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The Honourable Samual Gargon, Speaker

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Jim Antoine, Hon. Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Barnabas, Hon. Charles Dent, Mr. Enuaraq, Mr. Erasmus, Mr. Evaloarjuk, Hon. Samuel Gargan, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Henry, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Miltenberger, Hon. Don Morin, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Kelvin Ng, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Ootes, Mr. Picco, Mr. Rabesca, Mr. Roland, Mr. Steen, Hon. Manikot Thompson, Hon. John Todd

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Samuel Gargan):

Thank you, Mr. Enuaraq. Good afternoon. Orders of the day, item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of important statements prepared and ready for delivery, including reports from Ministers on recent meetings with their federal and provincial counterparts. Since the session will likely conclude today, I would like to request the indulgence of the House and seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) which specifies a 20-minute time-limit for Ministers' statements so that all statements can be given before the session prorogues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Premier is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6). Do we have any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 4-13(1): GNWT Fiscal Situation

HON. JOHN TODD:

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier spoke about the challenges faced by the 13th Legislative Assembly and about how this Legislature intends to meet these challenges. My purpose in speaking today is to elaborate on some of the fiscal challenges outlined by the Premier. I have just returned from the Finance

Ministers' conference in Ottawa. It was obvious during our discussions that the federal deficit reduction agenda is once again coming to the forefront. The federal Minister was quite clear that the federal government intends to meet its deficit reduction targets. Unfortunately, we have little clarity concerning federal plans and their potential impact on the NWT until the federal budget comes down in February. What these national developments emphasize is the need to address our current financial problems and achieve a balanced budget as early in our term as possible. Although there are no quick fixes to our fiscal situation, the problem is manageable and our goal of a balanced budget can and will be reached. However, to do this we must take the time to develop a comprehensive recovery plan based on fair and quality decisions.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the Interim Financial Report for the year ended March 31, 1995. The report will show that we closed the last fiscal year with a \$26 million deficit. This represents two per cent of our total revenues of just over \$1.2 billion. This took us to an accumulated deficit of \$12 million. For the current fiscal year, our revised forecast is for a deficit of \$30 million, due in large part to higher social program costs than budgeted for. This will increase our accumulated deficit to \$42 million. Under normal circumstances, this level of deficit could be eliminated with only moderate spending reductions.

However, in the last federal budget a five per cent reduction to our 1996-97 formula funding revenue was announced. This translates into a \$60 million decline in our revenues for next year. When coupled with the increased spending required to meet the relentless growth in our social programs, the financial shortfall for next year could climb to over \$100 million, Mr. Speaker. Unchecked, the deficit would soon compromise our ability to respond to the needs of our residents. But, Mr. Speaker, we will manage the looming deficit; we will not let it manage us.

Avoiding a major deficit next year will not be

easy. There are no quick and easy solutions. As our social spending indicates, many of our residents depend on government support. As our unemployment statistics show, the jobs are simply not there in the smaller communities to allow people to become more self-sufficient overnight. Although we must improve education and training levels and support job creation, these are long-term solutions. In the meantime, we cannot abandon support to those most in need.

Our new Legislative Assembly has taken major steps to prepare itself, to plan for and make the difficult choices that will be necessary. The new standing committee structure, the significant measures to improve communication and cooperation between ordinary Members and Cabinet, the adoption of a multi-year planning process and the commitment to a more open and consultative approach with the public will position us to develop and implement a quality plan that will have the support of the large majority of NWT residents. But we must take the time to allow these new approaches to work to find opportunities to do things in better ways and to develop this plan.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, give you an example. In the Premier's statement, he talked about empowering communities to have more control over decisions that affect them. With this goal in mind, we need to discuss, among many other ideas, whether title to all government infrastructure used to deliver

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community-based programs should be transferred to each community.

We need to discuss whether the community should take over full operating and maintenance authority for this infrastructure, whether all communities should have access to block funding for construction and maintenance, and whether communities need more authority and flexibility to raise revenues and finance new infrastructure. And we must consult with the communities on these options.

If we are going to make government more responsive and more efficient, we will need

to address these questions and many more. We need to balance the urgency of dealing with the financial situation with the time needed to make good, quality decisions. Today I will be tabling the results of the public consultation on eliminating the deficit. This report shows the value of seeking public input. We must continue to explore new and innovative ways of getting public views on options and approaches. An achievable timetable for developing a multi-year plan was identified by the Premier yesterday. And let there be no doubt, this will be a plan for managing the looming deficit. We will make the hard choices and the changes necessary to achieve a balanced budget as soon as we can. Mr. Speaker, in the short time before this plan is fully developed, we must still provide for the ongoing operation of the government. Even the relatively small deficits of the past few years have meant that a former accumulated surplus is now a small accumulated debt. This has reduced our cash position to a point where we must, during the lean months, borrow money for cash-flow purposes. This cash-flow requirement has been rising and has meant that we must seek increased borrowing authority this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note, increasing this borrowing authority does not allow the government to increase spending. Spending can only be increased with the authority of an appropriation act. But we must ensure that we always have the actual cash in the bank to honour the cheques we write. Later today, I will be speaking on this issue in more detail during consideration of the Borrowing Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, while there is an urgent need to deal with the current fiscal difficulties and plan for the future, we must also move quickly and decisively to ensure that the NWT is not set up for an even larger fiscal and political disaster with respect to division. The most immediate issue related to division is the incremental costs of funding two new territories. Recently, the federal government has been evasive about the nature and the timing for the provision of

incremental funding.

Without this funding, training cannot proceed, infrastructure cannot be built and the GNWT planning is being done in a vacuum. Now that the question of the capital has been decided by the people of Nunavut, there is no reason why a decision on funding should be delayed.

The federal Finance Minister is committed to discussing this issue with me early in the new year. It is our intention to aggressively pursue a federal commitment to fund incremental costs so that we can adequately fund two new territories on April 1999.

As we develop our long-range plans, we must also look down the road at our financial ability to meet the needs of our population. Once we manage our way out of our current financial situation, how will we ensure that we have the resources needed to address the structural, social and economic problems we face? How will we ensure that future generations will have access to a healthy future, to get a good education and to get a decent job?

Mr. Speaker, we will all be called upon to make hard choices over the next few months. Changes must be made on how we do business and to what people can expect from government. Our financial problem must be solved. But we cannot abandon support to those most in need. We must ensure that our actions are fair and equitable to all. This will require a comprehensive recovery plan for managing the deficit based on quality decisions. We have taken the first important steps to prepare this plan. Through the process we have started, through the leadership we will show and through ongoing consultations with our constituents, I am confident that we will solve our financial problems.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 5-13(1): Provincial-Territorial Council Of Ministers For Social Policy Reform And Renewal

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the annual Premier's conference in August 1995, an agreement was reached on the establishment of a Provincial-Territorial Council of Ministers for Social Policy Reform and Renewal. Premiers supported the establishment of the council because Ottawa was acting unilaterally on changes to Canada's social safety net.

The social safety package includes a variety of programs and services relating to health care, education, welfare, unemployment insurance, training and care for children, single parents and the elderly.

Premiers directed the Council of Ministers to prepare a set of principles which the provinces and territories would use to guide changes to Canada's social policy. Since August, the process of developing these principles has involved consulting with other provincial/territorial ministerial forums

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which meet regularly to deal with health, social services and labour market training issues.

On Tuesday, I attended a meeting of provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Social Services in Calgary.

On Wednesday, I attended the meeting of the ministerial council; also in Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, the Tuesday meeting produced a consensus among Social Services Ministers on a number of issues. For example, Ministers reaffirmed that the federal government has the primary responsibility, in law and through policy, for funding social service programs for aboriginal Canadians. Social Services Ministers also confirmed their commitment to reducing overlap and duplication.

Ottawa, the provinces and territories, municipal and aboriginal governments must be more efficient in delivering programs and services.

Social Services Ministers completed their one-day meeting with a package to forward to the Social Policy Council. I should also note that Health, labour market and Status of Women Ministers have separately forwarded their views to the ministerial council.

On Wednesday, the council reviewed a draft report which will be forwarded to Premiers in the coming weeks. Provincial and territorial Premiers are expected to meet early in the new year to review the report. Their job will be to confirm a set of guiding principles for future negotiations with Ottawa on reforms to Canada's social programs.

Mr. Speaker, I realize my remarks have focused largely on the process. However, getting 10 provinces and two territories to agree on anything requires an initial commitment to process from all participants. Nevertheless I can report that:

- A number of the provinces, particularly in the West, are taking a strong stand on federal responsibility for aboriginal social programs;
- Ministers in the South have recognized the reality of self-government and how aboriginal institutions will be delivering social programs in the future;
- They have also recognized the special circumstances of smaller jurisdictions which need to work out cooperative and shared arrangements with Ottawa for delivering programs and services;
- Finally, all provinces and territories are committed to ensuring that Canadians in need will have access to the social safety net.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to brief committees of this House on what has and will be taking place leading up to Premiers' meetings early in the new year. I also intend to keep aboriginal organizations, health boards and other social services agencies informed of these initiatives in the coming months.

Finally, social policy reform has government-wide implications. Therefore, the government's position cannot be developed in isolation of the Ministers of Finance, Education, Culture and Employment, women's bureau and national constitutional affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 6-13(1): Status Of Aboriginal Affairs In The Western NWT
HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all the honourable Members of this House. As Minister responsible for aboriginal affairs, most of my agenda will be driven by the commitment by Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories to divide the Northwest Territories in 1999. While the task is challenging, processes are in place and planning for the establishment of a Nunavut territorial government is well under way. The circumstances in the West are much more complex.

The Constitutional Development Steering Committee held a successful conference last January which reached consensus on 22 principles to guide the western constitutional process. One critically important point of consensus was the recognition that aboriginal self-government processes and the public government process are equally important, that they are closely linked and that self-government processes must catch up to the CDSC process for either to succeed.

Timing is critical. Division will occur in 1999, but new legislation to replace the NWT Act for the West may need to be drafted two years in advance for introduction into Parliament. The next federal election must be held by October 1998, at the very latest, and could well take place in 1997. We have a two-year window of opportunity in which to move ahead on self-government and western constitutional development, or we may find ourselves faced with the status quo when the new Western Territory comes into being. We must accept the advice of the CDSC conference and ensure that the self-government and western constitutional processes are proceeding in tandem and as quickly as possible. To do so means we must find better ways to communicate and cooperate with aboriginal organizations in Nunavut and the West.

The aboriginal summit, a group comprised of leaders of western aboriginal

organizations, shares this objective and have expressed a desire to meet with Cabinet. Premier Morin has responded by arranging a first meeting between Cabinet and the aboriginal summit for this Friday to begin exploring common interests and to consider the establishment of a more formal mechanism for ongoing discussions. A similar meeting is being organized with Nunavut-based organizations early in the new year.

Members of this House should be aware that self-government discussions have been going on between Canada, the GNWT and most of the western aboriginal organizations for some time. A self-government conference

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scheduled for March 1996 is being coordinated by the Sahtu Secretariat on behalf of aboriginal summit members. The GNWT is cooperating with and supporting the efforts of aboriginal organizations to accelerate self-government talks with Canada.

The tasks before us are challenging, especially in light of the time constraints. However, we can forge ahead successfully if we are willing to work together for our common goals. I will do my best to help build the consensus we need to succeed.

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Before I go on to the next Minister, I would like to recognize a former colleague of ours, Mr. Nerysoo.

Welcome to the Assembly.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mrs. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 7-13(1): Municipal Election Results

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, December 11th was election day for 35 hamlets and two settlement corporations across the NWT. This was the same day, as you know, that the Nunavut capital vote took place. I am sure the Members of this House can appreciate that election officials

were extremely busy.

Mr. Speaker, there were 177 council positions available on community councils, for which there were 399 candidates. Of the 37 communities requiring to hold elections, only two communities acclaimed their full council. The department has advised that it is waiting for the official results from four communities. The information available at this time shows that there were 11,360 eligible voters, of which 7,623 cast their ballots. That, Mr. Speaker, calculates to a 67 per cent territorial-wide voter turn-out. Complete information respecting the election will be made available to this House as soon as we receive it.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the Members of this House, I would like to extend congratulations to all the newly-elected officials and extend our sincere appreciation to those who ran. There are many challenges facing locally-elected officials. I extend my best wishes to them as they take on their new responsibilities and offer the expertise and services of the Municipal and Community Affairs department to assist them as they undertake their duties.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, as well, to inform this House of the department's efforts to ease the transition period of new councillors. We're offering...I'm used to speaking Inuktitut so it's getting confusing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, as well, to inform this House of the department's efforts to ease the transition period of new councillors. We are offering municipal and community governments the opportunity to train elected officials of their roles and responsibilities using training modules set up by the department. Our staff will be advising all hamlets and settlement corporations of these orientation sessions and scheduling workshops to occur in the near future.

Thank you and merry Christmas, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 8-13(1): Proclamation Of Mine Health And Safety Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Safety and Public Services, I am pleased today to announce that the new mining safety legislation will come into force on Friday, December 15, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, the new Mine Health and Safety Act represents a major step toward ensuring safer working conditions in the northern minerals sector. It places an increased emphasis on safety training and provides improved standards for technology and operations in the mining industry. This act will replace the Mining Safety Act, which is outdated and ineffective. Mine safety legislation in the Northwest Territories has been in need of reform for the past decade. The process leading to this reform has included all facets of the industry: managers, unionized labour, non-unionized workers and government. Their involvement will not end with the proclamation of the new act. This legislation allows for the appointment of an expanded mine occupational health and safety legislation committee, with responsibility for advising the Minister and recommending any further amendments to the act and regulations.

While the act specifies that the Minister has up to 12 months to establish this committee, I want to indicate today that I intend to proceed with committee appointments as quickly as possible, and will be informing the House as progress is made in this area. As well, the Department of Safety and Public Services will provide a series of technical seminars to explain new regulatory requirements. The chief mine inspector will also be issuing a series of directives to clarify the way in which some of the more complicated regulations are supposed to be interpreted.

Before concluding, it is important to acknowledge the leadership provided on this legislative initiative by previous Ministers, especially the Honourable John Todd, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Whitford and Mr. Patterson. I also want to note the many

valuable comments and recommendations made by the last Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation, which you chaired, Mr. Speaker.

Responsibility for reviewing over 750 new regulations was undertaken by the existing Mine Occupational Health and Safety Board. Representatives who served on the board during this period should be commended for their hard work and commitment.

I am sure that all honourable Members of this Assembly will join me in looking forward to the proclamation of the Mine Health and Safety Act, and to a new era of mining safety in the Northwest Territories.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 9-13(1): Improving Services In Education, Culture And Employment

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every Member of this Assembly is well aware of the challenges the government faces in providing high-quality programs and services in the face of declining revenues. Through good planning and the cooperation of our various stakeholders, we can continue to improve services to the people of the NWT. I want to bring this Assembly up to date on a number of initiatives made by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that are helping to move programs in this direction.

The NWT needs to develop a home-grown workforce. To reach this goal, we need more grade 12 graduates. In the early 1980's, grades 10 to 12 were offered in only six communities. Mr. Speaker, with the implementation of grade 12 in Fort Good Hope this fall, all NWT students have an opportunity to complete their senior secondary education within their region. This improved access has had a positive effect on participation rates. There are now 761 students in grade 12 -- twice as many

as there were five years ago. When people are better educated, they have a better chance of finding a well-paying job.

The government's building and learning strategy has resulted in trades training being delivered on-site at community construction projects. These opportunities will ensure northerners have access to the jobs that accompany any large-scale development such as new mines.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a tremendous surge in the level of student financial assistance. Problems which were experienced in the fall of 1995 have been addressed and revisions made to ensure that similar difficulties do not occur in January. It is expected the payment schedule will return to an average of 10 working days from receipt of the student enrolment form as was usual prior to September of 1995.

Over the past 18 months, a further initiative has been income support reform.

Recognizing federal actions, we are developing a northern approach. Social assistance recipients are now given opportunities to participate in wellness activities or take part in education, training and employment. Mr. Speaker, given the current fiscal climate, the participation of all stakeholders is essential to improving services. There is no doubt that we must identify new approaches to support program and service delivery.

In one current example, the chiefs of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council plan to set up a regional services board to look after the administration of all education, health and social services in the Dogrib communities. Education, Culture and Employment, and Health and Social Services staff are part of the working group established to set up this board by next April. This should result in less duplication and overlap and produce greater community control.

Community consultation and participation are also essential in redefining language programs. As a result of federal cutbacks, the department is carrying out widespread consultations to develop plans to reshape how programs and services are delivered.

It is also proposing to simplify existing programs and emphasize its support for the language communities and their activities.

The plan is to transfer resources to the regions and language communities and reduce direct services delivered by the programs.

Mr. Speaker, the current fiscal climate means that the government is going to have to take a strategic approach to spending in order to improve services to northerners.

Through continued consultation with communities and organizations, and by working together, I believe we can continue to make progress towards our goals and still improve services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Minister's Statement 10-13(1): New Gun Control Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the Members of the Legislative Assembly the proclamation dates that have been announced by the federal Minister of Justice.

The legislation received Royal Assent on December 5, 1995. Despite the many attempts made by the Government of the Northwest Territories and other concerned territorial and provincial governments, the legislation was passed without any of our concerns taken into consideration in the form of amendments.

The federal government has stated that the legislation will be proclaimed into law in various stages.

The regulations for the Firearms Act are presently being developed. The federal government is expecting to have regulations which relate to the proclamation dates tabled in Parliament February 1996.

Regulations which deal with aboriginal issues are also expected to be tabled in Parliament mid-February 1996. A Policy and Regulation Committee, made up of chief provincial firearms officers from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Quebec along with representatives from the

RCMP and the federal Firearms Task Force, will work towards the development of the regulations of the Firearms Act.

The federal government has appointed a number of individuals to a firearms user advisory group. The group is made up of a cross-section of Canadians from the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Yukon and the Northwest Territories along with a federal National Aboriginal Advisory Committee, made up of aboriginal representatives from British Columbia, Quebec and

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New Brunswick, to work with the Firearms Task Force in the development of the regulations. The purpose of their involvement is to try to ensure that aboriginal and treaty rights are respected and that traditional lifestyles of aboriginal people can continue.

The Safety Education Committee, made up of chief territorial and provincial firearms officers from the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and a representative from the federal Firearms Task Force, will work towards the required modifications to the Canadian firearms safety course. This committee will also work towards the development of a firearms safety course which will meet the needs of aboriginal people. It is the intention of the federal government to have all firearms safety course material ready by a mid-1996 training course proclamation date. We have serious concerns about whether the deadlines can be met.

When the remaining portions of the act are proclaimed, citizens will have to examine their current practices involving the use of firearms and ammunition. My officials will continue to work with federal officials to reduce, to the extent possible, the adverse impact on traditional lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government will be providing information to the public with regard to the requirements of the new gun control legislation. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Baffin Central, Mr. Enuaraq.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS
Member's Statement On Tribute To The Late Malaya Akulukjuk

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a respected Pangnirtung elder and distinguished artist, Malaya Akulukjuk, who passed away recently. Malaya was born in 1913 at Qikiqtaq, outside Pangnirtung. She was married to Nutaralaaq and had 13 children. In the 1960s, she and her family moved to Pangnirtung following an epidemic which killed most of their sled dogs. She started drawing for the local co-op shortly after her arrival. Her striking illustrations were always based on her own life and Inuit legends. Malaya was involved with the Pangnirtung weave shop right from the beginning. Recently, the Uqqurmiut Centre for Arts and Crafts celebrated their 25th anniversary with a beautiful collection of tapestries, all based on Malaya Akulukjuk's designs. The anniversary celebrations were held in her honour. Malaya was known for her kindness and generosity, and also known for her skills as a midwife, seamstress and hunter. Whether it was making kamiks, caring for the sick, sharing food and clothing, comforting and assisting women in labour, Malaya was there.

She was a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who will forever live in the hearts of her family and community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Kivallivik, Mr. O'Brien. Member's Statement On Kivallivik Historical Sites

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is regarding the two new sites that were designated by the federal Minister of Heritage. These historical sites are located in Arviat and Baker Lake. Just to give you

some background on these two sites, Century Island and the Fall Caribou Crossing on the Kassan River were designated nationally significant to Canadian history by the Minister of Canadian Heritage in August 1995. This designation follows four years' of consultations with the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake. The hamlet councils and various groups in Baker Lake and Arviat were also consulted in October 1995 and planning committees were recommended for both communities. The first meeting was held in Arviat on November 15, 1995. The training committee will meet once a month until the plan is completed.

Century Island is located approximately .5 kilometres from Arviat, and has evidence of many centuries of Inuit use and occupation. The island continues to be used by the people of Arviat and continues to be a very special place.

The Fall Caribou Crossing is located on the lower Kassan River and is a well-known example of the important fall caribou crossing hunt which sustained Inuit in the region in the past.

Two years of historical and archaeological research were directed by the Baker Lake Elders' Advisory Committee and the Arviat Historical Society, respectively. The research was presented to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in July 1995. The board recommended to the Minister of Canadian Heritage that the sites be designated nationally significant. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board also recommended that Parks Canada staff return to the communities to consult and help commemorate these sites in a meaningful way. Plans will be developed from a community-based perspective. The training process will consider other related heritage projects engaged in by the communities from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, special thanks to Mr. Darren Keith, the Inuit historic site specialist; Mr. David Webster, consultant; Luke Suluk and the Arviat Historical Society; and, the Baker Lake Elders' Advisory Committee for their hard work on this particular project.

Also, Mr. Speaker, since this is our last session of the year, I would like to wish all my colleagues and the staff here at the Assembly a very happy and safe Christmas, and also a special greeting to the residents of Arviat and Baker Lake, especially the children and elders of the communities. Thank you, matna, mahsi cho.

---Applause

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MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Christmas Greetings To Constituents And Staff

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank you for the fine repast you provided for us at lunchtime. It was the first, I'm sure, of many turkey dinners, but it was well worth eating.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly wish the people of the Northwest Territories and each and every one of my constituents, as well as the very capable staff of the Legislative Assembly, a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. And, a special wish of well-being and happy yuletide to the capable Members of this House. I am honoured and proud to be one of the Members here, and I wish you all Godspeed when you go home to your communities and look forward to meeting with you again early in the new year.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Rabesca. Member's Statement On Dangerous Condition Of Mackenzie Highway

MR. RABESCA:

(Microphone turned off)...and the rest of my colleagues and the people of the Northwest Territories. I would like to make my Member's statement in the Dogrib language. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an opportunity to speak Dogrib; I am very grateful for that. It was in November of last year when the then MLA for North Slave expressed his

concern about the icy and dangerous conditions of the highway between Rae-Edzo and Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, this road is still used daily by the people of Rae-Edzo, government employees and various trucking businesses. It was only last month that an employee from the Department of Health and Social Services was killed on that road. Other deaths have occurred on that highway over the years, including a mother and two children.

I and other colleagues like yourself, Mr. Speaker, have travelled on that road to meet with our constituents or to travel with our families to Yellowknife. The road can be treacherous, and I, as a Member of this House representing my constituents, do not want any more deaths or fatal accidents due to icy or treacherous conditions on that highway.

Last year, the Honourable Mr. Todd stated during the November session that the highway is one of the most heavily used in the Northwest Territories. It is due to this that I have grave concerns about the safety of those who use the highway as their only means of transportation. Mr. Todd didn't mention that out of \$20 million used on highways, \$9 million is spent on that highway. He used the unique global climate conditions as a contributing factor that made it difficult to maintain the highway.

Later today, I will be asking the Minister of Transportation what he is willing to do about this.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement On Opening Of New Arctic Bay Arena

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very happy to attend the official opening of the new Tununirusuq Arena in Arctic Bay on December 1st. It was a very happy event. I would like to thank our former MLA, Ludy Pudluk, for his hard work and dedication to getting this project completed. The new arena is also a credit to our former mayor, Juda Taqtu, and the council of the hamlet of Arctic Bay.

(Translation) I would also like to thank the Honourable Manitok Thompson, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, who sent a message which I was happy to deliver on her behalf and a plaque which I was pleased to present to the community. I very much appreciate the Minister's efforts to extend her congratulations to Arctic Bay, since I know that she had only just been appointed when the arena was opened. (Translation ends)

The new arena was full of Arctic Bay residents when it was officially opened. It was very exciting when everybody went out on the new ice to skate together and enjoy the new facility. There were even people who went out on the ice who had never skated before. I want to also make special mention to thank Mr. Shorty Brown of Yellowknife, whose generous program provided skates for many people who would not otherwise have been able to skate. I am pleased that the arena is already well used and has a busy schedule. I know that wonderful new facility will be enjoyed by Arctic Bay residents and will also be very beneficial to our youth who now have a much-needed place for healthy recreation and are grateful.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Barnabas, your two and a half minutes are up. Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Sorry. I am asking for unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for the High Arctic is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Conclude your statement, Mr. Barnabas.

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last comments are that I would like to say to my colleagues to have a merry Christmas and to my constituents in High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Member's statements. The Member for Inuvik, Mr. Roland.

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Member's Statement On Christmas

Greetings To Constituents

MR. ROLAND:

Mr. Speaker, honourable Members, I would like to take this time to speak to the people of Inuvik and the Northwest Territories, including Nunavut.

Although we have heard the state the government is in, let us not forget to look for the positive things that we do have.

Especially during this time of year, let us all take the time to stop and talk with the people, neighbours and visitors alike. Let us be participants in making this Christmas a memorable one. Let us not be so busy with ourselves. Instead, let's make the time available to make our communities peaceful places this Christmas season.

In the true spirit of Christmas, may God protect and bless you all. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the people of Inuvik that I look forward to spending Christmas at home. Thank you, and merry Christmas.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement On Minister's Literacy Award To Dorothee Komangapik

MR. PICCO:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, 1995...(Translation ends).

...Dorothy suggested that Mr. Gzowski hold one of his golf tournaments for literacy in the North. Mr. Gzowski thought it was an excellent idea and thus began the annual tournaments that we have had since. That first tournament was held here in Yellowknife and, as one of the first members of the NWT literacy council, I had the great pleasure of caddying around Frame Lake in February for celebrities like Valdy and Ken Dryden. We have Dorothy to thank for this.

Dorothy has been an innovator and a strong advocate for ESL and ABE programming in the Eastern Arctic. This busy educator and mother also recently completed her masters degree in adult education. Only five people in the Northwest Territories were honoured with the Minister's Award for Literacy, and I

am proud to say that my friend and constituent, Dorothee Komangapik, was one. Qujannamiik, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements.

The Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement On Christmas Greetings To Constituents And Staff

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, like my colleagues, despite the fiscal situation we are in, want to wish a very merry Christmas to the people of Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Pelly Bay and the people across the North; especially to you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in this House, Mr. Hamilton and his staff members. I wish you all a safe trip home and I hope to see you again within the new year. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements.

The Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Erasmus.

Member's Statement On Christmas Greetings To Constituents And Staff

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to wish a merry Christmas and a happy new year to the people in the Yellowknife North constituency, and also a safe journey to all the Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly as well as a merry Christmas to all of you and to all of the staff who make our work a lot easier. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements.

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize in the gallery today a well-known local Yellowknife businessman and author, David T. McCann, and sitting next to him, Mr. Gordon Rennie, a long-time northerner and a big supporter of mine during the

recent election in Iqaluit. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 8-13(1): Cost Impact Of Eastern Arctic Resupply Proposal

MR. O'BRIEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Department of Public Works and it relates to the Eastern Arctic resupply proposal request. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House I indicated that the residents of Kivallivik had a great deal of concern and fear that the awarding of this tender and any other related tenders may have a negative impact on their cost of living. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I am seeking assurances from the Minister that the cost of living will not increase in any form or fashion by the awarding of this contract or any other contract that is directly or indirectly related to this particular proposal. At this point, Mr. Speaker, that is my request and my question to the honourable Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 8-13(1): Cost Impact Of Eastern Arctic Resupply Proposal

HON. GOO ARLOOKTOO::

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the concern the Member has about the possible increase in the cost of living. I wish to assure him that I'm told by departmental officials that there will be no increase in the cost of dry goods, due to this change in the way fuel will be supplied. In fact, the overall landed cost of fuel will be less than it is now, as well as the fact that the cost of dry goods is remaining the same.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 9-13(1): Request For Police Services At Arctic Bay

MR. BARNABAS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. My Speaker, the hamlet of Arctic Bay is concerned about not having any police in their community. Arctic Bay is at least half an hour away from the RCMP detachment in Nanisivik by a very narrow and steep road. The road is sometimes closed due to the weather and the mining community has very few policing problems compared to the problems that occur in Arctic Bay. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of the request from Arctic Bay that RCMP be located in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 9-13(1): Request For Police Services At Arctic Bay

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I will be advising the chief superintendent of the RCMP of the request for Arctic Bay, although he is already aware. I understand the RCMP have already had one meeting with the community to date. They feel the meeting was a very positive meeting and they have scheduled a follow-up meeting with the community in January. So I will be awaiting results of that meeting to see what follow-up may be necessary. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 10-13(1): Assistance For Purchase Of Staff Housing

MR. ENUARAQ:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very happy that my honourable colleagues across the floor were getting into the Christmas spirit. But for me, business comes first so I will get into it.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. I have been approached by the long-time residents of Pangnirtung who are long-time employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories. They have been hit hard recently with steep increasing rents and the cost of utilities. Mr. Speaker, my question is would the Minister be open to assisting these employees to purchase

government staff houses in Pangnirtung.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Ng.
Return To Question 10-13(1): Assistance For Purchase Of Staff Housing

HON. KELVIN NG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to advise the Member and commit to him that if those employees are interested in purchasing their staff housing units, we'll ensure the corporation staff work with them and try to help accommodate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Evaloarjuk.
Question 11-13(1): Cost Of Enacting Gun Control Legislation

MR. EVALOARJUK:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice worked very hard with the gun control act. I wonder if he ever asked the question of how much money will be used to enact this law. If he cannot respond to my question, I would like a letter from him showing the amount that might be used. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Kakfwi.
Return To Question 11-13(1): Cost Of Enacting Gun Control Legislation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government's modest estimate of the cost of implementing this new legislation, as of a month ago, was \$85 million. The projected costs concerned provinces and, in some cases, exceeded \$200 million. It remains to be seen how much money the federal government will be budgeting to implement this bill. As I have said earlier today, they will be implementing different parts of this legislation at different times. So we are waiting on some word from the federal Justice department on how they plan to implement it and how much money they believe they should budget to implement this piece of legislation. As we have said from the beginning, we do not believe it would be very easy, if at all possible, to

implement and enforce this legislation in a realistic manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.
Question 12-13(1): Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. You made reference, very fleetingly, to the need for a greater number of graduates from grade 12. Then you switched over from reference to graduates to participants and numbers of people enrolled in grade 12, indicating that the numbers had gone up to 761, I believe, which is a doubling in the last five years. Could you indicate to the House the number of grade 12 graduates? Are they as similarly impressive? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

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Return To Question 12-13(1): Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of graduates across the Northwest Territories has not gone up by the same percentage as the numbers of participants. Obviously, a lot of the participation would be at the lower grades. The numbers of graduates have increased: from 221 in 1991-92 to 273 in 1994-95. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 12-13(1): Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our briefings earlier in the month and last month, it was indicated to us that the number of graduates for the amount of money spent is not very high. Does the Minister see any bright spots on the horizon with programs like the Western Arctic leadership program that would improve things so we could get more graduates? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 12-13(1):
Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are some bright spots on the horizon. As I said, though the number of graduates didn't increase in the same percentage as what participation had, with grade extensions and people dropping back into school in the communities, they will start to graduate in the next few years. Most of them were coming in at the grade 10 and 11 stage. As they progress through the system, we are counting on seeing a significant increase in the number of graduates across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary To Question 12-13(1):
Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my final supplementary. Does the Minister see a benefit to programs such as the Western Arctic leadership program in terms of contributing to the number of graduate students across the Western Arctic and from small communities where there have been no graduates before?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 12-13(1):
Number Of NWT Grade 12 Graduates

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I visited the Western Arctic leadership program previously when I was an ordinary Member. I was quite impressed with that program. I should point out to the Member that while that program has had some important successes and the department is committed to keep it going as much as is possible in these fiscal times, we are expecting to see the graduation numbers in those small communities, where we haven't seen them before, start to increase with the grade extensions. I think we are trying to see an

improvement in education across the Territories. I think there is still some room for us to support programs like the Western Arctic leadership program, but we are going to have to look for other partners to assist that to continue in the same way it has been done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 13-13(1): Extension Of Taloyoak Airstrip

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. The Minister may be aware of a request in Taloyoak regarding the length of the runway. According to the operational requirements, a 748 is a critical aircraft in the Kitikmeot, which has recommended a runway of 3,610 feet; that is, 3,400 feet. We also have a Lear jet based in Cambridge Bay sometimes, Mr. Speaker, used for medevacs when a situation is life threatening. There are times, Mr. Speaker, that the situation can be life threatening. According to operational requirements, a Lear jet needs 4,000 of runway. My question to the Minister is will the Minister look into the situation seriously and get back to me about the status of the request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 13-13(1): Extension Of Taloyoak Airstrip

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my honourable colleague from the Taloyoak riding. This is my first question as Minister of Transportation. I am aware of the Taloyoak airstrip situation. I have been briefed on it. I understand the concern that the Member has on behalf of his constituents. This particular airstrip isn't long enough to accommodate a certain type of aircraft, but there is an airstrip there and they are utilizing it for other aircraft. The department is looking at the situation. It requires additional capital expenditure and it

might be quite substantial. I will get back to the Member on the findings of the department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Ootes.
Question 14-13(1): Results Of Affirmative Action Policy Review

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Government of the Northwest Territories' policy on affirmative action is subject to review during this year. A multi-departmental task force, under the direction of a steering committee comprised of deputy ministers and regional directors, was given the responsibility of doing the policy review. The review's final purpose was to examine what the future direction and implementation of the affirmative action policy should be.

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Upon completion, the findings of the review were to be forwarded to Cabinet. Can the Minister of Finance advise when the findings will be forwarded to Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Todd.
Return To Question 14-13(1): Results Of Affirmative Action Policy Review

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there was an internal review done by the FMB. I haven't had an opportunity to read their report. I understand that it will be on my desk later on this afternoon. Once I've read it, I'll present it to Cabinet and then we'll be able to table it in the House during the next session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.
Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I mentioned something to do with transportation on highways. Mr. Speaker, many of us have already heard my concerns about dangerous road conditions between Rae Edzo and Yellowknife. My

question to the Minister is, is he aware of the problem. Mr. Speaker, in light of the high number of accidents and fatalities on the highway between Rae Edzo and Yellowknife, my question to the Minister is will he agree to review the adequacy of the maintenance on this heavily travelled stretch of highway.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm very aware of that stretch of road. In fact, I just drove back from Fort Simpson last Sunday when it was about 45 below so I know the conditions of the road very well. I agree with the honourable Member. The department is briefing me on the conditions of the road and once the department gets me the information about what levels of maintenance are there, I will get back to the Member with that information. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions, supplementary. Mr. Rabesca.
Supplementary To Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, my constituency is not aware of anyone patrolling the Rae-Yellowknife highway to ensure the accidents are quickly attended or that drivers and passengers are not waiting on the highway during the cold winter months. My question to the Minister is is there a highway patrol officer in his department who regularly checks for breakdowns and maintenance on the road between Rae and Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER:

That's a new question. Mr. Antoine.
Further Return To Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. The highway patrol is supposed to be on that stretch of road, as everybody should know,

and the Speaker knows about the situation very well, from driving this road as well. In the past they've been there. If the Member is saying that they are not there, then I'll check into that situation and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca. Supplementary To Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

MR. RABESCA:

Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I understand there are plans to realign the road between Rae Edzo and Yellowknife. In order that my constituents are made aware of any plans that will effect them in that area, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister, does the Department of Transportation have concrete plans to rebuild this stretch of road to eliminate injuries.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Antoine. Further Return To Question 15-13(1): Review Of Mackenzie Highway Maintenance

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe this is somewhat of a new question. I just want to inform the Member that being the new Minister of Transportation, the department has some documents that he should be aware of that describe the transportation strategy that was put together by the department in 1990. There were two tabled documents: the first in 1993, entitled The Transportation Agenda; the second in 1994, entitled The Transportation Strategy Update. These documents have a lot of information on the direction that the department is going in all areas of transportation as well as in the area of highway construction.

As the Member knows, the department has been paving the road from the border right to Yellowknife. I think that is still in the strategy. We are at the stage where there is a section between Providence and Rae that still has to be completed. There is also a section from Rae to Yellowknife that is in

the plans to be done. As to exactly when it will be done, it's a capital expenditure and we haven't got to that stage in the House. It's still up for discussion. The Member should know that it's in the plan and if he reviews these documents he'll become more aware of the strategy for highway construction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 16-13(1): Review Of Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk Road Conditions

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my question to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, with the poor all-weather road conditions between Inuvik and Tuk, I would like to ask the Minister if he plans to

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address this situation in his long-term transportation strategy in the future?

Return To Question 16-13(1): Review Of Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk Road Conditions

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not too clear on that, whether it's an all-weather road that he's referring to or is it a winter road. However, as for the winter road, I know the department works in that area to try to keep transportation going there in the wintertime. As for the all-weather road, this is more of a long-term strategy and I'll have to check with the department to get the specifics on that and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Hay River, Ms. Groenewegen. Question 17-13(1): Colomac Mine's Point Of Departure

MRS. GROENEWEGEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is going to be addressed to the Premier, who is also responsible for the portfolio of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Hay River, as a community, had made quite a bit of effort and hard work in the last few years to try and attract people who were working in the North in the mining industry

to consider Hay River as a viable and economic community to live in. We were very pleased when we were successful in having the Colomac Mine choose Hay River as a point of departure for their employees. At first there was not a tremendous response by the employees to live in Hay River and many travelled from quite a far distance to catch the plane out of Hay River into the mine. However, over the last several months, the idea of living in Hay River has started to catch on and the research department tells me that presently half of the employees of Colomac Mine are now northern residents. I can't tell you the exact number of those 50 per cent that actually live in Hay River but I know that it is a significant number. We were very disheartened to learn that there has been a tentative plan now made by Colomac Mine to make Edmonton, Alberta, their point of departure for employees working in the mine.

It would also seem that another prospective mine is also looking at bringing people straight from the South in to work in the North. This is very discouraging. I would like to ask the Minister what can this government realistically do to stop this kind of thing and prevent this from happening more in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 17-13(1): Colomac Mine's Point Of Departure

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have some serious concerns, as the Member for Hay River has, about the direction mining is going in the Northwest Territories. I would agree that mining companies should invest and at least have their employees living in the Northwest Territories. I have contacted the Chamber of Mines already on this issue and I will be contacting Colomac Mines as soon as possible on this issue as well and encourage them to encourage their people to stay in the Northwest Territories and not resupply that mine out of southern Canada.

But we must also remember that without a hammer or legislation like the northern accord, there is little that we can do except for encourage and try to work with them to invest and keep their employees in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 18-13(1): Legislation For Mandatory Use Of Headlights

MR. ERASMUS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Out of the concern for safety of Mr. Rabesca on the road to Fort Rae, I have had plenty of occasion to travel on the highways south and back when I've been going to school and visiting some friends in Hay River and I've always been concerned with the vehicles that are travelling without lights. Often you can't tell if a vehicle is coming towards you or going the other way. I know there have been studies done in areas where it's mandatory to have lights on. The studies have shown it is safer and there are less accidents when it's mandatory to have lights on highways. Of course, this brings down the hospital costs, long-term care and stuff like that, so I was wondering if the Minister would consider initiating an amendment to the proper act to make it mandatory to use headlights on our highways.

MR. SPEAKER:

Minister of Transportation, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 18-13(1): Legislation For Mandatory Use Of Headlights

HON. JIM ANTOINE:

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good point that the Member raised. I think for all safety and protecting lives on the highway, I think if that is the direction that this Assembly wants to take, then we could certainly look at the necessary acts and make the amendments with the support of this House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 19-13(1): Review Of

Standardized Testing In The NWT

MR. PICCO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Is the Department of Education reviewing a process for standardized testing at the grade 11 and grade 12 level in the NWT at this moment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Return To Question 19-13(1): Review Of Standardized Testing In The NWT

HON. CHARLES DENT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has taken on a project called

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"towards excellence." It is an educational quality indicators project. The goal of this project is to provide information for the system as a whole in two key areas; areas such as student learning and also in the effectiveness and efficiency of the system in supporting student learning.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the department has a program in which it is evaluating how successful the system is, and it's called the "educational quality indicators project."

MR. SPEAKER:

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

Question 20-13(1): Funding For Workshop Re Transfer Of EDO Positions

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, the service contract the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has issued recently is for a period of four months for Rae Lakes, Lac La Martre and Snare Lakes. The communities have all indicated that there is a definite need for economic development officers in these three communities. Mr. Speaker, the department has indicated that depending on operating funds available in the last quarter of this fiscal year, they may be able to provide some funding towards a workshop with three communities going to plan the transfer of economic development officer to the

communities.

Mr. Speaker, at present, the service contract is only for a short period of four months, and no consensus was reached regarding the transfer of the economic development officer position to the communities during a recent meeting held in Rae-Edzo with the department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister if the department will fund further meetings with these communities to resolve the concerns and to reach consensus on this issue before the end of the fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER:

I don't know, but I've been getting two...the Dogrib and the English. Mr. Evaloarjuk, are you getting the Inuktitut translation on your receiver? Okay. The Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Morin.

Return To Question 20-13(1): Funding For Workshop Re Transfer Of EDO Positions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has been working with the communities of Rae Lakes, Whati and Snare Lake to solve the problem of an economic development officer and how they will man that position in those communities. They have talked to the three communities; they have consulted with the three communities. The communities have agreed to share that position. The only thing the communities have not agreed to was how to divvy up the funding that was available for that position. The department put the process to them, or a recommendation on how they can share those dollars. Cash would be given to the communities to administer themselves, \$2,000 a month. The only problem we have now is Rae Lakes has indicated support for that approach; the Wha Ti band manager has indicated that the offer is not acceptable; Snare Lake has not responded, so we have to get together with the three communities again and try to negotiate how we can staff that position or else we will have to staff it ourselves to make sure the services are still available to the communities in the new year.

Let me assure the Member that we will sit

down with the communities again and try to work out a compromise or a deal with them how they can provide that service to their own people themselves.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.
Supplementary To Question 20-13(1):
Funding For Workshop Re Transfer Of EDO
Positions

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, the service contract that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism provided is only for a short period of four months in each of the three isolated communities. The contract will pay the designated economic development officer \$2,000 per month. The individual will work for 12 and a half hours per week which is one third of the standard 37 and a half hours per week for a government employee with the same responsibilities within the department. The communities have indicated that the salary does not clearly take into account the high cost of living in the isolated communities, most importantly the hours do not consider the range of duties and responsibilities of this position. Mr. Speaker, will the department reconsider the salary of this economic development officer position in three communities before the end of the fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Morin.
Further Return To Question 20-13(1):
Funding For Workshop Re Transfer Of EDO
Positions

HON. DON MORIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will meet with the Member at a later date before he leaves and try to solve this issue. We have a certain amount of money in our budget to fund an EDO position in his communities. That's one position to service three communities. I will be willing to sit down with the Member to try to come to an arrangement of how we can fund those positions and let the communities control those positions. I'm willing to do that. Mr. Speaker, it's also really hard to hear the Member's question because I can't pick it up on here as well because I'm getting the

Dogrib language instead of English. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

We've been having that technical problem, too. I'm getting this. Could you look into it? We'll take a five-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER:

I will call the House back to order. We are on item 6, oral questions. Mr. Rabesca.

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Question 21-13(1): Replacement Of Snare
Lake Community Freezer

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, the local community freezer in Snare Lake broke down last year and this issue was raised in the House a year ago. When the local community freezer broke down, it was cleaned and it was claimed to be safe for use by the community health inspector. However, the local people refused to use the freezer because too much meat was spoiled and a large amount of blood was spread inside the local freezer. The local people depend on the caribou meat as part of their diet, and they feel that the spiritual connection that they have for the animals will be greatly affected if they use the local freezer where all the meat was spoiled. Therefore, in respect to the common spiritual beliefs of my constituents, I ask the Minister of Renewable Resources if he will reconsider the decision made by his department that the community should continue to use the local community freezer and that he find an alternative solution to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mrs. Thompson.

HON. MANITOK THOMPSON:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will refer this question to Mr. Kakfwi.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 21-13(1): Replacement
Of Snare Lake Community Freezer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

English not provided...(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Renewable Resources, I am the person that the question should be addressed to.

Not that long ago, in Snare Lake, for some reason the equipment in the reefer broke down, and the meat and fish and whatever was stored in that reefer was all spoiled. It was repaired. The reefer seems to be working okay now, but some people are not using the reefer; I don't know why. The reefer has been fixed.

Some communities do not have a community reefer, so we will be working more on this issue after Christmas when capital funding is requested for the communities that do not have reefers. We will be working toward them being able to build reefers and looking at how much money would be required for it. The O and M still has to be figured out. So the communities that do not presently have these reefers are the ones that we will be supporting to get reefers in their communities.

So the one in Snare Lake that is being discussed has been repaired, and if it's maintained properly, it will be working for a long time yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.
Supplementary To Question 21-13(1):
Replacement Of Snare Lake Community Freezer

MR. RABESCA:

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for making my statement to the wrong Minister. Since Mr. Kakfwi spoke in his own native language, maybe I should speak my own proper language.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, the community is prepared to build an outside shell of a community freezer with logs from outside the community and wish to purchase the inside shell of the freezer. They feel that this will not only create employment for a number of the residents during the winter months, but a good solid protection would be built for the inner shell of the community freezer which will be cost-effective in the

long term. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister, will it be possible to provide the necessary funds to the community for them to participate in the construction of an outside shell and to purchase the inside shell for a new community freezer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Further Return To Question 21-13(1):
Replacement Of Snare Lake Community Freezer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, in listening to what the honourable Member had to say, I now have a better understanding of what they are requesting. They would like to work on the project themselves. There is already a reefer there. If it is to be renovated on the inside as well as the outside, then we can sit down together and find out exactly what they would like to have done. Once we have an understanding of what they would like to have done then we would be able to help them financially and how the whole project could be worked on as well.

It is only once we have sat down together and discussed this whole thing that we could find out what we can and can't do with this project, so we will be doing that shortly after Christmas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Supplementary, Mr. Rabesca.
Supplementary To Question 21-13(1):
Replacement Of Snare Lake Community Freezer

MR. RABESCA:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources; he has just been given responsibility for this. He has a responsibility to help the communities with these kinds of issues. If he can look into this issue; look at the issues in Snare Lake with regard to this. Maybe he can give me, in written form, how we can work on this issue together.

MR. SPEAKER:

Mr. Rabesca.
Further Return To Question 21-13(1):
Replacement Of Snare Lake Community Freezer

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the honourable Member. I think if he wrote a formal letter then I would be able to know exactly what they are requesting and we will be able to

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discuss it further. He is speaking on behalf of the Snare Lake community. He's the best person to know exactly what the people are requesting and what they would like to have worked on. The best process to work on this would be for him to write me a formal letter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Steen.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 1-13(1): Government Services To The Community Of Holman Island

MR. STEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my written question to the Honourable Don Morin, Minister of the Executive. With the division of the existing Northwest Territories on the horizon, the question of which regional government office should be responsible for government services to the community of Holman Island must be addressed as soon as possible. As you know, at the present time, most, if not all, government services, including education, health, police and court service for this particular community in the riding of Nunakput are administered out of the Cambridge Bay regional office.

There is no doubt that after 1999, the community of Holman Island will be in the Western Territory.

The residents of this community would like clear indications from the government as to where these services will be coming from in the future; Nunavut or the new Western Territory.

Furthermore, as MLA responsible for this community, I find it very hard to deal with two separate regional offices in order to have input on annual O and M and capital expenditure budgets for this community. Travel costs to Cambridge Bay regional

office puts a severe strain on my constituency travel budget.

Would the Minister consider:

1. Instructing his regional officials to seriously consider transferring all O and M and capital budgets applicable to Holman Island from the Cambridge Bay regional office to the Inuvik regional office effective April 1, 1996?

2. If this is not possible or feasible, would the Minister indicate what other options are open or under consideration by the government that would address this situation?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ootes's Reply

MR. OOTES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this opportunity to reply to the Opening Address. There are several topics on which I would like to comment. These are also issues raised during my election campaign. These issues are the constitutional process; division; the deficit; and, job creation.

With respect to the CDSC, today we are at a crossroad where we seek to establish two new territories. While Nunavut has been the subject of attention and funding support by the federal government for many years, relatively little federal intention nor support has been given to the constitutional process here in the Western Arctic. As an MLA, I'm now a participant in the constitutional process. I resolve to develop a new constitution for the Western Territory and to design a system of government that will suit all people will require foresight and careful decision-making. Those decisions will affect future generations and must be just and fair for all peoples of this Territory.

A number of people in Yellowknife have commented to me that they are not familiar with the reasons for designing a new constitution. These and many other such questions need to be answered for the

general public. It is therefore essential that work be done on public awareness so that all northerners are comfortable with the CDSC process so all northerners have an opportunity to have input.

To help this process along, it is important that the federal government acknowledge its responsibility and provide the necessary funding for this process. While the time frame must be met, in order for us to succeed, we must remember that it will be easy to be pushed by events and circumstances placed on us to make decisions that are rushed and not well thought out nor have the support of the public at large.

I, for one, will attempt to do my level best to integrate the desires of all peoples of the North; for example, the desires of the aboriginal people for self-government which I feel a number of us in my constituency have little understanding of and which must be explained if we are to succeed in our process. It must also be understood that it will be my effort to have in the end a constitution that is ratified by the general public on the basis of one person one vote and that there be a strong central public government for the whole of the Western Territory.

There are some pragmatic steps we can take immediately. For example, let's proceed with selecting a name for our territory. Our Premier has already suggested this be done in the next six months and I concur whole-heartedly. With respect to division, the creation of Nunavut and a separate government for that territory in 1999 will have significant impact on the shape and size of the present territorial government. This will likely have more impact on the city of Yellowknife than any other community in the Western Territory, and my constituents are extremely concerned about those impacts. It was originally envisioned

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that to fully establish the government of Nunavut, the new government would be phased in over a period of many years. The signals now are that there is a desire to

speed up the transfer of government operations to the new territory. It was also originally envisioned that the federal government pay for the infrastructure costs of such a new government and the incremental costs of operating two governments.

One of the issues the people of Yellowknife are particularly watching out for is how its MLAs deal with how the East/West split will affect the constituencies they represent. I would like to see a comprehensive plan prepared for division so that we can see what and where impacts will be. I would also like to have the details of that plan made available to the public as soon as possible.

With respect to the deficit, many of the issues we are facing involve money. One such issue is how do we deal with the deficit. The Premier stated yesterday that next year we will be short by over \$100 million. There are two main options to address this problem: raise taxes or reduce spending. My constituents made it clear that they do not want taxes raised in any way, shape or form. For me, the answer, therefore, comes back to reducing spending.

I would like to make reference to a Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce fax survey conducted last summer to which the Chamber received a large response. The most common comment was that the government should become more efficient in their spending practices, giving more value to the people's tax dollars. Among the expenses the survey showed its membership would like to have reduced were: travel expenses, office expenses, wages and benefits, spending on public buildings and grants to other agencies. I'm quite prepared to support the tough decisions that need to be made to eliminate the deficit, provided everyone shares the burden and that Yellowknife not be singled out. I agree that these cuts should not unreasonably threaten essential programs and services, particularly for those who need them the most. And that the very small communities in our North, where there

is absolutely no local economy, should be treated with consideration.

I am in favour of eliminating the projected deficit quickly. It is my opinion that the cuts should be done in one year simply because we don't know what federal financial cutbacks face us, or disasters face us, or what we may face down the road. My motto will be short-term pain for long-term gain. At every level of government there are people with very good ideas who feel constrained about using them. It would do our government well to obtain the papers produced by three economists from the University of Calgary who conducted research on the Alberta government cuts and how the civil servants reacted. Among the questions that absorbed the researchers was how civil servants behave when they are ordered to make cuts. Do they make more drastic cuts in areas sure to cause the most embarrassment to the government? That was one question. Do they make the cuts in such way that their own power base is affected the least?

The answers varied according to department. Some entrenched their power while others were only too eager to make changes. Nevertheless, the researchers found the civil service rife with entrepreneurial spirit and a wealth of great ideas about how to conduct government business more efficiently. That is the bottom line, after all. We need to make our civil servants understand that this government must operate more efficiently. Finally, on the issue of job creation. We must diversify the northern economy. Dan Marion, the mayor of Rae-Edzo who is now also the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, spoke this past spring in his community and illustrated the need for economic diversification. He said, and I quote, "The reason is starkly illustrated by a single number -- 42 -- 42 is the official rate of unemployment in Rae-Edzo." That figure is representative of most of the aboriginal communities in the North. Approximately one of every two members of the workforce cannot find a job. With that kind of unemployment it is impossible to have a

vibrant economy. What we have instead are incredible social problems. We must create jobs to get people out of that social malaise.

The mainstay of our northern economy for the past 25 years has been government. The GNWT is the main economic force in the North, now to the tune of \$1.2 billion per year, funded in large part by the federal government. Shrinking federal budgets mean we can no longer rely on the Government of Canada to foot the bill for the NWT forever. We need jobs and we need revenues created from some source other than government. That means we need to diversify the northern economy and we need to do that quickly.

In the North there is only one sector that can provide large-scale jobs and dollars in a short space of time; that industry is the mineral resource industry. Mining can kick-start that diversification. Mining, operated in a responsible way, can help solve many of the North's problems. I am not advocating the development of mines at all costs. I am acutely aware of the need to ensure that mines create a minimum of environmental damage and that the industry demonstrate its willingness to give its majority of jobs and business opportunities to northerners. Also, the aspirations and desires of the aboriginal people affected must be met as much as possible. When I visited Rae-Edzo last spring, I heard many elders speak about the importance of the land and their spiritual and subsistence relationship with that land and the animals on it. The message I got was that for those people who wish to use that land, to respect that spiritual and subsistence relationship. The other message I got was best said by Dan Marion, the mayor of Rae-Edzo, and I quote again, "Young men and women who have grown up in a vastly different world from the one their parents knew have neither the desire nor, indeed, in many cases, the ability to engage in hunting, fishing and trapping full-time." In fact, many, if not most, would, frankly, prefer employment in the modern economy. I know this because I know 448 Rae-Edzo residents, 42 per cent

of our working-age population, told the labour force surveyors they wanted a job last year but couldn't find one.

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In my opinion, the benefits of proceeding with resource mineral development, done in a responsible way, far outweigh the detractions. This government has a role to play in establishing a supportive atmosphere for responsible mining development. It also has a role to play in maximizing northern jobs and benefits. The health of the North is extremely sensitive at this time. Jobs, or the lack of jobs, reflect the vibrancy or the recessionary state of the whole of the North.

There are a number of private citizens in Yellowknife who have formed a group called, "Committee for Support of BHP," with a common view to seek support for responsible mining development. They are circulating a petition in which they state, "Interest groups which do not support the project have made lengthy submissions to the panel, and in some cases have urged the panel not to approve the BHP development permit. We are writing to ask for your support in our efforts to influence the BHP environmental assessment panel to reach a favourable decision on the approval of the NWT diamonds project." I understand that, to date, they have in excess of 1,000 signatures and are seeking 10,000. They will submit their petition to the EARP panel, which is scheduled to hold final hearings at the end of January.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there were many other issues of concern to my constituents which were raised during my election campaign and many more issues that I have been made aware of since my election. I will be working on all of these in the coming weeks and months.

At this time I would like to express my wishes for a good Christmas and new year to all my constituents and to the Members of this House, and to thank the staff of this House for this capable and excellent work they've done for us. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. Miltenberger.

Mr. Miltenberger's Reply

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I rise to speak, I'm ever mindful of the tremendous record for duration and length of replies to the opening address. I want people to rest assured that I won't be anywhere close to that today.

I would like to publicly go on record today, before we break for Christmas to indicate that I've had input as an MLA through Caucus and through the new committee structure into the contents of the Premier's statement yesterday, and that I fully support the direction being taken by this Assembly and the government and the need to address the deficit in the decisive and clear manner that is fair and equitable and keeps in mind the need to protect the communities and those who can least afford to take major cuts. I think it's important, at least to me, that I go on record to say this now because when I go home, I want to be able to say and have it known that I support this, that I was involved in this process and I will continue to state my case in this regard.

I think, as the Minister of Finance has indicated, that this is a manageable situation. If we make careful, wise decisions we can deal with this. We have to do it quickly so that it doesn't take over our agenda. But I will be out there and I will go where this Assembly asks me to go to make this case to people to justify our decisions and support this initiative.

In closing, I would just like to clarify. There were a few questions raised at break, but I did wish to extend the best season's greetings to each and every one of my constituents in Thebacha. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Todd.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several documents I would like to table this afternoon. I wish to table Tabled Document 5-13(1), Interim Financial Report of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the year ending March 31, 1995.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table Tabled Document 6-13(1), Public Consultation on Eliminating the Deficit, Report to the Minister of Finance, October 1995.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, as required by section 32(1)(2) of the Financial Administration Act I'm tabling the following document: Tabled Document 7-13(1), list of inter-activity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within departments for the period March 9, 1995 to December 8, 1995. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Tabled Document 8-13(1), Northwest Territories Law Foundation Thirteenth Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 14-13(1) on MLA compensation today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Could you just give me...We're on item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions: Motion 13-13(1), Serving of Alcohol at Government Sponsored Functions. Motion 13-13(1) is dropped from the orders paper. Item 16, motions. Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for getting a little ahead of myself. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 14-13(1) today.

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MR. SPEAKER:

The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Henry.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 14-13(1): Appointment Of Independent Commission On MLA Compensation, Carried

MR. HENRY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the last comprehensive independent review of Members' and Ministers' salaries, allowances, benefits, expenses, indemnities and per diems was conducted in 1987;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that it is timely to undertake another comprehensive independent review;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Legislative Assembly hereby appoints Mr. Joel Fournier, Ms. Anne Crawford and the Hon. Jim Bourque as the Commissioner on MLA Compensation to review and inquire into the salaries, indemnities, allowances and benefits of Members, Ministers and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER, that the commission shall:

1. Establish principles relating to remuneration for Members, Ministers and the Speaker, which take into consideration the diverse geographic and economic factors which may impact on MLAs' ability to carry out their duties;
2. Conduct a review of the existing salaries, indemnities, benefits and allowances to determine the appropriateness of the amounts provided;
3. Conduct a review of the legislated pension benefits provided to MLAs and make appropriate recommendations concerning the level of benefit;
4. Evaluate the relative pros and cons of a straight salary versus a combination of salary and extra indemnities for MLAs and make appropriate recommendations;
5. Review and recommend the procedures Members shall follow to account for allowances, disbursements and other

payments;

6. Develop a statement of purpose for the constituency work expense allowances including recommending permissible spending criteria, and to express an opinion on the adequacy of the current levels of these allowances;

7. Recommend the manner for adjusting from time to time Members', Ministers and Speaker's salaries, indemnities, allowances and benefits and other payments;

8. Review and recommend a compensation system that is simple, straightforward, easily understandable, fair and accountable; and,

9. Review any other matter that the commission considers relevant respecting allowances, disbursements and other payments.

AND FURTHERMORE, in conducting its review, the commission shall take into consideration the diversity of the constituents across the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHERMORE, the commission shall seek public input as an integral and essential part of the review process;

AND FURTHERMORE, the commission shall report with its observations and recommendations to the Speaker by March 1, 1996, and the Speaker shall cause the report to be tabled in the Assembly without delay if the Assembly is in session, and, if the Assembly is not in session, within five days after the beginning of the session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Henry. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

---Applause

Item 16, motions. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous

consent to deal with Motion 16-13(1), Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member for Thebacha is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Miltenberger.

Motion 16-13(1): Appointment Of Deputy Chairpersons Of Committee Of The Whole

MR. MILTENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there is a requirement for the naming of two Members to hold the positions of deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to appoint two Members;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the honourable Member for Hay River, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, and the honourable Member

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for Nunakput, Mr. Vince Steen, be appointed as deputy chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 16, motions. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 15-13(1) on support for the western NWT constitutional development process today.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. The Member for Mackenzie Delta is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Do we have any

nays? There are no nays. Proceed then, Mr. Krutko.

Motion 15-13(1): Support For Western NWT Constitutional Development Process

MR. KRUTKO:

WHEREAS the Constitutional Development Steering Committee (CDSC) was formed to design, implement and guide the process of developing a constitution and structure of government for the new western territory, which will be created upon division of the NWT on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that the western constitutional process continue in order to ensure the development, ratification and implementation of appropriate structures of government for the western territory by April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS on April 27, 1995, the 12th Legislative Assembly endorsed the 12 draft principles to be used as the basis to guide the western constitutional process;

AND WHEREAS this continues to be an urgent matter of major political significance in the western NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. Ron Irwin, has indicated that he has postponed his decision to provide support until the 13th Legislative Assembly has considered its approach to gaining public support for changes to the structure of government for the new western territory;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that the Legislative Assembly strongly endorses and supports the continuation of the CDSC process to ensure ongoing public consultation and discussion and progress on the development, ratification and implementation of a proposal for a constitution and structure of government for the new western territory;

AND FURTHERMORE that this Assembly recommends that the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories continue to provide an appropriate level of funding to the CDSC to conclude the western constitutional process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Let the record show that the vote was unanimous.

---Carried

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act, with Mr. Ningark in the Chair.

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

Bill 1: An Act To Amend The Borrowing Authorization Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The Committee of the Whole will come back to order. By the way, Bill 1 is in your green binder down there somewhere if you can find it. It is in the legislation binder. We are dealing with Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act. I would like at this point to ask if the Minister of Finance has any opening remarks.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no additional remarks to make other than what I said to the committee and to the honourable Members over the period of last week. At this time, I would suggest seeing if there are any remarks or questions that Members may want to ask. If not, I would be prepared to proceed line by line.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Do we agree then that we will proceed line by line? Do any of the Members have any general comments to Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act? Is there any comment from the Members of the full Caucus? Mr. O'Brien.

MR. O'BRIEN:

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to get a copy of the manual.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

There is a green binder. You don't have one? A copy will be provided to you. We will stall until the Member gets his copy. Do we have any general comments? Do we then agree that we will go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

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---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Open the page to **Page 1**. Clause 1.

Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

The bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark):

Bill 1 is now ready for third reading. Okay. If there is nothing else on item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, I will now rise and report to the Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER:

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

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. NINGARK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act, and would like to report progress and that Bill 1 is ready for third reading. And,

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Thank you. Do we have a seconder? Mr. Picco. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Todd.

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to give third reading to Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member for Keewatin Central is seeking unanimous consent to give third reading to Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Todd.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: An Act To Amend The Borrowing Authorization Act

HON. JOHN TODD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

AN HON. MEMBER:

Question.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Prior to asking Her Honour, the Commissioner, to enter the Chamber, I would like to say a few words.

Speaker's Closing Remarks

We have all come through a very busy time with the general election, orientation,

territorial leadership, selection of a new capital for Nunavut and the development of our common agenda. It will be nice to go home to our families and friends. I would also like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation and I'm sure all of yours for the never-ending and tireless assistance that has been provided by the Clerk and his staff during our orientation and the first sitting of this Legislature.

---Applause

I think it was one of the staff who drafted this.

As we leave today, I wish each and everyone of you a safe journey home, and may the joy and spirit of the Christmas season be with you and your family. I hope that 1996 will bring peace and understanding to all our people. God bless. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills and prorogue this session.

Assent To Bills

COMMISSIONER MAKSAGAK:

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, it gives me pleasure to assent to the following bill: Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act.

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Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, prior to proroguing this session as Commissioner, I wish to announce that the Second Session of the 13th Assembly will convene on Wednesday, February 14, 1996 at 1:30 p.m.

I would also like at this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the First Session of the 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---PROROGATION