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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Antoine, Hon. Silas Arngna'naaq, 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

MR. SPEAKER:

Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 79-12(7): European Meetings On Proposed Fur Import Regulation

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, representatives from our government have travelled regularly to Europe to alert the European community of the potential impacts on our wild fur industry of a proposed regulation. Last year, our efforts were successful in delaying the implementation of the regulation for one year. Since then, we have carefully monitored activity in the European Parliament and the European Commission, which is responsible for determining how the regulation will be implemented. We have also taken every opportunity to push the Government of Canada into becoming actively involved in resolving our concerns over this regulation.

I can now report that our vigilance has resulted in the following actions by Canada:

1. In March, the Prime Minister of Canada, after his meeting with the President of the United States, advised the Premier of renewed commitment by the

US to deal with this issue and to coordinate efforts to achieve shared goals;

2. In May, the Minister of International Trade, after his meetings with his counterparts in the United States and the European Commission, advised the Premier of the important role that our government has been playing and of the potential for a negotiated solution involving Canada, the United States, Russia and the European community to resolve our outstanding concerns. If the European Commission does not accept the joint Canadian/US proposal, the Honourable Roy MacLaren has advised the Premier that Canada will take steps to protect the fur industry by initiating the dispute settlement process of the World Trade Organization;

3. In May, the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers unanimously agreed that a strong message needed to be sent to Europe immediately. Following this, the Minister for Environment Canada indicated she would contact all the European Environment Ministers to advance Canada's position; and,

4. In mid-June, the leaders of the G-7 countries will meet in Halifax and the European fur import regulation will be discussed. The Premier has written to the Prime Minister that it is important to gain the support of the other G-7 countries if we are to resolve our concerns.

The four national aboriginal organizations have also become involved and are sending representatives to Europe over the next four weeks who will make presentations and hold seminars in different countries.

Over the next few weeks, we will learn of the European community's reaction to these actions. Since only a few months are left, it is very important that any action our government takes is carefully planned to have the maximum effect. This is why I decided not to return to Europe at this time. I still believe that our government has a role to play, but that role will depend on the European community's response to the Canadian/US proposal for a negotiated solution.

On June 2nd, I wrote to both the Minister of Environment Canada and the Minister of International Trade advising them of the few months left for action, urging them to meet with their European counterparts and offering assistance from our government. In early July, I will be host to seven members of the European

Parliament, who are travelling to Canada to learn about fur and forest management. I will also remain in contact with the federal Ministers to review Canada's plans for action.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical for us to continue to work together with each other, the federal government and other governments. This has been the key to our past success. For this, I would like to thank the ordinary Members for their interest, support and involvement; in particular, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Whitford, who have taken the time to participate in meetings with the Europeans.

I would like to assure everyone that we will do everything in our power to ensure that the wild fur trade continues and flourishes. We have some very hard work ahead of us yet and, as events unfold, I will keep the Legislative Assembly informed. Mutna, qujannamiik, mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

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expensive in this area. These supplements and milk products are very important for proper nourishment, for small children in particular.

I would urge the government look into the high cost of these products, especially in the smaller communities where it is difficult to obtain these everyday necessities. I would urge the government to take a better look at this problem because these products are essential, especially 9 a mother, for one reason or another, is unable to breast-feed her child. We want more assistance with this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Pudlat. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On Zero Tolerance Declaration

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about the zero tolerance declaration adopted by this House a little more than a year ago. I have the feeling that there is a lack of understanding about the principle of zero tolerance, particularly in Nunavut. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, some clarification is needed to

remind our constituents and ourselves just what the focus of this philosophy is.

In February 1994, we adopted the declaration of zero tolerance for violence that occurs in the lives of too many northerners. Family violence, particularly spousal and child abuse, can be both physical and psychological and it leaves a victim scarred both physically and emotionally. It is sad that much of the time, we only hear about the violence in the homes in our community when something else occurs that brings it to our attention. Often that something else has to do with alcohol. Then the use or abuse of alcohol is mistakenly seen as the cause of violence, rather than a symptom of deeper sickness. In many cases, we are shocked to discover that the abuse has been going on for years.

Mr. Speaker, our greatest enemy in the fight against family Violence is silence. In order to stop the cycle of violence, existing attitudes must change. I quote from the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi when he addressed this issue on February 10, 1994: 'The elimination of family violence requires a wide range of actions but, at the end of the day, any family violence requires changing our attitudes which allow it to continue. We must challenge our old attitudes, values and behaviours today.'

As the chosen representatives of our people, Members of the Assembly decided to adopt the declaration of zero tolerance for violence and encouraged other organizations and leaders in all communities to adopt similar declarations. It is true, Mr. Speaker, that we have many problems in the north today, but none are more damaging than violence and abuse in the home. Adopting and living up to the principle of zero tolerance for violence in our lives is a crucial first step but it is said, Mr. Speaker, that the longest journey begins with a single step.

Later this session, another step may be taken on this journey as Members debate a bill that will put in legislation what has, until now, been a parliamentary convention: that violent offences will result in expulsion from this Assembly. Whether the bill passes or not..

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike, your time is up. Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Baffin Central is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Ms. Mike.

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Whether the bill passes or not, we must keep in mind that each step on this journey brings us all closer to making our homes the safe havens they are meant to be, and reminds us that in our families we find sanctuary. Qujannamiik.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Congratulating Repulse Bay Grade 10 Graduates And Urgent Requirement For School Expansion

MRS. THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my congratulations to 10 members of the first community-based grade 10 high school program to graduate from Repulse Bay.

I am sure that without this program, many students would have chosen not to leave the community to continue their education. With the addition of grade 11 this fall, and grade 12 in the fall of 1996, these students will now be able to stay in their home community with their families and friends, to complete their high school education.

Mr. Speaker, my thanks and congratulations goes out to the staff of Tusarvik School for their hard work and dedication to the students of this community. Even with the limited space in their school, they are still able to provide a quality education to the students. However, the problem of overcrowding in Tusarvik School is beginning to have a negative impact on both staff and students. Due to the lack of space in the school, they were forced to use the library as a classroom and a computer lab. Next year will be even worse with the addition of grade 11. Both grades 10 and 11 will have to share the library space. To

compound the problem even further, 22 new kindergarten students will be enrolling in the fall of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, this is why the residents of Repulse Bay are asking to have the expansion of Tusarvik School identified in the government's five-year capital plan moved from 1998-99 to the 1996-97 fiscal year. It is my hope that the government will take action on this matter so that the education being provided to the students of this community will not be compromised in any way.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make this statement and I thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students who graduated in Repulse were the first in that community once higher grade levels were introduced within those communities. Had they not attended school within their home community, I doubt that they would have completed grade 10 or the higher levels. With the introduction of grade 11 within those communities, and eventually grade 12 in 1996, this is joyous to see. It's good that young people will be able to stay within their own

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communities to be amongst their friends and their own people and complete their education at higher levels.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very grateful and I'm very proud of those people who were involved in teaching these students.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you finished? Mrs. Thompson, are you seeking unanimous consent to conclude your statement, or are you finished? You're finished?

MRS. THOMPSON:

(Microphone turned off)

MR. SPEAKER:

I guess it's difficult for the technician to see you to be able to ... I ask Members, just in case the technician isn't able to see you, to put on your mike. The Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mrs. Thompson.

MRS. THOMPSON:

(Translation) I was a little bit confused. Please accept my apologies.

As I was stating, in Repulse Bay there is a shortage of space to ensure adequate education. While we're proud of the work that has been done to implement higher grades, the space in the school is still very limited so they're using their library as a classroom and a computer lab. Next year with the addition of grade 11, both grades 10 and 11 will have to share the same library space. While that is a problem, they're expecting 22 new enrolments of kindergarten students in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Repulse Bay are requesting an expansion of the school, and that a new capital plan be forwarded from the fiscal year 1998-99 to the fiscal year 1996-97. It is my hope that the government will take action on this matter so that education will be adequately presented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Canadian Mental Health Association, Inuvik Branch

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge some of the activities of the Inuvik branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association. On May 30th, the Canadian Mental Health Association of Inuvik held their annual general meeting. The meeting was held in their new offices, which are located in, one of the old government row houses. It was a real cooperative effort to get this row house ready for this event. The Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Public Works and the regional director, Roger Connelly all worked hard to see that this building was eventually turned over to the Canadian Mental Health Association. I would like to thank the departments and the government for facilitating this transfer.

When this transfer was done, then the community organizations took over. Volunteers, staff, clients and board members all worked together to complete the necessary renovations. At the annual general meeting there were approximately 40 community members who attended. They elected a new board

of directors, had a feast prepared by the staff and the women of the Inuvik Transition House. At this meeting, Mr. Speaker, Clayton Gordon, the secretary-treasurer of the Inuvialuit Community Corporation, presented a cheque for \$9,000 to go towards helping children who are affected by sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Mental Health Association is a real grass-roots program that belongs to the people. This is reflected throughout our office with people stopping by with donations or just to meet and have coffee. The support of the community continues to grow, and the donation of \$9,000 is just one indication of this. This organization is also an active participant on Inuvik's Interagency Committee.

I would like to congratulate the past boards of directors, welcome the new board of directors, and thank the administrators and staff of CMHA, and also thank the Inuvialuit Community Corporation for their donation and encourage the Canadian Mental Health Association to continue their good work in Inuvik and in the region. Mahsi.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On NWTHC Directive Re Contractors' Use Of Local Accommodation

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak to an item that has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today on the directive of the NWT Housing Corporation that was issued on April 5, 1995. I'm somewhat concerned with the provision regarding the required use of local accommodation by contractors.

Under the northern preference policy of this government, we try to do things in a way that supports local economies and businesses. The new Housing Corporation directive seems to contradict this objective. What the directive says, Mr. Speaker, is the business contracting with the Housing Corporation must use local commercial room and board facilities when they are working in communities. Mr. Speaker, the concern I have is in defining what constitutes a commercial room and board facility.

The directive specifically excludes bed and breakfast facilities. This does not make a lot of sense to me, Mr. Speaker. Bed and breakfasts are operated by local people trying to make a living by providing a service which, in many communities, is a welcome addition considering the lack of larger community establishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am just not sure why bed and breakfast facilities are not considered to be eligible under the Housing Corporation directive, and I will be following up on this issue with the Minister during question period at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Member's Statement On Safety Concerns Of Bird Dog Officers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I expressed my concerns about the safety of our current forest fire operation in relation to the DC-4s. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House, the Minister responsible for fire management indicated that all the Bird Dog officers were working or in orientation. I'm not disputing that fact, Mr. Speaker; in fact, that was true. However, they were working with the CL-215s, not with the DC-4s. These officers continue to question the safety of the tankers, of the DC-4s, and of the land-based program.

Apparently, there is one Bird Dog pilot without any experience with fires, and one experienced tanker captain. The crews are still short a Bird Dog pilot and a tanker pilot with experience. At first, Mr. Speaker, it sounds positive that there are two experienced pilots; however, as an example, the tanker pilot's experience is 392 hours as co-pilot, not the 500 hours called for in the request for proposal. As well, because the hours were as co-pilot, he does not have the direct experience with how to make the attack. In the thick of things, it is the pilot, not the co-pilot, who pulls the trigger to drop the retardant or the mixtures. It is the pilot who will drop the substance where it belongs; or misses the target and loses valuable time; or worse, hits crews working on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, firefighting is how these Bird Dog officers make their living. The fact that they refuse to

work with the DC-4s and, given no alternative, would rather lose their job, tells me that the safety concerns have still not been met. As we hear of more fires like the one in Fort Norman, we will need our full fire suppression team. I hope the Minister will take these comments seriously and ensure the Bird Dog officers' concerns are addressed soon.

Mr. Speaker, the Bird Dog officers believe that the situation is an accident waiting for a place to happen. It is up to the Minister and this government to make sure that this does not happen. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Student Campaign To Inform European Parliamentarians On Fur Issue

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very happy to be part of the effort by this government to lobby on behalf of the fur industry in April. I've been interested in the fur issue since 1987 when we first began to become very heavily involved in what was, for us, a major issue.

Since April, Mr. Speaker, I undertook, in cooperation with Mr. Antoine and the Department of Renewable Resources, to inform many of our students about the importance of this issue in Europe. We learned when we were there that the big impact that was taking place on European parliamentarians was the fact they got many letters from animal rights activists; many of them very radical, and they seemed to have a tremendous impact. So this afternoon, there will be a campaign begun in

the Northwest Territories where students, in fact, will look through a large package of information about the fur industry and will be writing to European parliamentarians giving another point of view about how important the fur industry was in the whole establishment of this great country of ours. It was the basis of our economy for so long. It matters an awful lot psychologically and culturally to the people of the Northwest Territories. They will, in fact, begin writing letters to these people to give them a different perspective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Lack Of Consultation Of Firearms Control Task Force

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I described my experience in my constituency with the federal firearms control task force as one of the most cynical efforts at manipulation I've ever seen in all my years of service as an MLA. Today I would like to elaborate on why I would use such strong language.

Most people who communicate across a language and cultural barrier understand that special sensitivity is required. It's not enough to engage the services of an interpreter; one must speak in language the interpreter can understand, especially when describing complex legislation.

The Members of the federal firearms task force who came to my community could not speak plain English. I wrote down a typical, painful example. The Ottawa visitors were asked by my constituents why experienced hunters should have to take gun safety courses. The Ottawa bureaucrats, in reply, tried to ask my constituents whether they could suggest another way to recognize the skills of experienced hunters other than by making them take a course. Here is how the bureaucrat asked the question of a unilingual member of the Amarok HTA, "is there a non-invasive way of validating their competence?". Mr. Speaker, this is not plain language. This is bureaucratic gobbledegook.

Unless issues like compulsory registration, lending and licence requirements are dealt with, Bill C-68 is quite clearly a substantial infringement of the aboriginal right to hunt. The Supreme Court of Canada has clearly ruled in the Sparrow case that the rights of aboriginal peoples in Canada cannot be infringed by a government. In the rare case where infringement of an aboriginal right may be justified, the court said that there must first be meaningful consultation with the aboriginal people involved.

I want to say as clearly as possible to the federal Justice Minister Allan Rock and to any judge who in future may be asked to consider this issue, that I believe the records of this Assembly, statements of

many of my colleagues about the lack of notice, the rushed timetable, the poor presentation and communication, clearly establishes that on Bill C-68 my constituents have not been meaningfully consulted by the federal government. I say they haven't been consulted at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 471-12(7): Policy Re Outside Employment Of RCMP Officers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Koe on the 26th of April regarding outside employment of RCMP officers. Mr. Koe asked what the policy was for RCMP officers seeking private sector opportunities, especially relating to liquor outlets in northern communities.

The RCMP have a policy on conflict of interest and outside employment which has been designed for all members of the force at all locations in Canada. Although it would not be a breach of the RCMP code of conduct for a member to apply for a licence for a liquor outlet, the member would be investigated for conflict of interest if the member was successful in his or her application.

In the case of a successful application for a liquor license by a member stationed in a small northern community, it is likely that he or she would be declared in a conflict and be ordered to immediately abandon or withdraw from the licence. If the member refused to obey the order, he or she would be in breach of the RCMP code of conduct and subject to disciplinary action, which could include dismissal from the force. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. ZOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two classes of students from Rae-Edzo's Elizabeth Mackenzie's Elementary School. I believe they are a grade 4 or 5 class and a grade 5 class. They are here with their teachers, Steve Boss and Judy Foster, and also their bus driver Henry Lafferty. I would like to welcome all the 41 students, their teachers and bus driver to the House. Mahsi.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, some of you may not be aware of the efforts of a modest man who quietly monitors our operations in the interests of organized labour in the public sector in the Northwest Territories. He has very humbly moved his seat so he's not quite as visible to me as usual. But he's still here today, I believe, hiding: Mr. Ben MacDonald of the Union of Northern Workers. Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your point of privilege.

Point Of Privilege

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege. Pursuant to Rule 21, with your permission, I would like to raise a point of privilege to clarify a matter that was reported on the 7:30 am and 8:30 am newscasts on CBC Mackenzie. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in committee of the whole, I introduced a motion that, if passed, would recommend that a plebiscite question

be put to the people of the Northwest Territories on the matter of raising the legal drinking age from 19 to 21 years.

I am pleased that CBC chose to air a report on this important matter. However, in the course of the report, it was stated that I, as a Member for Thebacha, am in favour of raising the drinking age. I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that at no point during yesterday's debate did I indicate that this was my position. Actually, Mr. Speaker, I realize that there are advantages and disadvantages to both sides of the question. As yet, I have not stated my own position until I hear more about what my constituents think.

What I was trying to do was to provide a process through which this whole matter could be taken to the people. I know that there are differing Views on this issue in communities all across the Northwest Territories. I chaired a public meeting in Fort Smith last fall where opinion was mixed on whether the legal drinking age should be raised. I know that the Standing Committee on Legislation heard differing positions on the question, even though the committee report indicates that no witnesses supported the idea. I know this because a number of students travelled from my community and told the committee that they thought the drinking age should be raised. The Dene Nation, as well, passed a resolution at it's national assembly in support of 21 years old as the drinking age.

Mr. Speaker, these things show that there are conflicting opinions on the subject and I would like to see people given an opportunity to vote openly and fairly. At this time, I'm taking no position and I've taken no position on whether the eligibility age should be raised. But I do believe the matter should be left in the hands of the people of the Northwest Territories to tell us what they think. I want to clarify my position on that for the record, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the media has a responsibility to report accurate comments and proceedings of this Assembly, as their interpretations and reporting are of importance with regard to informing the public about what is happening in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to advise the House on this issue. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 517-12(7): Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

MR. KOE:

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. Currently, there is a lot of work and discussions about division of the Northwest Territories. Of major concern to all governments involved is the cost of division and the implications to this government. It has always been my understanding that the federal government would pay for any incremental costs incurred for division, so it would be nice to get some clarification on this issue. I would like to ask the Premier, is it still the understanding between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government that the federal government would pay for any incremental costs incurred in division?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier.

Return To Question 517-12(7): Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, although there are varying assessments about what that cost is and will be, it is still the position and understanding of Northwest Territories Government that the federal government will bear the incremental costs for division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 517-12(7):
Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. What work is being done currently to try to modify the amount of incremental costs that will occur because of division?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 517-12(7): Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, there has been at least three studies done to evaluate the possible incremental costs of division. However, the actual costs are difficult to determine because, at this time, the structure of government has not been determined. On behalf of all the residents of the Northwest Territories, in trying to make sure that the programs and services continue and people receive those programs, the Government of the Northwest Territories, on a continuous basis, continues to try to make sure that the federal government keeps at the top of their list of priorities their obligations for funding for incremental costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 517-12(7):
Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

MR. KOE:

I would like to ask the Premier, then, who is involved in these discussions and work with the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 517-12(7): Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your tolerance. With regard to the set-up of the structure of government, it's the responsibility of the Nunavut Implementation Commission to set up the structure and advocate the placement of certain areas of administrative responsibility and identify needs. This government has an internal joint committee that continues to track and work with NIC to make sure we're working out those particular expenses and planned timetable so we can make sure that the federal government is also involved in setting those timetables. Through my office, we're continually in contact with the federal government to keep track of this working relationship.

It may seem a bit skewed because of the number of people who are involved; however, my office is trying very hard to make sure we're tracking all the decisions that are being made. We are trying to be involved, informative and provide the necessary information and research to determine the possible implementation costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 517-12(7):
Responsibility Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

MR. KOE:

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. It has always been my understanding that with division there are going to be two new territories, one in the east and one in the west. The aboriginal leaders, especially in the west are very concerned about the impacts, not only on the costs in the creation of a new western territory but as they relate to self-government and treaty negotiations. So, I would like to ask the Premier, when will the aboriginal leaders from the west be asked to become involved in working out the costs of division?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 517-12(7): Responsibility
Of Incurring Incremental Division Costs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the process for determining some of the issues, such as the Nunavut Implementation Commission is doing, hopefully will be through the CDSC process, where the groups of the west have to determine, with the Members of this Legislative Assembly, the types of structures being advocated. That, too, can be put into the mix of needs and requirements for setting up the second territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 518-12(7): Status Of Renovations To
GNWT Staff Houses

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can be corrected if I'm directing my question to the wrong Minister. I would like to direct a question about staff

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housing for GNWT employees to the Minister of Personnel. You can redirect my question if I have the wrong Minister.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, there are rental increases for GNWT staff housing. In Cape Dorset, especially, there have been a lot of concerns regarding the level of quality of these staff houses. When they were being built, I lived in Cape Dorset. Mr. Speaker, since rent increases have been a continue[problem] for staff, we are concerned about the quality of houses and staff having to pay a high rent for houses which are run down and not in good shape. Mr. Speaker, has consideration been given for staff houses to be renovated, to bring them on par with what people are paying? People have been paying high rents for these very old, run-down houses. Has there been any consideration given to renovating these houses so that people get what they are paying for? Is there anything in the plans, Mr. Speaker, for these houses to be inspected, because there are also safety concerns. Is there anything in the plans regarding this, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 518-12(7): Status Of
Renovations To GNWT Staff Houses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the staff housing units in the communities do need some repair work. I would be quite happy to work with the Member and the community to see what we can accomplish in repairing those units as soon as possible. But, our intention for those units we have for staff is to bring them up to good conditions to live in. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question 518-12(7): Status Of
Renovations To GNWT Staff Houses

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. It has been expected, especially when the rent was increased, that these houses would be renovated. Can we say that the staff can expect to have their houses renovated, as nothing has been done to date. How soon can we work together to start alleviating this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 518-12(7): Status Of Renovations To GNWT Staff Houses

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct the staff to go into his community to assess how much repair work has to be done to those units and work that out with people living in those units, as well as the community, to try to solve the problem as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 519-12(7): Overcrowding Of Tusarvik School In Repulse Bay

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. Today I spoke about the extreme overcrowding in the school of Repulse Bay, which is going to be much worse next year. Is the Minister aware of the severe overcrowding in Tusarvik School of Repulse Bay?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 519-12(7): Overcrowding Of Tusarvik School In Repulse Bay

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the honourable Member that I have been advised about the matter relating to student enrolment and the growth which, in fact, far exceeds what our initial assessments were. I have been advised on a number of occasions by the

community, particularly by the mayor, Donat Milortok and, prior to her election, by Mr. Todd. So, I am aware of the situation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Thompson.

Supplementary To Question 519-12(7): Overcrowding Of Tusarvik School In Repulse Bay

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. My constituents have asked that the planned expansion be advanced to the 1996-97 fiscal year. Is the Minister prepared to take action on this request?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 519-12(7): Overcrowding Of Tusarvik School In Repulse Bay

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to directly responding, I just want to advise the public, through you Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Member has also raised this particular matter with me. I want to indicate to the honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, that we have communicated by written letter to the community, advising them that we are prepared to review the matter seriously, with the view of considering the overcrowding and the growth of enrolments of students, but we would have to do it in conjunction with the Keewatin Divisional Board of Education, the Member and the community. Certainly in that context, if we see the project and the concern being raised as a legitimate one, I would be prepared, after consideration and consultations, to consider that project as being necessary for that community.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 520-12(7): Concerns Re Single-Diploma High School System

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, I have previously asked

the Minister about the change from the two high school diplomas - the general and advanced -- to a one-diploma system. I understand that Ontario will now be the only jurisdiction in

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Canada that is going to maintain the two-diploma system. So this change really shouldn't make much difference to students, as long as our Department of Education ensures that each grade 10 student and their parents are involved in a consultative process to set up a career plan.

However, Mr. Speaker, employers face a different problem. Up until now, they could, for instance, know or have an idea about what level of mathematics skill a grad had achieved by the type of diploma they presented. With only one diploma, employers will now have to ask for transcripts to get that information. So, Mr. Speaker, will the department consider designing the NAT transcripts along the lines used in Alberta to use course descriptions so that employers more easily understand what levels prospective employees have achieved?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 520-12(7): Concerns Re Single Diploma High School System

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the concern of the honourable Member and I note the comments that have been made. Just to advise the honourable Member, it's certainly our intention to try to ensure that the best information be made available to employers when any individual has graduated from our high schools. I'll take note of the honourable Member's suggestion, however, in saying that, I also want to advise the honourable Member -and he's noted it -- that we will have developed, in conjunction with students and parents, beginning this particular year, the computer program that would identify the student information of all the subjects including career program and plans for which the student has been educated. I note the concern and, certainly, without much more comment, Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the concern and the suggestion made by the honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 620-12(7): Concerns Re Single-Diploma High School System

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is to the same Minister. As the Minister knows, as dollars get tighter and tighter, we need to make sure that we're more and more results orientated. Along that line, I was wondering if the department would consider conducting a survey of northern business, especially in the smaller communities, to determine their level of satisfaction with the availability and the qualifications of the graduates who they hire.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 520-12(7): Concerns Re Single Diploma High School System

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure that we necessarily need to conduct a survey, we may already have information on file. Again, I'll note the concern of the honourable Member, and whatever is most appropriate in terms of consulting employers I will certainly try to ensure that we have that kind of information on file. If it requires us to do a survey, then obviously we'll be able to consider that.

I must also advise the honourable Member, I believe our labour force survey gives us a great deal of that information, and as a result of that, we're also highlighting some of the employment requirements, trade requirements and skill requirements that are presently required by employees in the Northwest Territories. But I will take note of the suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ningark.

Question 521-12(7): Consideration Of Bed And Breakfasts Under BIP

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Subsequent to my Members statement regarding the use of commercial room and board, I would like to direct my question to the honourable Minister of the Housing Corporation. On

the outset, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the honourable Minister that there are many positive things that have come out of this business incentive policy. That should be noted publicly in the House.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the honourable Minister is, why are bed and breakfasts not considered to be eligible under the Housing Corporation directive.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for housing, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 521-12(7): Consideration Of Bed And Breakfasts Under BIP

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of the department's commercial room and board directive is to support the economic viability of commercial establishments -that is, hotels or motels in the communities -- by requiring all non-local contractors to use these business and the use of the facilities. In the past, contractors from outside the communities have, from time to time, set up bunk houses or bought older units and called them a bed and breakfast to get around our policy. So we've tightened up our policy to close this leakage. We've also issued a directive saying that contractors must stay in hotels.

The bed and breakfast facilities in these communities are licensed by Economic Development. They are licensed as a bed and breakfast for a tourism home. They are basically for one-night stays. It's defined as a private home or dwelling in which a room or rooms are offered for rent to the travelling or vacationing public. If anybody wants to get a hotel licence, then we would be able to assist them with the Economic Development people in order to get a hotel licence. But a hotel and a motel costs a lot of money to invest in that, whereas a bed and breakfast takes a small amount of money to invest. What we're trying to do is make sure that the actual hotels and motels in the communities become economically viable. That is why the directive was issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for fire suppression. Mr. Speaker, no doubt, we're concerned about the situation with regard to the forest fires. Can the Minister tell this House what resources are being used to fight the fires, particularly in the area of Fort Norman?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, when the forest fire was reported, we immediately responded with ground crews and helicopters to get them in the area. We had approximately three crews, around 17 men on that fire on the west flank of it to try to redirect it away from the community of Fort Norman. We've also sent in four CL-215s. I believe by now, it's 2:35, the DC-4s would have left Hay River for Norman Wells. We're also sending in more medium and light helicopters. We're sending in relief crews to relieve the firefighters who have fought fire there all night.

Just previous to walking in the House, I talked to our man in charge in Norman Wells. They're doing everything possible to try to redirect this fire. We had no choice but to pull our firefighters off because the wind had changed. The fire is approximately 4.5 kilometres away from the community of Fort Norman. When the wind changed, we had approximately a 10 kilometre wind. What happened was the smoke came in on the side of the fire that we were fighting, so our visibility for our men was reduced. For safety reasons, we pulled the men off the fire because we may have had a hard time to pick them up with the helicopters due to the smoke.

At the present, they are also doing back burning from Fort Norman to try to create a buffer zone to save the community. All people have been evacuated, except for approximately 30, to Norman Wells. So we are sending in more equipment and trying our best to contain that fire. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister, are the DCAs being used to fight these fires in Fort Norman? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were two CL-215s that were sent in earlier today and two more followed it. The DC-4s are going in there, and if we have to use all those aircraft, we are going to use every one of them, with or without Bird Dog officers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That leads to my next question. Can the Minister indicate to the House the status of the Bird Dog officers with respect to assisting the DC-4s? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 522-12(7): Resources Used To Fight Fort Norman Forest Fire

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I understand, all the flight crews of the DCAs are qualified as far as we are concerned to operate those aircraft and fight fire. We have them taking extra precautions because of the safety issue raised about the Bird Dog officers to make them comfortable. I believe that process is to be completed today. So, hopefully, these Bird Dog officers will accompany the DC4s and the Bird Dog planes into Norman Wells. Whether or not they are, I

do not know. Once I find that information out, I will be happy to relay that information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 523-12(7): Progress Of Northern Accord Meetings

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. I know the Minister has encouraged meetings to take place with aboriginal leaders to discuss their position on the northern accord, and I believe the Minister participated in those meetings this morning. I would like to ask the Minister, how are things going. Thank you.

--- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 523-12(7): Progress Of Northern Accord Meetings

HON. JOHN TODD:

Everything is fine, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

When you are not involved, it's wonderful.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I did meet with the aboriginal groups at 10:30 this morning on the issue of trying to reach an arrangement with them so that we can jointly move forward to the federal government to quickly transfer the responsibility for minerals, oil and gas to this government.

There was some concern raised by a number of the groups about a much clearer definition of self-government, and Mr. Kakfwi has addressed that with the groups and will address it

again tomorrow. I have indicated to them that, from my perspective anyway, there has to be some closure to the discussion. At some point, we have to get on with the negotiations.

The majority of the groups in the room have agreed to continue to work on Tuesday, what we call the working group, to see if an accommodation can be made in terms of some of the wording and some of the changes they want for the draft accord that was put before them on April 7th. I am optimistic that, while we may not have everyone at that table, we will have some, and I have indicated to them that an arrangement has to be made by June 30th. There is no further extension beyond June 30th. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 524-12(7): Advertisements For Orthodontic Services For Inuvik Region

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier this year, the Inuvik Regional Health Board put out advertisements looking for a company or someone to provide orthodontic services to the Inuvik region. I understand that the health board has completed the task of doing the tendering, reviewing, choosing a contract and they've prepared the necessary equipment lists and are getting quotas on these lists. Apparently, they are now waiting for formal approval from the department to proceed. Each day that we wait, it costs us more money because there are between 45 and 60 people involved each month who are transported out for orthodontic services. So I would like to ask the Minister what the status is of this issue so that orthodontic services can be provided by the Inuvik Regional Health Board.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 524-12(7): Advertisements For Orthodontic Services For Inuvik Region

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the information that I have here in terms of the status of the Inuvik Regional Health Board's proposal call for orthodontic services is that they have

made their selection and have identified who they will be awarding the contract to.

However, the honourable Member is correct in saying that they are presently awaiting the authorization to purchase the equipment that would be necessary to have the orthodontist do the work out of the Inuvik Regional Hospital. Mr. Speaker, that is in the process and, hopefully, that will be resolved very shortly.

As Minister responsible, I perhaps slowed the process down a bit because I wanted to make sure that was the best possible deal that we could get given that there was another service available for dental care in Inuvik. So, I am now satisfied that the best choice was made and will move as quickly as possible to get the necessary paperwork to have the authorization completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question for the Minister responsible for fire suppression. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister about standards used in the request for proposals. The Minister referred to Transport Canada's basic standards for fixed-wing aircraft. He further stated that any other standards such as the number of hours required and the experience of pilots are set by the senior management of this government. The request for proposals indicated specific standards, presumably those which the senior management felt were necessary to do the job. Can the Minister explain what changed, in between when the request for proposals was prepared and when the contract was awarded, to allow those standards to be relaxed in terms of pilots' experience? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A request for proposals is exactly that. It is a request for proposals to northern companies to offer up their services. There are certain standards in the request for proposal that are in there because of MOT and licences that are required that have to be adhered to. There are other standards we would like to see but we would accept other qualifications and give us your proposal.

That's the whole idea. For example, maybe some pilots did not have 20 years' fire experience, but what Members must understand is that these standards have been set over a period of 20 years and they are set from a ratchet effect. For example, maybe you only needed two hours' firefighting experience 20 years ago, but as Con Air got 20 hours then it moved up. Every time the past contractor got the hours that were needed, then all of a sudden the hours moved up, and we call that a "ratchet effect." So, for example, if you were to supply a DC-6 you would have to supply it with only a certain size cargo door. Who paid for that? We did. It cost \$1 million. Now, it is part of the standard so how can other people compete? We have to change that, we have to change the attitude of how we tendered and we have to change it so it benefits northern people. That's what happens. This contract benefits northern people.

For example, maybe a pilot didn't have 10,000 hours of firefighting experience, but I know about the pilots in command of DC aircraft and land-based air tankers. One has 16,000 hours of experience, 15,500 hours in the Canadian army. Another pilot in command has 12,300 hours of flying experience and seven years of fire suppression with a DC-6 in NWT, Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC. That's acceptable to us, there's no problem. A pilot who is second in command has 2,500 hours with a DC-4 and three years in the NWT. He can haul men and equipment for forestry each summer. He's also the company's safety officer. He's acceptable to us.

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Another pilot who is second in command has three years in the NWT, has 2,100 hours flying experience in a DC-4, and has hauled men and equipment for forestry for three summers as well. Then we have reserve pilots for these aircraft with 18,000 hours; 23,000 hours; 15,000 hours; 3,000 hours in a Bird Dog aircraft; 30 years in the NWT. All these things are acceptable to us as a government for awarding this contract to a northern company. I can go on and on about these peoples' experience. As far as I'm concerned, they're experienced, they meet the

standards that we have mutually agreed to, and we are going to fight fires with them this summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister can go on and on and on about all the experience, but I think the Minister has missed my point, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this government develops a request for proposal, they develop certain standards to be adhered to in that proposal call. That's how they judge whether a proposal should be granted. Transport Canada requirements are totally different than the standards set by the senior management of this government. The standards of the senior management of this government are basically set because they want to know what they want to use with regard to speciality aviation.

Therefore, in as much as a pilot has thousands of hours of experience flying people, that is a totally different experience from going in to attack a fire where the conditions are totally different. Therefore, I'll ask the Minister again, can he explain what changed in the process, between the request for proposals when it was prepared and the contract which was awarded, which allowed those standards to be relaxed? What changed in the process? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I have said many times, that is the process for requests for proposals. You go out with a request for proposals and you ask people to propose to you what they will offer for services. That's what was done. We evaluated it, and that is the job of the senior management committee that was in place. They evaluated that, we saw where we got the

best bang for our dollar and we saved \$4.8 million over five years. We awarded it to Buffalo Airways and they'll be out fighting fires.

I take the safety concerns of Bird Dog officers very seriously. We are addressing them and, hopefully, they will be addressed today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, what are Transport Canada's requirements. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will supply that to the Member. She asked for that information through a written question, so that information is coming. I don't have that at my fingertips. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister for a copy of the request for proposals, which I still have not received. However, I do know that when they ask for air crews for land-based air tanker aircraft, which are DC-4s, this government's requirements requested 500 forest fire environment flying hours. Now, why would this government ask for 500 forest fire flying environment hours for pilots and not adhere to that request in the proposal call? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 525-12(7): Changes In Basic Standards For Fixed-Wing Aircraft

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I previously tried to tell the Member, with requests for proposals, the standards are there. There are certain standards that have to be adhered to for Transport Canada. There are certain standards that we, as a government, put in place. We are allowed with requests for proposals to mutually agree with the successful contractor as to what is acceptable to us for pilots, as well as aircraft. That is what we've done. Now, after we awarded this contract and came to the orientation time, there was a safety concern raised by our Bird Dog officers. We are addressing that concern. We are taking that concern seriously and, like I said before, hopefully today it will be addressed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. There are a number of transportation initiatives being undertaken by the department in the Dogrib/North Slave region. The most obvious, Mr. Speaker, is the large project to upgrade the highway from Rae to Yellowknife, where almost \$20 million will be spent over the next five years to re-engineer, straighten and eventually to repave the highway.

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This project and others, Mr. Speaker, in the area, will obviously have a great impact on the region. So, I would like to ask the Minister who his department consulted with in the planning of these projects in the Dogrib/North Slave region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm slightly confused. Consulted about what? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are you asking a question of Mr. Zoe?

--- Laughter

HON. JOHN TODD:

Well, I need further clarification, Mr. Speaker. Does he mean consult about who gets the contracts? Does he mean consult about whether chip seal is used? I would just like some clarification about "consultation." It's a pretty broad word.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, English is my second language but I thought the words I communicated to my colleague were straightforward. I asked the Minister, who did his department consult with with regard to the planning of the projects he made reference to during the fall session when we were dealing with capital projects? There is a five-year capital plan which outlines that \$20 million over the next five years will be spent. In terms of planning, he indicated that all communities and various groups would be consulted. That was six to seven months ago, and I have asked the Minister who his department has consulted to date with regard to the planning of the projects anticipated over the next five years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, English is my second language too.

--- Laughter

Anyway, I'm sorry. I appreciate the clarification. It is my understanding that in the capital planning process, the Premier does write or call out to the communities, seeks their input about what the priorities are and asks them for advice on the capital planning process. Secondly, we do go through the Standing Committee on Finance where the honourable Member contributes in terms of giving advice on the capital planning process.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Agreed.

HON. JOHN TODD:

If we've missed something, we would be only too happy to hear from the Member what additional consultation he would like us to make. As everybody knows, I'm a politician of inclusion, rather than exclusion, and I'd be only too happy to make an accommodation with whoever the honourable Member wishes us to make it with.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the same Minister, can the Minister assure the House that his department will immediately include regional aboriginal organizations such as the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and also the Rae band when they're consulting on these projected projects in the North Slave region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 526-12(7): GNWT Consultation Re Projects For North Slave Region

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have in my hand a letter received from the chiefs of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council requesting a meeting with respect to transportation planning. It was addressed to me on May 31st and I received it on June 5th. I intend to

meet with these gentlemen in an effort to reach the appropriate accommodation that includes them in the consultation process as it relates to the spending on these highway systems. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Question 527-12(7): Negotiation Of GNWT-Owned Airports

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, is the government open to negotiating the ownership of the small airports which they own in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 527-12(7): Negotiation Of GNWT-Owned Airports

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, Oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Supplementary To Question 527-12(7): Negotiation Of GNWT-Owned Airports

MR. ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, if the communities are interested in extending their airports to allow bigger aircraft to land in their community so that the economy could be better for the community ... If the community would like to own a runway so that they could extend it since the government will not or cannot afford to extend the runway for a jet airstrip, would the government at least entertain a proposal from the community for the ownership?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 527-12(7): Negotiation Of GNWT-Owned Airports

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that at this time we would entertain a proposal for the community to own the public airport. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Last summer I visited the Yukon on behalf of the department and attended some tourism meetings with government officials from the Yukon territory. The western Arctic has very close links with the Yukon by airline and by the Dempster Highway. At a meeting with the Yukon's honourable Minister of Tourism, it was suggested that a memorandum of understanding be drafted outlining some cooperative measures between our government and the Government of the Yukon.

I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, what is the status of the MOU that was supposedly drafted between both governments?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Todd.

Return To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member is correct, there are currently discussions under way between the Yukon and ourselves. I have exchanged letters between the Tourism Minister of the Yukon and myself in an effort to see where closer cooperation would be beneficial, particularly to Mr. Koe's area.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

HON. JOHN TODD:

Sorry, the honourable Member is addressing the question to me at the present time.

The current position...

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

HON. JOHN TODD:

I'm trying, Mr. Speaker, very hard.

The current position we have right now is that the western Arctic territory...We're discussing with the Yukon the possibility of including their Yukon vacation guide. They've asked us if we're prepared to let a western Arctic Member become a member of the Yukon Tourism Marketing Council. I think this is a good idea. This is a private sector group, by the way, that advises the Yukon Minister on issues and programs.

I'm told that western Arctic tourism information is being provided to six Yukon visitor reception centres. In addition, I'm also told that the NWT representative will be invited to attend the Yukon's travel counsellor training program. I would also

have some access -- it says here in the notes -- to the Tourism Yukon's database.

I think there is some discussion and some practical application of cooperation With both governments. There's a great deal more that needs to be done. I'm optimistic, given the way the traffic flows out in that area, and given the importance of tourism, particularly in the Inuvik area with the development of the new visitors' centres, at cetera that this cooperative joint venture effort will bring about, hopefully, more tourists for the NWT and will bring about a more cost-effective way of promoting that particular jurisdiction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. There is a lot of tourism activity that comes

through Inuvik and, as a distribution centre, then goes to the Beaufort or other Delta communities.

On Sunday, the newest western Arctic tourism centre will be opened. I would like to thank the Minister and this government for providing the funding to get this opened. I would like to ask the Minister if he's going to come to Inuvik on Sunday to cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the newest and maybe last visitors' centre in the north?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, we certainly recognize the extremely important event that's taking place this Sunday. That's why we've asked our Premier to attend on behalf of the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

MR. KOE:

The Minister has indicated to this House -- and I believe there's been several meetings of operators -- that the current tourism zones are now going to be divided into an eastern zone and a western zone. In the west, as the Minister is well aware, there are distinct tourism destination points. As I mentioned earlier, Inuvik is a destination centre for the Beaufort and Delta communities. I would like to ask the Minister 9 he will consider or is he considering keeping the Western Arctic Tourism Zone as a distinct entity in the west?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are discussions under way based upon some of the statements I made in

the House earlier in the year with respect to the limited dollars we have --which I think we've all recognized, but I have

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to say that again -- and that there is a need to take a consolidated approach to tourism development if we're going to maintain the marketing strategies and the focus on tourism development.

What I've said to both groups, east and west, is we will determine an appropriate level of funding split which is currently under discussion. When that appropriate level of funding split is agreed to, we will transfer that money over to the Western Arctic Tourism Association and the Nunavut Tourism Association and they, the industry itself, will have to determine what they're going to within the fiscal limitations that they have. I really don't think it's up to me to determine whether we're going to fund one association versus the other. What we're going to do is say this is the money that's available based upon whatever we agree to, and we're going to let each organization determine what would be an appropriate form of representation.

I will say, for the record, that there is a significant cut in this area. I've indicated that earlier. I think that there has to be a creative approach as to how we're going to continue with our tourism activity. I can't guarantee at this time whether one association will stay in place versus another one. What I will say is that the dollars will be identified, they will be assigned east and west, and we'll leave it up to the industry itself, in consultation with us, to try to reach consensus as to the best way in which to organize themselves so we can continue with our tourism efforts. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

MR. KOE:

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has spoken in the House -- sometimes quite eloquently, I must add -- that tourism activities and decisions related to tourism activities must be made by the tourism owners and operators. There have been some concerns expressed to me that this may not be the case in all circumstances. I would like to ask the Minister what he has done to ensure that his

directions are being followed and adhered to by his departmental officials.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Todd.

Further Return To Question 528-12(7): Status Of Yukon/Territorial Economic Development MOU

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member is correct; I fundamentally believe that the industry should be represented by those who are in it. We recently provided some funding to the industry, in terms of east and west, in an effort to try to reach an appropriate compromise as to how the new Western Arctic Tourism Association would function. I don't think these discussions have been concluded. I think they're still under way at the present time.

I've made it clear to the current NWTIA that the way it's structured is unsatisfactory, that there has to be significant involvement of the industry and, to some extent, aboriginal groups because of the parks and claims, et cetera. I haven't had a definitive response from the west at this time as to how they see the new association being structured. I do have a

letter from them indicating some basic framework as to where they want to go. The officials of the department will be meeting with them shortly to see where we agree and disagree. Hopefully, in the next 30 to 60 days, we can come to some arrangement that will allow us to fund those two associations, east and west.

Ultimately, what I've said in the House and I'll say it again for the record, once an arrangement has been reached, we're also prepared to transfer to these organizations, April 1, 1996 if we can conclude an arrangement, the marketing dollars that we have available, the 1-800 number money we have available, the explorer magazine we have available. Based upon whatever formula we determine in terms of the split of dollars, we would turn that money over to an association which would hopefully be representative of and meet the needs of the industry.

So it's our intent to go further in the next six to eight months, and I'm optimistic that we can make an arrangement with both associations that are currently having discussions with their membership right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to compliment Mr. Todd on his attempt to filibuster us through to the end of question period, but I would like to request unanimous consent to extend question period today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period today. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER:

One nay is enough.

MR. SPEAKER:

One nay is enough. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 529-12(7): Ministerial Responsibility For Baffin Community Transfer Initiative

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. I was quite pleased recently to learn of the new initiative announced by the Premier to take a new approach in allowing community transfer discussions to take place more on a regional basis in the Baffin through Municipal and Community Affairs and the regional director. I think this is going to work very well. I would like to ask the Premier if she could kindly clarify which Minister will be in charge of this new approach in the Baffin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 529-12(7): Ministerial Responsibility For Baffin Community Transfer Initiative

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, this initiative was to attempt to meet some of the desires of the Baffin communities and bring some of the communities closer to the individuals who would be working at a regional level to expedite a number of the community transfer

initiative requests that are outstanding, although, the overall program is still the responsibility of the Minister responsible for constitutional and

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aboriginal affairs. In this regard, the responsibility and the accountability and initiative would be with the honourable Member for Municipal and Community Affairs. There will be a clear distinction that if nothing happens, the fault will lie with Mr. Ng. Thank you.

--- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 529-12(7): Ministerial Responsibility For Baffin Community Transfer Initiative

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to clarify that I think this is a commendable initiative. I guess what we would like to know is who the communities deal with if they need intervention from a Minister, if the negotiated discussions reach a point where they need political approval. I take it from the Premier's answer that it would be Mr. Ng who will be directly overseeing this process, and it will be Mr. Ng who communities will meet with in order to conclude the agreements that I'm sure will result from this new approach. Do I have that correct, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Before you respond, Madam Premier, question period is over. I'm just allowing Mr. Patterson to conclude his supplementaries if he wishes to. Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 529-12(7): Ministerial Responsibility For Baffin Community Transfer Initiative

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the assumption is quite correct. I think that the Minister of MACA has already brought into force a team so he could work in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

That's fine.

MR. SPEAKER:

Okay. Question period is now over. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Patterson, your point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try again. It's unprecedented that a Cabinet Minister would withhold consent. I'm going to try again, and Mr. Todd will pay.

--- Laughter

I would like to request unanimous consent to go back to recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. I would like to remind Members that you cannot use a point of order to gain the floor. You can ask the Speaker for unanimous consent to go back to an item. So, Mr. Patterson, you're out of order.

--- Ruled Out of Order

Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I request unanimous consent, through your good offices, to go back to recognition of visitors in the gallery? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Patterson.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Stein Lal, QC, former deputy minister of Justice in the

Northwest Territories, who is here, I understand, doing work for the federal Minister of Justice on the possible transfer of criminal prosecutions to the Northwest Territories.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome, Mr. Lal. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

If I may, Mr. Speaker -- and I regret that I'm not aware of their names -- I recognize Members of the federal gun control...

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Point of order.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson, I'm sorry but I must rule you out of order. Members are allowed 30 seconds to recognize visitors in the gallery and you have exceeded that. I'm sorry, but you're out of order,

--- Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent to return to oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We're back to item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 530-12(7): Status Of Official Languages Handbook

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier regarding the official languages handbook. I'm very concerned about the production or lack of production of the official languages handbook. Several years ago, the Official Languages Commissioner recommended that a handbook be developed. Subsequently, the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions passed a motion sanctioning this recommendation. In response to that report, the government said the handbook would be ready by

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December 1994. The Premier then stated, after that, it would be ready by the spring of 1995. We're almost past that time, it's almost summer of 1995, so I would like to ask the Premier when is the official languages handbook going to be ready for distribution.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was going to be directed to the Minister of Housing but, unfortunately, he's not here, so I'll redirect my question to the Government House Leader.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo, your point of order.

Point Of Order

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, I wanted you to make it clear to Members, whether they're on Cabinet or anywhere in this Assembly, Members cannot be identified for their absence. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is in the rules.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

It's not in our rules, but it is in Beauchesne's that a Member cannot mention any Member who is absent from the House. Perhaps, Mr. Zoe, if you would like to withdraw that comment, then direct your question to another Minister if you desire to do so.

MR. ZOE:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is in the House.

--- Laughter

I would like to direct my question to the appropriate Minister, who I was indicating the question to anyway.

MR. SPEAKER:

It's in the record that you did mention the Member's absence from the House. Those are the comments I would like you to withdraw. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my previous comments because the Minister is now in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Zoe.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, your point of order.

Point Of Order

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, earlier I asked the Minister responsible for fire suppression what the Transport Canada requirements were. The Minister's response was that I had already asked this question under a written question and, in reviewing my written questions, I did not ask the Minister this question prior to this afternoon. So, for the record, I would like that noted because I feel the Minister is misleading the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the point of order, Mr. Morin.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no intention on my part of misleading the House. The Member did ask for a copy of the request for proposals, and in that copy there should be the requirements of Transport Canada. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member did have a point of order, and the Minister did clarify that he did have the information but he didn't let you know. I'm sure, Mrs. Marie Jewell, it was part of the documents. Thank you. Mr. Zoe, oral questions.

Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been waiting very patiently. I would like to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation this particular question. Mr. Speaker, the community of Rae-Edzo's local housing authority has not had an official meeting since November or December of 1994. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that the community has submitted the required documentation to the Housing Corporation so that the Housing Corporation could process the appointments of five members recommended to the Minister. It has been six months now since the documentation has been submitted to the Housing Corporation. When is the Minister going to sign off these appointments for these five board members?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for waiting patiently for an answer to the question. I was trying to get an update and briefing on the Fort Norman fire. As far as the board appointment goes in this community, we are working with the community to appoint the board members. My understanding is the community wanted to approach how they appoint the board a little differently so it was

being looked at again. As soon as I get the proper documentation I'll sign it off. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

MR. ZOE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've made enquiries of the Minister's office, through the Minister's executive assistant, on this issue. To date, I've had no official response about the problem. It is my understanding from the community that all the required documentation was submitted to the Housing Corporation so it could be processed. The community has been waiting very, very patiently, Mr. Speaker,

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for the last six months and, to date, they are still asking the Minister to get on with it and appoint these members so the community can deal with the housing issues that have to be dealt with at the community level.

I would like to ask the Minister to indicate to the House when he anticipates this issue will be resolved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member has indicated, his community wants these people appointed and I will do that as soon as I can get the paperwork through. My understanding was that there was a problem, but I guess that problem has been solved, so we'll take care of it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

MR. ZOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister commit to having this issue resolved prior to the House finishing?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 531-12(7): Appointments To The Rae-Edzo Housing Authority

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll let the Member know by tomorrow when that can be accomplished. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Minister responsible for fire suppression indicated that the standards for pilot qualifications in the recent request for proposals were only guidelines. When a department chooses to lower the standards called for in request for proposals in accepting bids, does this increase the potential for liability for this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, you're asking the Minister for a legal opinion about liabilities and the Minister cannot respond to a question about a legal opinion. Perhaps you might like to rephrase the question.

Question 532-12(7): Status Of Government Liability When Lowering Proposal Standards

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question to read: when a department chooses to lower the standards called for in a request for proposals in accepting bids, would the Minister find out from his department if this increases the liabilities of this government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice since the question of liability probably falls under another Minister, with regard to insurance and those sort of issues. I will take it under advisement and respond appropriately. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certain conditions have arisen that will not allow me to ask my question today. I will defer it until tomorrow.

--- Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER:

Who's missing?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 533-12(7): Origin Of Sealskin Products

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our last sitting in April when we were dealing with the budget of the Department of Renewable Resources, the Honourable Silas Arngna'naaq passed around sealskin prototype products with Minnguq sewing group labels on them. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism because this Broughton Island sewing group is funded through ED&T. It is my understanding that the sealskins of these products are from Newfoundland and were manufactured somewhere in northern Ontario.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MS. MIKE:

My question to the Minister is this, is ED&T trying to enhance the economy of the NWT or are they trying to enhance the economies of Newfoundland and northern Ontario?

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier, would you like to respond?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister responsible, I will take the question as notice., Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that several members of the firearms control task force of the Department of Justice of Canada are here today. We discussed their "consultations" in this House earlier. I would like to ask our Minister of Justice if he's had communications from his federal counterpart, the Honourable Allan Rock, about his commitments to consult with the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories on Bill C-68. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

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Return To Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, apparently the federal Minister had written to me back on the 19th of May apologizing for being out of the country for a couple of weeks, regretting that he was unable to inform me any earlier that consultation with aboriginal people was going to take place shortly across Canada. Once communities had been selected and a definitive timetable set, the Minister committed at that time to inform me exactly when and where these would take place.

The letter that contains the Minister's commitment of May 19th was received in my office just yesterday afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy that the federal Minister of Justice intended to give our Minister notice of the timetable for the community consultations of the firearms task force group. I would like to ask the Minister, notwithstanding the federal Minister's good intentions, what was the kind of notice that the Minister and his office actually got about the timetable for consultations in our NWT communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I must say that I have received no notice, either as a Member of the Legislature or as the Minister of Justice, as to the timetable for community meetings and consultations. So I have had no prior notice and have very little information as to what the present consultation process is that is being conducted at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the lack of courtesy and notice provided by the federal Minister of Justice on these community consultations, I would like to ask our Minister of Justice if he is satisfied that the consultation process on Bill C-68 in the Northwest Territories so far has been adequate? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 534-12(7): Federal Consultation Re Bill C-68

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, as you know, our people right across the Northwest territories say Bill C-68 is going to affect our ability to put food on the table for our families. It is a very basic, fundamental concern that reaches into our homes and our families, and it's a very heartfelt issue.

I believe that ample notice should be given of consultation, if it should take place. Public notice should be given that public meetings will be held in certain locations at certain times. There should be adequate preparation by the people involved, to ensure that a full summary of the bill and the implications and the issues that it brings out is prepared and is brought to the public in an organized fashion so that they have a basis on which to formulate some initial thought to have some understanding on which to base questions and feel they've been consulted.

In a great part, I guess I feel like there's been a great rush for the Minister to say -- perhaps on the Peter Gzowski show -- that, as he said: "People are going north to consult and are being consulted at this moment as we speak".

That hastily collected plan has been put forward in order to make the impression that consultation is taking place. I think it is important for Members of this Legislature to speak about the concerns they have as consultation, as it is being called by the federal government, is taking place in the constituencies across the Northwest Territories.

In part, I would say I am very disappointed. It's ill prepared. We have not been informed, even as a government, of the consultation, and I have great difficulty believing that a letter that was dated May 19th should have only been received in my office yesterday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question 535-12(7): Location Of NWT Water Bombers

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Circumstances have changed again.

--- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for forest fire fighting. I would like to ask the Minister where our water bombers are now. I understand that for a while they were loaned to Alberta or the other provinces to help them in their battle against fires. We are now seeing a much more serious condition appearing here in the territories, and I would like to ask where our water tankers are?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for fire management, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 535-12(7): Location Of NWT Water Bombers

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member is quite correct. We did lend, or through the MARS agreement or whatever, the DC-4 water bomber to Alberta to Whitecourt, and it was down there for approximately 24 hours. We did bring it back into the north.

We have our two CL-215s and two more CL-215s are supposed to be in the Wells now. The DC-4 should be leaving Hay River to go to Norman Wells. We have kept back one DC-4 on standby in the South Slave because conditions are very high there as well. I would like to assure the Member that the city of Yellowknife, as well, has I believe it is 3 firefighting crews in

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this area and we also have firefighting crews in Fort Rae, Lutsel K'e and Fort Resolution that all can be put into action if any fires threaten this community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 536-12(7): Procedure For GNWT Laid-off Or Redundant Positions

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that when a person is laid off from their position, the person has had three months on the job before the position is terminated. Could the Minister confirm that under normal circumstances when a

position is either declared redundant or the individual laid off, the individual occupying the position should be placed on lay-off status. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Yes, I'll ask the Premier or the Minister of the Personnel Secretariat.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Thompson.

Question 537-12(7): Additional Nurse For Chesterfield Inlet

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I know the Minister of Health is aware of the correspondence regarding the support for the one nurse in Chesterfield Inlet. I believe the Minister knows that the one nurse is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Will the Minister be able to do anything to give more support to this overworked nurse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 537-12(7): Additional Nurse For Chesterfield Inlet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the whole issue of the nursing staff at all the health centres is presently being looked at to see what is a fair number to staff the health centres. I have said it before in the House, but I will restate it again: the staffing of the health centres were taken over as is.

The plan of the department is to attempt, as quickly as possible, to continue to work toward establishing a formula for the number of people who would be at the nursing station. So we are actively pursuing that formula. In education, there is a formula for staffing the school system because of the high number of children, and I believe that it's only fair that we move

in a similar direction in looking at the health units. At this time, it is difficult to do because the union negotiations are not yet concluded, and making any suggestions or changes is not really appropriate. So, once the arbitration is over, we'll attempt to try to bring that discussion forward so that the health centres can see a window of opportunity to have their concerns addressed.

We realize that at the present time there are float nurses that are available to spell people off; however, we know that's not

adequate. In some of the larger stations, as well, they are feeling that the growth of their communities has not been taken into consideration in terms of staffing of those units. As quickly as we can move in this area, the issue is in active consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 537-12(7): Additional Nurse For Chesterfield Inlet

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I'm a new Member and I'm anxious to get this problem solved. Will the Minister be able to give me an answer before the end of this session for this particular case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 537-12(7): Additional Nurse For Chesterfield Inlet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could but I do not believe that the process that's going on right now will be concluded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 538-12(7): Completion Of Official Languages Act Regulations

MR. KOE:

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. The Official Languages Act was passed almost 11 years ago and there are several references in the act to regulations. To my knowledge, the regulations for this particular act have not been completed. I would like to ask the Premier, when will the regulations for the Official Languages Act be completed?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 539-12(7): Difficulties In Contacting Maintenance Enforcement Officers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of months, I've had a few phone calls with respect to the maintenance enforcement program. My constituents have been very appreciative of the program, providing they could get in touch with the maintenance enforcement officers. However, the apparent problem appears to be the maintenance enforcement program has a toll-free number which all northerners can take advantage of. Unfortunately, though, once you get through, you get a recording and you are supposed to leave a message. Many of my constituents have indicated that their messages they have left have never been answered, and it's quite frustrating trying to reach them. They

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did state, however, that once you do reach them they are very helpful.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can find out from his department what might be the problem when individuals are attempting to reach maintenance enforcement officers in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 539-12(7): Difficulties In Contacting Maintenance Enforcement Officers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the people within the maintenance enforcement section would be very concerned to hear that they have some members of the public who are having difficulty reaching them since they are a very highly motivated group of individuals and very committed to providing a top quality service. I will bring this to their attention and ask them to make sure that the concern of the Member for Thebacha and all other Members are dealt with as soon as possible to ensure that this does not happen again. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. I understand that there is a strategy now in place for the sale of houses owned by the Power Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister what is the strategy for the sale of housing units owned by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the corporation is currently activating meetings with employees to discuss the disposal of the accommodation in Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik. There are a number of smaller communities in the north where the corporation has housing units that they no longer require and we are in the process of formally transferring all property of the NWT Power Corporation. Now that this obstacle is out of the way, the corporation plans to sell staff

accommodation in those communities where they no longer have needs identified.

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems has been in the proper survey of the lots in the community. It didn't allow very clear access or identification of the sale and the security that an interested party may have in getting a mortgage and purchasing that particular unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

MR. KOE:

I would like to ask the Minister -- I assume that the corporation owns houses in other communities like Iqaluit, Fort Smith or Hay River -- when will the sale of units begin in those communities.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

From the information I have, the corporation is no longer providing accommodation in Fort Smith and only has one unit available in Yellowknife. As I indicated, the employees in Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik are actively discussing with the Power Corporation their interest in purchasing those units that are available. I believe that where there is interest and where we can move without the encumbrance of having to resolve the property status, we can move very quickly to do that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, then, will employees who live in the units that are

being discussed have any preferential treatment in trying to buy these units.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that they do have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

MR. KOE:

My final supplementary, then, is the sale of these units going to be carried out similar to the previous sales done by this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 540-12(7): Strategy For Sale Of Power Corporation Houses

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Power Corporation themselves would be dealing individually with their employees, and it would not be going through the maze of territorial government disposal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 541-12(7): Provision Of GNWT Procedures To New Employees

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Personnel. Mr. Speaker, job offers that are granted to employees, I believe should include hiring

procedures of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Currently, they do not have that; they basically have the indication that they are a smoke-free environment and they are an affirmative action candidate. Once an employee signs up, nothing binds them to adhere to any of the procedures and policies that this government develops. So, I would like to ask the Minister of Personnel if he would review this issue to ensure that the job offers granted ensure the employees adhere to the procedures and policies this government develops. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Madam Premier, would you like to respond for the Minister of the Personnel Secretariat?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, what I will do is refer the question to the Minister responsible and instruct him to reply to the question that has been put forward here. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, new question? Go ahead.

Question 542-12(7): Appointment Of Affirmative Action Individual To Appeals Committee

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

New question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for FMBS, which is responsible for the appeal process of the government. I don't know the process with respect to the government's involvement, but I do know that there are individuals in my riding who are from FMBS, whether they're a superintendent or another employee of FMBS, a chairperson of the appeal committee or a representatives of the union.

With all due respect to the appeal committee, they don't have an affirmative action candidate on that appeal committee involved in the process. Since this government does have an affirmative action policy, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for FMBS if he would review this review committee to ensure there is an affirmative action candidate member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 542-12(7): Appointment Of Affirmative Action Individual To Appeals Committee

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I'll certainly review the make-up of those committees and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 20-12(7): Summary Of International Travel

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 20-12(7), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell to the Premier concerning a summary of international travel.

I will be tabling today a summary of all international travel undertaken at GNWT expense since December 1, 1993 by:

1. Cabinet Ministers;
2. deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers of all departments;
3. ministerial executive assistants and other Cabinet staff;
which includes the following information:
 1. the destination, purpose and dates of this international travel;
 2. travel and accommodation expenditures associated with each trip; and,
 3. the amount of airline travel points awarded associated with each trip.

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

Return to Written Question 25-12(7), asked by Mr. Patterson to the Minister of Transportation concerning residency requirements for an NWT driver's license.

The Motor Vehicles Act provides no special definition of the term "resident." For purposes of the act, a resident is viewed as someone who has established a permanent residency in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 5-12(7), Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper; Committee Report 9-12(7), Report on the Review of the Financial Statements of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Report of the Auditor General for Canada for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1994; Committee Report 10-12(7), Report on Bill 32: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council

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Act, No. 2; Bill 25, Education Act; and, Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The committee will come back to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that the committee resume consideration of Committee Report 5-12(7) and call me optimistic, but perhaps we could get started on Committee Report 9-12(7). If we happen to finish that, we could even consider, perhaps, Committee Report 10-12(7) and Bill 32, in the hopes of getting finished before July.

--- Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Do we agree then that we will deal with matters as indicated by the honourable Member, Mr. Dent, after the break?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you.

--- SHORT RECESS

Committee Report 5-12(7): Report On The Review Of Rewriting The Liquor Laws Of The Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come back to order. When we concluded for the day yesterday, we were dealing with a motion. To the motion. For the record, I will read the motion.

Committee Motion 50-12(7): Territorial Plebiscite On Legal Drinking Age, Withdrawn

I move that the committee recommends that the Executive Council develop the form of a question to determine whether voters in the Northwest Territories want the legal drinking age increased to 21 years of age;

And further, that this question should be put to a plebiscite during the fall 1995 territorial election.

To the motion. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was pretty much involved with the Standing Committee on Legislation in its review of the rewrite of the Liquor Act. I heard a lot of concerns expressed about alcohol in the territories, the use or misuse of it, and the concerns this was causing people. We heard a lot of concerns and some suggestions, but I don't think we came across with anything that was really definitive. There were as many opinions as people who made presentations. We wrote our report accordingly. We

found that the paper was difficult to review in so far as it did not endorse specific actions, but, I, nonetheless, stand by our report.

I don't think that putting a plebiscite out to the public at this time is the way to deal with this issue. There are more issues under the Liquor Act than just this one item. If we're going to have a plebiscite on every item in here, then I think it's not an effective way of dealing with it. I believe that plebiscites are instruments to deal with fiercely contended burning issues of the day, rather than issues such as the one we're going to be dealing with here. I feel that from many points of view -- I speak as a parent, as a social worker and as a Member of this Legislative Assembly -- raising the drinking age to 21 is not the answer. If the intent is to find that out, then I think this is not going to resolve any of our problems.

We have made some suggestions in the report as to how we can best deal with this matter. Until the next government that comes in is prepared to make some changes to this law, I think we've done what we have been assigned to do. I can't second-guess the committee on this, and I won't. Therefore, I won't support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some comments on this motion. In 1970, the drinking age was dropped from 21 to 19. I wasn't there, but I'm sure a lot of the arguments that have been raised across the territories will be raised again on this issue. I don't think the arguments and issues have changed that much.

The issue of a territorial-wide plebiscite raises some questions and I would like to get some clarification on this issue. I understand that we have a Plebiscite Act. I'm not sure, if there's a question that goes to a territorial-wide plebiscite, whether or not the question has to be approved by this Assembly, and I would like some clarification on this. Who would approve a question for a territorial-wide plebiscite?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Legal counsel, Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two options available to the Assembly. Under the Plebiscite Act, the Commissioner can approve the form of the question. The Commissioner would obviously be directed by this Assembly, could be directed by this Assembly. The second option that is available to the Assembly is to set forth the question in legislation.

When we had the boundary plebiscite several years ago approving the boundary, that question was put in a schedule to the Plebiscite Act so that there was no way of deviating from that question. For that question that was approved, the specific wording was approved by the Assembly. Basically, the Members could leave the form of the question up to the Commissioner, or they could put it in legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

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MR. KOE:

There will be amendments required to the Plebiscite Act, and one of them is the residency clause. Currently, I believe the residency clause in the act is three years. We're now requiring for our legal voting a one-year residency requirement.

The other issue is that we just passed amendments to the Elections Act allowing inmates to vote, so that raises the question about whether inmates would be allowed to vote on the issue of the legal drinking age. I would like to get some clarification on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. Legal counsel, Ms. MacPherson, on the legal aspect of the question.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the existing Plebiscite Act, only people who have resided in the Northwest Territories for a period of at least three years are eligible to vote. If Members wish to take advantage of the existing enumeration process, that section would have to be changed in order to take advantage of the enumeration that is presently ongoing.

The second area where questions would certainly arise is in the area of inmate voting. The Elections Act was recently amended to permit inmates serving

sentences of less than two years to vote. There was no commensurate amendment to the Plebiscite Act. The existing Plebiscite Act prohibits all inmates, regardless of sentence, from voting. If Members wish to have a plebiscite, the Assembly may wish to consider whether they wish to amend the Plebiscite Act to allow inmates to vote.

The Elections Act was amended, as Members are aware, to allow inmates to vote as a result of the Charter challenges. The Charter does guarantee the right to vote in an election. There is no similar guarantee of the right to vote in a plebiscite, so there may be policy issues that arise as to whether the right to vote should, in fact, be extended to inmates for plebiscites.

We don't have the same Charter constraints that governed the deliberations of the amendments under the Elections Act. But those are certainly two areas of amendments that would have to be looked at if Members wished a plebiscite to be held at the same time as an election, using the identical enumeration list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Qujannamiik. I just raise these issues because, if this motion passes, then we have to make these amendments to the Plebiscite Act, and I am just curious as to when we would do that, because you know the term of this Assembly is up some time next week.

My other issue is the issue of costs of a plebiscite, and I guess the most recent territorial-wide plebiscite was the boundary issue, but I also found out that in areas in the territorial election there are acclamations -- and I believe there were three constituencies that had acclamations; in 1987 and six in 1991 -- so that would mean in those areas you would have to get the poll clerks and whole election teams set up just to do this certain plebiscite. So I am not sure what that would cost this government to do.

Also, in our current system, we know that our jails are full. I found out that currently there are 43 people in our jails that are between 18 and 21 which is about 14 per cent of the inmate population. I believe that if we raise the age again, we are inviting more potential candidates to fill our already full jails. So there is a

real potential impact on our system, and it would be a real problem for policing because they now have an age group, the 19 to 21 age group, who are already or may be frequenting liquor establishments who are now going to be prohibited from doing that and there would be unmeasurable impacts on that age group. Police jail cells aren't set up to house a lot of these people. Our courts are already overworked and our correctional centres are already full.

In the legislative action paper, there were a lot of concepts introduced, and I know that the standing committee didn't address every one of them in the reports. I believe by not addressing them, there was some support for those concepts. But I would just like to mention a few of them and I believe that if the laws and then the regulations pertaining to these areas are drafted and then put in to place in an adequate manner, a lot of the concerns would be addressed.

The first one is, and I think we all support it, that we have to enable the communities to exercise control over liquor regulations, and however they do that is really up to the people in the communities.

The other one is a concept of the offences for persons younger than legal drinking age, and the discussion paper says that we should make it a more serious offence for persons younger than the legal drinking age to consume liquor. A wider range of penalties and other consequences could be developed and the new legislation could be framed in a manner that incorporates community justice alternatives whenever possible. I agree that things could be done in that area.

The one that the report did mention was developing a proof of eligibility system that allows sellers and law enforcement authorities to determine whether a person is entitled to possess or consume the alcohol.

The other area that would help determine whether we want the drinking age raised is the number of penalties that we set, and I believe that was addressed again in the report.

Another argument that is raised by many people in determining age is that currently people can vote at 18, and people are eligible to serve in our armed forces and as firefighters or other dangerous activities at 18 or 19; as such, we put them in situations like, currently, Canadians are in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia at 18 or 19 ... I don't know if there are any there, but it's possible.

Another argument is that most other provinces have a drinking age similar to what we have in the territories, so we can't treat our young people any differently and we should be consistent with what goes on in the rest of Canada and the world.

So with all these comments I have made and my own personal convictions, I am not convinced that by raising the age limit at this time we'll solve our problems, and I believe this motion is not addressing the root problem of alcohol abuse. Therefore, I cannot support this motion at this time.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I would like to remind the Members to stick to the specific motion. Some of us are more skillful in talking to a motion than others but ... To the motion. I have Mr. Dent and I have the Member for Thebacha. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is an important question. I thank the Member for Thebacha for having forced the issue. I think the Standing Committee on Legislation did look at the issue, but by having this motion in front of us, we are all forced to think about it and weigh both sides of the problem.

Mr. Chairman, I tend to believe that prohibition doesn't work. I am afraid I have to say that we haven't many examples of success with prohibition, and I have to agree with the committee that education is the best chance we have for dealing with the problem, education and trying to deal with the root cause of alcohol problems which are probably a symptom of much deeper problems in our society.

I think that, as Mr. Koe has pointed out, if you have the right to vote, if you have the right to serve in your country's armed forces, if you have the responsibility to do certain things in your country, you should also share in the other adult rights. You should be seen as responsible enough -- old enough, at least -- to have the responsibility to make informed decisions. Not everybody in our society will make informed decisions for themselves but we can't set our rules and our laws up for the minority who choose not to follow through.

I think that by having raised this issue it will now become much more of a public thing. To date, I, for instance, have not heard from a lot of my constituents that they think that the drinking age should be raised.

I think that an important consideration is the cost of the plebiscite and especially since it would have to be a now enumeration to run a plebiscite. I am certain that with an election this fall and us having now talked about the issue in the Legislature, a lot of us will be dealing with this issue in our constituencies. I think that MLAs, after an election -- when this is an issue during an election -- will be quite qualified to report to this Assembly what their constituents said and to represent their constituents by voting on the matter when the new Liquor Act comes before the Members.

I can certainly commit to trying to find out what the constituents in my constituency think during the upcoming campaign, so I'm sure it will be an issue in the campaign. Mr. Chairman, based on that, I'm afraid that I, too, will say that I will be voting against this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I've listened fairly carefully to the comments that my honourable colleagues have been making with regard to this motion. Personally, I felt the debate to be very interesting and I'm pleased that other Members have spoken out on the issue. I want to indicate to the Members that I feel strongly that we're not going to get anywhere by pretending that the alcohol problem doesn't exist. And I do know, Mr. Chairman, that we all know how this Assembly developed a zero tolerance for violence principle. We all know that statistics reveal that in the majority of violent cases, the offender is under the influence of alcohol.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that until we make every attempt to address the underlying problem, such as alcohol abuse, it will be difficult to achieve zero tolerance for violence. In fact, we'll struggle for many years to come. However, Mr. Chairman, I feel this dialogue is very valuable. I also realize that it's a complex issue and that all Members may need to consult with their constituents, as many Members have commented.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps it would be useful to provide Members with an opportunity to do just that. I suggest that all Members may want to consult with their constituents to find out whether they would like a plebiscite held on this issue when the territorial election is held this fall. From the start, Mr. Chairman,

I have believed that the people of Fort Smith would favour the opportunity to have such a vote, but I realize that things may be different in other constituencies. And, Mr. Chairman, I respect that. I recognize the importance of our comments in assisting the government to develop a framework for liquor laws in the next Assembly. I believe, at the very least, I brought the awareness to this House.

The last time liquor laws were revised was, I believe, in excess of 20 years ago, if not 25. So Mr. Chairman, at this point, I would like to withdraw my motion in order to give other Members a chance to determine the views of their constituents. If there is support for the idea of a plebiscite, perhaps another Member can introduce a similar motion at a later time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Member for Thebacha. The motion is withdrawn.

--- Withdrawn

We're dealing with Committee Report 5-12(7) and I believe Mr. Tony Whitford has opening remarks on behalf of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Standing Committee On Legislation Comments

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are the remarks from the Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper. The Standing Committee on Legislation read into the record its Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper, on March 19, 1995.

The standing committee found this paper difficult to review insofar as the paper did not endorse a specific course of action for legislating liquor in the NWT. The paper did, however, invoke much emotion and discussion.

Although unanimity on specific areas for change was not reached, the standing committee clearly heard from the public that now and more progressive liquor legislation for the Northwest Territories was required. The Standing Committee on Legislation strongly urges the government to begin the

drafting of new liquor legislation for early introduction in the 13th Assembly. That's the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. General comments. I have on my list Ms. Mike. Did you want to speak?

MS. MIKE:

Mr. Chairman, I had wanted to speak to the motion that the Member for Thebacha has just finished withdrawing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We're dealing with the Standing Committee on Legislation Report on the Review of Rewriting the Liquor Laws of the Northwest Territories: A Legislative Action Paper. Do we have any general comments from the floor about the report? Member for Thebacha.

General Comments

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have additional comments with regard to the report. I want to comment that the legislative action paper makes the point that it is time to get tough with people who break the law by selling liquor in an irresponsible way. At the public meetings in Fort Smith last fall, my constituents felt strongly that the law should be strengthened to allow much better enforcement. I'm happy that, along with the views of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Minister has announced a review of the liquor inspection program, about which I received a letter from him the other day.

Mr. Chairman, there are many problems that I would like to indicate to the Minister he should keep in mind while developing the liquor legislation. I think there is a lack of standards to guide how often inspections are being performed in liquor outlets. Inspectors don't have enough power and authority. And, the liquor licensing board hasn't been amending the liquor regulations to keep them effective.

I believe often inspections are conducted in a manipulative way. Sometimes, also, too many warnings are given because of the close relationships between inspectors and licensees. Even at times when inspectors catch someone, the liquor licensing board has a very complicated legal process which usually comes up with a small penalty.

Mr. Chairman, I don't feel there is enough training for inspectors and the public is not informed about their role. The legislative action paper suggests that there needs to be penalties for people who try to obstruct or hinder the inspectors in the process of completing an inspection. I think that needs to be addressed. Mr. Chairman, I know in the smaller communities it seems, many times, RCMP or others are somewhat hampered because of search and seizure restrictions which tie their hands and make it hard to address bootleggers. You got comments like we can't do this because of the Charter and we can't do that because of the Charter.

I certainly hope, in rewriting the new act, that the Department of Safety and Public Services and the Department of Justice will find ways to give the police as much authority and as many legislative tools as they can. It's time to make the argument that liquor abuse has reached a crisis point in the territories and we have to ensure the people who want to address them have the ability to address these types of crimes.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make further comments about the liquor licensing board. Some of my constituents feel that part of the enforcement problem has to do with the way -- as I stated earlier -- the board is constituted. In the board make-up, there should be guaranteed representation from all walks of life. It appears that the board is continually made up of business people. When I look at the current board, with all due respect, there is an alderman from Yellowknife and a mayor from another community who sit as board members. I believe the board's role should become more focused on education and less focused on day-to-day administrative matters that probably could be handled by the liquor board staff.

The board, once developed, should be established as a body which could hear appeals of administrative decisions, rather than the board having to make all the decisions itself. I feel the board's mandate and responsibility is supposed to be to make liquor regulations. I believe that it doesn't have the resources and lacks the ability to do this.

Regulations are now made by the board, but there is nothing stopping the regulations from being developed by the Minister and then sent to the board for confirmation. I think if the board doesn't object to these then they can probably go through the process for approval. I would strongly urge the Minister to look carefully at this area when the bill is being drafted.

Mr. Chairman, another area of the legislative action paper highlights one of the recommendations with regard to purchasing of liquor. I think that in many communities there are large purchases of liquor. Therefore, you know that many of these large purchases are probably going to be used for bootlegging purposes. There is no method, there is no process currently in place, that allows for any type of control in the system. There is no permit system. Someone could go in and order, I don't know how many cases of liquor all at once, and it's not questioned. If you're going to order 20 cases of vodka, for instance, it's questionable whether you're going to buy 20 cases of vodka for personal use, unless you're going to use it for a wedding. And if that's the case, it will be a very big wedding.

We've got to find some method to control that because I think it's harming the small communities. As I said, I would like to see in the Legislative Liquor Review, particularly, community control of liquor. The legislative action paper talks about community-based liquor control and it suggests, that rather than giving communities a restricted set of local options to choose from, there should basically be a broad set of options of different liquor control elements that can be implemented by community plebiscite, if the community so wishes. I think there is certainly broad support for this concept all across the territories.

When we look at many other reports that this committee puts forth it is always indicated -- and even in this particular report -- that community leaders stress that each community knows best what would meet the local needs of that community. Therefore, the legislation should allow each community to tailor a liquor control system to their needs. Issues such as standards for entertainment; a ban on strippers, for example; Sunday opening of bars; hours of liquor store operations; and, off-sales should all be decided on a community-by-community

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basis. I don't believe that it should be decided by the bureaucracy in Yellowknife or at the Liquor Licensing Board office in Hay River. I think we've got to give more control to the community.

I know that the concept of community empowerment is really the key to effective liquor control and for an effective Liquor Act. I would encourage the Department of Justice, along with their colleagues in Safety and Public Services, to be creative in coming up with a system that will place more authority in the

hands of communities. Mr. Chairman, we all know that, no doubt, they probably have the skills and the ability to do that and they just have to commit to the concept. I would encourage them to be committed.

Mr. Chairman, if I may proceed with my comments, I still have quite a few more comments. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I think some things, with all due respect, that were missed in the SCOL report were some of the ideas that were the principles for the new legislation on the overall framework, and I would like to ask them to turn to a number of items that are basically closely related to the committee's report. I believe that these matters were possibly overlooked with regard to a specific section when it was not dealt with.

The most important part of the liquor law review has been focused on the identification of the fundamental principles in which the new legislation should be based. I think it's really important to be clear on what these principles are because they will guide the overall development of the legislation. The standing committee report mentions, on page 2, on the overview, that a series of five principles have been identified but it doesn't list what those principles are. You have to go back to the actual liquor law legislation paper that came from the government to look at them as the report itself doesn't identify the principles. The principles, as I said, are outlined in the action paper.

The first principle suggested for the new act is that liquor should continue to be regarded as a regulated product. The second principle is that our legislation has to be tied with other community development health and social policy considerations and that it shouldn't be planned in isolation. The third principle is that liquor legislation should not be modeled after another province. I think that is critical to remember in developing your legislation. The fourth one is that liquor control systems should be effective and should reflect community priorities and empower local measures for liquor control. The fifth principle is the Liquor Act should be balanced, recognizing that many northerners have a problem with liquor use but that excessive and irresponsible abuse has been linked to many social problems. There are many northerners, too, have no problem with liquor use. Therefore, the Liquor Act should be balanced with respect to that.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that these are good principles on which to base a new liquor law. I think that the many public meetings, committee meeting hearings

and other comments received from the public reinforce those fundamental concepts.

One other area that I feel has to be addressed, Mr. Chairman, is with respect to liability issues. Liability is an issue that is becoming more and more prevalent across the country. It basically has to do with the importance of empowering individuals with the legislative tools they need to make a difference when they see bar owners or others behaving in an irresponsible manner.

There are several suggestions along these lines. It is suggested that there could be a formal complaint system that individuals could use to initiate a formal disciplinary action against liquor licensees. We should have some type of protection -- I don't know if you want to call it "blowing the whistle," but some type of provision -- that would allow employees and licensed establishments to be safe from intimidation if they report their employer or other bar staff who are breaking the law.

A tiered licensing system could be developed that would -- something like the WCB system -- reward people who follow the law by giving them more opportunity to set their own prices or hours, rather than only penalizing those who are frequent offenders. I know the WCB system has an incentive type of system where if you can stay free from any type of injuries it helps your assessment. The same type of concept could be developed by the Liquor Licensing Board.

I think there should be mandatory server intervention training programs for all the staff who work in bars. If you're in the business of selling liquor you have to make sure that your staff is trained.

I believe that the new act should give people better tools for using the courts if they have been wronged by someone who sells liquor. It's not only becoming easier for individuals to take action through the civil courts and sue bar owners or people who throw parties and then are careless in how liquor is used. Recently the courts have been finding that people who sell liquor irresponsibly can be held accountable for their actions, and I certainly applaud these types of decisions and developments.

But our present act contains a provision that establishes the civil liability of people who supply liquor to others. But when you really look at the act itself, it appears to be so vague that it's probably very difficult to be of any use. So I certainly feel that our

now act should be clear and precise with regard to addressing liability issues.

I also think, and I was really surprised that there is nothing in the regulations I shouldn't say there's nothing; it's vague in the regulations to ensure that these bars can have liability insurance. I think it you can reflect this in the new act that we could probably become the first jurisdiction in Canada to make it a requirement for bar operators to carry liability insurance, because not all bar operators in the Northwest Territories carry liability insurance. It's something, if someone could launch a civil suit, to ensure that the money would be there to compensate them for their loss. Some of the very violent actions come out of a bar, or you hear of bar brawls, and if there is no liability insurance then what does the individual have? I know this for a fact. I've seen people, even my constituents, who are still trying to get some type of compensation for getting hurt on a bar premises because the liability insurance has been so limited.

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In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put forth motions to assist in development so that these types of concepts are considered when the Liquor Act is developed. I think it's going to be important, as a Legislature, that we discuss these issues, because, as I have stated many times, liquor abuse is a serious issue that affects many northerners. I think the government loses more money because of liquor in paying for the social costs. When you look at the health budget, when you look at all the other amounts that we have to pay resulting from the abuse of alcohol, we probably lose more money than we make selling it.

But I know that it's here to stay, and I think our new act, if we can develop it in a form that we recognize these problems over the past years and make every attempt to address them, would only be helping northerners.

Mr. Chairman, public education, no doubt, is important, but I don't think that education is enough. I strongly believe, as a Member, that a legislative foundation has to be strong so that we can take action against those who want to break the law and use liquor in such an irresponsible manner.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I do have a few motions which I would like to present, but I would like to wish the Minister well and his department, along with the

Department of Justice, in developing the Liquor Act which will be brought to the next Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. At this point in time I would like to recognize a few people in the public gallery: Mr. Tom Stewart from the Kitikmeot Board of Education; and a gentleman who almost single-handedly took the people of my area to put me in this seat here, Mr. Dennis Lyall, my friend.

--- Applause

And also for my friend from formal school, a fellow student from the Baffin area, Joe Ataguttaaluk.

---Applause

Thank you. To the standing committee report on the liquor law. To the report. Do we have any further comments from the Members? Yes, Mrs. Thompson, you have the floor. I think you want to recognize somebody.

MRS. THOMPSON:

I would like to recognize Fraser Hope from the Keewatin Divisional Board of Education.

--- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Yes, Mrs. Thompson.

MRS. THOMPSON:

Mr. Chairman. Sorry. I would also like to recognize Sandy Kusugak from the Keewatin Divisional Board of Education.

--- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Members, because it is the first time that the Member for Aivilik wanted to recognize public in the gallery, I gave her the opportunity, but it is not our custom to do so.

We are dealing with the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation regarding the liquor laws of the NWT legislative action paper. Do we have any further comments from the Members of committee of the whole? Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that when drafting the now Liquor Act the government should give the maximum amount of legal allowable authority to inspectors and peace officers to allow them to effectively enforce the act;

And further, that minimum penalties for the illegal sale of liquor by bootleggers should be substantially increased in the new Liquor Act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the benefit of Members of the committee of the whole and also for the benefit of the Member for Baffin South, we need the written motion translated into the appropriate language. We will take about five or 10 minutes for the translation. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The committee will come back to order. We have a motion that has been translated and is being distributed. I would like to mover of the motion to read the motion for the record. Member for Thebacha.

Committee Motion 51-12(7): Providing Maximum Authority To Inspectors And Peace Officers In New Liquor Legislation, Carried

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that when it is drafting the new Liquor Act, the government should give the maximum amount of legal allowable authority to inspectors and peace officers to allow them to effectively enforce the act;

And further, that minimum penalties for the illegal sale of liquor by bootleggers should be substantially increased in the new Liquor Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the recommendations are good ones, but it leaves a lot of

latitude that allows the government to make certain decisions to try to rectify what is perceived to be a problem now, and perhaps it is a problem. I do know a number of liquor inspectors who take their job seriously and they go about doing what they have to do, and the peace officers likewise. But I'm not sure whether it's the government's restrictions that are hindering peace officers. It may be the laws themselves that disallow certain things to go to court, search warrants to be required and all kinds of technical stuff like that. A peace officer can do so much, but once they've done their job, then this falls into the hands of the courts. Often it's not dealt with in the manner, I suspect, that the mover of the motion would like to see -- and I think a good number of the public would like to see as well. I think that's where some of the problem lies.

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Likewise for the second portion of the motion concerning the substantial increases in fines or penalties for bootleggers. Bootlegging is looked at as a joke in many places. The public in those communities, the public in Yellowknife, the public in Rae, Wrigley, Simpson and Iqaluit know who the bootleggers are. I don't think it's entirely the responsibility of the police to enforce that and bring these people to justice; it's the public themselves.

I was quite surprised and happy to see that one community, not too long ago, reported who the bootleggers were. It took on a different character by doing that where the public themselves are the ones who are going to enforce this law; enforce it by not participating in the purchasing of illegal liquors, participating in terms of enforcing it by reporting who the bootleggers are and assisting the peace officers and the liquor inspectors to carry out their jobs. I think a lot of responsibility does fall on the police.

In terms of penalties, we give a fine to a bootlegger. I support the motion, it's just that the fines are so low it's a cost to doing business. The mover is correct that when you see a person going to the liquor store and going out with a couple of cases of mickeys, for example, you know that if they're intending to have a banquet or a party they would probably purchase the more economic containers -- the larger, the cheaper -- instead of these small things. You know that this is hip pocket stuff and it's going to be sold illegally on the street. I think it should be treated as a serious matter, rather than just giving them a small fine for this thing, and I support what is being said here.

Again, I say that the public are the ones who would be able to eradicate bootlegging. They would be the ones who would be able to eradicate any misuse of alcohol, even in licensed establishments, by reporting infractions or people who are abusing and putting into jeopardy a privilege that other people who don't abuse the system, enjoy.

I support the motion but I want to make those comments so the inspectors and the peace officers will know the public are behind them, so the courts will know the public is behind them, as well, when it comes to dealing with people who misuse alcohol, who violate the rules we set down, or who put the public in danger by selling illegal alcohol. I just wanted to make those comments. I'm supporting the motion but the public will react to these suggestions a little more strongly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Whitford. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

--- Carried

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, do you have further comments to make? Member for Thebacha.

Committee Motion 52-12(7): Reinforcement Of Liability Of Liquor Licensees Arising From The Irresponsible Sale/Supply Of Liquor, Carried

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the government should draft a new Liquor Act in a way that reinforces that liability of liquor licensees for damages arising from the irresponsible sale or supply of liquor;

And further, that this committee recommends that the government include provisions in the draft Liquor Act that would require licensees to carry a minimum level of liability insurance. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion is being distributed to Members. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the intent of the motion, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to ask -and perhaps our legal advisor could assist us -- a question about damages resulting from irresponsible sale or supply of liquor. Isn't it true, Mr. Chairman, that licensees are already liable for their actions in selling or supplying liquor under the ... Sorry, I understand there may be a translation problem, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. I believe the translation is now being fixed. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just repeat the question. I think the essence of it is, I agree with the intent of the motion, but I would like to ask -- perhaps through our legal advisor -- aren't licensees already liable, civilly, if they act irresponsibly in the way that they sell or supply liquor? If that's the case, then I would like to ask our legal advisor, would provisions in the Liquor Act restating that civil responsibility strengthen or possibly weaken the remedies that are already available, as I understand, under civil law? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. On the legal aspect of the motion, legal counsel, Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently, if a person sells or supplies alcohol and they are negligent in doing so, they can be held responsible for the damage that is caused, if that damage is caused by their irresponsibility. That is already in the common law, in the case law, that is developed and the courts have held people responsible for that damage.

It is possible that legislation could extend the liability of people who act in that manner. For example, one of the problems sometimes is proving that the irresponsible sale caused the damage. It is possible that legislation could impose what we would call an absolute liability and presume that there would be

damages resulting from the illegal sale or supply of liquor. It is possible that legislation could extend it.

If we were to codify the existing law in our Liquor Act - without making further changes, without extending the law, a possible danger that the courts could limit remedies to what is contained in the act and say that the Legislature has ousted

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the common law. That is something that people drafting the legislation would have to be aware of. It would have to be drafted very carefully to make sure that it doesn't prevent the courts from taking advantage of new laws and new doctrines in law, as they may arise, so that the courts wouldn't be limited to awarding damages only in situations that fell clearly under the scope of the act. It is something that would have to be watched out for by the drafters. I hope that answers the Member's question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Ms. MacPherson. Mr. Patterson, has legal counsel answered your question? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the legal counsel, as usual, has given wise advice and hopefully it will be of assistance, should this motion pass, to the drafters of the now bill in enacting provisions that will further the worthwhile objectives of the mover of the motion. I think that explanation is helpful and I'm glad that it's on the record. I'll support the motion in light of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I don't want to be picky, Mr. Chairman -- it's late in the day to get on people's nerves -- but first all I believe that the word committee is singular. It's a singular noun and the verb should be "recommends" not "recommend," with an "s" after it. When we come to the body of that first clause, "in a way that reinforces that liability," "that" doesn't mean anything. You don't know what it's talking about. I believe it should be "the" liability, not "that" liability. It just doesn't make sense. In English this sentence doesn't make sense; it's not a sentence. I would say that this motion, because it doesn't make sense, is out of order.

--- Laughter

I could move a motion that we change it so that we have "recommends," with an "s", twice, where those words appear and that we replace the word "that" with the word "the." Then it would make sense and it wouldn't be out of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. The motion was originally ruled in order by the chair but if you wish to change, not the principle of the motion but the wording, if the committee agrees. Do you wish to change the wording? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I made a criticism, but I didn't make a motion, Mr. Chairman. I could make a motion, it that would help matters a little bit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

What is your wish? Mr. Lewis.

Committee Motion To Amend Committee Motion 52-12(7), Withdrawn

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Chairman, I move that where the word "recommended" appears it should be made plural by the addition of an "s", and that the word "that" which appears before the word "liability" should be changed to the word "the."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

We need a copy of the motion and a translated version. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

It's late in the day but...

--- Laughter

Mr. Chairman, the last speaker raised a question of whether or not a motion in the first instance should make sense if it's going to be ruled in order. Since he has argued very categorically that, in fact, grammatically, it makes little or no sense, I wonder if you would rule on whether the motion was in order in the first instance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Kakwi. I ruled the motion was in order, originally. We need a copy of Mr. Lewis's motion, please. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I've done a second reading of the motion, Mr. Chairman, and I found another error which, if we're going to make a motion, should also be corrected.

--- Laughter

And then there would have to be another amendment to change the other mistake, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Mr. Lewis, if you wish to make a motion, you can make a motion and have it written. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman. It's late in the day and I think people are going to get restless and annoyed. I'll just withdraw it.

--- Withdrawn

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Koe, did you have your hand up? Mr. Koe, were you stretching?

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Scratching, thank you. To the motion. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

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

--- Carried

Thank you. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've really got to look at this grammar now, Mr. Chairman.

--- Laughter

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Committee Motion 53-12(7): Endorsement Of The Principles As Outlined In The Legislative Action Paper On Liquor Laws (TD 2-12(7)), Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee endorse the final five principles as outlined in the legislative action paper. Tabled Document 2-12(7):

1. In the Northwest Territories, liquor should be regarded as a "regulated product." The Liquor Act and regulations should define parameters for controlling the sale, distribution, possession and consumption of liquor.

2. New legislation should not be planned in isolation. An effective, responsive liquor control system should be seen as one of the many factors that can contribute to community "wellness." Liquor regulation impacts on health and social policy, on community development and on many other areas. These should be taken into account when new legislative approaches are being considered.

3. Territorial liquor legislation should not necessarily be modeled after similar laws enacted by other Canadian provinces. While it may be instructive to examine approaches taken in other jurisdictions, the new Liquor Act should be tailored to meet the specific northern needs that people have identified. Elements that promise to work well in the NWT should be incorporated, regardless of whether they have been adopted elsewhere in Canada.

4. Liquor control systems, institutions and standards should be "powerful" enough to ensure that the goals of the legislation can be achieved. They have to be regularly evaluated to determine whether they are accomplishing the desired effect. The new legislation should reflect community priorities and empower local measures for liquor control.

5. The new Liquor Act should reflect a parity -- or balance -- between the interests of varying lifestyles. On one hand, it has to be recognized that many northerners enjoy a consistently moderate and responsible pattern of liquor consumption. On the other, it must also be acknowledged that excessive or irresponsible liquor consumption has been linked to many of the social problems that plague NWT

communities. New liquor control legislation should be designed in a manner that reflects both these realities.

And Further, this committee encourages the government to base the development of the new Liquor Act on these principles.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. As in the case of the first motion, the Inuktitut version is correct and is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour? I have not ruled yet, so, Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

(Microphone turned off)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question. All those in favour of the motion, signify. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--- Carried

Member for Thebacha, if you have further recommendations. Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that the government draft the new Liquor Act in a way that reinforces that liability of liquor licenses ... I did that one.

--- Laughter

Committee Motion 54-12(7): Expanding The Range Of Options Available For Communities To Exercise Local Control Over Liquor, Carried

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the government draft the new Liquor Act in a way that greatly expands the range of options available for communities to exercise local control over liquor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. For the record, the mover of the motion has stated "recommends" as it is written "recommend," but she indicated for the record "recommends" with an "s". The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--- Carried

Member for Thebacha.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my remarks on the liquor law review paper.

--- Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. We are dealing with the Committee Report 5-12(7) on the liquor law of the NWT legislative action paper. Are there any further general comments to the report? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS:

I move that we report progress, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable.

All those in favour of the motion to report progress, please signify. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

--- Carried

We only have about two seconds, so I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. We're on item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Ningark.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 5-12(7), and would like to report progress with four motions being adopted and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Seconded by Mr. Pudluk. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

--- Carried

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

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut Caucus immediately after adjournment this evening. Meetings for tomorrow morning at 9:00 am of the Standing Committee on Finance, at 10:30 am of the Ordinary Members' Caucus and at 12:00 noon of the Management and Services Board.

Orders of the day for Thursday, June 8, 1995:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 21-12(7), Transfer of Prosecutorial Responsibilities to the Government of the Northwest Territories
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3
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
 - Committee Report 9-12(7), Report on the Review of the

the Financial Statements of the Government of

Auditor Northwest Territories and the Report of the

Ended General for Canada for the Fiscal Year

March 31, 1994

- Committee Report 10-12(7), Report on Bill
32: An Act to

Amend the Legislative Assembly and
Executive Council Act, No. 2

- Bill 25, Education Act

- Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Legislative
Assembly and

Executive Council Act, No. 2

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- 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 Thursday, June 8, 1995 at 1:30 pm.

--- ADJOURNMENT