because of severe fiscal problems, we'll be able to afford to consider such questions as how the office of the ombudsman will work. I wonder if we'll consider it

impossible in light of the fiscal burdens on the horizon.

I just want to make that point, I guess, Mr. Chairman. It's a good debate and an interesting debate, but I wonder if fiscal reality is not going to mean that other, more urgent priorities will have to delay the implementation of this legislative action paper. I think it's an interesting question for the future and I guess I just want to note that I believe the biggest question will be the cost, and whether that cost can be justified in a time of severe financial restraint. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any further contributions to the discussion on this legislative action paper? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation have dealt with this matter in the committee. We've talked about it and had the Minister appear before us. I think the reason we go through the process is that for any bill which goes to a committee, the committee makes recommendations or a report to committee of the whole. From there on, if we have enough interest in committee of the whole, then we debate the matter in the appropriate forum.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he has available information for committee of the whole. How much would it cost, approximately, to set up such an office in the system? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

You can answer that one, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, I don't have the estimates prepared for discussion purposes in front of me, but, I think they were in the neighbourhood of \$300,000 or a little more than that on an annual basis. There would be ongoing costs of \$300,000 plus. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Kakfwi, that was for a separate office for ombudsman; is that correct, as you recall?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Chairman, that is correct. If we find it possible and workable that such a function could be done in conjunction with the Commissioner for Access and Privacy Office, to provide such a service, then that particular number would fall considerably. That is the reason for the recommendation that the committee provided. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Any further comments, statements or general questions on this legislative action paper? Does the committee agree, then, that we have concluded discussion on this item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Could we go on, then, to Committee Report 5-12(7), Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper. Mr. Whitford. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I was just looking for a copy of that report and I can't seem to find it in the back. I would like to move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

There is a motion to report progress. It's not debatable. The motion is in order. To the motion.

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AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Whitford):

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Speaker, sir, your committee has been considering Bill 26 and Committee Report 2-12(7) and would like to report progress, that committee Report 2-12(7) is concluded and Bill 26 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus immediately after adjournment this evening. There are meetings tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of Caucus, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 pm of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 6, 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
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 5-12(7), Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Jury Act
 - Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 6, 1995, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT