



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

7th Session

Day 48

12th Assembly

HANSARD

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16,
1995**

Pages 1374-1400

Pagination reflects print edition

The Honourable **Samuel Gargan**, Speaker

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1992

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Members Present

Hon. Titus Alloo, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Arngha'naaq, Hon. James Arvaluk, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Bernhardt, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Dent, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Koe, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Ms. Mike, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. John Pollard, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Todd, Hon. Tony Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Michael Ballantyne):

Good afternoon. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement Regarding The Late Bishop Paul Piche

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, welcome back. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents today, I rise to pay tribute to the late Bishop Piche, who would have been 83 years old today. Bishop Paul Piche died on Friday, September 11, in Edmonton. Bishop Paul Piche was born on September 14, 1909 in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. He attended school in Gravelbourg College in Saskatchewan and later graduated from the University of Ottawa, taking philosophy and majoring in anthropology.

Bishop Paul Piche was ordained a Priest in December 31, 1934 and he was appointed in March 1959 as Bishop. He was consecrated as a Bishop on June 11, 1959. Initially, he was installed as a Vicar Apostolic of MacKenzie on June 21, 1959 and he replaced Bishop Trocellier who passed away November, 1958.

The Bishop of MacKenzie Diocese was installed in June, 1967 at the Cathedral of Fort Smith. In June of 1984, many of us in Fort Smith, as well as myself, were in attendance, honouring Bishop Piche in a jubilee celebration for his 25 years of service.

In 1986, Bishop Paul Piche resigned as Bishop, being replaced by Father Croteau, who is now our Bishop. Bishop Paul Piche held the title after he retired, of Bishop Emeritus, which means, "full of merits" in Latin.

I know that Bishop Paul Piche held this title with great respect. Bishop Paul Piche served many of my constituents, along with many people in the MacKenzie Diocese, with a full and very challenging job.

We will deeply miss Bishop Paul Piche and he leaves to mourn many of his relatives, particularly a niece with the Grey Nuns, Sister Denise Piche. When he retired, he retired with the Oblates at the Placid Place in Edmonton. I had recently seen Bishop Piche.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell your allotted time has expired.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to seek unanimous consent to continue.

SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, the honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you honourable colleagues. I had recently seen Bishop Paul Piche on August 26, when he was in Fort Smith, at the opening of the personal care unit. At the time his smile as always, will be remembered, and his laughs with the people will always be remembered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Koe.

Member's Statement On Comments Made By The Hon. S. Kakfwi To The Gwich'in Assembly

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments about some statements made by a Minister of this Assembly.

The honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, made a presentation to the Gwich'in Assembly in Fort McPherson in late August. In his presentation, he talked about the role of civil servants in implementing community transfer initiatives.

The Minister also expressed opinions on the role of M.L.A.s in meeting this government's initiatives. For instance, the Minister claims that self-government talks have slowed considerably since the community transfer initiatives were announced last fall. I also understand that the Minister stated that part of the delay is caused by M.L.A.s, who passed a motion in this Assembly last fall, saying they want to be involved in the decision making.

I am very disappointed and cannot even envision why a Minister of this government would think that I, as an ordinary M.L.A., and those who sit on this side of the House, would even consider interfering or meddling in the operations and management of this government. How naive can one be?

My colleagues, and I, were elected to do exactly that, make recommendations and decisions on the running of this government on behalf of the citizens of the Northwest Territories. So, I for one, Mr. Speaker, intend to fulfill my responsibilities as a M.L.A. and hopefully, when given opportunities, become involved in the decision making.

Mahsi Cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

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Member's Statement On Aboriginal Justice Reform Initiative

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In August of 1991 the federal government announced that it had earmarked \$26.4 million, over the next five years, for aboriginal justice reform.

Later today, I will table a discussion paper prepared by the Honourable Kim Campbell, federal Minister of Justice, which outlines this initiative in detail. While it

is an impressive sounding project, Mr. Speaker, I must express some serious concerns.

First, the initiative promises significant consultation on aboriginal justice issues between the federal government, native organizations, and provincial and territorial governments. However, the project has been underway for over a year, Mr. Speaker, and I have yet to hear about any consultation, involving communities at this grass roots level. Has federal and territorial consultations begun? Are they involving only the so called experts in our senior bureaucracy? I will be calling on our Minister of Justice to clarify this.

I have a further concern about this federal initiative as well. This relates to the appointment of Don Avison, as the Director of the Council for Aboriginal Justice Administration. Honourable Members will recall that he was the Crown Prosecutor who ordered the arrest and detention of Kitty Nowdluk Reynolds.

Ms. Nowdluk was a victim of rape who was shamefully jailed and transported across Canada in handcuffs, something that would never have happened to a white woman. When questioned in the House of Commons, the federal Minister indicated that she felt that Mr. Avison was uniquely qualified to take the lead role in this aboriginal justice initiative. Based on his handling of the Kitty Nowdluk affair, I must disagree with this appointment. I am interested in learning more about how this decision was made.

I will have more to say on this topic at a later time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Mike.

Member's Statement On The Allocation Of The Finance And E.D. & T. Portfolios To One Member

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to comment on a problem, which I believe exists, with respect to the way the Government Leader has allocated portfolio assignments. I wish to suggest to her that the same Ministers should not hold responsibilities for the Department of Economic and Development and Tourism, and Finance. It is my opinion that the mandate priorities of these departments conflict with each other. I also recognize that the time commitments required to carry out ministerial responsibilities for these two busy and important

departments would overwhelm almost any single Minister.

I would draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that during the 11th Assembly, the Minister of Finance had responsibility for a much smaller portfolio of Justice, and the Highway Transport Board, as well as House Leader duties. At the end of the 10th Assembly, I believe the Honourable Tom Butters was allowed to concentrate exclusively on the Finance portfolio. I believe that the assignment of these two conflicting and overwhelming portfolios to our current Minister of Finance is not the best distribution of responsibility. I would note that neither this current report, nor this "Strength At Two Levels" review recommend that these responsibilities be combined. Perhaps, that is because the working groups in each case recognize the inherent conflict in mandate and time pressures involved in these two portfolios. Later today, I will make my reply to the budget address, and will comment further on the reasons why these assignments should be reconsidered.

In closing, I wish to assure the House that I am not expressing a lack of confidence in the current Minister, the honourable Member for Hay River. Rather, I believe, that the reassignment of these two responsibilities will improve its efficiency, not only within Cabinet, and this House, but also in terms of services and programs which are our constituents rely on. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Mr. Pudlat.

Member's Statement On The Need For Upgrading The Cape Dorset Airstrip

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to express concerns of the people of Cape Dorset. My statement will be to the Government Leader, and Minister of Transportation. The people of Lake Harbour are experiencing inconvenience because of the airstrip. The airstrip has to be upgraded, capital expenditures should be forwarded at an earlier date and also because this inconveniences scheduled flights into the community, and that also, it is a hardship to the community in the winter time. The Hamlet Council has agreed that the upgrading should start very soon, and that the Minister of Transportation should work on this, and the Minister has a copy of the letter. If you require a

copy of the letter, I have a copy, regarding the airstrip in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements, Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Member's Statement On Suggesting No Future Sessions Be Held In September

MR. ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot recall whether any of the Members from the eastern Northwest Territories have mentioned the fact, that this particular month is a very important month for Inuit. The month of September was traditionally a very busy month for hunters. It is a time when the weather is cool, not only at night, but also during the day. It is a time for caching meat. This traditionally was a month in which the hunters would try to catch as many animals as they were able. This was a month when the meat was not going to be destroyed by bugs, or insects. This month, the weather will not always allow a hunter to do what he would like to do. He will be controlled by the conditions of the great outdoors, and yet the hunter will strive to meet his needs for meat to last the winter; a winter which could, historically, make or break a group of Inuit. Today, if you were to check on how many older Inuit were employed, who will take time off in the month, you will probably find that most, if not all, will take some time off. I recognize that this is an unusual year, and that this will not likely happen, in that we will meet in the month of September, but I find that I have not been able to be as involved as I should be. My heart has been back home caching meat. I would be remiss in doing my duty if I did not participate in this very important process of this Legislative Assembly. I have found, Mr. Speaker, that timetables of aboriginal peoples and that of southern timetables do not match. They never have, and they probably never will. This month, there will be all kinds of Inuit hunters who will spend as much of their time as possible on the land. As would be the case for some of the Members in this Chamber today, I would like to suggest on behalf of the aboriginal Members, that this Assembly avoid sitting during the month of September next year, and other years to follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement Regarding The Late Bishop Paul Piche

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a statement as an M.L.A. about Bishop Piche, who passed away just recently. As many people in the western Arctic know, he was the Bishop that set up the institution remembered as Grandin College. He believed that in all our communities up and down the western Arctic between the Beaufort, the Delta, and all our communities down the valley, there were people who could and would form a strong cadre of potential future workers and leaders from the communities. He set up Grandin College to seek out those of us who were interested, those of us who were supported and encouraged by our families, to voluntarily go to this institution. Myself, I spent six years from the age of 12 until the age of 18 at Grandin College. This was 10 months of the year, leaving home at the end of August, and returning at the end of June the following year. I think the majority of us who attended this institution from the early 1960s until the early 1970s all remember it with many fond memories, with very good feelings about the staff, the supervision, the role that the Bishop personally played in the education and development of us as young people, and who will be requesting of the M.L.A.s at the appropriate time to.....

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi, your allotted time has expired.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

I request unanimous consent to continue.

MR. SPEAKER:

The honourable Member is requesting unanimous consent. Are there any nays? Please proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you. I will be requesting the blessing of our fellow M.L.A.s to take a little time out on Thursday afternoon, so that some of us can attend the funeral in Fort Smith, Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement Regarding His Absence From The House Last Week

MR. LEWIS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in accountability, and already did tell caucus that I would miss the opening of this session, of this Assembly.

I did so, Mr. Speaker, because some months ago, I had planned to visit my old parents in Wales, and did not believe when I bought my tickets, that this Assembly would agree to meet in the month of September. So I, in fact, had planned to be away during the month of September and changed my tickets several times, because it seems that the character of this particular Assembly is one which is completely different to previous ones. We seem to meet more often, and there seems to be a much busier schedule.

However, Mr. Speaker, having now made that a public fact, that I did miss the opening, for both the information of my constituents, and all other colleagues who did not know where I was when we opened on Wednesday. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that in the time that I was out of the country, I thought quite a bit about this place I have now called my home for more than 30 years. I found that the places I visited were not really happy places. The cost of living is very, very high, the people are not in particularly good spirits, the weather, as always, was awful and the cheapest meal I had during the last month was when I arrived in Edmonton last week, and had a meal at the Nisku Inn. It was the cheapest meal I, in fact, had for the month that I was away from Yellowknife. I am very, very happy to be back again amongst friends. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement Regarding The Late Bishop Paul Piche

HON. TONY WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this occasion to express my condolences on the passing

of Bishop Piche. I, for many years, have had a good friendship with Bishop Piche, while I was at Fort Smith, and later on, after I moved here to Yellowknife. Quite a number of my constituents are from the Fort Smith area, and on a couple of occasions, have asked that I express their sadness at his passing.

A couple of points on Bishop Piche. He certainly was a powerful man in his own right, he advanced the cause of young northern people greatly in his regime as Bishop and as Pastor. One thing that should not go unnoticed, is the fact that he is the first Canadian to hold the position of Bishop of the Mackenzie Delta.

His passing, Mr. Speaker, will be sad, but we of Christian faith, celebrate his transition from this place to his eternal reward. We extend our condolences to his family and many friends, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O725-12(2): Increase In Contracts Going To Northern Companies

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Todd on September 9, 1992, an increase in contracts going to northern companies.

The government has seen an increase in the percent of its contracts going to northern firms, since the new Business Incentive Policy was implemented. The following information is provided for Public Works, Government Services and the N.W.T. Housing Corporation.

For the Department of Public Works in the 1991-92 fiscal year, 88 percent of all construction contracts were awarded to northern companies. During the first three months of the 1992-93 fiscal year, this increased to 94 percent, an increase of six percent.

For the Department of Government Services, a comparison was done for the months of July and August from 1991 to 1992. In July and August of 1991, 47 percent of all goods purchased were bought from northern firms. During the same two months this year, this increased to 61 percent, that is an increase of 14 percent. Northern purchases account for 52 percent of the dollar value spent in 1991-92. This

increased to 62 percent during the first three months of the 1992-93 fiscal year. That is an increase of 10 percent.

For the N.W.T. Housing Corporation, it is not possible to compare this year to last year. This is because the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the

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major funding partner, did not accept the Business Incentive Policy last year. On June 3, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation agreed to application of B.I.P. Unfortunately, by then, the majority of the Corporation's supply and construction contracts had already been awarded. To the end of August this year, supply tenders amounting to \$12.7 million, or 74 percent of the total dollars, have been awarded to northern companies. Southern companies were awarded \$4.6 million or 26 percent of the total. The Housing Corporation anticipates a significant increase in northern involvement in the 1993-94 contracting season, with the C.M.H.C. now agreeing to the application of the B.I.P. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O754-12(2): Implementation Of Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Programs. In June, my honourable colleagues from Deh Cho and Inuvik raised the issue of the report of the traditional knowledge working group. On June 24, the Honourable Titus Allooloo told this House, that he had directed the Department of Culture and Communications to prepare a paper for Cabinet review.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, will the new Minister advise the House whether that Cabinet has yet developed a strategy for implementing the Report of the Traditional Knowledge Working Group?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O754-12(2): Implementation Of Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, because of the consolidation, and the other changes that have taken place, we have to consider all the matters that have been traditionally separate from each other, we are still discussing how we are going to handle that. In that case, not yet, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Todd.

Supplementary To Question O754-12(2): Implementation Of Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

MR. TODD:

Will the Minister tell me, if any work has been done with respect to the direction given by this group, by the questions asked by my colleagues from Inuvik and Deh Cho, with respect to a report from the traditional knowledge working group? You cannot put everything on hold, because we are amalgamating, we still have to go on.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O754-12(2): Implementation Of Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a prepared document and has the Cabinet dealt with that yet? I said, no. There is a prepared document, and I will be ready to take that.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. In my earlier Member's statement, I referred to the federal

government initiative on aboriginal people and justice administration. One of the goals of the initiative, is to promote and support effective consultation with aboriginal organizations, as well as Metis, and to provincial and territorial governments.

Can the Minister of Justice advise us on how many aboriginal justice consultation processes have been engaged by this government and the Government of Canada, since this federal initiative was announced in August of last year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of community justice initiatives, the Department of Justice has continued to encourage communities to take on some rather substantial discussions with us, toward taking over more responsibility for the administration of justice. To that extent we have been involved in three community meetings so far, one is with Fort McPherson, we have had meetings with Fort Good Hope and Fort Simpson. There is a request now to have a meeting initiated with the community of Fort Franklin. As well, communities like Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, Coppermine and Rae Edzo, have expressed an interest in initiating discussions on the way in which they may try to take some role, or involvement, and participate in the administration of justice, which has historically been assumed to be the total realm of the visiting court circuits. We have taken a positive turn in this initiative. We have not gone much beyond this point, because the philosophy, nationally and with the Department of Justice, is that this all has to be community driven and it would be conducted in a way, and in a nature, in which the communities feel much more ownership to responsibility.

In regard to a relationship with the federal justice people, it has been understood for some time now, that we will take a cooperative, flexible approach in dealing with communities, and as my initial reading is that the approach that the federal officials are taking are in line with the approach that we have taken on this initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, the federal initiative promised to include consultation with aboriginal organizations. Can the Minister indicate whether the department has been asked to assist the federal Minister of Justice, or the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, to coordinate or participate in consultation activities with aboriginal organizations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware, nor do I believe, that initiative has been undertaken at this time. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary to Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary to the Minister is with regard to recognizing that the aboriginal people and justice administration initiative is of significant importance to the people to the Northwest Territories, and recognizing that federal funds were earmarked for the project over a year ago. Will the Minister of Justice contact his federal counterparts, and have their Director General initiate the process of consulting with Territorial government, native organizations and aboriginal communities without further delay?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER:

The last supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary to Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement, I indicated that there was \$26.4 million over the next five years for aboriginal justice reform. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, of the \$26.4 million, how much is earmarked for the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question O755-12(2): Aboriginal Justice Initiative Consultation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Question O756-12(2): Better Access To Education

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Education. Recently, I have done some research into the number of northern students graduating from high schools across the Northwest Territories. I have discovered that students from some communities have been far less successful in achieving graduation, than those from other communities. For instance, I was dismayed to learn that over the past five years, only seven students from Cambridge Bay have graduated and there have been only two students from Coppermine in the past five years.

In contrast, there have been 13 graduates from Tuktoyaktuk, and the same number from Fort Simpson. I know that there are many bright and hard working youngsters in both Coppermine and

Cambridge Bay. I have wondered whether the difference in graduation rates exist because they are receiving less than adequate preparation for high school in these communities? My question is, can the Minister assure this House that he does not support the concept of double standards where students in some communities receive better access to an elementary and junior high education than others?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O756-12(2): Better Access To Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Bernhardt.

Supplementary to Question O756-12(2): Better Access To Education

MR. BERNHARDT:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister request that his department undertake a review of the quality of academic preparations provided to the post-secondary students in Coppermine and Cambridge Bay to ensure that they are receiving the best possible preparation for high school? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O756-12(2): Better Access To Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, that is already underway, and we are preparing a number of guidelines as to how we can best serve the whole territory. That is also part of the proposed high school policy, which we will be working on, so that education across the N.W.T. is of the same standard, and also, that it is a standard that will be set for the southern universities once they graduate from high school. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O757-12(2): Individual Whose Complaint Led To The Board of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has initiated a board of inquiry on September 3, referring a report to Dr. Covert. Under the Act of the board, under the Medical Professions Act regarding the board of inquiry, it indicates that a board of inquiry shall be established once a complaint has been received. Pursuant to section 24, "any person may lodge with the president, a written complaint against a medical practitioner." I would like to ask the Minister of Health, who was the complainant?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O757-12(2): Individual Whose Complaint Led To The Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Medical Profession Act also allows the Minister to appoint a board of inquiry. I think it is pursuant to section 21, "investigate any matter referred the board of inquiry by the Minister", so Mr. Speaker, it is not only in the case of a complaint that a board of inquiry can be established. In this case, Mr. Speaker, to anticipate the Member's next question, there was not a complaint. However, as I have stated in the House, what did happen which caused me to establish a board of inquiry, was that there was a review done at the instance of the then Board of Management of the Fort Smith Health Centre by the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. That independent body reviewed medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre, and other matters, and prepared a report which caused me as Minister of Health, responsible for safeguarding the public interest, to have concerns about medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre. It is that

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report, and the matters raised in the report, about raising questions about medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre, which have caused me to establish the board of inquiry, not the specific complaint of a patient, as is contemplated elsewhere in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

If I could take this opportunity to welcome on behalf of our Assembly the Honourable Jean Chretien, Leader of the Official Opposition, Madame Chretien, and Ethel Blondin, Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic.

---Applause

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary to Question O757-12(2): Individual Whose Complaint Led To The Board Of Inquiry

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health in his response, is he indicating to this House that he was the complainant for the purpose of setting up the board of inquiry? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O757-12(2): Individual Whose Complaint Led To The Board Of Inquiry

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

No, Mr. Speaker, I would not characterize it as that. I would say that I have the authority as Minister, to refer a matter to the board of inquiry. The matter referred to the board of inquiry is the report of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons which raised serious questions about medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre. I was not a complainant. I was, rather, acting to refer a matter, namely a report about medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre to the board of inquiry, as laid out in the Medical Professions Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, Mr. Gargan.

Question O758-12(2): Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force On Aboriginal Languages Report

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during last week when I got into Yellowknife for session, I noticed the sign right across from us, the Stuart M. Hodgson

Building, had syllabics and Inuktitut, and the other different aboriginal languages. This is the first sign I have seen, that included, I think, all the aboriginal languages. Mr. Speaker, in August or February 28, 1986, the report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages made its recommendation, which was approved. This is five years later, and some of the things that should have happened, like having bilingual street signs, and having services provided to include community health representatives or C.H.R.s, who have to be bilingual, English and aboriginal. It also says that it provides for interpreters when a person is arrested. An aboriginal person who is arrested, and does not speak the English language, should have an interpreter. I have not seen it happen yet, but I would like to ask the Minister of Culture and Communications, whether or not, the recommendations that were given five years ago, on February 28, have been implemented? Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it has been. Where is there evidence of it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Culture and Employment Programs, Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O758-12(2): Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force On Aboriginal Languages Report

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I understand that Culture and Communication has a responsibility to translate the key months, and everything else, however, the construction of these sign are the responsibility of the G.N.W.T. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Government Leader would like to respond on behalf of the government.

Further Return To Question O758-12(2): Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force On Aboriginal Languages Report

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. As many of the Members of this Legislative Assembly realize, since the Official Languages Act was passed, the government has proceeded to do a number of things within that commitment we made at that time. What we have done now, in order to consolidate, to try and find out

where we are, and at what stage we are going to take the official languages, as well as the traditional knowledge, we have reorganized the responsibility under the Government Leader's Office, because it is an overseeing of languages to all departments. The Department of Public Works would be the client department that would be putting up signs which is directed or required from different departments. As well, we formed the Working Group on Official Languages and Traditional Knowledge in the Government Leader's office, mainly to reassess what we have done to this date, and where we are going from here. So, this will put out a major focal point on answering many of the questions that a Member would have on where we are, and where we are going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary to Question O758-12(2):
Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force
On Aboriginal Languages Report

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Government Leader inform this House the progress of this report, the report of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages? It does give a timetable and the implementation for the next ten years. It has been five years, over five years now, and within that five year time frame there are a number of initiatives that should have been done. I would like to ask the Government Leader if she could inform this House on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question O758-12(2):
Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force
On Aboriginal Languages Report

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I have two pages of the actions that have been taken by the department, spread across the government, and where we have been. Exactly where they fit into the timetable I am not quite clear, but I realize that there are some areas of the Official Languages Report that we have not met those timetables. Rather than going over these two sheets

of paper and listing them, I would be pleased to present them to the honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Gargan.

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Supplementary to Question O758-12(2):
Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force
On Aboriginal Languages Report

MR. GARGAN:

Mr. Speaker, the implementation of this report was recommended by this Assembly. It was not my report, I am not responsible for it, I was just part of the process. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not she would provide those two sheets to all the Members? I believe that a lot of the Members were here when the implementation process began.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question O758-12(2):
Implementation Of Recommendations Of Task Force
On Aboriginal Languages Report

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I will have that circulated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned
D.E.W. Line Sites

MS. MIKE:

Qujannamiik. My question will be for the Minister of Renewable Resources. He will know that the environmental restoration of D.E.W. Line sites has been controversial for our government going back as far as the 10th Assembly, when our current Government Leader held the Renewable Resources portfolio.

In fact, it was back in March 15, 1985 that this Minister stressed the fact, that it was because of her prompting that the federal agencies were starting to take the issue of D.E.W. Line clean up requirements seriously.

I understand that the federal Department of National Defence targeted five abandoned D.E.W. Line sites which were to be assessed for cleanup requirements. These initial assessments were to be carried out during the summer of 1992. Can the Minister assure the House that he has continued to insist on the same level of Government of Northwest Territories input into D.E.W. Line clean up decisions, as was established by the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea over seven years ago?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned D.E.W. Line Sites

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to say that I took the newly appointed Minister of the Environment, Jean Charest, to Iqaluit about two years ago, to introduce him to one of the sites that were contaminated by the military. Also, this summer he extensively visited sites throughout the Baffin and Central Arctic. I had a chance to talk to him on the need to clean up the North and these sites.

Mr. Speaker, later on this week I will be happy to give a report on what the government has done in terms of cleaning up sites, and also their plans to pursue sites that need to be cleaned up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Ms. Mike.

Supplementary To Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned D.E.W Line Sites

MS. MIKE:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In that case, can the Minister explain to the House, and to the people of Baffin Island and the Keewatin, why not one of the abandoned sites targeted by D.I.A.N.D. for initial assessment was located east of King William Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned D.E.W Line Sites

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, what was the question? I was not clear on the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Mike, would you care to repose the question?

Supplementary To Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned D.E.W Line Sites

MS. MIKE:

(Translation) Can the Minister tell the people of Baffin and the Keewatin, regarding the D.E.W. Line sites left behind by D.I.A.N.D., when they would clean up the site east of King William Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O759-12(2): Clean Up Of Abandoned D.E.W. Line Sites

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been taken as notice. Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Bernhardt.

Question O760-12(2): Statistical Information Compiled By The Department of Education

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Education. As I mentioned earlier, I have been attempting to carry out some research into graduation patterns across the Northwest Territories. The department has been able to supply a listing of the total number of graduates from communities across the Northwest Territories, and I will table that later this afternoon.

However, I was amazed when someone told me that the department is unable to provide a breakdown, as to which of these students received an advanced diploma, and which received general diplomas. I was also surprised that neither the department, nor Akaitcho Hall, were able to supply the number of students from each community who were presently attending high school here in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is fairly important information for the school system to be keeping. My question is, can the Minister indicate whether my understanding is correct? Is their record keeping so inadequate in the Department of Education, that even the most simple statistical breakdown is not available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Minister.

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Return To Question O760-12(2): Statistical Information Compiled By The Department of Education

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a very thorough recording system of graduates, what they are graduating from, from what community, and from what grade, etc. These are all readily available from my department, if the Member wishes to examine them. Otherwise, I could supply those if he wants me to do so.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Mr. Dent.

Question O761-12(2): Summaries Of Attendance And Spending At Territorial Restaurant At Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. As I am sure he is expecting, it is about Seville, or the shortfall there. Mr. Speaker, when our participation in Expo was announced in the spring of 1991, the projected attendance for the Canadian pavilion was just over three million visitors. Of this I understand that we expected to attract some 193,000, or six percent of the visitors to the Canadian pavilion to our restaurant for some good northern country foods.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, something has gone very, very wrong. Either the number of customers just were not there, we could not attract them, or they are not spending any money. Would the Minister provide a summary of all information available on the levels of attendance and spending at our restaurant in Seville?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question O761-12(2): Summaries Of Attendance And Spending At Territorial Restaurant At Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O761-12(2): Summaries Of Attendance And Spending At Territorial Restaurant At Expo '92

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also provide similar information on attendance and spending levels for the retail outlets at the Canadian pavilion?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O761-12(2): Summaries Of Attendance And Spending At Territorial Restaurant At Expo '92

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pudlat.

Question O762-12(2): Southern Institutions' Rejection of Northern Students

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. We have been working hard toward education in the north. In the 1990-91 school year, I do not know the exact number of people who have passed. There have been a number of students requesting to go to southern schools. Would the Minister please inform the House, why some of the students, who are requesting to go to southern schools, are not accepted?

Could he also indicate that of the students who are not approved to go to southern schools, if there are programs available for them in the north? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Return To Question O762-12(2): Southern Institutions' Rejection Of Northern Students

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am well aware of the facts the Member has stated. Sometimes the students refuse, and it is because of the education program for the secondary school. We agree on the budget yearly, and according to the budget we agree on in the Legislature, is sometimes misunderstood towards the programs for the students, but when there is funding, money available, the students are most welcome.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pudlat.

Supplementary To Question O762-12(2): Southern Institutions' Rejection Of Northern Students

MR. PUDLAT:

(Translation) Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of that when there is funding available, because of the deficit and due to lack of funding, the students requests are not being met. We will, therefore, have to work harder and help our students to work towards staying in school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Arvaluk.

Further Return To Question O762-12(2): Southern Institutions' Rejection Of Northern Students

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stood up because I was willing to answer his response. I stood up without realizing. The funding is small. The Members of the Legislative Assembly agreed upon, as we all know, and have to go by the budget that we agreed upon for the funding for the Department of Education. The budget is agreed on in the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Ms. Mike.

Question O763-12(2): Acquisition Of Surplus D.E.W. Line Assets

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, plans are apparently in place for the closure of certain D.E.W. Line facilities across the Northwest Territories.

On March 12, 1992 I was very glad to hear my honourable colleague from Keewatin Central, raised the matter of this government's role in the acquisition of surplus assets which may become available as a result of closures.

At that time, the Minister was able to outline his plans for the coordination of the acquisition process but was unable to provide the House with much indication as to the cost or the type of assets.

Is the Minister able to advise the House today about what progress has been made during phase one of the acquisition process, in which the inter-departmental committee was supposed to be examining the disposal of movable assets and equipment, and departments were supposed to identify if they are interested in them?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question O763-12(2): Acquisition Of Surplus D.E.W. Line Assets

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have purchased approximately \$265,000 of equipment from the federal government, the majority of that has been moved to Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Cambridge Bay. The United States Air Force moved the equipment to Cambridge, they were going to move it to Hall Beach, we paid them some extra money, and they did move it to those other two communities.

There is still some furniture at camp five, and I think the residents of Pelly Bay are going to pick that up

this winter. We have also purchased or made arrangements to move some lists of equipment to the Kitikmeot, in Pelly Bay, a towed roller, four by four pick up, tractor, dump truck, scoop loader, tractor trailer, and various other departments have picked up equipment as well. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it would be more advantageous if I tabled it tomorrow in the House, the list of equipment that we have already purchased. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. I think if we could, we will take a short recess, we will stop the clock, proceed when we come back, so Members have a chance to meet with Monsieur and Madame Chretien. We will take a short break.

---Applause

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral questions, so then 20 minutes and 15 seconds to go. Oral questions, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report Of Saskatchewan College of Physicians And Surgeons

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, quoting the unedited Hansard for Thursday, September 10, Mr. Patterson indicated in this House, and I quote, "Mr. Speaker, on July 15 of this year Dr. Uma Viswalingam requested an injunction to prevent the release of the college's report. That matter was dealt with by the court, and appealed from the lower courts decision was heard in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories on August 10. The Appeal has been adjourned without a certain date of return, and the Supreme Court file has been sealed. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that since the matter is before the courts, and since the issue is before the courts, I must not release it."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister since he indicated that the report should not be released in this House, why has he released it to Dr. Covert. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report Of Saskatchewan College of Physicians And Surgeons

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Member, I think there is a great deal of difference between releasing it in this Legislature to the public, and releasing it to a duly appointed officer by statutes, namely the President of the Board of Inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. I think there is a great difference between the kind of public release that I was being pressed to consider in earlier questions, and the very privileged, confidential releasing of such a report to a person appointed under a statute of this Legislature, with a very clearly defined mandate jurisdiction and responsibility. So, I do not think the situations are at all comparable with the greatest of respect. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report Of Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate what other individuals, or individual, that he may have released this report to? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report By Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the only people that I know of who have received this report, are the former Chairman of the Board of Management of the Fort Smith Health Centre, Mr. Pete Fraser, to whom the report was submitted, since it was that board that commissioned the report: Mr. Don Ellis, the Public Administrator, who has in effect, replaced the Board in overseeing the operations at Fort Smith Health Centre; Dr. Covert, for reasons that I have just discussed, and I

have seen it, Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Health, my Deputy Minister has seen the report. It has been given to Madam Cournoyea, the Premier, but otherwise, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the circulation of the report has been very restrictive respecting the sensitive and very confidential nature of the matters reviewed, including information about treatment of individual patients.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oral questions, supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report Of Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise this House a quote of a letter that I got from our legal counsel for the Legislative Assembly, and I certainly hope that I am not out of order, but you would advise me accordingly if I am.

Mr. Speaker, I asked legal counsel for the Legislative Assembly to determine whether or not the court records regarding this, are available to me as a Member, to advise my constituents as to what is going on, and they indicated to me, and I would like to quote, "They confirm that the court record pertaining to Dr. Uma Viswalingam's suit against the Fort Smith Health Centre Board of Management have been sealed pursuant to the Court Order Justice Award granted August the 10, which the Minister indicated in this House. After all parties to the litigation indicated that they were in agreement with the entire file being sealed, the only portion of the file that is available to us are the Clerk's notes. However, the writer was advised they were unable to photocopy the Clerk's notes. A review of the Clerk's notes indicate that there was an application made in late July, for an injunction to prevent the Board of Management from dealing with the report. This application was denied by Justice Richard, however, leave was granted to the parties to renew their applications at a later date, and the matter was subsequently heard in the chambers on July 27, and adjourned to August 10. On August 10, the court file was sealed, and the remaining matters pending before the courts were adjourned. The only way to unseal the file, is consent of all parties involved, or a court order. So, I would like to ask the Minister, since the file was sealed, how does he take it upon himself to release this report accordingly?

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MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O764-12(2): Release of Report by Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable Member is assuming that the Saskatchewan College Report, the investigation into the Fort Smith Health Centre, is one of the documents in the sealed court records. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Saskatchewan College Report is not one of the sealed documents. To answer the honourable Member's question, I do not believe that the very limited release of the Report of the Saskatchewan College as I have outlined it, would in any way conflict with that court order, since that report is not one of the documents that was placed under seal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report Of Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Speaker, I nearly called the Minister what I believe is an unparliamentary name, so I will not say it. Mr. Speaker, the Minister in this House, and I have the unedited Hansard for Thursday, September 10, stated "Mr. Speaker, on July 15 of this year, Dr. Viswalingam's request and injunction to prevent release of the College's Report," so now how can he indicate to this House that report was not part of the documents sealed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O764-12(2): Release Of Report By Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the issue before the Court, which is still before the Court, is whether the document in question should be released to the public, as I understand it. Mr. Speaker, I believe the rules of this Legislature state that when a matter is before the Courts, and the matter is whether this document should be released, it would be inappropriate for Members of this Assembly to take action which could, in any way, effect or prejudice those proceedings. That is my understanding of the sub-judiciary rule, Mr. Speaker. So, I referred to this judiciary rule, because the Member was asking me to take action that was presently under review by a Court, namely whether the document would be released publicly, and I believe that would be prejudicial to the eventual outcome of the court case. In no way, in responding to the question, Mr. Speaker, was I suggesting that the actual document was part of the sealed court records. Rather, the issue of the release of the document is before the court, and taking action one way or the other would be, in my view, prejudicial to the rights of the petitioner in that very court proceeding. Thank you.

Question O765-12(2): Report Of Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons Sealed By Court

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that the matter of sub-judice is not a matter of convention, it is not a matter for the Minister to interpret for the Speaker. In fact, it is a practice that is normally adhered to by all Members, including Ministers, not to hide behind the issue. Mr. Speaker, I could have risen on a point of privilege, because I think that my privileges as a Member were negated by a remark that was, in fact, made by the honourable Member previously.

I recall answering, quite clearly, a question, I think not to question or impinge upon the sub-judice convention, but I asked a very clear question and it was this, could the Minister indicate to me whether or not the report of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, was one of the documents that was sealed by the Court?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O765-12(2): Report Of Saskatchewan College Of Physicians And Surgeons Sealed By Court

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that, no, it was not one of the documents sealed by the Court. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. New question, Mr. Gargan.

Question O766-12(2): Legality of Regional Council Meeting During Session

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, last week on September 9, 10 and 11, the Deh Cho Regional Council met at the Hay River Reserve. The Ministers have relied strongly on acts to respond to Members. The Territorial Hospital Insurance Act, the Medical Professions Act and the Public Inquiries Act.

However, Mr. Speaker, last week the Deh Cho Regional Council met. I have no objection to it, but under the Regional Councils Act under section five of the Act, it provides that every council must meet at least once each year, half of every calendar year. Each council is to determine, at each meeting, the dates of the next meeting. The council may hold meetings at any time, except when the Legislative Assembly is in session. Mr. Speaker, I did inform the Minister of the meeting, and whether or not it was legal for the council to meet.

Unfortunately, he did not respond to me. I would like to know if the meeting did take place and whether or not, since the Ministers are so keen on referring to Acts, why the Minister, in this case, did not act?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Alloo.oo.

Return To Question O766-12(2): Legality of Regional Council Meeting During Session

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:

Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

Question O767-12(2): Status Of Kiosk At Toronto Airport

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the N.W.T. Development Corporation regarding the arts and crafts retail outlet at the Lester B. Pearson International Airport. I was wondering if the Minister could tell us what the status is of the outlet? Is it up and running at this time?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question O767-12(2): Status Of Kiosk At Toronto Airport

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is up, it is running. We are starting to get some data back, and I would hope to have some financial statements available before the end of this session, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question O767-12(2): Status Of Kiosk At Toronto Airport

MR. DENT:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister, given our stunning success of predicting how sales would go in Seville, I was wondering if the department has revised its sales projections for the kiosk in Toronto?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question O767-12(2): Status Of Kiosk At Toronto Airport

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

No, Mr. Speaker. We have not revised those numbers yet.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 55-12(2): Results of Assessments

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two written questions for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Will the Minister prepare and table, in the Legislative Assembly, a summary of results of all Indian and Northern Affairs assessments of abandoned D.E.W. Line sites undertaken during the summer of 1992?

Written Question 56-12(2): Location of Assessments

My second written question, Mr. Speaker, if I may proceed? My second written question is also for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Will the Minister indicate the electoral constituency in which each of the following D.E.W. Line sites are located: a) Pierce Point; b) Horton River; c) Atkinson Point; d) Bernard Harbour; and e) Mathison Point? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, written questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 57-12(2): Government Liability For Action Against A Producer By C.E.M.A.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Under the terms of the National Farm Products marketing sham, what are the liabilities of this government? I am sorry, this is to the Minister of Justice. What are the liabilities of this government for penalties arising out of successful court actions taken by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, C.E.M.A., for the illegal export of eggs by Northwest Territories producers to which the Government of the Northwest Territories has made contribution payments, and governments obligation to advise C.E.M.A. of export violation?

Written Question 58-12(2): Government Obligations To Advise C.E.M.A. Of Export Violations

Written question to the Minister of Justice, under the laws of Canada, its provinces or territories, is this government obliged to report instances of illegal exporting of eggs with the Canadian Egg Marketing Association, or other agencies?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 48-12(2): Court Administration Costs

MR. HAMILTON:

Mr. Speaker, return to question 48-12(2), asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell, replied to by the Minister of Justice concerning the court administration costs.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 8, replies to opening address. Item 9, replies to budget address. Ms. Mike.

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

MS. MIKE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to rise and give my reply to the budget address this afternoon. I say that because I believe the current budget carries several important implications for the people and the communities of the Northwest Territories.

Over the past several months, I have been privileged to serve as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, and to participate in the preparation of that committee's report. I wish to say that I strongly support the position taken by the standing committee, but today I also wish to raise some additional points that I bring forward, not as a committee Member, but rather as the Member for Baffin Central.

I will begin by speaking about an issue that I think has had significant influence on the development of this government's fiscal policy, particularly, in the area of economic development and tourism.

Mr. Speaker, that issue has to do with the distribution of portfolio assignments within our current Cabinet. Although, I was generally pleased with direction taken by the Government Leader in her Cabinet reorganization, I continue to have concerns about the fact that a single Minister has shared responsibility for the Department of Finance, and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the philosophies underline the tasks of those departments, do conflict with each other. Right from the start of the 12th Assembly, this

House has been told that the government has entered a time of restraint. This was again emphasized in the opening address for this session, and now in the budget address for 1991-92.

The appropriate lead department in developing strategies to address restraint is the Department of Finance. Its key function, at this point in time, is to ensure that the necessary controls and planning are in place to turn around the excess of previous years. At this time, in our history, Mr. Speaker, it is concerned with reduction.

On the other hand, the Ministers other department is concerned with development of economic system and products. It is concerned with growth. The Department of Finance, Mr. Speaker, is geared towards centralized function.

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It requires intensive attention to headquarters operation in Yellowknife, and it is a top down at administration.

On the other hand, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism simply cannot use the same top down approach. It must listen to, and work with grassroots ideas that are generated within the regions. The Department of Finance requires the Minister's attention to be focused on Yellowknife operations. The Department of Economic Development makes him put his priority in the regions.

These roles conflict, and I believe would compromise decision making in the office of any Minister with these two portfolios. What I wish to stress here, is not with the honourable Member for Hay River, but rather with the Government Leader's decision to assign these two departments to the same Minister.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would note that the ministerial workload for both these portfolios is overwhelming, as I am sure you remember from your time as the Minister of Finance. I am concerned that the heavy time pressures involved in heading these two departments are causing important work to be overlooked in each of them.

The Department of Finance for instance, has been unable to bring forward an assessment of the impact of the past years expenditure management program, which restraint government hiring and contracting.

Similarly, I wonder what is the status of the Public Accounts Committee's June recommendation of the role of Comptroller General be reviewed? Certainly there have been no ministerial announcements, or statements, as to whether this important initiative is being acted on.

On the economic development side, I am concerned about whether our current Minister has been able to spend time building the government corporations and agencies established during the 11th Assembly. There are concerns about the lack of direction within the N.W.T. Development Corporation and as far as I understand, there are still no regional boards for the credit corporation.

In response to question from my honourable colleague from Deh Cho last week, we learned that agricultural marketing agencies, that were seen as a priority at the end of the 11th Assembly, still have not been established.

As honourable Members know, I have been concerned with several aspects of our northern fisheries, including scope and administration of the contract with Co-Pro Ltd. of Ottawa, federal/territorial consultation on the issuance of fishing licences, and priority setting from the exploratory fishery.

I understand that concerns about fisheries are not confined to Baffin region. I am concerned that some elements of the Great Slave commercial fishing community have commented on the lack of governmental leadership in dealing with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and as my honourable colleague from Natilikmiot pointed out on Friday, the department seems to have lost contact with small businesses in Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I would again repeat that I am not blaming the honourable Minister. I know that he is a talented and hard working Member of this House, however, the challenge of combining these two busy and competing departments is more than any single Minister should be expected to take responsibility for.

It is my position that the Government Leader should reassign the portfolios of the current Minister, so that role and time conflicts are minimized. I will be raising this matter on other occasions over the course of the current session.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to make some comments on specific parts of the budget, which the Minister of Finance brought forward last Thursday.

Honourable Members, will know, for instance, that the problem of domestic violence has been with us for many years. It will continue to remain with us unless we do something about it. Although some progress has been made in terms of crisis shelter for women and their children, I find it astounding that there is so little money spent on treating the offender. There is an almost total absence of effective, culturally appropriate treatment for batterers or sexual offenders, both in our correctional facilities or in the community setting.

Now that corrections have become the responsibility of the Department of Justice, we must be mindful that this need for services does not fall between the cracks.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a need to improve support services to victims of family violence or sexual assault. The Minister of Social Services should be aware that apart from some crisis services, there is very little that is available for victims in our smaller communities. What the Minister has to realize is that the stress which victims experience, as they go through, is not a short term issue. It is not an individual issue, either. This has an impact of the family members, and others in the community, who are thrust into the helping role. It is a heavy burden to carry, Mr. Speaker, and there is very little support from the department in terms of funded programming to assist in this area. We need additional resources, both funding and expertise, to be directed toward these community needs.

Mr. Speaker, there is another area in which we need additional professional resourcing, at least in the Baffin, I would expect that this is true throughout the territories, and that is in the area of dental services. I hope the Minister of Health will carefully consider the fact that families are presently having to pay their own way to Iqaluit from locations throughout the Baffin in order to have their children's teeth looked at by a qualified dentist.

The visitation schedule that has been set for the dental team is simply inadequate to meet the community needs. Our children have other needs, Mr. Speaker. I will not speak extensively on the education system at the present time, but honourable Members should know that, like many others, I am concerned that our present approach is not entirely sufficient.

One idea that I would like see the Minister consider, is an increased approach to supporting student

exchange programming. I do not mean north-south exchanges, Mr. Speaker, but rather an exchange of students between our northern communities. As the Minister knows, there is a wealth of knowledge to be gained from experiencing how others in the Northwest Territories live.

It seems as though the department is not paying enough attention to this. I will never forget the time I spent as a resident of Lutsel K'e, it was Snowdrift at the time, Mr. Morin's constituency. I had a chance to experience, first-hand, the differences and similarities which exist between the Inuit communities, where I grew up, and the Dene communities that have continued to survive throughout history.

I learned what it was like to accompany Chipewyan families on the land, and to discover the northerners who share the same concern about the animals and the environment which surround us. Sometimes I think that discussions about the constitutional future of the north, and especially of the division

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of the Northwest Territories, would be much easier if only we had all shared that experience. I will be encouraging the Minister to carefully consider the benefit of this new idea.

While I am on the topic of hunting and trapping, Mr. Speaker, I need to call on our Minister of Renewable Resources to undertake a needs assessment of the organizational and financial support currently provided to H.T.A.s across the Northwest Territories. Presently the ability of the Hunters' and Trappers' Associations to take on the tasks which have to be undertaken, and this in spite of the fact that an increasing amount of the Association's time and effort have to be directed toward the completion of government surveys input on legislative, regulatory initiatives, and participation in planning activities. If the government is seriously interested in receiving community input from these H.T.A.'s, it will ensure that they have adequate resources to carry out the work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few brief comments about two of my pet economic development considerations. First, most honourable Members have already heard about some of my concerns with regard to fisheries development in the Baffin region. To summarize, the priority areas I would like the government to act quickly on, is providing a larger and more suitable fish plant and docking facility for the existing fishery in Pangnirtung.

A strategic plan for the aggressive marketing of fish and other products. A strategy for building markets, and a distribution network for the incidental catch which consists mainly of large Greenland sharks, because it is wrong to see it left rotting and wasted on the sea ice.

My second pet project for economic development, has to do with the issue of import substitution, about which my honourable colleague from Keewatin Central spoke so clearly at our last sitting. The Department of Economic Development should be working now to promote greater inter-community trade throughout the Northwest Territories. This is one of the important recommendations made almost three years ago in the S.C.O.N.E. report, but it has not been acted on, by either the former, or the current Minister. In an earlier speech to this House, I commented that there is no reason why the firm in Fort McPherson should not be allowed to provide all canvas products for government use across the Northwest Territories.

Muskox meat, turbot and even some agricultural products, could be provided to residential schools and institutions throughout the territories by northern-owned and northern-operated producers. The Minister of Economic Development needs to devote more attention to the issues of import substitution. Mr. Speaker, these are only some of the matters that I wanted to raise relative to the budget before us. I am sure that we will have an opportunity to discuss them fully as we proceed through the appropriation debate. I look forward to addressing these on behalf of my constituents in the days to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 9, replies to budget address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 17-12(2): Report Of the Standing Committee On Finance: Review Of The 1992-93 Main Estimates

Introduction

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to give the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the 1992-93 main estimates. In our report on the 1992-93 capital estimates, the Standing Committee of Finance stated that there was a need for a fundamental change, in the way in which government does business in the North. The Standing Committee feels that the status quo is no longer acceptable, it simply does not work.

On balance, the changes proposed in the 1992-93 main estimates, represents a move towards this direction. Proposals for reshaping government, eliminating departments and unnecessary levels of bureaucracy, and devolving programs and services to the community level hold some promise. The standing committee will continue to offer constructive criticism and, hopefully, some possible solutions to the Cabinet to help guide them along the path to better and more effective government.

The Standing Committee on Finance met with the Minister of Finance, and the government's departments, in July and August, to discuss a number of concerns that we have noted in our report. We trust that Cabinet noted our concerns during the sometimes lively discussions, and are prepared for a full and frank discussion during this session.

During our departmental reviews, we were pleased that the majority of the information we requested, was forwarded in a timely manner. However, Members noted that some of the more experienced Ministers were unable to answer some of our most basic questions about their budgets. In other words, Mr. Speaker, they were ill prepared. The committee will expect that all Ministers are fully prepared to answer our questions during future reviews.

The committee recognizes that this review will have minimal impact on the current budget given the unique timing of the process this year. By the time the Assembly has completed the review of this budget in committee of the whole, we will be a full six months into the current fiscal year. However, we expect that our concerns and recommendations will be incorporated into the Operations and Maintenance budget for 1993-94.

Reshaping Northern Government

On major issues, the standing committee identified several issues, and they are as follows. On reshaping northern government, reshaping northern government is moving forward. However, the committee is

concerned that the government is not managing the change very well. Activity is happening at the centre, but we have not seen much evidence that it is trickling down to the people who are most affected by this fundamental change.

When is consultation with community, and regional leaders going to occur? The committee feels that this should be one of the priorities of the reshaping project. It cannot simply be an academic exercise, if consultation does not take place with the people most familiar, and most affected, by the government programs and services, we feel that the project will prove to be costly and a time-consuming failure.

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Growing Cost Of The Civil Service

On the growing costs of the civil service. The government pays almost \$350 million annually to pay for the civil service, a full one-third of the Operations and Maintenance Budget. While we search for ways to make reductions in this budget, the overall cost of the civil service, the "deliverers", continues to increase. In reality, the cost of the civil service cannot continue to increase, or soon there will be nothing left to deliver.

The previous Assembly approved a motion to control government expenditures, by reducing total person years by five percent within two years. During our review, we did not find a significant reduction. The government's response was that organizational change may yield person year reductions. This is little comfort to the unemployed, the uneducated, and the people without houses.

If we need money for programs, and we clearly do, this government must come to grips with the cost of running the civil service. The committee feels that it is time for the government, and the various unions, to sit down and design a "made-in-the-north" pay and benefits package for all our employees. We can no longer rely on an antiquated system that was designed at a time when the north was considered but a mere outpost by the rest of Canada. On support to local bodies, at a time when we are looking for innovative ways to decentralize government, we are concerned with the cuts to local and regional bodies. What we are supposed to be doing is preparing local governments for the evolution, we are also cutting duty travel, and training funds in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Surely this will have an adverse affect on the support that we can

give these communities, if we are going to devolve, and decentralize more responsibility. Clearly, there is something fundamentally wrong with this strategy. If it is allowed to persist, this government will stand fairly accused of off-loading programs to the communities, without providing sufficient training and funding for them to do the job properly. We must look at enhancing training and support to the communities, so they have the ability to take over responsibility for programs, and services as they are devolved to them.

Social Issues

On the social issues, the standing committee is concerned about some of the cuts, and funding deficiencies that we have seen within the Department of Social Services. As we have stated many times, we will not support any reduction that will adversely affect those most in need. The committee recognizes that some of the social programs will be phased out, and are directly related to problems in society, higher levels of unemployment, overcrowding, housing shortages, and low educational levels. However, in trying to solve these problems, we cannot continue to underfund social services. We must ask ourselves, what would be the human and financial costs if we do not do anything? For example, in the budget, it is the committee's feeling that we must put more money into programs for suicide and A.I.D.S. prevention, yet, we cut a suicide position. The committee sometimes feels that we are so busy putting our fingers in the dike, there is no time left for resources to enact some kind of preventative measures to assist the people in the north. In addition, we must also provide adequate after-care treatment programs for those people caught within the vicious circle of social problems that we see in the north. If we do not pay today, you can be sure we will pay much more in the future. The community is equally concerned with the growing trend to underfund programs delivered by other people, for example, alcohol and drug workers, and workers with the aged and handicapped, who are grossly underpaid in comparison with the civil service. Wages for these essential workers must be brought into line immediately, before more dedicated people are lost at the community level. The committee will expect the government to show us that they are going to address these problems when we review the 1993-94 Operation and Maintenance Budget in January. On hire north, the committee remains concerned about the insufficient number of northerners and affirmative action candidates in the public service, particularly, in senior positions. We note that the Assembly passed the motion during the summer

sitting, that directed the government to take immediate action to tackle this problem. It must become the exception to look south to fill jobs in the north. We must find new and creative approaches to fill our public service positions with northerners. This is but one way that we can begin to solve some of the serious social and economic problems, as we head into the next century.

Measuring Output And Effect

On measuring output and effect, the standing committee noted, during our review of 1992-93 Capital Estimates, that we must plan a way to quantify what the permits will accomplish with the money we are spending on programs and services. We have already stated that we will not recommend approval of programs that do not, or cannot, show they work. During our review of the budget, we noted time and time again, that Ministers could not give us the simple information. This is unacceptable. For example, in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and its Arts and Crafts Program, it could not relate program activity to the sales pool, or other output measures. In other words, we are spending money. What are we getting back for it? This remains a serious concern of the Standing Committee on Finance, one which we will be giving serious consideration to, during future reviews. If the government does not set measurable goals for future budgets, the committee will be left with no alternative, but to set them for them.

Committee Initiatives

On committee initiatives, as we have noted on a number of

occasions, this committee feels that our role is not just to review and advise, but to offer practical solutions to some of the financial difficulties that we face. After all, we are all in this together. To this end, the committee has taken several initiatives to create, or explore, creative ways to raise investment capital and stimulate the economy. We are currently working on attracting offshore investment to build badly needed public housing. Mr. Antoine, my colleague, is looking at the establishment of a heritage investment fund, so we can have resource revenues for reinvestment, and to target sectors of the economy. Mr. Dent is looking at a large one-time investment of capital dollars to build infrastructure, and we are also looking at innovative ways to increase tourism and revenues by legalizing some forms of gambling in the north.

Value For Money Audit Program

On value for money audit program to assist the Assembly in holding department's accountable, would acquire a better system of cheques and balances in the financial area. A second opinion on how we do things. To accomplish this, we will be presenting a plan for the Auditor General to perform value for money audits in key areas, during the life of the Assembly.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Finance recognizes that the government has put much effort into this budget, and has tried to

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respond positively to our recommendations. However, the committee remains concerned that the government does not have a clear set of priorities. Something is simply not right, when we put resources into needless capital projects such as Expo, and the development of library legislation, but squeeze essential programs that attempt to deal with the crippling social programs we have got, like suicide, and alcohol and drug abuse. Although, we have been told many times that we will be seeing an overall new approach to government, the committee feels that the departments still have tunnel vision when it comes to the budget. Each department vying for their piece of the pie. The committee feels that the government needs an integrated, cooperative approach to dealing with those problems. Then, and only then, can we begin to deal with some of these problems.

The committee has expanded upon its concerns, and the departmental reviews reform the support, along with its 97 recommendations. We expect that the government will respond in time for a review of the 1993 Main and Capital Estimates.

Finally, as Members are aware, the standing committee is trying to meet outside of Yellowknife, whenever possible. We believe it is important that Members of the committee receive a fresh perspective from the people that we serve. Sometimes we seem to forget that. Something that is not always possible when we meet here in Yellowknife. During our review of our current budget, the committee travelled to Fort Simpson for three days of meetings. During our visit, we were able to meet with the Village Council of Fort Simpson, and in addition, on our return, we visited Nahanni Butte, and

met with members of the band council in that community. Both these meetings proved very informative. The committee would like to thank the people of Fort Simpson, Nahanni Butte, and the honourable Member for Nahendeh, for the generous hospitality during our visit.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the standing committee's report on finance, I would therefore move, seconded by the honourable Member from Inuvik, that the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance is moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in Order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Mr. Todd's motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 9: An Act To Amend The Insurance Act, Moved Into Committee Of The Whole

MR. TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Finance has reviewed Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Insurance Act, and wishes to report that the bill is now ready for committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Todd. Pursuant to rule 66-3, Bill 9 is ordered into committee of the whole.

Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Bernhardt.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. BERNHARDT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document, tabled document 84-12(2), a

listing of graduates from various Northwest Territories communities over the past five year period. This document was prepared by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you Mr. Bernhardt. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. The first, tabled document 85-12(2), is a discussion paper prepared in September 19, 1991 by the Minister of Justice for Canada, entitled "Aboriginal People and the Justice Administration." The second document, tabled document 86-12(2), is an extract from the Hansard of the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 8, 1992, regarding comments made in question period regarding the appointment of Don Avison, as Director General for the federal Council for Aboriginal and Justice Administration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, tabled document 87-12(2), "The Annual Report of the Status of Women's Council of the Northwest Territories for the year ending March 31, 1992."

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Motion 31-12(2): Comprehensive Audit of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

MR. TODD:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, September 16, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik, that this Legislative Assembly direct the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories, the Government of the Northwest Territories, to formally request of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs that a comprehensive audit of the Northwest

Territories Power Corporation be undertaken pursuant to section 11 of the Auditor General Act; and further request that the Speaker communicate this resolution to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Auditor General of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 30-12(2): Public Inquiry Into Medical Services In Fort Smith

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Fort Smith Health Centre has been regarded as a vital health care facility by the residents of Fort Smith for many years;

AND WHEREAS an agreement was made with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on September 12, 1980, establishing that the health

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centre should be managed and operated by an appointed board of management;

AND WHEREAS over the past year there has been growing public recognition of communication difficulties and conflict among the board of management administrative staff and medical personnel;

AND WHEREAS the Wilson and Associates reports identified major problems in the operation of the health centre, and there has been little or no action on the vast majority of recommendations included in this report;

AND WHEREAS the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons was asked to prepare a report, which commented on aspects of the quality of medical services delivery;

AND WHEREAS this report has not been made public;

AND WHEREAS following the resignation of several board members, the Minister of Health appointed a

public administrator under the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act;

AND WHEREAS this appointment has caused concern and speculation among the residents of Fort Smith, thus diminishing the community confidence in the Fort Smith Health Centre;

AND WHEREAS the status of a physician who has been a long term Fort Smith resident, is unclear in the public's mind;

AND WHEREAS by demonstration, petition and at a public meeting, the residents of Fort Smith have showed their support for an early public review, and resolution of the medical and administration activities of the Fort Smith Health Centre;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health has referred the non- public report of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons to a board of inquiry established under the Medical Professions Act;

AND WHEREAS the Public Inquiries Act, passed by the Legislative Assembly, provides the mechanism and opportunity for residents of the Northwest Territories to be able to request the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to cause a public inquiry into the matters relating to the conduct of a public business of the territories, or any matter of public concern;

AND WHEREAS the public of Fort Smith have a grave concern with the administration, and quality, of medical services in the community of Fort Smith;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly supports the need for a public inquiry into the issues surrounding the administration, and quality, of medical services provided by the Fort Smith Health Centre to the residents of Fort Smith;

AND FURTHER request the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to give earnest and immediate consideration to cause an inquiry to be held on the matter pursuant to section two of the Public Inquiries Act. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and honourable Members, I have indicated to the public prior to the session sitting, that I would ask for a public inquiry into the Fort Smith Health Centre.

The Minister of Health, however, prior to the session held, decided to, instead, create a board of inquiry

under the Medical Profession Act, to address many concerns of the Fort Smith Health Centre. I would like to advise Members of this House as to what has happened to date, to my knowledge, and why I am asking for a public inquiry.

Last year I met with the board of the Fort Smith Health Centre. At that time, they indicated that they wanted to do a review, or a terms of reference was going to be developed. However, I recognized after the review was done, that even the terms of reference were not adhered to. I looked at section two of the terms of reference, that I tabled in this House last week, where it indicates that the committee will be comprised of at least four to five members, as selected by the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. I have since been advised that this report that was completed, that the Minister seems to be passing around, had been done by only two physicians of the College of Saskatchewan, they went into the Fort Smith Health Centre, and did a review in one and a half days. The terms of reference that the board developed, for the College of Physicians to go in to do the review, makes me wonder how the review was done.

I was advised that the report in question has some concern in respect to its validity, and the fairness, of how it is being done. It is a process used in developing the report that has caused concern, and even indicated that the terms of reference were not adhered to. I indicated that the process of the report was questionable. I also indicated, that at the time the operation of the board under the current chairmanship continued to be problematic, and that the board was questionable. That the board was operating under the dictatorship of the chairman and the administrator. The Minister at the time, I felt took action, wrote to the chairman, and requested a copy of the report. So, therefore, he wrote to him on July 23 and thanked him for the report. At that time, he directed the chairman to ensure three preconditions, be met prior to this profession going back to work in the Fort Smith Health Centre.

These preconditions were to be agreed to by July 31. He sent this letter on July 23. Seven days was granted to the board to deal with this. However, the board did not meet within those seven days. The chairman was not even in town, and they only ran a five member board, so it was difficult to meet. On August 5, though, the chairman went back to Fort Smith. He called all the board members, he requested that they resign, and he was willing to send

to the board members, developed letters of resignation which they should sign, he stated.

He also indicated to two board members that three had already resigned. One board member indicated information to the public, at the public meeting, that I held on September 3. So, since three out of five board members resigned, the board was non-functioning. So quickly, exactly what the Minister wanted, he appointed a public administrator, Mr. Don Ellis, who is our Regional Director.

There are many questions that arose at the public meeting on September 3. The appointment of the public administrator was made without advising the public, they wanted to know why. I know it was because of the poor chairmanship that the board was under, but why did the Minister not just remove the chairman? Because the chairman at the time was at pleasure.

On August 10 I flew to Yellowknife to meet with the Minister, to ensure that it was not the intentions of his office to suspend a professional, that he referred to in the letter that he wrote to Peter Fraser, on July 23, who at the time was the chairman. The Minister assured me that the professional would not be suspended, and that he would give me a copy of the terms of reference for the public administrator. He

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also indicated that he would leave everything up to the public administrator to address on this issue.

I met with the public administrator, subsequently, on August 14, to advise him of my concerns on how this report was developed. However, my concerns fell on deaf ears. On August 20 the public administrator, Mr. Ellis, called to advise me that he was planning to suspend the professional in question, due to the College of Physicians' report. He also stated, that he may reconsider, if I could convince the professional to take a competency test, and a psychiatric test. I asked him at the time for even the courtesy of the weekend to see what we could do.

However, unfortunately, Mr. Ellis decided not to wait the weekend. He wrote to the professional, and advised him that his privileges in the Fort Smith Health Centre were suspended. On August 26, the Minister of Health was to open a personal care unit. He was greeted by a group of demonstrators asking for a public inquiry. At the time the Minister advised me that a public inquiry was premature without a

public meeting. It was difficult, at the time, to call for a public meeting, because I did not have it confirmed that the administrator suspended the doctor's privileges.

On September 1, I knew that the privileges were officially suspended, therefore, I advertised for a public meeting on September 1, and I apologized to my constituents for not giving them enough time. However, my time frame did not allow for more time. On September 2, I came to Yellowknife to meet with the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. The Minister's officials were all in the room on September 2 and 3, so they knew where I was. In the afternoon of September 3, I was approached by a C.B.C. reporter, who advised me that the Minister of Health had set up a board of inquiry, and she asked, what did I think about it?

I guess that is one of the concerns in respect to why people want a public inquiry, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that none of this information, none of these decisions, are made at the community. None of the decisions are made with respect to consultation of the past board, or even consideration given to myself. So, therefore, I went to the public meeting on the evening of September 3, and we must remember that the board of inquiry was set up without even consideration of advising my office on the afternoon of September 3.

When I held a public meeting, of which I only gave two days notice, at least a hundred people from all across the community attended. Many of my constituents, unequivocally, requested a public inquiry. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and myself feel that there are too many unanswered questions, which I will attempt to outline for the honourable Members today.

First of all, the terms of reference, under section two, stated that the committee will comprise of at least four to five members elected by the College of Physicians. However, only two physicians from the Saskatchewan College developed the report. Why did the Board of Management not at least have the opportunity to address the report? From my understanding, the board did not want to, because of the way it was developed.

Why did the Minister send to the former chairman that the Board of Management place preconditions on this profession prior to the doctor returning from holidays? Why did the chairman have letters, all typed and developed, for each board member, and did not even

call for a board meeting instead of requesting each board member to sign these developed letters of resignation?

Why was the public administrator appointed on August 7, and his terms of reference not developed until August 20? Generally, it is the practice of a Minister to develop terms of reference, and then appoint an individual to a mandated job.

The Minister of Health received a copy of my letter to Mr. Ellis on August 21, indicating my disappointment with his planned action, and also advising Mr. Ellis that it would leave me no alternative, but to request a public inquiry. So, the Minister knew I was going to ask for a public inquiry. The Minister knew I was conducting a public meeting on September 3, as I advised his Deputy Minister on September the 2, when he came in front of the Special Committee on Health and Social Services. I told him that I was having a meeting in Fort Smith the next day.

The Minister's Executive Assistant was right in the room, the same room as the Special Committee on Health and Social Services, so his saying that he did not know where I was, is very questionable. The Minister decided to hold a board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act, because he knew that a public inquiry would bring out too many things that, I believe, he may want to hide. The public inquiry will bring out the report, and how it was developed, why the Board resigned, and why the Minister appointed a public administrator to make the decision to suspend a professional in Fort Smith, that people in Fort Smith want.

The Minister knows that the particular document he is circulating, and sent to Dr. Covert, or to his board of inquiry to address under the board of inquiry, is a document that apparently is sealed in the courts. So, there is no other avenue to even advise my constituents. I cannot even go to the courts. However, this document remains and is being circulated. I may even believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister may be in contempt of court. Mr. Speaker, this particular Minister, is the same Minister who wants to bring in access to information, but is denying unequivocally a request from my constituents for a public inquiry. How can we have an access to government and deny people of what is going on? There were many concerns when I held the public meeting.

There were concerns that an elder had just passed away of a heart attack, and they wondered whether

that could have been prevented, and if he would have gone to the hospital, if he knew his doctor was there. I wonder how many more have to pass on.

The irony of this whole issue, Mr. Speaker, and I want to advise this House, is that the public, my constituents, want to have their doctors serve them out of the Fort Smith Health Centre, but because of the administration in the health department, they are denied of such a privilege.

Instead of allowing the public to know what is going on, this Minister is only allowing for this issue to be handled by a board of inquiry, not a public inquiry.

Friday afternoon, I agreed with the Minister of Health to get an independent legal opinion. An independent legal opinion is basically, what I was trying to tell the Minister all week. It was basically stating that the board of inquiry can only discipline or dismiss, which I know the Minister wants. It also indicated that the board of inquiry, and the medical professional inquiry, and I quote from the legal opinion "the purpose of the two statutes are very different," and that is what I was trying to tell the Minister last week.

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Mr. Speaker, I feel that we at least owe it to the public of Fort Smith to bring this whole issue out, and further, to at least allow for justice to be done. Do we not owe it to the public, not to prosecute a person until proven guilty?

Members, honourable colleagues, it appears this Minister has done just that. All I can say is that I am happy he is no longer the Minister of Justice. There does not seem to be any justice in this whole fiasco. Mr. Speaker, I urge my honourable colleagues to support my motion for a public inquiry, because remember we requested the transfer of health so that we can bring the delivery of health to the people, for the people. Not to bring the health delivery for bureaucrats to tell us what to do, and this is exactly what is happening. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Seconder of the motion, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I first came to this session, the first week, I did not think I was going to be involved in a matter of this nature, in fact, if anything I probably would have stayed away

from dealing with this particular issue, and allow my colleague to work out a solution with the honourable Minister. Unfortunately, that has not been the case and what is interesting in this whole debate, Mr. Speaker, is that there is, it seems, at times, significant confusion about what it is, what the intentions are, and what accomplishments are being made in terms of the review of the inquiry that has been suggested by the Minister, and on behalf of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what I want to talk about with regard to this motion, is simply that there is a principle that most Members agree with, and that is the right of the people who we represent, to be involved in decisions that affect them. We are one of those institutions, and we have rights and privileges as Members to, in fact, represent our constituents. That we represent them as an institution, we do not take their place when they see it in their interests to represent themselves. We do not ignore, Mr. Speaker, their right and their responsibility for ensuring that they themselves, are being served by the institutions that they allow us to set up. We do not take their place, in fact, we are their representatives.

In this whole debate Mr. Speaker, it seems that we are not interested in hearing the views of those people, that we are not interested in listening to the concerns that they have about the service or program that is being brought to them, on behalf of this government, and on behalf of this Assembly. They are concerned about the manner in which their body of authority, I refer to their body of authority, not ours, but their body of authority, is delivering services to them.

Many of us here have worked diligently trying to ensure that the people in the communities have responsibility, authority and powers to make decisions for themselves. Unfortunately, in this particular case, that seems not to be happening.

I had not thought, Mr. Speaker, that I would be rising at any time during the session to challenge a decision of a Minister. What concerns me most, is the confusion and the kind of interpretation that are being given by our Cabinet Members with regard to legislation. I see this process, the public inquiry, as an opportunity for the people of Fort Smith, to present their concerns and to present their views about this particular matter.

I know that in some instances, there will be some limitations, because even the Public Inquiries Act does not allow every Member interested in making

presentations to do so, but that is the nature of the legislation and it must be adhered to.

I think that the principle that I would argue for is, that the people must be heard, the people that are affected by the program, the service that is being delivered to them, and not simply to argue that the matter before the people is an administrative one. It is far more than that. I hope that the principle that we are going to vote on, is the matter of the people being involved. I know that the Minister will rise and say we are concerned about the costs, Mr. Speaker, government and Cabinet does not have the monopoly on the concern for cost. I think in our own comments we have made in this House, this side of the House has had as much concern about the over expenditure of government funds. If over expenditure of government funds challenges the principle that the people should be heard, the people have a right to be heard, then we are in the wrong business. They have every right to tell us what is wrong with this system, what is wrong with the services that are being delivered to them. If money is the basis on which we allow that principle to be protected, then I think, God help democracy in the right to elect people, because I think we are at risk and the people's right to speak is at risk.

All of us here in this Assembly understand the matter of expenses. My first question was to ask the Minister, not in any way to be difficult, but to ask the Minister if there was any indication of no justice being seen, or being done, that he could consider a public inquiry? I did not challenge his ability to make a decision, initially, to have the Medical Professional Act to guide his decision, yet, he chose to say, "no" that would not be considered. So, Mr. Speaker, I have risen to speak on behalf of the motion, and second the motion, because I think that the fundamental principle we are arguing here, is a matter of the people being heard, and I think that principle is very important. That principle is applicable in Yellowknife Centre, in MacKenzie Delta, in Sahtu, as it is in every constituency, and every region. If we forget that is the principle, I think that we have lost sight of what we are trying to accomplish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member for MacKenzie Delta is quite right, I was going to point out that this

will be a very expensive undertaking. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think there should be very good, compelling, clear reasons for spending a half a million dollars or more. Money that is not budgeted, that will have to come from somewhere else, whether it is the H.A.P. program, or whatever else. Mr. Speaker, the reason this will be a very expensive undertaking in contrast to the board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act, is that under the Public Inquiries Act, the board shall accord by section seven, "to any person who satisfies the board that he or she has a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of an inquiry, an opportunity to not only give evidence, but also to call and examine or cross-examine witnesses." I think it is quite conceivable that many citizens, including patients from the centre, might well wish to seek standing. This inquiry could go on for months, and the costs could easily run to sizeable amounts. The recent so-called Bourassa Inquiry, even though it has a fairly narrow focus, cost over \$500,000. Part of the reasons for these costs, Mr. Speaker, is that under this Act, the Member is recommending, parties who are compelled to testify would likely want legal counsel, and if past precedent is followed, our government will be asked to bear those costs, and at rates of easily \$100.00 an hour, the cash register can ring up quite a bill rather fast.

This is in contrast to the board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act, which is predicted to cost \$50,000 - \$100,000, and has the power to order costs. So, Mr. Speaker, in light of the high cost

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involved, I wish we had the luxury to say money does not matter, we should set aside the costs, and the precedent. I would say again, I think this House must be satisfied that there are good reasons. I think that with the greatest of respect, it is incumbent on the honourable Member moving this motion to show that those compelling and good reasons exist.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate a point I have tried to make in the debates in this House over the last week, and it is simply this, the president of the board of inquiry has been asked by myself, to inquire into allegations with respect to the medical practice of a certain physician at the Fort Smith Health Centre. Dr. Covert has also been invited to advise and recommend on whether other aspects of medical services at the Fort Smith Health Centre also require further investigation. Honourable Members have expressed concern that the report will have possibly too narrow a focus, that the other broader issues may

not be dealt with. I want to, again, assure the House that Dr. Covert has been asked to advise on other aspects of medical services, and therefore, the board will have the broader mandate, sought by the honourable Member. So I would recommend that we let the medical inquiry run its course, as laid out in Legislation, and then let us see where we are, and respond accordingly. Mr. Nerysoo stated in his comments, if natural justice seems not to be done, or appears not to have been done, which, as I understand, natural justice includes the right to be heard, and the right to be given the reasons for a decision, then certainly further investigation, and further inquiry, should be held. I do not know what impression I gave Mr. Nerysoo in answer to a question earlier this week, but let me say right here and now, I agree entirely with Mr. Nerysoo. If the result of this procedure, which is laid out in the legislation, where there is an issue of medical practice involved, raises further questions, if there are matters that appear obviously necessary to pursue, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable Member from Thebacha will let me know of such matters that arise, that are still outstanding, following the conclusion of the board of inquiry. Then I will be prepared to take further steps, and those steps might well include a public inquiry. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it is premature at this stage, and I will use the word I used when I was confronted in Fort Smith, whether it is premature at this stage to set in the works, another expensive public inquiry, when we have not even got the result of the one that has been put in place. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the particular physician the Member is speaking about, that is concerned about, has a strong following in Fort Smith, and has support from the patients. I understand that, Mr. Speaker, but I hope the Honourable Member also understands that as Minister of Health, when I am presented with information that leads me to question the adequacy of the medical practice, I have a duty, Mr. Speaker, under the Act, to take further action to inquire, and to satisfy myself, that the highest standards of public health care are being followed in that community, whether the physician is popular or not. Mr. Speaker, a suggestion has been made by the honourable Member that the board was intimidated, pressured into resigning, or otherwise pressured by the Minister. I will be forthright with the House, Mr. Speaker, yes, I became impatient with the Board of Management of the Health Centre. Why, Mr. Speaker, because I knew that they had received this information of serious concerns about medical practice at the Fort Smith Health Centre, and for whatever reason, they were not doing anything. The problem I had with the

board, Mr. Speaker, was that they were not acting, and, yes, I wrote a strong letter to the chairman of the board, saying here are issues that have been raised in the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons Report. Either you deal with them, and exercise your responsibility for the adequacy of health care in the Fort Smith Health Centre, or you must resign. Either do your job or resign. So, there was pressure and there were deadlines extended, upon which I wanted action taken, and I did have in mind that the particular physician was going to be returning from holidays, and that the issue should be resolved one way or the other, before that time as to whether he should continue to have privileges at the centre pending an inquiry into those serious questions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that I think we should take the first step and determine whether the matter is dealt with and, of course, the physician in question may be exonerated by the board of inquiry. I have made no judgement in any way about that physician's competence. I told the honourable Member that I was confident that his rights would be respected and I would note that the Medical Profession Act refers to the need to pursue natural justice, and I would hope that inquiry follows that imperative set out in our legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that if the matter of public concern, the Members refer to, are still not cleared up following the board of inquiry which has now been set up and is underway, under the Medical Profession Act, then I would be open to taking further steps. Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I think that the Member has to have compelling reasons to persuade this Legislature that the significant step of having another inquiry, I presume the Member would want a parallel inquiry, at great cost should be taken.

It is incumbent upon her to present reasons. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have just noted some of the reasons that the Member has laid out, and I would like to just make a few comments. The Member is concerned that there were only two Saskatchewan physicians, the terms of reference called for four or five members to be established. Now I have taken that question as notice earlier in this session, but I believe that there are adequate explanations for why the original terms of reference were revised. When the information comes forward, this House will get proper explanation as to why the original terms of reference were revised. I expect that there was a cost factor, and I expect that the board authorized the administrator to deal with this matter and to make alternative arrangements in light of the costs of bringing in four or

five physicians, a burden to a small health centre, as opposed to two.

The Member suggested questions of the validity of the Saskatchewan College investigation. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that the House get more questions about validity. I would like to know if she is suggesting that eminent doctors, who are on the panel of the Saskatchewan College, which is the physician's home college for registration, were unqualified or biased. We need something more than her saying that there are questions about the validity.

Mr. Speaker, she talks about the poor communications between my office and herself with respect to this matter. I will acknowledge that communications were not ideal, that there could have been better consultation, particularly about the decision to name a board of inquiry, for which I have offered my regrets already in this House. But, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that it is fair to point out to the honourable Member, that in our discussions, I pointed out to her very clearly that there were serious concerns about medical practice in the Fort Smith Health Centre with respect to a particular physician, and I did point out to her very clearly that I believed that these concerns could not be ignored by me.

To me, and I believe I told the honourable Member this at the time, it has some analogy to the tainted tuna fish. If a Minister is given information, with a responsibility for public health, that Minister refuses to act on because of political pressure or because of public pressure of one kind or another, then that Minister is not just discharging their responsibility. I think it is only fair for me to say that I think that

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the honourable Member knew that a board of medical inquiry, and a peer review, was certainly a possibility.

That is why we had discussions about her encouraging the physician to voluntarily agree to accept an evaluation, and an assessment by professionals, so that he could voluntarily clear his name. Unfortunately, he was not willing to do that. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that it is up to this House to decide whether the compelling reasons have been presented, that I think are required to be presented, in order to undertake this extremely expensive inquiry which I think will start at \$.5 million and could easily cost \$1 million.

In light of the costs, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for a recorded vote, and I would also like to state that this matter has been considered by Cabinet, and in order to appear objective and to preserve our objectivity, Cabinet will abstain on this motion. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we will be guided by the direction from this Assembly. We will be putting the matter under active consideration from here on in. It is a dynamic consideration, I have received notice this morning that another court action will be initiated on this matter later this week, so the situation is rapidly changing.

I want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that the government is not ruling out a public inquiry. What we are suggesting is that, at this time, we should let the peer review process take place. When a client complains about a lawyer's conduct, an abuse of funds for example, the Legal Profession Act springs into action. You do not hold a public inquiry, when there is a complaint about the competence of an engineer, if a bridge collapses or a building collapses, the engineers deal with their peer review, and you do not hold a public inquiry.

The same occurs with a pharmacist. Now, I think we should follow the procedure laid out in our Act, Mr. Speaker. I will reiterate again, once that is done, if the Member comes back and says that there are still concerns, there are still matters at issue, my constituents are still asking questions, or still in the dark, then that avenue would be open to us. It is the view of government, at this time, that we should take the course that is laid out in our own legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess during the health transfer one of the basic principles was community and aboriginal control over the delivery of health services. This should mean that the community has a right to ensure the appropriate action is taken when it becomes concerned about the operations of a health facility.

There is more at stake here than an investigation into the performance of a single doctor. It has to do with the administration, and the operation, of the entire investigation into the performance of a single doctor. It has to do with the administration and the operation

of the entire health centre and with the health centre's role in the community. The people of Fort Smith, particularly aboriginal people, have every right to be fully involved in all aspects of this operational review. That was a guaranteed condition of the health transfer.

The motion before the House is calling the Members to request that an inquiry be held under the Public Inquiries Act. The Minister seems to have taken a position that this should not occur, because it has decided to refer a report on a doctor's competency, to a board established under the Medical Profession Act.

I believe that the only appropriate framework in which to consider this matter is in a public inquiry established under the Public Inquiries Act. Here are the advantages of a public inquiry, it is stated clearly that the proceedings should take place in public, although there is a provision that if a board wishes, it can go in camera to deal with a very personal and private matter. The history of public inquiries in Canada has been that there has always been the best way to ensure that the public has an opportunity to provide input. For example, an inquiry earlier this year into the death of a prominent Manitoba native leader at the hands of police officers, dealt not only with the circumstances surrounding the misuse of power at that situation, but also with the larger concern of the aboriginal communities.

Two inquiries into the Alberta justice system, highlighted the short coming of European justice in terms of meeting the needs of aboriginal people. Again, the conclusion was reached with ample input from the public at large, and especially aboriginal organizations in that province.

Purely, Mr. Speaker, public inquiries have proven to be useful and efficient ways to get information out into the open in all Canadian jurisdictions. We should not be afraid to make full use of this vital approach in dealing with community concerns in the Northwest Territories.

There are many disadvantages to the Medical Profession Act. It is a form of peer review, no public review. By definition that means that it will focus on what the doctors think are important, not the people. There is far more to the trouble that the Fort Smith Health Centre, than the activities of a single doctor, whom the department seems to want to scapegoat.

---Applause

I have always been suspicious of the process of peer review. It is alright in a situation where there is a very narrow question to be considered. In this complicated situation, there must be an open and public process. The public inquiry is the only suitable approach.

I have publicly expressed, Mr. Speaker, my concerns over peer review approaches, used to override community concerns with respect to the Nursing Profession Act, the Engineering, Geologists, and Geophysicists Profession Act. In both these cases, there were commitments made when the legislation was reviewed under review, that there is an opportunity for community input and review of their findings. Even then, I am not entirely satisfied. However, in the case of the Medical Profession Act, there is not even a requirement that the board of inquiry has to submit a report. It can issue an order, but it does not even have to report its findings. How on earth is that going to answer the questions that members of Fort Smith community have on the working of their health centre?

A public inquiry is better. Further, the question on whether or not inquiry under the Medical Profession Act should not be misunderstood. The Act is silent on this issue, it does not say that the inquiry should be open, it does not say the inquiry should be closed.

The Minister has stated that this could mean that the medical board of inquiry hold a public process. However, we should not forget that the report referred to the board of inquiry, was that the commission on it, was on a strictly confidential basis. How on earth can the Minister expect the board to meet in public, when it will be dealing with a confidential report?

The public inquiry in the health centre is absolutely necessary. I must say that I found the Minister's comments on the inquiry very confusing. I must

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also say that I have received copies of the correspondence tabled by the honourable Member for Thebacha, including the Minister's correspondence of September 10, 1992. I find that his allegation that Mrs. Marie-Jewell has been working to prevent the successful resolution of the matter, is unfair and not accurate in my view.

I also find that the tone of his correspondence to be not becoming of a Minister of this government. A public inquiry is a must, and it is a culturally appropriate approach. The most important thing that

honourable Members should ask themselves, in voting on this issue, is that when problems arise over the years, about aboriginal communities, how did our elders of the generations deal with them? Did they appoint a group of professionals to hold a private inquiry, or did they bring the community together as a whole to talk about the problems?

Honourable Members will know that through history, Dene and Inuit people have always dealt with community problems by bringing the communities together. Everyone had the opportunity to have input into how to resolve a community problem. Everyone knew what decisions would be made to solve the problem. These are the principles that we, as modern leaders, should be striving to achieve as well.

We will not achieve these with a board of inquiry under the Medical Profession Act. We will achieve this with an inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to state that my colleagues, who have moved and seconded the motions, and the statements made by Mr. Gargan, have made a very strong case, and I will be exercising my right and privilege as a M.L.A., and make a decision by supporting this motion.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, you have the opportunity to conclude debate.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not intend to say too much in closing my debate. I felt that my honourable colleagues have covered many of the areas. However, I do want to state to the House once again, that up to at least Friday afternoon, we tried to come to some type of resolution. I agreed along with the Minister of Health, and the House Leader, Mr. Pollard, that we would try to come to some type of resolution, where we finally agree that we would receive an independent legal opinion on the Public Inquiries Act, and the Medical Profession Act, for a board of inquiry, and I would like to quote some of that legal opinion. It says, "The purpose of the two statutes are very different. The Medical Profession Act allows for a

board of inquiry for the limited purposes of examining discipline, complaints, or matters of a similar nature, referred by the Minister. The board of inquiry cannot report or recommend. It can only dismiss or discipline." The people of Fort Smith are asking why? There are many people in Fort Smith that believe that this doctor is a very good doctor. They have full confidence in him, and they want to know why the Department of Health is all of the sudden taking him out of the health centre. I believe that only in democracy, and the process of democracy, do we allow for these things to be answered. All I am asking is for these questions to be answered on behalf of my constituents.

The Minister indicated that we should let the board of inquiry run its course, because all it will do is bring forth recommendations, and I state unequivocally, "no, we do not want the medical board of inquiry to review, to run its course, because the medical board of inquiry consists of three members: one person nominated by the N.W.T. Medical Association, who is a medical practitioner; one person who is a medical practitioner, who is registered in the province; and at least one person who is neither of the above."

So, it is actually another peer review on a report that was submitted. What we are asking for is many unanswered questions into the whole Fort Smith Health Centre answered, and I believe, at the very least, my constituents deserve to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, at that public meeting, one constituent raised his hand and asked, "how can they ask me to obtain a public inquiry?" I stated, "I would like to ask one question, is there anyone in this room who does not want a public inquiry, for any reason?" Mr. Speaker, at that public meeting, not one person stood up or raised their hand, and that gave me the mandate to come to this House to ask for a public inquiry.

The Minister is indicating that he is saying that costs are already being absorbed, but yet in the House, when I questioned him under oral questions, he tells me that the board of inquiry has not even been set up yet. So, I wonder where the costs being absorbed are? I recognize that the costs of an inquiry is a lot of money, and I recognize the restraint we are in, but I believe that fundamentally, your health is very important, and if people are not healthy, what can they do? Do we put a price tag on health? Do we put a price tag to answer elders in our community, that they are deprived of some of their health opportunities, that we, as the government, should be

giving them? I do not believe so. I believe that sometimes, for fundamental democracy, we cannot replace an answer with costs.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to urge my colleagues to support this motion. There are many unanswered questions with respect to this whole issue, that remain unanswered. I know a board of inquiry will not answer, but I know a public inquiry will. So, therefore, I call question on the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Koe, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Todd, Mr. Bernhardt, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Dent, Ms. Mike, and Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed to the motion, please rise. All those who abstain from the motion, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyee, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Whitford, and Mr. Patterson.

Motion 30-12(2): Public Inquiry into Medical Services in Fort Smith, Carried

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is carried, 15 voting yes, 0 voting no, and 8 abstaining. First reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

---Carried

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ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading of Bill 33: Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that

Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order, Mr. Pollard. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER:

Second reading of bills. Mr. Pollard.

Second Reading of Bill 33: Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Aivilik, that Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill would authorize the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1993. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order. Mr. Pollard to the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill number 33 has had second reading, and the bill is referred to committee of the whole. Second reading of bills, Mr. Kakfwi.

Second Reading of Bill 32: An Act to Amend the Young Offender's Act, No. 2

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Bill 32, an Act to Amend the Young Offender's Act, No. 2, be read for the second time. This Bill would amend the Young Offender's Act to make the Minister of Justice responsible for the entire Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Motion is in order, Mr. Kakfwi. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Second reading of bills, Mr. Arvaluk.

Second Reading of Bill 31: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. JAMES ARVALUK:

Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that Bill 31, an Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill would amend the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act, to increase for the 1992-93 subsequent and fiscal years. The maximum aggregate amount of principle, that may be outstanding, in respect to all those made under the Act.

MR. SPEAKER:

Motion is in order, Mr. Arvaluk, to the principle of the Bill. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 31: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, Moved to Committee of the Whole

Bill 31 has had second reading, and accordingly, the Bill stands referred to committee of the whole of bills and other matters; tabled document 9-12(2), Strength at Two Levels; tabled document 10-12(2), Reshaping Northern Government; motion 6, discussion on Sobriety Clause and Contribution Agreements; committee report 10-12(2), Special Committee on Constitutional Reform Report, Multilateral Conferences on the Constitution; tabled document 62-12(2), Report on Northwest Territories Operations at Expo 1992 as at May 31, 1992; Update on National Constitutional Reform Negotiations, Minister's statement 82-12(2); committee report 17-12(2), Report on the Review of the 1992-93 main estimates; and Bill 33, Appropriation Act No. 2, 1992-93. Mr. Pudluk, you are in the Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Now this committee will come to order. What does this committee wish? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, if I could recommend that we deal with the main estimates and committee report 17-12(2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Is this committee agreed?

----Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. I think that everyone has a copy of the details of the main estimates, 1992-93. I believe they are all on your table. Also, committee report 17-12(2), this little booklet here, is also on your table. I wonder if the Minister of Finance would like to make opening remarks at this time?

1992-93 Main Estimates, Opening Remarks

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we received on Friday afternoon, the order of appearance requested by the Standing Committee on Finance. We are pleased to comply with that order of appearance, and consequently Ministers are ready to answer questions in that regard. I believe that the first order of appearance was education, and Mr. Arvaluk is ready to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Okay. Mr. Todd. Do you have any opening remarks?
Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, prior to proceeding by department, there are some general motions that we would like to move forward this afternoon, and then we can move to the Department of Education, if that is okay with the Minister of Finance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Minister.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I concur, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, are we dealing with general comments at this particular time?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

We are dealing with the Finance Committee's comments right now, and maybe later on we can move on to individual Members. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

So, if I may, as I stated two minutes ago, we have some general comments about managing change. There are about seven general resolutions that we

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would like to get through the House today. Each of the individual members of the Standing Committee on Finance will deal with the departmental resolutions that come forward. As we stated earlier, the territorial governmental programs were previously designed to follow what we call a southern model, and that is the way we are currently doing things.

However, the statistical evidence, particularly the employment and economic well-being of our people, shows that this model does not appear to work very well in the Northwest Territories. As a result of this, the Assembly and the Cabinet recognized, and have approved, a number of motions for some fundamental change. We need to discard the old model and change the ways we do things, in order to successfully respond to our peoples' needs.

The government is struggling to respond, and the committee is concerned that the government needs more support to manage the changes in Reshaping Northern Government. We are concerned that the desired results may not be achieved in a reasonable time span, and there is somewhat of a sense of urgency. The people affected by the desired changes, have not yet been consulted, prepared, or provided suitable direction, training or support. As a result, the need for change is misunderstood and often resisted by the bureaucracy, no matter how well intentioned they may be.

While coercive change may be fast, there is no buy-in to the process. For example, we in the Legislative Assembly, and by extension the people in the North, still do not know what the plans and priorities of the government are. The civil service seems equally in the dark, and somewhat misguided. Participating change is slower, however, there is a buy-in, a desire to cooperate.

We know that there is a diverse opinion in this House. However, it is up to this Assembly to provide the vision, and the government to carry it out as soon as possible. This Assembly previously approved a motion for a one week strategic planning workshop, to develop a shared vision of what good government looks like. This was to be done and completed in conjunction with the 1992-93 main estimates review. The government has recommended this be undertaken by the Reshaping Northern Government Working Group, made up of three Ministers and three ordinary Members. We have no argument with this.

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 1, Carried

However, limited action has occurred to date, and I think there is a need to move that up. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to move our first motion of the day. I move that the Committee recommends that the Reshaping Northern Government Working Group complete the previously moved strategic planning workshop by the beginning of the new fiscal year. Goals of the workshop should include: 1) to develop a consensus on a new government model; 2) to implement the fundamental changes required effectively; and 3) to implement the changes on a timely basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Before I ask for the vote, I have to have a quorum, I do not have a quorum right now. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion is in relationship to the cost of the civil service. The Standing Committee on Finance is concerned about the rising cost of the civil service, and it must be brought under control. If it continues to spiral and accelerate at the pace it is accelerating, there will be no money left in which to deliver programs to the people that need it most.

The previous Assembly approved a motion to control government expenditures by reducing total person years by five percent within a two year period. This was a very specific clear direction. The government's response was that organizational changes may yield

person year reductions, was somewhat disappointing to the committee.

While there has been a one percent decrease in the overall number of person years in the government, the committee believes that the government has not gone enough in reducing the costs of the bureaucracy. The committee feels strongly that the government should be put on notice that the Assembly expects this motion to be followed, and expects bureaucracy to shrink in its numbers.

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 2, Carried

With that Mr. Chairman, I would like to move the second motion. I move that the committee recommends that the government review options to reduce the costs of the bureaucracy for presentation with their 1993-94 main estimates, that the government review by October, 1993 the total employee enumeration package to develop a northern package which is appropriate for today's environment, that the government control its expenditures by reducing total person years in departments, boards and agencies by five percent within the two years, and that the Assembly not approve any overall increase in the budget for salaries, wages and benefits in the 1993-94 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, this is just a matter of procedure as some of these recommendations, because they are recommendations to the government, we would like to ask some clarification questions. It is not that we have any differences with the recommendations, but it is to seek further clarification. For example, Mr. Chairman, on the first recommendation, to develop a consensus on new governmental models, the clarification would be, how would that be an absence? How does that fit in to the Constitutional Development Committee that we have, how does that fit into the leadership model of developing a consensus for a new western style model of government? These are the types of things that I just want to get some clarification on. How we can ask or ask for clarification on those issues? This step was just an example. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Premier, I understand your concern, you should be allowed a question. There is a motion on the floor at the moment. After this, if some Ministers would like clarification, and after we have passed this motion, we can do that. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

I have no problem explaining the motion or understanding the motion, and I am prepared to debate it. At the present time, I would like to see it go through first. I would like to finish the seven motions, and then we can come back to further discussion, or we can discuss it in committee. It does not matter to me what the process is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Madam Premier.

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HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

I think it is something, Mr. Chairman, that is a procedural issue. I would like to see if there is a possibility before the motion is passed, or as a recommendation is written out, how do we gain more information or clarity? That is all I am asking.

It is useless to me, if a motion passes, and then we come back to it. It is the procedure that we have square away, that is all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

I think the Standing Committee on Finance had tried to explain as much as possible in writing before each recommendation. If the government wants more clarification before they move, I will allow the government to ask questions, before moving the recommendations.

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, could I ask if that particular ruling also applies to other Members who are not part of the Standing Committee on Finance, to ask questions? I believe procedurally, it is normal that all Members are allowed to ask questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Yes, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Todd. Number two has been moved and is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Recommendation number two is carried. Mr. Todd.

---Carried

MR. TODD:

I am not that familiar with the procedural aspects of things. If we want to debate it, it does not matter to me, we can debate it anytime. If there is a requirement for further clarification by the Government Leader, I would be prepared to meet with her at her convenience.

On the third motion, hire north, and the feeling amongst the Standing Committee on Finance, is we have to find new and creative ways to ensure that more northerners are placed within the civil service.

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 3, Carried

Motion number three, I move that the committee recommends that the Assembly establish a goal of increasing the number of aboriginal people in the civil service to 50 percent, or more, by 1997.

Further, the committee recommends that the government review options and develop an action plan with the 1993-94 main estimates to accomplish this goal, including job reclassification, to use talents available in the north, a development of career paths and advertising recruitment in the south, on an exception basis only.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the thoughts on what would be the exception of basis only in the south. For example, on certain job functions that we know we do not have, people such as teachers, engineers, doctors or nurses, how would that work in the exceptional basis only? Is there a category of people that you would expect a better retention of, or better involvement in? A little more clarification. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

I think that we said it clearly enough earlier on in the week, when we talked about the need for political direction as it relates to southern hires, not a bureaucratic one. Everybody understands that there are fields of expertise that we do not have in this country, however, there are a number of jobs out there, in our opinion, the committee's opinion, the bureaucracy, for expediency sake, looks to the south rather than the north.

What we are suggesting here is that while we recognize that there are some skill levels that we do not have in this part of the country, whether it is doctors, or engineers, or whatever, we also recognize that there are a number of people out there, if we can redefine some of the requirements for these jobs, put them in the jobs, that they will be able to accomplish the jobs.

If the Government Leader wants me to give her a list, she will have to give me some more time. I think she knows full well what we are trying to accomplish here in this resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Chairman, I hope that any questions that I might have not be taken as argumentative, but rather as clarification. Because I believe that if we go along, and we have all dealt with these issues for a long time, if we can narrow them down in scope, it is certainly very helpful. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

That is what we are attempting to do in this resolution, Mr. Chairman. We are attempting to say that we have to redefine some of the jobs that are currently being advertised, so that northern people can get them. We need to develop a career path for some of our people so that they can move up the ladder. We talked about the need for, if we are going to hire in the south, term positions, and there be some kind of training component attached to it to see if northerners can eventually fill these positions.

There is clearly a recognition, particularly, in the professional field, that we do not have some of that skill level at this present time. However, in my opinion, as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, it is unacceptable to continue to be hiring people from the south in jobs, like secretarial jobs, or apprenticeship jobs, etc., and it happens all across the territories. All of us have examples, myself included, that is what we are trying to say here. That is all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to first indicate that I support the recommendation, as I indicated before, in asking the government to consider developing a northern hire policy.

I would like to make a couple of comments, though, that should be considered in dealing with the recommendation. One, this government should make a greater effort ensuring that we recruit people we educate, who we pay to be educated. In other words, whenever you are recruiting for teachers, that there are northern students who are going to southern institutions that are going to receive their degrees immediately after a recruitment effort, that you should make great efforts to try to recruit those students because they have an understanding of the north itself. They have an appreciation of some of the differences of cultures, and they have probably a greater appreciation for those differences of cultures.

I hope that in reviewing this particular recommendation, we will somehow make efforts to ensure that we recruit students and professionals,

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who have had a great deal of their education paid by this government, and by the people of the Northwest Territories. I just wanted to make that particular comment. I do support the recommendation that is being made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Todd.

---Carried

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 4, Carried

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be less defensive in my comments with respect to the motions. The next motion, number four, is measuring output and effect. The government has been asked to provide specific and measurable performance indicators with their budget request for almost ten years, at least in the information I read.

The committee is pleased that the government agrees with this motion, and is reviewing its implementation. However, and I want to stress, that the committee is adamant that resources should no longer be provided for programs that cannot demonstrate their worth. We have to find a way to quantify how we are spending our money.

Throughout the support and the standards, the committee has requested specific minimum performance reporting standards from each government department and agency. These are measures that the committee believes are important indicators of departmental success.

It is also time for this Assembly to get tough on the need for accountability. We have all talked about it, on both sides of the Assembly, therefore, I would like to move that the committee recommend that the Assembly not approve any additional resources in the 1993 main estimates for programs that do not identify planned accomplishments, provide measurements of output and effect on a historic current and projected basis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

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

MR. TODD:

If I may, just for a moment, and I do not want to sound too glib. We spend \$183 million on running our schools, we spend \$30 million on running Arctic College, we spent \$43 million on the capital estimates last year, and we are told that only 25 percent of our kids come out of the school with grade 12. All we are saying is that there has to be some way to measure, and to ensure, that we are getting value for our money. That is what this resolution is about. This is just one example of what we are talking about. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO:

Thank you. Could I ask, Mr. Chairman, the committee Chair, did this particular matter also deal with the matter of assessing policies?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Yes, it also dealt with policies as it relates to spending money. In other words, the policy of parks, we spent \$1.3 million on a park in Lake Harbour. We asked the government to quantify it, there was no argument with the park, and we supported it. Was the policy correct, is the expenditure correct, and what is the net return to northerners with respect to that expenditure?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Todd.

---Carried

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 5, Carried

MR. TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motions five and six, the value for money in the audit program. The value for money audit of the N.W.T. Housing Corporation, demonstrated last year a severe shortcoming in its management operations. It has taken almost five years to obtain the benefit, and other value for money audits, and that is in the Department of Health, which by the way, has not even been tabled in this House.

The value for money audit of the Department of Economic Development, which was approved by an Assembly motion in March of 1991, still has not commenced yet. The Assembly requires, in our opinion, a more routine basis for obtaining a second, independent opinion of departments and agencies managed funds. This committee, and the Public Accounts Committee, will be working together to identify specific concerns that guide the audit plan. The audit plan should be continued into the life of

succeeding Assemblies, and should also cover Crown corporations.

I have two motions on this, Mr. Chairman. Motion five, I move that the Committee recommends that a broad scope value for money audit plan, on an ongoing basis, be established by the Legislative Assembly, based on recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts covering all government departments and agencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Todd.

---Carried

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 6, Carried

MR. TODD:

On this same issue, motion six, I move that the committee recommend that the government make revisions to the Financial Administration Act to require a strong accountability regime, by government Crown corporations, similar to part of the federal Financial Administration Act, including the requirement for value for money audits, in other words, Crown corporations should be audited.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Todd.

---Carried

Motion to Adopt Recommendation 7, Carried

MR. TODD:

The last one of the general motions. Motion 7 is on government accountability and the legislative action paper. In March 1992, the Minister of Justice tabled in the Legislative Assembly, a paper entitled "Government Accountability, a Legislative Action Paper on Access to Government." The committee supports the creation of an office of an ombudsman, independently reporting to the Legislative Assembly to provide an appeal process where all statutory avenues for complaint or objection have failed. This office, combined with the Access to Information will help to protect the rights and cultural integrity of all of

our people. With that I would like to move motion 7-12(2).

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I move that the government recommends that the proposed access to government legislation be advanced for incorporation into the 1993-94 main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Mr. Todd, I believe that you are recommending to the committee, not to the government. Could you make that correct, Mr. Todd?

MR. TODD:

I must be dreaming again, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I move that the committee recommend that the proposed access to government legislation be advanced for incorporation into the 1993-94 main estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Thank you, your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Chairman for the Standing Committee on Finance, is that the conclusion to your general recommendations? Mr. Todd.

MR. TODD:

Right. That is correct, Mr. Chairman, that is the end of the general recommendations, and the reason that we used this format is so that hopefully we can speed the whole process up when we get into the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

Now we move to general comments on the budget as a whole. General comments. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

I did not hear the motion.

MR. KOE:

Sorry. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):

The motion is in order, and not debatable. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Now we will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 19, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman.

ITEM 19: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. PUDLUK:

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 33 and committee report 17-12(2), and we wish to report progress with seven motions being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Ningark. Motion is in order. All of those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Item Number 19, third reading of bills. Item Number 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Special Committee on Constitutional Reform immediately after adjournment. There will also be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts at 6:00 p.m. Meetings for tomorrow morning, at 9:00 a.m. of Caucus and at 10:30 of the Ordinary Members' Caucus. Orders of the day for Tuesday, September 15, 1992.

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Oral Questions

6. Written Questions

7. Returns to Written Questions

8. Replies to Opening Address

9. Replies to Budget 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 Motion for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills.

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

- Tabled Document 9-12(2)

- Tabled Document 10-12(2)

- Motion 6

- Committee Report 10-12(2)

- Tabled Document 62-12(2)

- Minister's Statement 82-12(2)

- Committee Report 17-12(2)

- Bill 33

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned
until 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 15, 1992.

---ADJOURNMENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1995

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. Good morning. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 96-12(7): Minister Absent From The House

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the Members that the Honourable John Todd will be absent from the House today to attend meetings in Rankin Inlet.

Minister's Statement 97-12(7): Absence From House To Meet In Iqaluit With Prime Minister And Host German Chancellor Kohl

As well, Mr. Speaker, tonight I'll be travelling to Iqaluit for a number of important functions which will involve two world leaders.

On Saturday, Iqaluit Mayor Joe Kunuk and I will officially welcome German Chancellor Kohl to Iqaluit and Nunavut. The Chancellor, who will be joined by Prime Minister Chretien, expressed an interest in visiting the Canadian Arctic following the G-7 meetings this week in Halifax.

In addition to their presence in Iqaluit, the Chancellor and Prime Minister will visit Cape Dorset on Sunday, and Pangnirtung on Monday. Baffin Central MLA, Rebecca Mike, will be in Pangnirtung during their visit.

Mr. Speaker, both world leaders will have the opportunity to meet residents of all three

communities; to spend some time on the land; and, according to the Prime Minister's office, to view Inuit art and meet some of Nunavut's world-famous artists.

Chancellor Kohl has expressed a particular interest in Inuit art. On Sunday evening, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be hosting a dinner for the Chancellor, Prime Minister and a number of guests from Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Members should also be aware that I will take this opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister to discuss a number of territorial issues. I will travel back to Yellowknife on Monday and will be present in the House on Tuesday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Raven Mad Daze And The Midnight Golf Tournament

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the celebration in Yellowknife of the arrival of summer and, soon, the longest day. It is marked by the occasion of Raven Mad Daze and the 1995 Canadian North Yellowknife Midnight Classic Golf Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, for Raven Mad Daze tonight, there will be over 70 events on the streets downtown, which is a record number. Everything from a merry-go-round to street vendors to a food fair will be there. There will be four stages with five bands and even more musicians in the talent contest. There will be entertainment for the entire family between 7:00 pm and 12:00 am on the downtown streets and I would encourage everyone to get out and take part. Hopefully, the rain gods are finished with us today and it will be a sunny evening.

The other celebration that marks this event tonight, Mr. Speaker, is the golf tournament, as I mentioned; the Midnight Classic. I would just like to make sure everyone knows that you don't have to be golfing in the tournament to go to the golf course and take part in the fun. There will be courtesy buses leaving from Ndilo and going through the town on a regular basis out to the golf course. Entertainment starts at 7:00

pm tonight with the Chief Jimmy Bruno school drummers from Rae Edzo and also appearing out there will be the Gumboots and Tracy Riley and, at midnight, the pipe band.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to encourage people to get out and take part in the festivities at the golf course, to watch the tee-offs, ranging in time from 3:00 pm this afternoon to 3:00 am. Every three hours, there will be tee offs, as the golfers battle not only the mosquitoes but ravens, who are well-noted ball thieves. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to wish best of luck to the representative who will be holding up the banner for the Legislative Assembly. I understand that our colleague, Mr. Fred Koe, will be golfing in the tournament and I know we would all like to express our best wishes to him on his success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

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Member's Statement On Nursing Profession In The NWT

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, when we had a lot of legislative matters still ahead of us, Members passed amendments to the Nursing Profession Act. As we near the closure of this Assembly, it is rewarding to look back and view the positive effects our legislation has had on various members of the nursing profession in the NWT.

In fact, passage of the amendments to the Nursing Profession Act has enabled our aboriginal people to realize a long-held dream of being able to receive the training and education to care for their own people. The nursing education now available to students in the Northwest Territories is tailored to meet national standards, thereby giving our graduates the freedom and ability to work anywhere in Canada. Once equipped with these highly-regarded qualifications, our students may well be in demand in countries throughout the world.

The majority of our first students are looking forward to finding work in or near their home communities. Over the years, our nurses have worked in every community in the NWT, winning people's admiration

and respect. Initially, the nurses' role was to respond to the communities' health needs. As always, however, the nursing profession evolves to meet changing needs and the role of nurses in the north is always changing.

I am confident that the nurses' future role will be that of informing and assisting community members to take more responsibility for their own health. As members in the communities gain more autonomy and authority, the nurses will help them gain more control over their well-being. In this capacity, nurses will work with the communities to identify their health needs, define methods of approaching problems and to utilize available resources. Therefore, while nurses fill key positions in community development, they will also continue to promote good health standards, restore the sick to health, and lead cooperative campaigns to prevent illnesses.

As the departments of Health and Social Services become amalgamated, the face of health care systems will change. But one thing is certain, and that is the ongoing need...

Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. As the departments of Health and Social Services become amalgamated, the face of health care systems will change. But one thing is certain, and that is the ongoing need for nurses to become an integral part of the new health system.

One of our national slogans is "nurses make the difference." And anyone who has been ill can attest to the truth of that statement. Although we are all in the midst of change, we can be sure that we will always need nurses in our lives and in our communities. They have won a special place in our hearts and a great deal of respect in our communities. So, as our nursing students prepare to graduate, I would like them to know how welcome they will be and how proud we are of them. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Opposition To Federal Gun Control Legislation

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the usual Friday statement today, unfortunately, but I do want to make a few comments about the activities in the Nunatsiq riding concerning Bill C-68. The Nunatsiq Coalition Against Gun Control had a meeting last night, and I was asked to convey to Members of this Assembly the fact that members of the coalition are very impressed with the statements and the work that has been done by this Assembly on this issue. They're pleased that at least one level of government seems to be adequately representing the very strong concerns of constituents of my riding and others in the Nunatsiq riding.

I would like to also announce that they're still working on the petition that I tabled the other day, collecting more names. There are well over 2,000 names that have now been collected, and it is still growing. The plan is to present this petition to the Senate committee and other persons to make them aware of the strength of feelings and the unanimity of feelings on this very important issue in the Nunatsiq riding.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I'm very grateful to have been given the honour of representing the Caucus, through the Caucus Subcommittee on Bill C-68. We have, as you know, some plans to continue our work in Ottawa next week with aboriginal organizations and Senators in a low-key way, but I think it's very important this work continue. So this will be my last day in the House, perhaps my last day this session, perhaps my last day in this House forever. But more about that when I make my reply to the Commissioner's Address, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Importance Of MLAs' Team Unity

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest last Friday to the discussion that we had on Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3. An act that has also been referred to by some to make the Premier into a queen or an empress or a deity; all kinds of uncomplimentary words, in my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, everyone has an opinion on this bill, and various people recall that we have had people in the past who were deities. I refer, of course, to the first northern-resident Commissioner, Mr. Hodgson, who was sometimes referred to as the emperor of the north; sometimes referred to in...(inaudible)...

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Mr. Speaker, there has been some interest in the last while in what's been referred to as team politics. Team politics being a word to describe those people who can, in fact, work together. The alternative to teams, Mr. Speaker, is gangs. If you recall, Mr. Speaker, this week when I was discussing this issue of sport; I raised it as a statement that sport was a very important thing. I found that when I worked in the poorer parts of London and England, as I was a young man very interested in sport, I was asked, why don't you try to get these young people interested in sport; because the alternative to being on a team is really to become part of a gang, and gangs really do terrible things. They get into trouble. Their objectives are not always good objectives. I see that happening in all the urban areas throughout the world. People operate as gangs, and they can cause mayhem, problems, trouble.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm suggesting today that if we really want to advance, we should think about teams and teamwork; otherwise the result will be gang warfare. Gang warfare, as we all know, is very unpleasant. It characterizes many of our cities throughout the world. And I don't see anything wrong with being part of a team, because that's how you get things done, that's how you move, that's how you become a winner. Gangs never win. They may succeed in the odd battle but, in the long run, they will be divisive, destructive and will get you nowhere. This system is in danger of, in my opinion, descending to gang warfare until we do something about it.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent. Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lewis, conclude your statement.

MR. LEWIS:

Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague from Yellowknife South, Mr. Dent, has talked about the necessity of a cohesive team approach. The Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Patterson, has mentioned team politics. I agree with these statements, Mr. Speaker, and I think we should start working on it right now before the next Media Sharks charity hockey game. That maybe is the secret. If we can get this House to work as a team for the first time to beat the media, by working cohesively perhaps it could be the seeds of a new approach to politics in the Northwest Territories where we suddenly arrive at the formula to be successful. Who knows, Mr. Speaker? If we do it right, this may become an election issue and people can begin training right now so that in the next Assembly we can get a really good team to beat our traditional enemy at this well-known Canadian game. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Potential Of The NWT Mining Industry

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague, Mr. Whitford, said in his Member's statement yesterday, this is Mining Week here in the Northwest Territories. Mining has played a very important part in the economy of the Northwest Territories for many years, and it has been a key part of Yellowknife. In my constituency, Giant Mine has provided employment and business opportunities for decades. It has been a very important part of the community.

My understanding is that last year, mining provided some 75 per cent of the goods produced in the Northwest Territories, and actually provided 25 per cent of the GDP of the Northwest Territories. So it's a

very, very important component of our economy. As the federal cutbacks become more and more of a factor, I think we're going to have to look at the potential that we have. To me, mining is going to provide some of the greatest potential here in the Northwest Territories.

Members are aware that there has been concern by governments right across the country that the mining industry has been leaving Canada. For many reasons, the mining industry has not found Canada to be very supportive of mining, even though, in many ways, the Canadian economy and the very high quality of life that we've enjoyed in Canada has been an important part on mining. But the other governments in Canada are coming around. There are major endeavours now to support mining. In fact, the big find in Newfoundland in Voisey Bay with Diamond Fields Company, could turn around the economy of Newfoundland. It could go from being a very, very poor province with a tremendously high number of unemployed people, to being a self-sufficient province. I think that's a lesson for us, because if we, especially here in the west, don't take advantage of that mining opportunity, and as the federal government cuts back, we're going to have serious economic problems. So I look to the future with a lot of optimism because of the potential in mining.

This weekend, the Chamber of Mines has many events. The mine rescue competition will be at the Yellowknife arena over the next couple of days.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a good opportunity for Members to become more familiar with mining and I hope that Members take advantage of this opportunity, get out and talk to the miners and see what they're doing here in the Northwest Territories. I think all of us should remember, although there are very legitimate concerns right now about the environment and very legitimate concerns about self-government, at the end of the day, the mineral wealth

of the western Arctic is going to be what we need to sustain us. There is really no other way around that.

So, I think our challenge together is to find a way to ensure that responsible mining responds to the needs of the Northwest Territories -- especially for us over here in the western Arctic -- including environmental concerns. I think we have to get more aggressive and take control over our destiny. At the end of the day, the only way we're going to receive the full benefits of mining is if we control the agenda. Hopefully, the discussions taking place right now on the mining accord

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will come to some resolution and we, collectively, in the western Arctic can ensure that mining takes place in a responsible way, and can enjoy the full benefits of mining opportunities. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation Of Members' Efforts Relaying NWT Concerns Re Bill C-68

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've had an opportunity in this House on a number of occasions to discuss Bill C-68. I want to personally, Mr. Speaker, thank on behalf of my constituents, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Dennis Patterson, Jim Antoine, Fred Koe and, especially, John Ningark for having represented the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories and this Assembly in bringing forward our concerns as they relate to Bill C-68.

It is my impression that they have contributed significantly, from at least hearing the comments of Mr. Ningark who brought forward his personal experiences as an aboriginal person to the Canadian public about the relationship of aboriginal people and the use of firearms -- not for the purpose of abusing them but for the purpose of carrying on a life that has been historic.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Jeannie Marie-Jewell

and Dennis Patterson, for venturing into our capital city of Ottawa to express their concerns. I hope others will accept the challenge. I want to say to them, thank you for the work that you've done and thank you for the ongoing work that you will do during the next several weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement On New Community-Oriented Approach To Firefighting In The NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the knowledge of the Dene and Metis of the Sahtu, we recall that the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s was a time when the approach of the federal governments of the day regarding firefighting was very much an approach of using manpower at the ground level. We have come to a stage where, last summer, our people realized that we spend excessive amounts of money fighting fires. Last summer, I believe, we spent in excess of \$25 million. Most of the fires in the Sahtu were extensive. Huge areas of land were burned and scorched, in spite of the high-tech approach we took. In spite of the bombers and huge numbers of aircraft and people involved, the land burned anyway.

People have asked over the last two winters, what difference does it really make whether we have bombers? The land didn't all burn during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Last year, in spite of the great support given to firefighting by bombers and choppers, there were huge tracts of land which burned anyway. As the MLA for the Sahtu, I know that many of the people at the community level would welcome any change to give people at the community level an avenue through which their suggestions for change and observations on how to get a more community-oriented approach to dealing with fires, would be related to the government.

It is this message that has been getting through to our communities, particularly in the last three weeks: that there are possibilities for change, where we don't have to feel that the drier our country gets, the more broke this government is going to get; and the more our country burns, the less money we'll have for other essential services because of the high-costing, but ineffective, means we take to fight fires. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Member's Statement On Work Of Bird Dog Officers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Thebacha, my constituents are very concerned about the way we address fires, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many northern residents at times, I believe, don't fully understand the responsibility of an air attack officer, better known as Bird Dog officers. I'm going to attempt to explain some of the working conditions they have to work under.

When the Bird Dog aircraft flies ahead of DC-4s or CL-215s, they assist the pilots in fire attacks. For example, when the Bird Dog is five minutes back from the fire, the air attack officer will contact the fire boss and any aircraft in the area to notify them that the Bird Dogs are now controlling the fire space and to start making arrangements to clear the area for the tanker group. The air attack officer is responsible for the safe operation of the air tanker group and, as such, may remove crews from the fire if he deems it hazardous to life or property, either people on the ground or in aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, the air attack officer works under very difficult conditions. Remember, smoke could be very dense from a fire; and, there could be very hot conditions which create hot air pockets so planes could lose altitude very quickly. There are, at times, turbulence, prevailing winds, down drafts and lack of visibility, no doubt from the amount of smoke.

Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to hear that there were lay-off notices given to two air attack officers, including the assistant air operator, Jack Bird. Jack Bird was raised in Hay River and also Yellowknife. I recall, quite vividly, going to school with Jack here in Yellowknife. Jack Bird started in Inuvik in 1974 as a firefighter. He completed training in resource management in February 1975. He was based in Yellowknife until 1980 as an assistant resource management officer, where he was responsible for the supervision of ground crews. He also has worked as an air attack officer since 1980. He has been on loan to most agencies in Canada, the United States and in Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue with my statement.

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MR. SPEAKER:

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want the House to note that Jack Bird, was the first and only native to be nationally certified in Canada. Incidentally, the only other native was from the NWT, Fred Lepine, from Hay River. In 1989, Jack Bird moved a step ahead in his career and was able to achieve the assistant manager of air operations until Wednesday, where his

responsibilities, including supervision of the air attack officers, had been questionable.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, another air attack officer, Mr. Jeff Austin, who is a certified air attack officer with 16 seasons of active fire suppression, who also lives in Hay River also has been given notice. I will be seeking clarification from the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board with regard to these two lay-off notices, particularly with respect to what the Premier had announced in this House yesterday. I will also be requesting further clarification from the Minister of Public Works and Safety. I did invite Mr. Jack Bird, Jeff Austin to this House today. I will be pleased, at a later point in time, to recognize them, along with their regional vice-president, Mr. Keith Dowling. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 568-12(7): Request For Extra Assistance To Fight Sahtu Forest Fire

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell on June 9th with regard to the request for extra assistance to fight Sahtu forest fires.

The Fort Smith Forest Fire Centre regularly receives offers to purchase or lease additional aircraft for firefighting purposes. However, if additional aircraft are required during the season, the forest fire centre will first determine if these can be chartered from local air carriers and if not, will issue a request for assistance from other jurisdictions through the mutual aid resources sharing management agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

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

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Brian Lewis with regard to the reason for an increase in stumpage fees.

Under the Forest Management Act and regulations, there are two charges for timber harvesting: reforestation charges and timber cutting charges. Changes were made to these charges as part of the 1995-96 operational planning process. These changes affect spruce and pine saw logs, but not fuel wood. The reforestation charges have increased. Despite the increase, this fee is still substantially lower than other jurisdictions. Under legislation, the money collected for reforestation must be put back into reforestation activities.

A new schedule for the timber cutting charges is being developed. This new schedule will tie the timber charges to the price of lumber. With the present lumber prices, most operators will pay less under this new schedule than they did last year. This new schedule will be in place for the next harvest season. I am providing a letter with additional information to the honourable Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mrs. Marie-Jewell on June 7th of this year regarding the status of government liability when lowering proposal standards.

She asked and requested a legal opinion as to whether or not there is an increase in liability to this government if the department chooses to lower the standards called for in the "request for proposals" when accepting bids.

Legal counsel has advised me that governments are liable for their negligent acts and omissions. However, there is no legal precedent that indicates that not adhering to the specifications contained in their request for proposals and ultimately entering into a contract, as a result of it, constitutes negligence. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 571-12(7): Status Of Forest Fire Emergency Measures Procedures

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on June 12th with respect to the forest fire emergency measures procedures.

Municipal and Community Affairs, through the emergency measures organization, coordinates this government's role in emergency responses. This includes coordinating government support to municipal emergency operations such as the efforts in Yellowknife and Deline to house and feed the evacuees from Fort Norman and Norman Wells.

This coordinating role is largely guided by the GNWT peacetime emergency plan and the community's emergency response plan. A community emergency response plan typically identifies local emergency response resources and the procedures, roles and responsibilities of local organizations for various emergency situations.

The rapid and successful response to the evacuation efforts of Fort Norman and Norman Wells is the result of a coordinated effort of the city of Yellowknife, the GNWT department of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, the emergency response committees of Fort Norman, Norman Wells and Deline, and the countless volunteers who responded to requests for everything from strollers and baby diapers to pillows and bedding.

Akaitcho Hall was used as one of the residences for evacuees. Akaitcho is being used for an elder hostel program at this time and arrangements were made by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to organize the operations of the elder hostel program to make available the space and services of Akaitcho Hall for evacuees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Speaker, could I ask for the unanimous consent of my colleagues to return to item 2, Ministers' statements, please?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 2, Ministers' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Nerysoo, proceed with your statement.

REVERT TO ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 98-12(7): Canadian Occupational Health And Safety Week

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two statements. I hope I don't take up too much time. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this week, June 12th to the 18th, is Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week 1995. The theme of this year's Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week is "Communication: Open the Channels."

Communication is an essential element in the prevention of injuries in the workplace. Employers must ensure that employees know how to do their jobs safely, but employees must ensure that their

employers are made aware of hazardous conditions that develop, so that employers can take steps necessary to rectify the hazardous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Safety and Public Services is especially active in providing public education this week and promoting the theme of "Communications: Open the Channels." The department has public information booths in the lobby of the Siniktarvik Hotel in Rankin Inlet, in the Northern Store in Inuvik, in the WG Brown Building in Iqaluit and in the Panda II Mall in Yellowknife. At all these locations, staff are handing out pamphlets and printed materials, stickers and other material promoting safety and performing demonstrations.

The staff involved in our public education efforts this week include safety officers, electrical inspectors, gas and boiler and pressure vessel inspectors, as well as mine safety inspectors and staff of the fire marshal's office.

The department's mining safety division is especially active this week in public education through our participation in Mining Week. Our staff are key participants in the mine rescue competition, which allows the general public to gain an appreciation of the emergency response systems in place in NWT mines. I would like to invite all honourable Members to come out and watch mine rescue teams from across the Northwest Territories to go through their paces this weekend at the firehall and the Yellowknife Community Arena. Our mine rescue teams are the best in Canada, and this weekend they will be judged by some of the toughest mine rescue competition judges in Canada, including Mr. Terry Vaughan

Thomas who was instrumental in developing our new mine safety legislation.

Mr. Speaker, when the department investigates accidents, our staff know that one of the most common causes of workplace injury is poor communication. The Department of Safety and Public Services is using Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week to focus public attention on the need to keep the channels of communication open in the workplace and to the general public so that we can all learn how to work safety together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Continue, Mr. Nerysoo.

Minister's Statement 99-12(7): Legislative Action Paper On Recall

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be tabling the government's legislative action paper on recall. The action paper was prepared in response to a recommendation last fall from the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. Recall is a formal "citizen-driven" process to remove a Member from their seat before the normal term of the Legislature is over. As requested by the standing committee, the action paper addresses a number of issues related to the implications of and approaches to implementing recall in the Northwest Territories.

In preparing the action paper, the government has attempted to provide a balanced account of the arguments in favour of and opposing recall. The government acknowledges that the issue of accountability of Members to their constituents has been the subject of numerous debates and a number of concrete initiatives during the life of this Assembly. Recall represents a measure where constituents can initiate measures on their own to hold their elected Member accountable.

The government also acknowledges the work of Yellowknife Centre MLA, Brian Lewis, and other Members who have encouraged this Assembly and our constituents to give serious consideration to recall for increasing the accountability of their elected representatives.

In the final analysis, the government believes that recall has both advantages and disadvantages, given the circumstances and challenges that the Northwest Territories, our constituents and their elected representatives will face in the coming years. Accountability will no doubt be an issue in the upcoming territorial general election. This legislative action paper on

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recall will hopefully make a useful contribution to the debate on whether this accountability instrument should be incorporated into our consensus system of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. WHITFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to introduce Gary Bohnet, president of the Metis Nation; and, Michael Paulette, vice-president of the Metis Nation.

---Applause

As well, Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of introducing to you members of Elder Hostel. The group that's here will be visiting our Legislative Assembly, parts of the Northwest Territories -- certainly Yellowknife -- to learn a little bit more about the political system in the Northwest Territories. I'll be meeting with them for about an hour or so afterwards.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Jack Bird from Fort Smith who was the assistant manager of air operations until Wednesday. Mr. Bird resides in Fort Smith. I would also like to recognize Jeff Austin from Hay River. Both gentlemen are accompanied by Mr. Keith Dowling who is the regional vice-president in Fort Smith of the UNW. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mrs. Thompson.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 629-12(7): Availability Of Caribou Sport Hunting Tags

MRS. THOMPSON:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I know that the Minister of Renewable Resources is also aware that the sport polar bear hunters who come into the communities go to Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour to hunt polar bears. This has been running smoothly for a long time, and the guides and outfitters are paid well by these sport hunters who are coming to these communities. All the men and women in the communities benefit from those sport hunters who are coming to the communities, especially to Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour. The hunters are able to make some extra money by taking them out; and the women who make the clothing for those hunters, are paid well for the work they do by making the outdoor clothing for these sport hunting. So, sport hunting for polar bears has been one of the programs that has operated very well in the north, and everyone is aware of that.

As our Minister knows, the Department of Renewable Resources has said in Coral Harbour there are a lot of caribou on Southampton Island at this time. My question is regarding the sport hunting of polar bears, as it has operated very well in the past. I'll ask my question in English. (Translation ends)

My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Building on the success of polar bear sport hunting, will the Minister provide direction and encouragement to his officials to find a way to make caribou sport hunting tags available for a much-needed economic opportunity to my constituents? Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Arngna'naaq.

Return To Question 629-12(7): Availability Of Caribou Sport Hunting Tags

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that caribou sport hunters, at least in the west, have been very successful. I also realize that the polar bear outfitters have also been very successful in bringing people up. I believe there are commercial tags that are available, at least in the Keewatin for the Beverly Qamanirjuaq herd. However, I also understand that it is up to the local hunters to decide how those tags will be used.

At the present time, I believe those tags are being used to catch caribou to be brought to the processing plant in Rankin Inlet.

For the caribou on Southampton Island, I'm sure everybody knows of the work that has been done in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. From what the department tells me, there are sufficient caribou there to produce caribou meat for processing for a long period of time. I would think that it would be timely if there were some local people who would want to start outfitting on Southampton Island, but I believe that that decision should lie with the people on Southampton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 629-12(7): Availability Of Caribou Sport Hunting Tags

MRS. THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, will the Minister provide direction and encouragement to my constituency in caribou sports hunting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Further Return To Question 629-12(7): Availability Of Caribou Sport Hunting Tags

HON. SILAS ARNGNA'NAAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what type of direction would be required. I would be willing to write to the hunters' and trappers' association in

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Coral Harbour to suggest that a portion of the tags that are available for commercial processing could be used by outfitters, if they so wished. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

Question 630-12(7): Inequities In Division Process

MR. BALLANTYNE:

I have question for the Premier, Mr. Speaker, and it's to do with the question of division. Presently, Mr. Speaker, the process of decision, it seems to me, has some inequity in structure as to how it's being approached, and all the more power to the east, but in Nunavut there is a legislative pace for division, there is a structure for division with the Nunavut Implementation Commission and later on with an interim Commissioner and there's a time frame.

There's not an equal structure in the west, and there is some concern raised by a number of people, and I've had this concern for a long time. At some point, this inequity in structure could cause us some problems as we try to have a fair resolution of the division question.

My question to the Premier is, how would the Premier suggest that we deal with this and what is the government plan to ensure that there is equal participation in the creation of two new territories by both east and west? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Return To Question 630-12(7): Inequities In Division Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we had hoped, as a government, that the constitutional development process would have taken care of some of those so-called inequities. As well, we thought that the aboriginal groups would also utilize the Western Caucus to feed into the process as well.

Mr. Speaker, I realize there are concerns out there about the perceived inequities, and I believe that because of the varying and diverse opinions of several groups in the western territory, it is difficult to get a consensus on what should be fed into the process.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is an outstanding issue. It's my intention to try to look to some type of formula that would take care of the problems that are expressed. Mr. Speaker, we have had some general discussions on how we can accommodate or try to do a better job in involving the varied western interests in the process.

I believe it is one issue that I had intended to discuss with Mr. Irwin again. It is not an issue that has not been discussed with him. As Mr. Irwin has stated to me, we have give him a better plan of action so that he can evaluate just where the various groups in the western Arctic or the Mackenzie valley can come together on some very important issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that this is an outstanding issue and we will try to address it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 630-12(7): Inequities In Division Process

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to really emphasize that I don't have any criticism of the approach of Nunavut towards division. My concern is that because the approach in Nunavut is federal government backed, they have

a more direct pipeline and they have an institutional advantage, as it were, in all discussions to do with division.

It seems to me that we have to come up with, in the west, some equivalent body with an equal sort of status and an equal pipeline into Ottawa. Otherwise, inevitably, there will be serious problems down the road as we try to deal with the thorny issue of division.

My question to the Premier is, has the Premier thought about some kind of an institutional body in the west, whether it's an interim division Commissioner in the west or some other such body that has the same sort of access to the federal government as the interim Commissioner in Nunavut will have? Is the government looking at some possibilities to ensure equity of access and equity of opportunity to make sure that the debate is fair and no misunderstandings will arise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

Further Return To Question 630-12(7): Inequities In Division Process

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I know that, in the discussions with Mr. Irwin, he continually brings up the issue of the consensus of what the west wants. There are varying opinions by region on what that should be. However, I know that the honourable Member is suggesting -- and I should correct it as this is not correct -- that the Nunavut Implementation Commission is deriving its legislative authority through the federal government and some kind of process and that there should be some equivalency on this side, in the west.

Mr. Speaker, I will try to continue to approach the subject with the Minister responsible, Minister Irwin, on that inequity, and we will continue to work with the various groups in the western Arctic to try to come up with a consensus on working together to try to get the support from Mr. Irwin; he feels that consensus is imperative in order for him to support any kind of initiative that I would suggest on behalf of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Question 631-12(7): Responsibility For Safety Of Air Attack Officers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Safety and Public Services a question, but he's not in the House, so I will pose my question to -- Mr. Speaker, I just realized that I have said that he wasn't in the House, and I withdraw those remarks. But I was initially going to pose a question...

---Laughter

to the Minister of Safety and Public Services, but I will pose my question instead to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I have been aware that the chief safety officer of the Northwest Territories has indicated that the responsibility of air attack officers lies under the jurisdiction of the NWT Safety Act and is the responsibility of this government. In light of the information that I've received, I would like to ask the Minister whether he can indicate to this House if he's aware of this latest development, recognizing that

yesterday he stated that he was going to obtain a legal opinion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The question is to the Minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. Nerysoo.

Return To Question 631-12(7): Responsibility For Safety Of Air Attack Officers

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated yesterday, the information that the honourable Member has provided through her questions has been provided to the staff. As a result of the information, they have had discussions with the Department of Justice and with our constitutional legal counsel. They have been advised by legal counsel that, in their view, this matter does lie in the territorial jurisdiction because the issue of qualifications of the pilots has been settled by Transport Canada, and because the issue of air worthiness of aircraft has been settled by Transport Canada. The issue remaining is whether the air attack officers, as government employees, are not involved in the actual operation of the aircraft and are in the aircraft in the capacity of passengers.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise the honourable Member that, as a result of this information, I've been told that the chief safety officer is now investigating this particular matter, in conjunction with close contact and advice from legal counsel. I would ask the honourable Members for their patience and understanding so we can permit the chief safety officer to conduct this investigation thoroughly and as quickly as possible.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 631-12(7):
Responsibility For Safety Of Air Attack Officers

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you. I appreciate that response. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether he can indicate to this House the time it would take to do the investigation.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Nerysoo.

Further Return To Question 631-12(7): Responsibility For Safety Of Air Attack Officers

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't give an absolute time frame because we're not certain of the extent to which the investigation needs to be conducted. Therefore, it makes it difficult for me to give the honourable Member the time frame she is looking for. The other thing is, we're not sure about the complexity of the investigation either. We understand the concern the honourable Member has raised and will carry out the investigation as best we can, taking into consideration all factors. Then I will report on that investigation to my colleague accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I've heard that there may be a plan to cut \$1 million from the fee-for-service payments to doctors and I would like to get some clarification on that. I will ask the Minister, is there a plan to reduce the fee-for-service component for private practitioners?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has set a target reduction of \$1 million and, presently, the department is in negotiation with the representative medical society dealing with that issue. Mr. Speaker, as well, we've also indicated to the representatives of the medical profession that there may be other issues they may be able to suggest to us where there can be additional target reductions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Health and Social Services, has the government examined the relationship between the fee schedule and the ability to attract general practitioners into private practice in the territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, these negotiations are presently under way and in those discussions, we're aiming at target reductions. As everyone is aware, the overall availability of funds to this government for social programs for the residents of the

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Northwest Territories is under scrutiny. I'm sure in the discussions with the medical profession representatives, some of these issues will fall out of those discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister advising that there are a number of issues on the table for consideration during these negotiations. But I do happen to know that there are clinics advertising for doctors in the north right now and some have advertised for a considerable amount of time, months in fact, without receiving any applications from Canadian doctors willing to locate up north. I think that, in order to ensure that we have good medical practitioners in the north, we have to make the climate attractive. I would like to ask the Minister will she, in fact, direct her officials to examine the relationship

between our fee for service schedule and the ability to attract general practitioners to the north?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 632-12(7): Reduction To Fee-For-Service Payments To Doctors

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I will.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 633-12(7): Plans For Safe Firefighting Without Bird Dog Officers' Assistance

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a bit outside of my jurisdiction because we don't have forests in my constituency, or even trees. But, I have heard a lot in this House and in the news lately about forest firefighting and, particularly, about the importance of Bird Dog officers in safely guiding these big water bombers into fires. I heard the Minister in a news report recently suggesting that he plans to go ahead with bombing, even without the Bird Dog officers. So, my question to the Minister for forest fire management is, now that some of the Bird Dog officers have been laid off and the remainder are refusing to report to work, does the Minister have a plan for safely continuing to bomb these fires? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for forest fire management, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 633-12(7): Plans For Safe Firefighting Without Bird Dog Officers' Assistance

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning, all crews in tanker bases throughout the Northwest Territories reported back to work; except, I believe, there are three Bird Dog officers who have presently booked out sick. They have been sent letters to provide doctors' slips; I guess that is the process for reporting in sick. But, we cannot be left without some plan in

place if people are sick for a lengthy period of time, so we do have a plan in place. We have two CL-215s in from Newfoundland, and in Newfoundland for many years now, they have actioned fires with a lone CL-215; that's when a CL-215 will actually go out on a smoke patrol when lightening has struck. We have lightening detectors out there that tell us where lightening strikes and the CL-215 can action that fire prior to anyone else being in that area. Then a ground crew can go in and mop that fire up.

We have procedures being drawn up today to action fires. Contrary to the perception that we will be bombing fires with ground crews, helicopters and heavy fixed-wing equipment, we will not be doing that. We're in the process right now of hiring some more Bird Dog officers to replace those who have booked off sick. We don't know how long they are going to be sick. We should have a better idea on Monday how long they will be sick. There are two experienced officers who have offered their services to us. For serious and threatening fires, we have been offered officers on loan from other jurisdictions. There are also several experienced northern firefighters, aboriginal people born and raised in the Northwest Territories, who have worked for Renewable Resources for many years who have expressed interest in air attack or Bird Dog on a full-time basis. So arrangements are made presently to ship a few of them down to BC and Alberta. They are out of Fort Smith and Fort Resolution. Those two people have expressed some interest and they are also fire bosses.

Fixed-wing tankers will only be used on the fire scene as long as we have effective communication in place. So we will be doing that. We do have things under control. We are working with the crews that we have. I must say we have approximately 150 firefighters, who are very skilled and committed to fighting fires in the Northwest Territories, and they are willing to show up every day and go to work. We would prefer to use the air attack officers, but I can't be held at ransom, as the Minister, and have the system stop because a few of my employees choose to book off sick or choose not to go to work when they are instructed to.

So we have made alternate plans. I feel quite comfortable with those plans. We must always remember that safety is first. We have had the best in Canada check out our pilots and they say they are safe. We have had MOT check out our pilots and they say they are safe. So let's leave MOT and these type of people to check things out. They are the ones who know; not Bird Dog officers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for FMBS. Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Safety and Public Services has indicated the responsibility of air attack officers is this government's and the Minister made this House aware that there is an investigation going on, would the Minister consider reinstating the Bird Dog officers who were laid off until the investigation is over? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Pollard.

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Return To Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Mr. Speaker, that isn't a possibility. The department has advised the secretariat that they wish for us to terminate two employees. The process now is that we have written to those two employees and advised them of the request for termination. Those employees now have five days to respond to us at FMBS. In the meantime, an investigation has been started. Once I receive the results of that investigation and I receive the responses from the employees who can be assisted by the UNW in preparing their responses, then a decision will be made and recommended to me with regard to the action to take with these employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since he indicated that the investigation is taking place, is it fair to say that he is discussing the issue of the investigation being done by labour relations? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Labour relations do the investigation and that document, along with the responses from the affected employees, will determine the outcome of these cases.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of what the Minister of Public Works and Services has indicated to this House, I would like to ask the Minister of FMBS whether the labour relations guidelines for his investigation will take into consideration the results of the investigation done by the chief safety officer of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 634-12(7): Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During Investigation

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I am not absolutely sure whether it will or won't be taken into consideration. Labour relations are the people who will conduct this investigation. It won't be influenced politically. I never influence these things. I let them go out there and do their job and bring the details back to me. Once I read those reports, if I think there are other factors that have been overlooked and so on, I may ask them if they

have considered this or that. That has been done on rare occasions. So I can't say the kinds of things that they will be looking at, but I can say that we are going on the basis that a recommendation was made to us by a department head that two people be terminated. The department head has given reasons for the termination. That is where we start from. Were the procedures followed properly? Is the request for termination justified? What are the views of these employees? I can't say yes and I can't say no. I can just say I have confidence that labour relations will do a thorough investigation, as they always do. If I find there are some things missing, I will ask them to look at it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 634-12(7):
Reinstatement Of Bird Dog Officers During
Investigation

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I do have full confidence in Mr. Pollard assessing this fairly, along with labour relations. Is it possible for the Minister to advise this House the parameters of how these investigations are conducted, so the public can understand? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and I will table a document on Monday, a document that outlines, point by point, how these investigations are done. There is some variation depending on the circumstances of discipline or termination. I will get a general outline and table it in the House for all Members on Monday, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into Illegal Import
Of Tobacco

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat revenue cops section. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister is aware -- and I wanted to wait until this day to bring this up because it is Friday -- that a constituent of mine is very upset that tobacco police from the FMBS revenue section went to Montreal and obtained food invoices from a Montreal food order supplier and used these invoices to send a staggering \$498 bill for taxes on cigarettes they found purchased in Quebec in this food order. My constituent says that this was done without regard for his privacy and was with complete disregard to his integrity and decency. How could this have happened? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Pollard.

Return To Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into
Illegal Import Of Tobacco

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Mr. Speaker, the tobacco cops are not with FMBS; they are with Eric Nielsen, chief of tobacco police over at the Department of Finance.

---Laughter

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Mr. Speaker, there were a number of issues raised with regard to this particular Tobacco Tax Act by various people. I have had brought to my attention that there were people who were believed to be circumventing the Tobacco Tax Act in the Northwest Territories, and consequently, we were losing revenue, something that I am not willing to allow to happen, Mr. Speaker.

I think that there are some people out there who are good and upstanding citizens who really didn't know that they were evading the tax because they were placing tobacco orders through food orders, so we brought it to their attention that they should start to pay the tax and also that they should pay us for the tax on the products that they brought in before we snooped in their food hampers which is, I think, how they refer to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Supplementary To Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into Illegal Import Of Tobacco

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister knows that my constituent and his wife are very concerned that the government and the Minister now have knowledge of what he and his wife eat, drink and smoke. He says, in his letter to the revenue section, that he feels his rights and freedoms have been infringed, that he hasn't been treated with the respect that any law-abiding citizen of the NWT deserves and that he feels violated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what he would recommend I should tell my constituent, to make him feel better about having been violated by the Minister and his officials? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into Illegal Import Of Tobacco

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the Member asked what he should tell his constituent so that he can feel better. The Minister of Health tells me that the first thing to do is to stop smoking.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I am taking seriously the constituent of Mr. Patterson who has claimed that we have snooped into his food orders and that we now know what he and his wife eat, drink and smoke. I am asking the department to respond to this particular constituent, because it is not our intention to violate people's privacy or to pry into their private lives.

But we do have a law on the books that allows us to determine if we are losing revenue by people -- shall we say -- smuggling tobacco into the Northwest Territories, albeit innocently without the knowledge that they should be paying these taxes, Mr. Speaker.

It is not our intent to offend or to pry into people's private affairs, and I will have the department respond to the particular constituent and explain our point of

view. I hope that he or she is able to understand our point of view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Patterson.

Supplementary To Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into Illegal Import Of Tobacco

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, in the spirit of consensus government and promoting good relations between ordinary Members and Cabinet Ministers, if the Minister would kindly agree, in responding to my constituent, not to send excerpts from Hansard where the MLA from Iqaluit made certain strong statements about the need to collect late tobacco taxes from Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Pollard.

Further Return To Question 635-12(7): Investigation Into Illegal Import Of Tobacco

HON. JOHN POLLARD:

I don't recall the Member making those statements. I might not have been in the House that day, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 636-12(7): Assistance To Seniors Reporting Income

MR. ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it has to do with elders. Mr. Speaker, we have great respect for our elders. They have lived long and hard in this harsh country, and we've come to respect them. One concern that I hear in the communities from elders is that elders who are on pensions and who trap or do a

little bit of work have their pensions cut back because of the work. With the prices in some of the small communities being so high, it is very difficult to make ends meet even if they have a full pension and their pay for their trapping. So, in many cases, elders, when they do trap, have to use somebody else to sell their furs. I think Members here understand this situation in most of the smaller communities.

Recently, I have been told by elders that because they helped the band with young kids out on the land, their pensions were cut back. I would like to ask the Minister if her department has looked at the policy that controls this funding to the elders, and, if the department has looked at it, could she inform the House what has been done to date to try to help our elders out? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 636-12(7): Assistance To Seniors Reporting Income

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services is actively looking at that issue. I don't have an updated report at this time, but I will commit to get an updated report on where we are with that issue and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 637-12(7): Responsibility For Costs Incurred Under MARS Agreement

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier, in her response to an oral question today, she referred to a request for assistance from other jurisdictions through the MARS agreement, known as the mutual aid resources sharing agreement. This reciprocal agreement allows for other jurisdictions to share what they can in the event that they need the resources. I would like to ask the Minister, who pays for the cost, for example, of ferrying these water bombers from Newfoundland and helicopters from

Quebec? Who pays the cost of ferrying these two types of aircraft under this agreement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Madam Premier.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that question can be more appropriately answered by the Minister responsible, Mr. Morin.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 637-12(7): Responsibility For Costs Incurred Under MARS Agreement

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We pay the cost of bringing in any equipment that we request through the MARS agreement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

Question 638-12(7): Assistance For Widows On Social Assistance

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It has to do with widows' pensions. I know this government helps out people who are in need in the social assistance program. In a couple of cases in my constituency, there are young mothers with two or three children who are widowed who get widows' pensions. That is not enough, so they go to social assistance because they don't work; they have to take care of their children. If they go to social assistance, their widows' pensions are deducted from their social assistance. This is a concern to me and my constituency, and I would like to ask the Minister responsible if the Department of Health and Social Services is looking into this area to see how we could help out the people who are in need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 638-12(7): Assistance For Widows On Social Assistance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is quite correct about the process of determining additional social assistance requirements, as they relate to widows' pensions. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, the department is not evaluating or looking into this area of pensions or social assistance. However, I will bring it to the attention of the department for our planning process. Perhaps this is an area we can look into to see if people are being fairly treated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Antoine.

Supplementary To Question 638-12(7): Assistance For Widows On Social Assistance

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the concern where social assistance is deducted because of a widow's pension, I would like to ask the Minister could check

with her department to see if the practice is consistent from one part of the Northwest Territories to another. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 638-12(7): Assistance For Widows On Social Assistance

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, yes, I will commit to do that.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for fire management a question. Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning, the Minister

indicated that, according to Transport Canada guidelines, the pilot qualifications were sufficient enough to fight fires. I know that Transport Canada does certify pilots; however, the requirement for pilots to fly in these fire conditions is stipulated by this government through their request for proposals. The Minister commented last week about the ratchet type of effect with regard to the requirements for pilots. I would like to ask the Minister whether he feels the stipulations developed by his department for pilots were too rigid under the request for proposals that he sent out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister responsible for forest fire management, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a document from Transport Canada that tells us that training for air attack pilots from Buffalo Airways exceeds current regulatory requirements and that Transport Canada aviation is satisfied that no compromise of aviation safety exists. They say that fire

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suppression operations will be fully regulated under forthcoming Canadian aviation regulations. When we hired the best aviator auditors we could find in Canada, one of them said in the study of RFP regarding experience requirements that it appears they may be too stringent: "I know of no other fire suppression operation in Canada where the experience level requirements are so strict in their operations. In the case of the NWT, it gives the impression that they have been tailored to a favourite few." That is what one of the top safety officers in Canada who does safety checks on pilots and airplanes throughout western Canada has said.

I feel that, as a Minister, there was a ratchet effect on the standards set out for this tender, and we are making moves to change them. We accept other planes, as long as they can perform the duty. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

So, Mr. Speaker, it's fairly clear that the Minister has said the requirements developed by this department were too stringent, the requirements in the request for proposals. If he feels as a Minister that they were too stringent, as he states, why didn't he take steps as a Minister to stop the requirements from being too stringent? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue started many, many months ago. It started out with directions from Cabinet to negotiate with the Dene/Metis for supply of a maintenance facility, and operations and maintenance of air tanker CL-215s in the Northwest Territories. That process took approximately 90 days. I believe it was early December when, after that process did not succeed, we issued a request for proposal. We did everything possible up to that time, but the time was limited. We did everything possible to change whatever requirements we could in the RFP so it wasn't the same the standards that Con Air had written for this government previously.

We went to proposal with the best documentation we had. After the request for proposals closed, we had people from Renewable Resources, Economic Development, and DPW reviewing the proposals. In the end, they came up with a set of standards that would be acceptable to this government, as well as the contractor that was successful. Those are the standards that we're using. There will be more changes to the standards for this government in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In as much as the Minister attempted to answer my question, he didn't. He indicated that they issued a request for proposals and it was reviewed by Renewable Resources, Economic Development and DPW and they set up the standards. That's my main point, the standards are set up by his department. If he felt those standards were so stringent, why didn't he take steps at that time to review those standards? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did take steps to review the standards. They were reviewed and changed and, consequently, both parties -- Buffalo Airways and this government -- mutually agreed on the standards we have today. Thank you. We did take the steps.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Supplementary To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

It is clear that the Minister took steps to change the standards after the request for proposals went out to the public, and that standards were changed after the proposals were received by the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.

Further Return To Question 639-12(7): Qualifications For Pilots Fighting Fires

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Member is not hearing me well enough. What I said is that the request for proposals goes out to ask interested parties, Northwest Territories businesses, to submit proposals to this government to provide maintenance and water bombing activities for this government. Buffalo Airways submitted a proposal and we

accepted the standards he submitted, as a government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Koe.

Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it's concerning the purchasing and tendering practices of the health boards. I would like to get some clarification on these. My question to the Minister is, do the health boards set their own policies for purchasing and tendering, or do they follow the policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the health boards, as with other boards that are funded by the coffers of the Government of the Northwest Territories, are expected to follow

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the policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

MR. KOE:

The Minister stated that boards are expected to follow the guidelines. Can I get some clarification of what that means? Do they follow the guidelines or do they set their own in terms of using the overall government guidelines as a guide? How does it work?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, because I am not knowledgeable of every little thing that a board would do, I answered the question in the way that I did, but the intent is that when the Government of the Northwest Territories funds a board, such as a health board, it is expected that the policy and guidelines that are set by this government are to be followed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Mahsi. Thank you for that clarification. Many of the government departments, agencies, boards and commissions are trying to privatize the delivery of programs and services as much as possible. Is it the practice of health boards to try to do the same; to privatize as much as possible their programs and services?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, in working with the health boards, depending on the different regions, some areas of systems delivery don't accommodate privatization. I believe that the health boards evaluate what could be privatized depending on their catchment area, the numbers they serve and the general cost of doing business. However, in working with the health boards, it is my understanding that they are taking the privatization of services very seriously. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to answer because the decision to privatize generally goes through an evaluation process and a decision is based on some of the facts, figures and fiscal restraints that all health boards, plus this government, are operating under.

However, I would like to assure the Member that in the areas where there can be privatization, resulting in maximum use of local businesses and people, we expect the health boards to join with the government in leading and taking part in the direction that the government has given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Koe.

Supplementary To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another area that is probably still being worked on is the memorandum of understanding between our health boards and this government. Can the Minister give us a status report as to where that issue is?

MR. SPEAKER:

Ms. Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 640-12(7): Purchasing And Tendering Policies Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding between the health boards and the Department of Health and Social Services is very near completion and I hope that once we are able to conclude our business here, I can put some attention to getting them finalized. I know that the department is very optimistic that everyone has worked very cooperatively together and these MOUs should be finalized very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 641-12(7): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

MR. KOE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one more question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. There has been a lot of work going on trying to determine the number of Metis people in the Northwest Territories. In the budget, there was \$1 million to provide benefits for the Metis people in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister of Health and Social

Services advise us as to what the status is of that program?

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question 641-12(7): Status Of Metis Health Benefits

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to advise the honourable Member that we are very near completion of our discussions with Mr. Bohnet, the president of the Metis Nation. Officials are working very diligently so that we come up with the numbers and that we can move ahead as quickly as possible in instituting the Metis benefit package. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question period is now over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. We will take a 10-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

The House will come back to order. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Patterson.

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ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Patterson's Reply

MR. PATTERSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to make what will be my last reply to the Commissioner's address in this Assembly, since it is well-known that I am not going to be running for office again this fall.

So today, if you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to be a little nostalgic and reflect on the past 16 years, which have been so memorable.

I want to say that although there have been ups and downs on occasion, it's been an enormous privilege to have been a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I have learned a tremendous amount. I have met some wonderful

people, most notably esteemed colleagues in the Legislature, over the years, and I've also had an opportunity to see the beauties and wonders of all parts of the Northwest Territories, both in communities and on the land.

I have also been very privileged to represent the Northwest Territories at various events in the country, in the circumpolar world and even internationally. I think one of the best trips that I ever had was when I had the honour of being part of the Canadian delegation to the UN conference marking the 10th decade on the status of women in Nairobi, Kenya. It's interesting that our government will again be represented when that conference reconvenes in Beijing, China, this fall. It was also a great privilege for me to represent the Legislature at the Commonwealth Parliamentary conference in Cyprus. I've been to Siberia, Greenland, Scandinavian countries, Alaska and at the North Pole.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do want to express my gratitude for the privilege given to me of being able to serve in this Assembly.

Looking back on the past 16 years, I reflect that, really, politics is a transitory life. One can never know how long one is privileged to be in office. This comes home to me when I realize there are only three of us left from the class of '79: the Honourable Nellie Cournoyea, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo and of course, Mr. Ludy Pudluk, but he was already a veteran of the eighth Assembly by that time. There are really only three of us who are still here from the 9th Assembly in 1979, when I was first elected.

Maybe it was because there was such a sense of newness and freshness in the 9th Assembly, but, to me, it was the best time for me in this Assembly. We had a real feeling in that 9th Assembly, which was the first one to have an aboriginal majority and the first one after the seats were expanded. We had a real sense that we were new brooms sweeping clean. I'll never forget the late Don Stewart telling us at our first Caucus meeting, "I don't mind new brooms sweeping clean," he said, "but do you..." unparliamentary language "...have to go riding around on them too." God bless the late Don Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, people like Tagak Curley, Nick Sibbeston and James Wah-Shee, along with Nellie and Richard brought to that Assembly good connections and experience with aboriginal organizations; as did you, Mr. Speaker, when you were elected in the next Assembly. William Noah was

a statesman and a gentleman; George Braden, Bob MacQuarrie and, later, Gordon Wray and Red Pedersen, were non-native Members but they were very open to and sympathetic to the concerns brought forward by aboriginal people and their organizations.

Arnold McCallum, Tom Butters, Don Stewart, Pete Fraser, Ludy Pudluk and Mark Evaloarjuk provided, I won't call it sober second-thought, but they provided the wisdom of experience and history to slow newcomers down now and then.

Later, it was Joe Arlookoo and Ipeelee Kilabuk who provided that foundation of wisdom and common sense.

What I remember best about the 9th Assembly was we formed the first Nunavut Caucus, and it remained strong and a source of support and strength to us to this day. The 9th Assembly was also when we took the first steps towards division of the Northwest Territories through, ironically, the Special Committee on Unity, which gave support in principle to the division of the Northwest Territories, subject to a plebiscite. It's recommendations led to the first territorial-wide plebiscite on April 14, 1982 where a majority of three-year residents of the NWT, propelled by enormous turn-outs and, yes, margins in the Nunavut regions, especially the eastern regions, voted yes.

We weren't really confident that Nunavut would actually happen back then, but in hindsight, I now see that the 1982 plebiscite was a pivotal historical event.

We certainly wouldn't have done so well in the west with the support that we did get from a somewhat sometimes reluctant or fearful electorate, without the leadership of people like Georges Erasmus and Mike Ballantyne who were then representatives of Yellowknife -- Mr. Ballantyne was the mayor and Georges Erasmus was then president of the Dene Nation -- who came out publicly supporting division, even though there were numerous reservations expressed in the west at that time, and it may not have been the most popular thing to say.

I have to thank the western MLAs of the day and the Executive Council of the day, who did not oppose our request to have a plebiscite but rather said, it's okay, but let us and our constituents vote, too, since we will be affected, as well.

So that's the way it started out, Mr. Speaker, and that is the way it is continued today. We still recognize

and structure ourselves, as reflected in bodies like the Special Joint Committee on Division, with representatives from both the east and the west recognizing that the creation of Nunavut will create another new territory in the west, as well.

The 9th Assembly was also important to me because that was the first Assembly to create a special committee, in the grand sense, which travelled and held public hearings throughout the Northwest Territories. That was the Special Committee on Education of which I was privileged to be a Member, and I think that experience may have had something to do with me later becoming Minister of Education. I worked with my colleague, Mr. Lewis, at that time, who was my deputy minister. Those were very exciting interesting times.

It was on that committee, Mr. Speaker, that I first got to know David Hamilton, the consummate fixer, the quintessential

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organizer, the glue who made everything work. David is the Clerk of the Assembly. He was Deputy Clerk then, but he was first and foremost a friend to every Member and my friend, and I love him most for that.

That committee had an impact, I know, leading to the establishment of divisional boards of education, the first steps to really move power and resources from headquarters to the communities, and I believe now we are taking the next step with the new Education Act now before this 12th Assembly. Mr. Nerysoo has done a good job with that act, and I think, when it's passed and concluded, it will be a major legacy of this Assembly and a credit to Mr. Nerysoo.

The special committee also really led to the establishment of the Arctic College which has and will be an important institution for people in the north to get much-needed training close to home.

I don't want to speak of the 9th Assembly without forgetting to mention the dynamic chair of the Standing Committee on Finance, Lynda Sorensen, who made that committee into the powerful and influential committee SCOF has become today, and who pressed hard to have the Finance portfolio wrested away from the Commissioner and given to an elected Member. Unfortunately, it didn't work out quite the way Lynda had planned it when Tom Butters and not Lynda Sorensen was named the first elected Minister of Finance, but subsequent chairs of SCOF

have gone on to become Cabinet Ministers and even Finance Ministers, and I think Mr. Pollard has done a very excellent job in that very difficult responsibility.

For me, the 9th Assembly -- and I don't want to dwell too much on the past, Mr. Speaker -- was significant for me because I was privileged, although initially reluctant, to be elected to Cabinet in 1981 and began what was to be a seven-year, very rewarding term as Minister of Education.

In the 9th Assembly, we also started to emerge on the national stage, taking the bold step of travelling en masse in a chartered NWT Air Electra to Ottawa, in spite of the valiant efforts of the then Indian Affairs Minister, John Munro, to prevent us from coming and in spite of his very strong direction to the Commissioner of the day not to let us go. But we went because we wanted to protest changes to the Constitution of Canada, which would have snuffed out the recognition of aboriginal rights and seriously prejudiced our ability to eventually become provinces in the north.

We worked together then in the very best spirit of consensus government and we succeeded on that trip in having been very influential in changes which were made to the constitutional package and in the restoration of aboriginal rights, albeit existing aboriginal rights. I would like to pay tribute to the current Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, who was then Minister of Indian Affairs; our then MP, Peter Ittinuar, and our then Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, among others, for having been influential and for having listened and met with us, and for having agreed to these significant changes.

I say we put the NWT Assembly and the NWT on the national map as never before with that mission to Ottawa. In my view, Mr. Speaker, in my time, that was undoubtedly the finest hour of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. We were led by co-chairmen of committee of the whole, of that special committee of all the Caucus that was formed at that time, George Braden and Nellie Cournoyea. I feel very privileged to have been part of that, Mr. Speaker.

I don't want to give short shrift to subsequent assemblies; to the 10th and 11th assemblies. However, the highlights for me were in that 10th Assembly, under the leadership of both Richard Nerysoo and Nick Sibbeston, we began to take the final dramatic steps to give full authority to elected MLAs, in place of federally-appointed Commissioners,

Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. While our neighbour territory, Yukon, with the added complications of party politics, was struggling with confrontations with the Commissioners of the day, we were accomplishing the evolutionary step of eliminating the role of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner as members of the Executive Council, with the full cooperation of John Parker and Bob Pilot. Those public servants had the vision and the long view to understand the importance of evolving to elected and responsible government. They never stood in the way of progress, even though I know this meant, at times, defying Ottawa. I know particularly that the appointment of Mr. Butters, as the first elected Minister of Finance, the surrender of Mr. Parker's responsibilities for Finance, which he held at that time, was done boldly by Mr. Parker against the clear wishes, if not direction, of the Minister of Indian Affairs of the day. That is the kind of courage and support we had from Commissioner John Parker. I have a great deal of respect for him for the support he gave to active Members and the evolution of responsible government in the Northwest Territories.

It was a real thrill, Mr. Speaker, to have been a Member of the Cabinet when the Honourable Nick Sibbeston took over the chairmanship of the Executive Council. How appropriate it was that Nick Sibbeston was the one to do it because, as we all know, Nick was a champion of change and a fighter against colonialism. John Parker not only willingly surrendered the chairmanship of the Executive Council, but he gave us his then very prestigious corner office on the sixth floor of the Laing Building, which we promptly turned into a Cabinet room. To make it clear that the elected Members were taking over, Mr. Parker moved the Commissioner's office to the top floor of the Courthouse Building where it is today; to emphasize the non-involvement with the political process of the Commissioner.

The 11th Assembly for me, Mr. Speaker, was marked by the Meech Lake struggle. I was privileged then to have been elected to be Government Leader and with the full backing of the Assembly, and the very able, strategic and political advice of the Minister of Justice, Honourable Michael Ballantyne, we entered into a very dramatic and dynamic national debate. We joined the fray, having been forgotten and overlooked. At the end of the day, even though the Meech Lake Accord ended up being aborted, our concerns had been put up front on the agenda and were reflected in the amended Meech Lake Accord and we were at the

table as equals. Having been part of that historic process, even though in the end it did not achieve the hoped-for results, was a rare privilege. I have worked with many fine public servants over the years, and I don't want to particularly single any one out, but I will. I want to make special mention of George Braden, Geoff Bickert and Bernie Funston for the work they did on the Meech Lake accord.

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I also want to say that I feel great satisfaction, having had something to do with the appointment of Joe Handley and Bob Overvold to this government. Mr. Speaker, the staff who worked with us on the Meech Lake process did a very superb job of providing excellent legal advice and, most important, gaining respect amongst the network of civil servants and intergovernmental affairs officials who were so influential in shaping the course of these events. I want to say that we also got a tremendous amount of support from various Premiers of the day: Richard Hatfield; Frank McKenna; Gary Filmon, in particular stand out as having been extremely sympathetic and helpful to the Northwest Territories, along with Joe Ghiz.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I also believe we did important work in making the NWT known in the circumpolar world. We developed good connections with the Greenland Home Rule Government and signed important agreements of cooperation, which I know will be especially important as we get closer to Nunavut. We also expanded contacts with the Soviet north and laid the foundation for some very concrete benefits which have subsequently flowed to the benefit of northern construction firms, in particular. Again, I would like to take the risk of singling out Larry Elkin and for laying the foundation way back when, Stu Hodgson, for having the vision to see the importance of this kind of circumpolar cooperation. Jim Bourque, Joe Handley and Walter Slipchenko also did very critical work in promoting circumpolar relations, while at the same time, discharging their responsibilities for their important departments at home. Walter Slipchenko was our first circumpolar advisor and his knowledge and good contacts in Greenland and the Soviet Union were absolutely critical to the good circumpolar relations we developed.

Mr. Speaker, in this maudlin trip through the past, I cannot neglect to mention some of the people we have associated with in the federal government over the years. There have been many, many Ministers of

Indian and Northern Affairs, some of whom I have forgotten quickly in my term as MLA over 16 years. Only a few, in my view, were notable or memorable. I would like to mention some of those people. For their idealism and sympathy with the long-standing concern of northern people about the paternalistic, centralist, colonialist approach that we so abhor in that department, I would like to single out Warren Allmand and David Crombie for understanding that. I don't know that they were able to do a lot about it, but they understood it. They communicated that and tried to do something about it. I think the Indian Affairs bureaucracy won the struggle with those two Ministers, however, and perhaps they are still winning it today, I don't know.

For taking the job very seriously and getting to know us all very well, even though I often disagreed with him: the Honourable John Munro; also for his tenure as Minister and the energy he put into it. I remember violently disagreeing with Mr. Munro about the arbitrary imposition of official language status on the Northwest Territories, which his government intended to do. I remember telling him at a private meeting, in my sometimes hyperbolic fashion, that if the federal government moved arbitrarily to impose official bilingualism on the Northwest Territories, it would provoke armed rebellion and riots in the communities if it happened. I remember Mr. Munro's response: "We have more tanks than you, Dennis," he said. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, and I'll give Mr. Munro some credit, we worked the problem out without confrontation, as we always do in the north.

I would like to specifically give credit to the tremendous role that the Honourable Richard Nerysoo played at that time, as elected leader, in negotiating the then princely sum of \$16 million for aboriginal languages funding. I also want to commend Mr. Alloo who later had that responsibility and also negotiated a very good agreement with his counterpart, the then Honourable Robert DeCotret, for official languages. Now, unfortunately, that funding has seriously deteriorated since then and I believe the good faith with which we accepted the federal initiative to create official bilingualism in the Northwest Territories has been broken. The trust has been breached, but that is another story, Mr. Speaker, that I don't wish to dwell on now.

I just would like to mention a couple of other Indian Affairs Ministers. To my mind, one of the very best was Bill McKnight. Bill McKnight, for basically telling it like it was, for being direct with us, and for being a

straight shooter. I think Bill McKnight never pretended to abandon his roots, which he used to call a prairie dirt farmer, and I think it was really appreciated by the people of the north that he would tell it straight.

I also want to mention Pierre Cadieux because, although he had a short tenure, Pierre Cadieux, with a lot of shrewd negotiation and, perhaps, some wining and dining on the part of our then Minister of Finance, Mr. Ballantyne, did give us what now appears, in retrospect, to have been quite a fair fiscal formula. I just wish Mr. Pollard every success in coming close to achieving that level of support on an ongoing basis for the Northwest Territories. I think it's going to be a great struggle to do that. And I now recognize that he's not dealing with the Minister of Indian Affairs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Tom Siddon for the energy he put into an attempt to settle two comprehensive claims in the Northwest Territories. Unfortunately, it didn't work out with the Dene/Metis, but I think Mr. Siddon was personally committed to trying to make it happen. Fortunately, it did work out for the Inuit, and I want to commend Mr. Siddon for his personal commitment to Nunavut.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I know that Brian Mulroney and his party were firmly rejected by the people of the Canada in the last election and I know Mr. Mulroney has been a controversial figure in many quarters, but I want to say that, while I was the head of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I was treated not just with the utmost courtesy and respect by Mr. Mulroney, but he extended his friendship to me, for which I'm very grateful. I do value the working relationship and the personal relationship that we had and have, and I want to remind those who would criticize him that Mr. Mulroney did go out of his way in the last months of his government to lay the foundation for the settlement of the Inuit claim and the establishment of Nunavut which, surely, will be one of the major historical events, not just for the north, but for the country. I want to express my gratitude to him for that.

Mr. Speaker, while we were struggling to make the concerns of the Northwest Territories known nationally, we also did have important work to do at home as well. I think we also had a

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little bit more money to make it a little easier to do the job up here in the Northwest Territories in the 11th

Assembly. I'd like to acknowledge that, and thank the other Cabinet Members with whom I served in the 11th Assembly: Stephen Kakfwi, Gordon Wray, Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Nellie Cournoyea, Titus Alooloo, Nick Sibbeston -- only for awhile -- and Tom Butters. I think, looking at the turnover in the Cabinet of the 12th Assembly, we should be grateful and perhaps surprised that we had such continuity and stability in our Cabinet. I think it's a reflection of the fact that, though we did have serious disagreements, we were able to work together and exist as a team. That's to everyone's credit.

I think there was a lot of good work done; important work done on the northern accord and I really hope it can come to a satisfactory conclusion in this Assembly. I wish Mr. Todd very well. If anyone's going to pull it off, he will. There were the devolutions of health and the Northern Canada Power Commission, progress made by Jeannie Marie-Jewell on social issues, transportation and economic strategies developed by Mr. Wray, and land claims.

I would like to specifically acknowledge and thank Mr. Kakfwi for his vision over the years, dating from his time as president of the Dene Nation and, later, as a territorial Cabinet Minister in various portfolios. I know Steve gets his bad raps in the west, and I'm not really qualified to make judgements about how he does his work in the western territory, but I want to commend him for his constant support for the Inuit land claim and the companion vision of the people of Nunavut for their form of self-government in the new Nunavut territory. I want to acknowledge his key role and that of John Amagoalik in signing the Iqaluit agreement in early 1987. I think, again in retrospect, although things haven't worked out in the west the way we then hoped they might, this was another important, pivotal moment in the evolution of the Northwest Territories. This agreement should be seen as a breakthrough, that was very instrumental in allowing us to move ahead to Nunavut.

It is unfortunate, in my view, that progress has not been as quick in resolving and settling the aboriginal rights of the First Nations of the western territory, but I believe, nonetheless, that quite a lot of progress has been made. I believe that the Gwich'in and the Sahtu people, with the Dogrib moving forward as well now, will show the way, hopefully, for the rest of the western Northwest Territories. Perhaps not with the same model, but to inspire them to reach consensus, agreement and even compromise, to settle the issues and get on with more governing for themselves in their regions, just as I hope that Nunavut will provide

some inspiration and support for the achievement of self-government aspirations overall in the more complex environment in the west in the years to come.

I am not going to say a lot about the 12th Assembly, Mr. Speaker, but I will say that I believe the difficult experience that I have had, and I think that we have all had, in the 12th Assembly will tell us, as we move ahead in the next four years and deal with the very difficult issues of political development in the western territory, division and the division of assets and liabilities, that this will be the greatest challenge and the greatest test of consensus government ever.

The challenge will be to deal with these issues in a way which allows northern people and not the federal government to make the toughest, crucial decisions themselves, to our mutual benefit in east and west. I guess if I was going to risk giving some advice, as Mr. Pudluk much more capably did the other day, the advice I would give to those in the next Assembly is never to lose sight of the fact that the reasons to work together far outweigh the reasons to confront one another.

Outside forces are far greater than any of the forces of difference and division within the north. I think we got this far by working together, and I would hope that we won't ever let go of that ultimate spirit of goodwill and mutual interest, because if we fail in future to cooperate together in dealing with even the most difficult issues -- such as financing or such as transition arrangements for division -- which will face the Northwest Territories in the next Assembly, we may well find ourselves playing into the hands of forces far greater than those which would divide us. I don't envy the next MLAs, in a sense, because I think with severe financial restraint almost a certainty, this will require exceptional leadership and goodwill.

I personally believe that the next Assembly should give serious consideration to giving the Premier more powers, as recommended in the bill that was taken to second reading but I certainly don't think will pass in this Assembly.

I want to restate to those of you who are fortunate enough to return that I think you would be very well advised to take what I understand to be Mr. Pudluk's advice earlier this session; to seek common ground, to seek truth and to avoid personal differences.

Mr. Speaker, I am getting near the end of my remarks. I want to turn to my riding and the good

experience in the 12th Assembly working as an ordinary MLA, the privilege I've had working with many of you on committees -- the Standing Committee on Finance, the Special Committee on Health and Social Services -- working with several Speakers on the Management and Services Board, but mostly as the MLA for Iqaluit. It's been a very good chance to become reacquainted with my constituents after having spent maybe too many years in Cabinet, becoming obsessed with Executive responsibilities and travel, perhaps at the expense of my constituents and their interests.

I have been somewhat outspoken at times in the last four years. I guess I want to try to make some amends and apologize to those about whom I have perhaps made the occasional extreme statements. I just want to mention a few things I would like to clear up on the record before I quietly retire from politics, Mr. Speaker.

One of them is that apparently, and I haven't checked the exact quotation here, I made some disparaging remarks about the southern origin of employees in the Priorities and Planning Secretariat, when it did exist. Those were ill-considered remarks and I regret any offence I might have given to people who worked in that secretariat at that time, perhaps particularly to single out Jim Sellers and Debbie DeLancey, with whom I worked closely when I was Government Leader and for whom I have the greatest of respect for their analytical abilities and their commitment to their jobs and the excellent experience and knowledge that they brought to those jobs.

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I also want to say a word about the Nova Construction issue and my colleague's constituent, Mr. Mrdjenovich, but first perhaps, to say to my constituents, long-time constituent and active business constituents, Tom Webster and Jacques Belleau, I didn't really intend you to be ensnared in some of the issues that came up in connection with Nova, and I want to say that you've made an enormous contribution to my constituency, to creating local jobs and wealth in the region and in the community, and I want to thank you for that and make it clear that I am grateful for what you've done.

But perhaps I want to say to Mr. Mrdjenovich, whose name I have perhaps used over-extensively in this Assembly, this much. I certainly could have picked a more flagrant example of abuse of the business incentive policy than this company. I was really

looking for some way of illustrating my concerns about the policy and revisions to the policy, and perhaps I overdid it in picking on this company, for which I apologize to him and his company.

---Applause

Thank you. One other thing I would like to just mention, Mr. Speaker, and these are kinds of loose ends I would like to tie up or purge myself of before I leave the Assembly. There was a point in this Assembly when I was Minister of Health and there were serious questions raised about the qualifications of the head of the disciplinary committee under the Medical Professions Act, Dr. Earle Covert, and I was quite distressed when it was suggested that he was not capable because there was an outstanding medical malpractice suit against Dr. Covert at that time. I have the highest regard for Dr. Covert and the contribution he has made to the north and his willingness to take on that very difficult job. I said at the time that it's not uncommon for active physicians to face lawsuits or threatened lawsuits from patients. This is a hazard of having a busy practice. I just want to say -- and I am certainly not doing this on behalf of Dr. Covert -- he's a very humble, modest man who is quite content to let the matter reside, but I just want to mention, for the record, Mr. Speaker, that the lawsuit that was cited at the time, as an indication of his unfitness to hold that office, was withdrawn and dismissed on the part of the plaintiffs. I just want to mention that, Mr. Speaker, because it is something that I think needs to be said in this House to close the matter and it can be forgotten. I wish Dr. Covert well. I understand that he is soon looking to retire from active medical practice. I wish him well and thank him for his contribution over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I have received enormous support over the years from the good people of Iqaluit. I wanted to say what a privilege it has been to represent that constituency. I have never found that I have been oppressed by the burden of representing the people of Iqaluit. I have been pressed from time to time by constituents whose expectations -- and we all have them -- of their MLA are impossible. But the preponderance of input I have received from my constituents has been support and good advice. They have tolerated my mistakes, shortcomings, absences -- and I am not going to cite all my mistakes and shortcomings -- and my constituents know them and there have been times acknowledged when I have not reflected the majority of opinion in Iqaluit. I have been told that, but always with respect and even affection. So I want to thank the people in Iqaluit for

the constant unflagging support they have given to me and my family over the years. It really has been a privilege and a pleasure to represent them. I can't think of a nicer constituency to represent in this Assembly than Iqaluit. It is a very large riding. It is three or four times the size of some of the ridings in this Assembly, although I do admit there is only one community, which makes it easier, but people are very generous and supportive, at least to me.

I was inspired by Mr. Lewis, who mentioned some of the people who have helped him over the years. I am going to take the liberty, Mr. Speaker, as I wind this address to a close, to mention some of the people who have been very supportive, helpful and have given me very wise advice over the years, with your permission, Mr. Speaker.

I want to mention Eleanor and Andy Theriault, who are soon retiring; Abe Okpik, a former Member of this Assembly; the late Markosie Peter; the late Harry Kilabuk, both of those gentlemen were on the board that I worked for as a lawyer for Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik when I first came to Frobisher Bay; the late Simonie Alainga; Mike Gardener; Ben Ell; Lucassie Nutaraluk; Josie Papatsie; Geetaloo Kakee; Anawak Arnaquq; David Munick; Alicy and Akeeshoo Joamie; Joe and Martha Tikivik; Simon and Annie Nattaq; Jack Paton; Pauline Paton; Simonie Michael; Gord Rennie; as well as many members of the Francophone association over the years, such as Normand Plante and Daniel Cuerrier come to mind.

I would like to mention some of the younger people who have given me great advice and given some of their enormous energy to me; Anne Crawford and Neil Sharkey; Natsiq and Josh Kanguk; Pitseolak Alainga; Adamie Itorcheak; Lazarus and Eva Arreak; Dave and Mary Wilman; Joe Kunuk; Pitsie Pfeifer; Josh Timottee; Raurri Ellsworth; Sandra Inutik; Sitookie Joamie; Rose Mackmer.

Also, I want to mention a few of the very many Baffin civil servants who have helped me do my job over the years with great support and understanding: Ken MacRury; Mike Ferris; Mathusalah Kunuk; Katherine Trumper and many of her capable staff; Jim Noble; Bert Rose; Brian Menton; Kathy McGregor; and, not just senior managers, but people like Brian Soucy; Clark Wolfe and Hughie MacLellan and Charlie Ruttan, who also gave me great guidance and advice. I have only been able to name a few. I have missed out many, Mr. Speaker, but they know who they are and they will understand.

I want to also thank the people who have given me invaluable help with my election campaigns over the years. Those of us who have been successfully elected know that it is a special animal that helps you win elections. I want to thank Bill Mackenzie, whose pig I talked about earlier in this session, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to mention Bill because he shocked me with his very generous encouragement for me to run in 1979. Terry Pearce, Pat Lewis, Cecil Clarke, Mel Fowler, Gary

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Watchorn, Al Rigby, Bruce Hulan, Peter Baril, Fred Coman, Al Woodhouse, George D'Aoust, Bronyk Shawinski, John Creighton and Kenn Harper all helped me with my campaigns over the years.

Bryan Pearson has been a political rival in two election campaigns, but I want to thank him for his advice and support to me over the years, his willingness to tap his encyclopedic knowledge of the history of Frobisher Bay whenever I need it, his insightful newspaper columns, letters to the editor and his ever-present indomitable sense of humour. Even though we fought some election campaigns, Bryan knows I value his friendship and advice, and the contribution he made to Frobisher Bay while he was its MLA and mayor, and the contribution he still makes today.

I want to specifically thank Fred Colman and Ben Ell who co-chaired my last campaign. They did a great job. It was a lot of fun and I am very glad I took Fred's advice not to panic during the campaign when there seemed to be a lot of signs from my opponent. As always, Fred told me, you have to peak near the voting day and not before, so stay calm. As always, he was right.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that one of the ways I have survived over the years is through the pleasure and challenge of being able to go out hunting. I would just like to mention some of the people who are always willing to go out with me, whatever the weather might be, and impart their skills, mechanical and otherwise, which I sorely lack, to make it possible for me to rejuvenate myself on the land and provide sustenance for my family in the form of good country food. Henry Evaluarjuk was my first great mentor and teacher. Mike Michael was another. Celestino Ullinerk, Kowmageak Mitsima and David Montieth. I would like to specifically mention my friend, David, and his family for welcoming me into their home and

making me feel welcome when I was in Iqaluit, especially in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, of course my most important thanks go to my own family. I want to thank my children: Bruce; George; Jessica; and, Alexander, for putting up with all the missed birthdays and school concerns over the years and for Monty Yank, my stepson, for the help he has given to me and us, especially the drives to the airport in recent years.

I want to thank my companion and sometimes very critical supporter, but nonetheless, supporter, over the years, Marie Uviluq.

---Applause

I think it is ironic and important to note that this day, when I am making my farewell address to this Legislature, this is the day that my wife left to Iqaluit to begin her new career in charge of Baffin Optical in the Baffin region for Nunasi Corporation. So as my political career in this Assembly draws to a close, she is now embarking on a new career and I know that she will make a contribution to Nunavut, both in her work and perhaps in other manners of public service. So, I think it's appropriate that, as I fade away and have a more low profile than I've enjoyed over the last 16 years, that I'm giving way to Marie and giving her my full support to pursue her career and other aspirations. I feel good about that and wish her every success. She will have my support, as she has given it to me over the years.

I want to also thank her many relatives, not only in Igloodik -- particularly Masaki, Elani, Irak -- but also her relatives all over the Northwest Territories. I've run into people I didn't even know were my relatives in Mr. Ningark's riding, and throughout the Keewatin, and they have always never hesitated to inform me, whether I knew it or not, how they're related to me. They've given me greetings and have invited me into their homes. That has meant a lot to me over the years, as well, Mr. Speaker.

I must also mention my own father who lives in Vancouver, Glen Patterson, and my brother, Bruce, and sister, Sheila, and their families for their constant, unflagging support and good advice. Mr. Speaker, only those of us who are in politics know what our families have to put up with. In my case, I think that in retrospect I was at times obsessed with my job and politics over the years. Now, as I embark on a new chapter in my life, I hope to -- as Mr. Lewis eloquently said the other day -- do something to make it up to my

family. Even though some of my family are certainly no longer children, I'm looking forward to having the chance to get a little closer to them and to be a little closer to home, and somehow make up for those, what for them must be, lost years.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to wish each and every one of you the very best of success, whether you're going to run again or not, it doesn't matter to me. It's been a pleasure to have known and to have worked with you. I hope that, although I'm going to step out of active politics and take a much-needed and, I hope, well-deserved rest from the very demanding job of being an MLA, I will be able to still retain the friendships and good relations I've enjoyed with all of you in the coming years.

This is my farewell, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to a change, I think I'm ready for a change. They say in politics that one has to know when to step down, and I think my timing is good. In many ways, as I said, I don't envy the next Assembly. They have a lot of problems to face that I don't think we really had to face in the past, in particular financial problems. But I want to wish them every success. I want to just say in closing, ending on kind of a political note, that I believe we have a very precious system here with consensus government. I think it works, in spite of hiccoughs, in spite of stresses and strains.

I think it is the best system to deal with the difficult issues that are facing us as we move towards division in 1999. I'm confident that it will be up to the challenge. It will be a great challenge, it will take greater goodwill and leadership, perhaps, than has ever been required in the past, but I know the NWT Assembly will be up to the job. I wish you every success, those of you who are back in this Assembly after the fall.

So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for putting up with this address. I've made longer replies, but this is probably longer than I anticipated today. I meant it to be as brief as Mr. Pudluk's and Mr. Lewis's, but I guess I'm just lingering for a moment longer because it has been such a pleasure to be in this House and to have a platform in this House. I'll miss that, but I'll be following, very actively, what's going on. And I may -- I'm not promising, but I may -- take some of the advice I gave to other great politicians who have retired from this Assembly, particularly Mr. Butters, that they should write about his

experiences. That's one of my resolutions, to try to write about the privilege of having been in this Assembly over the historic 16 years. I may try to do that, as a way of keeping involved and keeping in touch.

Of course, I will be only complimentary about all of you in that book, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish you every success. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I, I'm sure along with the other Members, wish to you, sir, all the best to you and your family. Also, with regard to your daughter, Jessica, who comes here often, I convey a special wish for her, too. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 144-12(7), Legislative Action Paper on Recall.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 22-12(7): Appearance Of Western NWT Aboriginal Leaders In Committee Of The Whole

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion regarding the appearance of western NWT aboriginal leaders in committee of the whole.

WHEREAS all nine western NWT aboriginal leaders held a summit to discuss a wide range of issues;

AND WHEREAS the western NWT aboriginal leaders have formally identified the areas of implementation of division of the NWT; the inherent aboriginal right to self-government; and, the northern accord on oil, gas and minerals as areas that require immediate action;

AND WHEREAS all western NWT aboriginal leaders have agreed upon a common position on several important issues;

AND WHEREAS these important issues should be publicly brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that one elected representative of each of the nine western NWT aboriginal organizations be invited to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole on Monday, June 20, 1995.

Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Just for the record, it is June 19, 1995. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for this motion is that the aboriginal leaders held a meeting to discuss the issues of division and they would like to meet with the Legislative Assembly in committee of the whole to discuss the importance of division. Division is going to affect all of us in the Northwest Territories, in the east and in the west. The leaders would like to sit here with us, as MLAs, to share their views on division. They would like to work together closely, as aboriginal leaders, with the government Ministers and MLAs because, ultimately, the eventual division is going to affect everybody in the north. That's one of the reasons. The inherent aboriginal right to self-government is the key issue. They would like to discuss the role of government at the negotiations of the inherent aboriginal right to self-government, whether they be third party at this table or part of the federal team.

On the northern accord on oil, gas and minerals, areas that require immediate action, there is support in some of the aboriginal groups for this northern accord to move forward and they would like to share it with the rest of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

So these are the reasons why I brought this motion forward, and with that, I will just leave it at that because I think I'll have a chance to speak on it later on. Is that correct? Thank you. **MR. SPEAKER:**

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

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly support the request of the aboriginal leaders to meet in committee of the whole.

We did discuss this issue in Caucus where we did indicate that we would meet with the Western Caucus initially. However, apparently, it is my understanding that the aboriginal leaders wanted to meet in public, and I respect that. As I also indicated in Caucus, first of all, I don't believe the aboriginal leaders have had a forum to state their positions or ask for their comments to be recorded publicly, and I think this forum of committee of the whole gives them that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that we are going through division, and I believe that this request is part of our process of division. I know that, even though the Legislative Assembly as a whole consists of also the Nunavut Members, I believe that over the years, when they've asked for support from the west, we've respected their wishes and granted them the support that we could.

The current process now allows for the Nunavut NIC to be able to address the Nunavut areas that are appointed by the federal government, and they have a process developing what they want for Nunavut.

We also have the Special Joint Committee on Division in the Legislative Assembly but they do not have the mandate to address the political issues, to have the dialogues with the aboriginal groups that the aboriginal groups wants to set up.

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As I said, I believe it's just a step towards adhering to their request, and I respect that.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's incumbent upon us, as elected representatives, to listen to the elected aboriginal leaders, whether they are from the east or the west, to be able to allow them to express their views, and I think it's incumbent upon us to be able to allow them to have the dialogue that they want with the method they want so that we are of assistance, because we

are all trying to achieve the same goal; serving the people who elected us. As Members always state, in order to be able to work to serve the people collectively, it makes it a lot easier.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I do want to indicate that I have no problem as the elected Member for Thebacha, with discussing the issues with the elected Members and the aboriginal leaders, being able to listen to their viewpoints, their advice and their comments on the issues that pertain to them, and I certainly would encourage Members to support our intentions and our motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that I was a bit surprised at the process of how this motion came to be. I think, in the past, a request such as this would have come through either the Nunavut or the Western Caucus. In Caucus discussions, Mrs. Marie-Jewell pointed out, it was agreed that the Western Caucus would meet with the aboriginal leaders to determine what the issues were that they wished to address with us and return with a recommendation. Mr. Speaker, it was only through the grapevine that I heard that the western aboriginal leaders had refused to meet with the Western Caucus. I was not given any official notice. As far as I know, there was no call for the Western Caucus to meet and decide on a course of action before this motion was introduced. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, until this morning, no one had approached me to explain why the leaders wanted to appear in committee of the whole and to tell me what the purpose was.

Mr. Speaker, this does seem to be a new approach. It's somewhat different, I guess, from the manner of consensus that we are used to. Are we now looking at inviting all elected leaders in the NWT to appear in front of committee of the whole? Have we decided that this will be a forum for all to express their views?

Mr. Speaker, out of courtesy, I will not oppose this motion, on the clear understanding that, should a motion be brought forward to bring in a leader from my community, those who support this one will also support that motion. I just think that if this is the new process, we all have to agree that that is the way it should proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was a little concerned with the process. I would have liked if the aboriginal leaders had come to the Western Caucus and we could have worked out a protocol and an approach so they were satisfied that their concerns were being addressed by this Legislative Assembly.

I have talked to representatives of the aboriginal leaders yesterday and today, and I am convinced that their intentions are good. They have some legitimate concerns. They just want to express them here. From what I am told by representatives of the aboriginal leaders, the intent here is not political criticism of individuals. I know when any of us go to a Dene or Metis assembly, we respect them, and I have no reason to believe that Members here won't be respected by the aboriginal leaders.

What I think we should keep in mind, though, is that this is a new approach. We are living in a brand-new age, and things are moving very quickly. Division is coming down the pipe, and there is a lot of possibility for misunderstanding. We now have some very sensitive discussions and negotiations taking place on the northern accord, on self-government and on division. Because of the nature, especially of the western Arctic where there are so many groups involved, it's very easy for misinformation or the wrong information to get circulated and for problems to arise.

I think what we are going to see in the next four years is that it's going to be very important that when those problems or misunderstandings or questions arise, there will be more requests for people to appear here at the Legislative Assembly, and I think we should let them. I think the Nunavut leaders, I am sure, in the next four years are going to ask to appear here because of concerns they have. I am sure that leaders from the tax-based municipalities are going to want to appear here, and though it's not in the normal parliamentary practice in southern Canada, nowhere in southern Canada are they facing an issue like division.

So I think new times are going to take new approaches, and I think that we have to start off by believing that the people's intentions are honourable. People just want to have a forum to express

legitimate concerns, and on that basis, Mr. Speaker, I will support this motion. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:

Mr. Speaker, Members will recall that the matter of aboriginal leaders from the west appearing before committee of the whole was discussed by Caucus earlier this week.

Following that discussion, Caucus determined the leaders should meet with Members of the Western Caucus to brief them on their common positions. It is my understanding that aboriginal leaders rejected the invitation to meet with Caucus and that is why the matter is now before the House in the form of a motion.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet is of the opinion that the process outlined earlier this week with respect to representation by western leaders is proper. As a result, Cabinet Members will not be supporting this motion and want to encourage the leaders to meet with the Western Caucus as soon as possible in order to begin addressing the issues identified and to develop an appropriate strategy to address the issues. Mr. Speaker, we feel this is a proper way to go. Cabinet will not be supporting the motion. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Antoine, your closing remarks.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion, I know some Members of this House, especially in Cabinet, are very uneasy about this motion that aboriginal leaders come into this House. As the mover of this motion, I, too, would like to have aboriginal leaders come here to do business. I don't want to see aboriginal leaders come here to attack any Members of Cabinet or to make anybody look bad here, but I've been assured by the aboriginal leaders that I talked to that they will come here to discuss their issues in a reasonable way

and that we can establish a time frame for their presentations.

Those are the conditions I agreed to in moving this motion. I don't want to be a mover of a motion that would open this House to other leaders calling people down. So, if Members of Cabinet are afraid to listen to aboriginal leaders because of their position, I think they should take another look at it, because these are the conditions on which I raised this motion. I would like to see them raise their issues in this House, their legitimate issues.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to request a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Nahendeh is requesting a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Antoine, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Dent, Mr. Ballantyne, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Koe.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Arngna'naaq, Mr. Ng, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark.

MR. SPEAKER:

All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Pudlat, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Lewis.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The results of the motion are six, yes; 11, no; with six abstentions. This motion is defeated.

---Defeated

I'm sorry, for the record, there were 3 abstentions. 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 11-12(7), Report on the Review of Bill 25 - The Education Act; Bill 25, Education Act; and, Bill 34, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96, with Mr. Lewis in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I would like to call the committee to order. Good afternoon, everybody. I would like to ask Members if they would like us to carry on from where we were yesterday, with Bill 25 and Committee Report 11-12(7). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT:

Mr. Chairman, I recommend that we concur with your suggestion that we continue on with Committee Report 11-12(7) and the new Education Act, Bill 25.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Does the committee agree we deal with Committee Report 11-12(7) and Bill 25?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

Committee Report 11-12(7): Report On The Review Of Bill 25 - The Education Act

Bill 25: Education Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Nerysoo, did you want to handle this all alone, or would you like to bring in some help?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

No, Mr. Chairman. I would like the support of my colleagues to bring in witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

The Minister would like to have witnesses join him. Do Members agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Sergeant-at-Arms, maybe you could show people where they have to sit.

People seem to be settled so maybe, Mr. Nerysoo, you could introduce, for the record, your witnesses please.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Mr. Hal Gerein, deputy minister; on my immediate left is Gail Joyce, director of policy and planning; on the far left is Carol Whitehouse, legislative counsel; immediately behind me is Eric Colbourne; and, on my right, behind me, is Janet Grinsted, senior policy advisor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you very much, Mr. Nerysoo. Yesterday, we had a motion on the floor, which is an amendment to clause 4 and we were debating that issue when we finished committee of the whole yesterday. Mr. Dent, to the motion.

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Committee Motion 71-12(7): To Defer Committee Motion 70-12(7), Carried

MR. DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move we defer consideration of the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

There's a motion on the floor to defer. The motion to defer isn't debatable. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Would you put your hands up if you want to defer this, please?

All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

So we will go on to the next clause, which is clause 5. It is on page 8. Mr. Antoine.

MR. ANTOINE:

Are we done clause 4?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No.

MR. ANTOINE:

Mr. Chairman, are we still on clause 4?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We just moved deferral of consideration of this amendment, Mr. Antoine. Therefore, we have to go on to clause 5, then come back to clause 4.

MR. ANTOINE:

There was just that one motion on clause 4 that dealt with school hours, but I have another point I want to raise regarding clause 4.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I need to get some advice on this, Mr. Antoine.

This is a complex issue dealing with drafting, the numbering of clauses, and where we go next if we have deferred clause 4.1. Until we deal with that deferred issue, we don't know whether clause 4 has been dealt with. That is why I suggested we go on to clause 5. However, Mr. Ningark could still proceed with 4.2, if he wished to. I would have to wait and see if he wants to do that. I defer to Mr. Hamilton to give us some advice on where we go with this complicated issue. Mr. Hamilton.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that clause 4 was agreed to yesterday. Mr. Ningark's proposed motion was to add a new clause, which would be numbered as clause 4.1, but it is a brand new clause. It has nothing to do with the previously approved clause 4. So if the Member wishes to add another new clause to the bill, then that is quite permissible at this stage. Our concern would be regarding what would happen to 4.1. It is quite in order for Mr. Antoine, if he wishes to propose a motion that would add a new clause 4.2, to do that at this stage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Okay. Mr. Antoine, would you make your point.

MR. ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. Mr. Chairman, I would like to add another clause, clause 4.2, but it all depends on whether 4.1 passes or not. This is clause 4.2.

Committee Motion 72-12(7): To Add A New Clause 4.2 To Bill 25, Education Act, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 25 be amended by adding the following after proposed section 4.1:

4.2. Nothing in this act shall be interpreted so as to affect aboriginal rights.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I want to make sure everyone has a copy of the motion. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Koe.

MR. KOE:

Can I ask legal counsel if aboriginal rights include treaty rights?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Koe. Ms. MacPherson.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

---Carried

Are we agreed that we are finished with clause 4.2?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

We can now go on to clause 5. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE:

What am I doing?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

(Microphones turned off)

MR. BALLANTYNE:

Mr. Chairman, I just have a question of clarification for the Minister. This was brought up to me by some of my constituents. I want to make sure that there is no problem between the definition of "the resident" as being someone here for 12 months and the definition of "the resident" as someone who is a landed immigrant. In clause 5.1, would the person have to qualify under all three clauses? If you qualify as a landed immigrant, you could theoretically be here for a shorter period of time than is required as a territorial resident.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

I would like to ask legal counsel to explain that matter to Mr. Ballantyne.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Ms. Whitehouse.

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MS. WHITEHOUSE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way that subsection 5.1 is drafted is in order for a person to be entitled to have access to the education program. They would have to comply with (a), (b) and (c).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to clause 5, I believe there was some concern with regard to the academic year for grade 5. I would like to ask the Minister, does this just apply -- how can I state this -- to the date of December 31st, uniformly, for

kindergarten classes for the age of that particular grade? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

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

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I had a proposal for an amendment and for some of these clauses, I would like to ask the chair to recognize me first before other Members, because a number of motions are coming in and I want to respond positively to the honourable Members.

Mr. Chairman, could I ask Mr. Koe to explain the concern he has raised?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

The issue was raised by Mrs. Marie-Jewell regarding clause 5, pertaining to the academic year as it relates to kindergarten. I believe that's the response we're trying to get, Mr. Nerysoo. I will recognize Mr. Koe and Mr. Antoine when we're done. Mrs. Marie-Jewell, maybe you could restate your concern.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I asked a question and I'm not too sure if Mr. Nerysoo is trying to answer Mr. Koe's question, but my question is on the record. I would like to ask if this is uniform for kindergarten and for five-year-old students. How is this applicable? It was my recollection that consideration was going to be given for some kind of amendment. As it hasn't been brought forth, I would like to get clarification. I know the Minister said to recognize him first because he has amendments, but in any proceedings, it's the prerogative of the chair to recognize whoever they should. So, I would appreciate an answer, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I think it is quite clear that I had recognized the Member and I will seek a response to the concern raised

by the Member. Mr. Minister, if you could.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clarify this because we have a number of amendments that are responding to

the concerns that Members have raised, and I can't make the introduction of these amendments if I'm not being recognized. My amendment would have provided a response to my colleague. It was one of the issues discussed in the Standing Committee on Legislation and we had agreed that we would introduce an amendment, accordingly. We need to be able to change the clause to respond to the concern.

Committee Motion 73-12(7): To Amend Clause 5 Of Bill 25

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that clause 5 of Bill 25 be amended by striking out "within five months after the beginning of the academic year," and by substituting "on or before December 31 of the academic year," in proposed paragraph (1)(a).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

I think that's the response that the Member was looking for. Is that a motion, then, Mr. Nerysoo?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

If there are other things for clause 5 that you have other motions to address, then we could either do it this way and address each one of the issues as we go along, or we could hear every Member and the issues they want to raise, and you can respond with all the motions you have. I would like to ask you, how many motions do you have to change clause 5?

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO:

That's all to change clause 5, but we have 25 amendments for the bill. That's why it's difficult, Mr. Chairman. There are both technical and substantive changes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

This is a motion to amend clause 5. If we have a copy of that motion, which will respond to the issue raised by the Member, then we can deal with it. I wonder if we could get the motion for clause 5 circulated to Members.

We have a motion in response to the Member's concern. To the motion, which I find to be in order. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MRS. MARIE-JEWELL:

Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

The motion is in order. There can be no debate. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

I shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lewis):

Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 25 and would like to report progress, with two motions being adopted. Mr. Chairman, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER:

The motion is seconded by Mr. Dent. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

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

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ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):

Mr. Speaker, there are meetings for Monday 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 Special Joint Committee on Division.

Orders of the day for Monday, June 19, 1995:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and

Other Matters

- Committee Report 11-12(7), Report on the Review of

Bill 25 - The Education Act

- Bill 25, Education Act

- Bill 34, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1995-96

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. This House stands adjourned until
Monday, June 19, 1995, at 1:30 pm.

---ADJOURNMENT